

North Dudley Area Committee 20 September 2006 Update Report

Petitions:

1. A petition was submitted by Councillor Davies on behalf of residents living in the vicinity of Richards and Jeromm scrap yard, regarding the unsuitable noise level emanating from the scrap yard during the day and at night, which also referred to a planning proposal submitted by the company to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for the erection of a new building on the site.

Dudley Council has sent a letter to Sandwell Council formally objecting to the planning application.

2. A petition was submitted by Councillor Wright on behalf of residents living near to the Walkway Passage between 322 and 322A from the Himley Road, and 58 and 60 from Central Drive, Gornal Wood, calling for the walkway to be closed because of anti-social behaviour in the walkway and the damage being sustained.

A meeting was arranged between the Police and local residents. The Police are to hand out incident log sheets to the residents in order that a clearer picture may emerge on the 'actual' rather than 'reported' crime and anti-social behaviour.

Ward Issues

6. Councillor Mrs Ridney raised the issue of the proposed skate park facility for the North Dudley Area and requested that the Assistant Director (Culture and Community Services) provide an update to the next meeting of Committee.

Members will recall that the provision of a skate/wheeled sports facility for the North Dudley area has been the subject of discussions at previous meetings and a Working Group was established to evaluate sites and identify a location for the facility.

The preferred site was identified at Tenacre Lane, Upper Gornal and Planning permission has been sought and approved.

The reason for the delay in implementation is purely due to the lack of available funding to install the scheme. In general terms the cost of the skatepark is estimated to be £50 - 60,000 and currently there are no unallocated capital resources available with

the Council from which the project can be financed, nor is there and accessible Section 106 funding for the area concerned.

One possibility for funding that has arisen is via the Council's Play Strategy funding from BIG lottery. An application for the skatepark has been submitted to the scheme and it is anticipated that decisions will be made on this in 2007.

In addition we are aware that the provision of a skatepark is one of the highest priorities identified by the Friends of Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley and through their allocation from the Liveability programme supplemented by a significant Section 106 sum that is available makes the provision of a facility in the park a strong possibility, subject the necessary planning permissions.

7. Councillor Wright expressed his concern at the proposals to convert Deepdale Lane into a one way traffic system and also expressed concern on the effect this would have on the traffic that passed Roberts Street School.

Residents of Deepdale Lane have expressed great concerns at the amount of parental parking which takes place in their street at the beginning and end of the school day. Residents have asked for some consideration to be given to improving this situation by making Deepdale Lane one-way downhill (uphill would not be possible in bad weather because of the steep slope). Traffic Officers are proposing yellow lines in this area of Gornal and would also seek views from NDAC on the traffic conflict in Deepdale Lane, bearing in mind that residents do feel that an easing of the problem is necessary for their wellbeing.

8. Councillor Ridney asked for clarification on whether Hopyard Lane was a right of way particularly as old Ordnance Survey maps had indicated that it was.

Hopyard Lane is adopted public highway the lower section has a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit access to cars wishing to access Himley Road. There are posts to prohibit cars in the middle of the road but pedestrians do have access.