

## **BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2009 at 7.00 p.m.  
at the Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Harley (in the Chair)  
Councillor Mrs Greenaway (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors D Blood, Mrs E Blood, Ms Boleyn, Foster, Mrs D Harley, Islam,  
Mrs Jordan, Miller, Nottingham, Southall, Tyler and Mrs Wilson.

### **Officers**

The Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (as Acting Area Liaison Officer), Interim Assistant Director for Early Years, Youth and Education Services; Head of Sport and Physical Activities, Section Engineer (Traffic & Road Safety) and Manager, Executive Support Team (All Directorate of the Environment), Ms J Garwood, Area Team Leader (Early Years, Youth and Education Services/Youth and Community Team) (Directorate of Children's Services), Area Community Renewal Officer (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Ms H Kidd, Solicitor and Mr J Jablonski (both Directorate of Law, Property & Human Resources).

together with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, Inspectors S Bradbury and B Quinby, West Midlands Police, and eight members of the public.

### 34 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ms Harris.

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### 35 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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### 36 **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2009, and of the joint meeting of this Committee and Stourbridge Area Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009, be approved as correct records and signed.

37 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DUDLEY COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE  
DECISION MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

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At this juncture the Chairman announced that under changes in legislation the Council had to consider its decision making arrangements which were introduced under the Local Government Act, 2000.

The Council had to make a decision on its future executive arrangements by the end of 2009 and the only two options available to it in the future were:-

- A Leader and Cabinet Executive (which was the Council's current system with some modifications), or
- A directly elected Mayor and Cabinet Executive.

Before making a final decision the Council was carrying out a consultation exercise and forms giving more details on this were available at the meeting. Further information was also available on the Council's website. The forms were to be returned, as indicated, by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.

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38 PETITION

Councillor Islam submitted a petition on behalf of residents of Housing 21 Myles Court and their neighbours the residents of Bent Street, Brierley Hill, requesting permission to carry out works to trees at Myles Court. The petition was referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for attention.

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39 COMMUNITY RENEWAL/YOUTH ISSUES

It was agreed that this item be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

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40 QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Mr Clive Stone, a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of West Midlands, was in attendance at the meeting to highlight, and give further information on, the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which recognised groups of individuals who were giving their time freely for the benefit of others.

Mr Stone highlighted various aspects of the Award including eligibility requirements and the definition of a group and indicated that leaflets were available at the meeting for those interested who wished to know about the Award.

As indicated on the available leaflet further information and details of how to nominate groups of individuals could be obtained by either visiting [www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk](http://www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk) or e-mailing [queensaward@consol.co.uk](mailto:queensaward@consol.co.uk).

At the end of his informative presentation Mr Stone was thanked for the information given.

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## PUBLIC FORUM

Consideration was given to the following oral questions raised:-

- (a) By a resident of Foxhills Road regarding anti-social behaviour in that road with particular reference to the steps in Foxhills Road and whether consideration could be given to closing one of the two sets of steps in view of the problems indicated.

Inspector Quinby indicated that he had noted the comments made with particular reference to the location and steps and that they would be investigated.

Regarding the steps referred to, which were public rights of way, the Section Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) reported that he was aware of recent action that was being taken in response to receipt of a similar request to that made at the meeting indicating that arrangements to meet with the Police to consider this matter were in hand. He also indicated that he would then be better placed to respond to the questioner informing him of the position.

- (b) A resident of Victoria Street, Brierley Hill, referred to traffic issues in Victoria Street and Bent Street requesting that consideration be given to the making of a one-way order or for residents parking only. In response the Section Engineer (Traffic & Road Safety) indicated that he was not aware of any further proposals in this area given the measures that had already been carried out, however, further consideration would be given to the points raised.
- (c) The resident of Victoria Street, Brierley Hill, raised a further query regarding parking in the two streets with particular reference to parking on the footways and the inconvenience this caused.

In response the Section Engineer (Traffic & Road Safety) reported that if there was parking on the footpath Council officers would liaise with the Police to see what could be done to alleviate this. It was noted that there was a need when undertaking any measures to get the balance right between controlling unwanted parking and still enabling residents to park. He also mentioned that the issue of residents parking permits had already been referred to the Cabinet Member for Transportation who had agreed to give this matter further consideration.

It was further noted that the Brierley Hill Regeneration Group was also looking at parking in the area as part of the overall regeneration strategy.

Inspector Bradbury also commented on this matter indicating that he was aware of the issues raised and that enforcement action had recently been taken in respect of vehicles in Bank Street. He also indicated that he would be willing to discuss this matter further with the questioner after the meeting.

- (d) Reference was made by a resident of Foxhills Road, Wordsley, to the activities of persons riding off-road scrambler bikes on roads in that area and over the park causing concerns to residents.

Inspector Quinby indicated that he had noted the position in relation to the concerns raised and in respect of Ashwood Park and stated that he would arrange for an operation to be mounted involving Police Officers on off-road bikes. He also indicated that he would speak to the questioner after the meeting.

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## CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications for funding from this year's Capital Allocations budget.

Arising from consideration of the two applications received, as indicated in the report submitted, by this Committee's Capital Allocations Working Group earlier this day it was:-

### RESOLVED

1. That the application received from Community Transport Dudley be deferred for further information and that such information include details of their replacement strategy in relation to other mini buses and information regarding their accounts and cash flow.
2. That approval be given to the application made by The Look Out Project and that, as it was considered that there were very exceptional circumstances for approving an amount beyond the usual maximum of £5,000, the sum of £6,000 be awarded to the Project on the basis that assistance was given by the Council to the procurement of the necessary materials for the installation of door and window shutters to secure the premises of the former Commonside Estate Office, to be used by the Project, with the balance to be used as a one off start up grant.

43            MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2009 AND THE JOINT MEETING OF BRIERLEY HILL AND STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEES ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2009

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A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted updating the Committee on a number of issues raised at the meeting of Brierley Hill Area Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2009 and the joint meeting of the Brierley Hill and Stourbridge Area Committees on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009 relating to services provided by the Council.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the Report submitted be noted.

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44            WARD ISSUES

The following ward issues were raised orally at the meeting by the Member indicated:-

- (a)        Councillor Mrs Jordan, together with Councillor Southall, commented on various anti-social behaviour issues in relation to Wordsley Park and queried in particular the role of the Police in combating the activities being carried on.

In response Inspector Quiney reported on the Police activities that had been undertaken and expressed his disappointment at the comments now made.

Councillor Southall indicated that, arising from previous concerns expressed, a site meeting had been called for.

Inspector Quinby also reported that Wordsley Park was a PACT priority and that he would look into the matter further.

- (b)        Councillor Mrs Jordan raised the issue of the consultation process regarding the future of Pensnett School and, irrespective of the ultimate decision, the impact this would have on the other four schools in the surrounding area.

Given the importance of this issue a special meeting of the Area Committee was requested so that it could consider this matter.

In response to comments made reference was made to an initial consultation meeting undertaken by the Directorate of Children's Services and, given the low turn out for that meeting, and the possible reasons for this, that it had been agreed that a second consultation meeting be held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2009, at the Pensnett School. Publicity arrangements in respect of this meeting were referred to as well as arrangements for informing parents via their children. The meeting would be chaired by the Director of Children's Services and would commence at 6.30 p.m.

In view of this second consultation meeting the need for a special meeting of this Area Committee was queried.

The motion proposed by Councillor Mrs Jordan, which had been seconded, was then put to the vote and the motion was lost.

- (c) Councillor Islam referred to two wooden benches by the Brier Flower in the vicinity of High Street/Bank Street, one of which was broken and asked that action be taken to improve/repair the benches.

The Head of Sport and Physical Activities undertook to arrange for this matter to be looked at.

- (d) Councillor Islam referred to the withdrawal of the school crossing patrol in relation to the Brook Primary School and asked that the parents of the children concerned be informed of the reasons for its withdrawal.

The Section Engineer (Traffic & Road Safety) undertook to arrange for this matter to be investigated and for Councillor Islam to be informed of the outcome. A letter would also be sent to the school so that any parents of the children concerned could also be similarly advised.

- (e) Councillor Miller referred to the holding of an event in respect of the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Mark's Church in Pensnett which was considered to have been a fantastic event for the area.

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45      SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

The date of future meetings of the Council's Select Committees in the current municipal year were received and noted.

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46      DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The dates and venues of future meetings of the Area Committee were received and noted.

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MR JOHN MILLAR – AREA LIAISON OFFICER

RESOLVED

That the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, write to John Millar wishing him a speedy recovery from his current injury.

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The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN