
Halesowen Area Committee – 1st July 2009

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions Raised at the Halesowen Area Committee held on 11th March 2009

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of the written responses made to questions asked at the previous meeting.

Background

2. At the meeting of this Committee held on 11th March 2009 a member of the public complained about the action of the Council in closing Cradley High School, in the context of 'Every Child Matters' (ECM). It was considered unsatisfactory that pupils from the Cradley area had to travel to other schools for their secondary education, including Pedmore College of Technology, and referred to the difficulty those children had in undertaking after school activities. The Directorate of Children's Services has responded to the questioner and has indicated that:-

"The Directorate of Children's Services fulfils its obligations in this respect by ensuring that every child has an appropriate school place. We believe that their entitlement to the ECM outcomes can be met during the course of the normal school day. After school activities are intended to enrich the curriculum and experience of young people, but the ECM outcomes are generally delivered without the need for individual young people to attend before or after school. Having said that, I will be contacting the school in question to explore the matter and to find out if any alternative arrangements can be made to enable your children to participate in after school activities".

3. A member of the public asked a question on the reasons as to how and why an area of Homer Hill Park had been removed and no longer fell within the park boundary. The questioner has been provided with a response in that the land in question currently comprises of a basketball court and a Green Care maintenance depot. This area of land was not included in the previous Unitary Development Plan approved in 1993. Both of the plans underwent extensive public consultation during their preparation. The basketball court is also covered by policies protecting sport facilities.
4. A member of the public raised a question in respect of a footpath from Leasowes to Ladypool Close and West Dean Close. A detailed response was given at the Area Committee on the 11th March 2009 and a meeting with Councillors, interested parties and officers to discuss options is due to be held on 29th June 2009. A verbal update of the outcome of that meeting will be given at the Area Committee.

Finance

5. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Law

6. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

7. The report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and there are no direct implications for children and young people in noting the report.

Recommendation

8. That the Committee notes the contents of the report.



.....
Bill Baker
Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Manjit Johal
Democratic Services Officer
Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources
Telephone: 01384 815267
Email: manjit.johal@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Minutes of the Committee held on 11th March 2009