

## NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 at 6.30 pm  
at High Arcal School, Sedgley

### PRESENT:-

Councillor Caunt (Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs. Ameson, G.H. Davies, Evans, Mrs. Millward, Mottram, Ryder, Simms, Stanley, Mrs. Westwood and Wright;

### OFFICERS

The Director of Corporate Resources (as Area Liaison Officer), Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure, The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety (both Directorate of the Urban Environment), Area Youth Worker (Directorate of Children's Services), Area Community Renewal Officer - North Dudley (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services and Mrs. J. Rees (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources).

### In Attendance

Inspector R. Jones (West Midlands Police), Ms J. Winpenny (West Midlands Fire Service), Miss H. Board and Mrs R Bennett (Dudley Group of Hospitals Foundation Trust), Mr. P. Bond and Mrs. B. Coombs (CENTRO) together with approximately 40 members of the public.

### 25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. Ridley and Miss G. Healey.

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### 26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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### 27 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2010, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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### 28 PETITIONS

The Chairman reported on the Council's new Petitions' Scheme and advised that petitioners would, at meetings of North Dudley Area Committee, be allowed to speak when submitting the petition, without prejudice to their right to speak for three minutes elsewhere.

It was reported that a petition had been received by the Directorate of the Urban Environment, regarding noise nuisance in the Woodsetton area, which had been investigated and was being attended to.

A petition was submitted by a Ward Member, on behalf of local residents, requesting the introduction of traffic calming measures in the Hurst Hill area, to prevent accidents caused by traffic, recorded as travelling at 86 m.p.h. Ward Members advised of their support of the petition.

A further petition was submitted by the licensee and trader of a shop in Kent Street, Upper Gornal, objecting to the Council's proposals for the introduction of traffic restriction in Board School Gardens. The licensee spoke on this petition under agenda item 13.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the receipt of the petition in respect of noise nuisance in the Woodsetton area be noted.
- (2) That the petition requesting traffic calming measures in the Hurst Hill area be referred to the Petitions' Officer.
- (3) That the petition objecting to the proposals to introduce traffic restrictions in Board School Gardens be considered under Agenda Item 13 (Proposed Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and One-Way Order Various roads in Upper Gornal).

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#### CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure 13 (c) it was

#### RESOLVED

That agenda items 6 and 9 respectively be considered as the next two items of business.

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#### DUDLEY GROUP OF HOSPITALS FOUNDATION TRUST MEMBERSHIP

Miss H. Board, and Mrs R Bennett gave an oral presentation on behalf of the

Dudley Group of Hospitals Foundation Trust. A hard copy of the presentation was circulated at the meeting. During the presentation, Miss Board briefly explained what a Foundation Trust was and gave statistics of patients that had been treated the previous year. As a governor of the Board of Trustees, Mrs Bennett described the advantages of becoming a Member of the Trust and gave details of how to go about becoming a Member. Anyone wishing to become a Member was encouraged to contact Miss Board or the FoundationTrust direct.

#### RESOLVED

That Miss Board and Mrs Bennett be thanked for the oral presentation on the Dudley Group of Hospitals Foundation Trust Membership, the content of which be noted.

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#### TRANSPORT ISSUES

Mr. P. Bond gave an oral presentation on the changes to the structure of the West Midlands Passenger Transport Service and the Integrated Transport Authority. He advised that the new Area Manager for the North Dudley Area would be Mrs B Coombs. He advised that the Integrated Transport Authority's role was to promote public transport in the area and to work with private bus and rail operators to ensure services were provided. The Authority would also work with the operators and the Council to address issues regarding services considered as being of social need, when operators indicated the withdrawal of such services due to their unprofitability.

Mr Bond advised on the Transport Forum which met regularly and advised that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010 at the Council House, Dudley.

Copies of the restructuring were made available for those who required a copy.

In responding to concerns expressed by Members of the Committee, Mr Bond advised that bus routes were the responsibility of the relevant bus operators, but he undertook to convey the concerns expressed regarding the 583 service to the operator.

In respect of the Transport Authority's intention to install bus shelters along the 558 bus route, Mr Bond advised that there were no firm plans to erect bus shelters at present, but that Ward Members and the public would be consulted on any proposals prior to any installation.

In response to requests that a representative of the Transport Authority attend future meetings of the North Dudley Area Committee, Mrs Coombs advised that, subject to sufficient resources being available, either she or another representative of the Authority would attend.

Mr Bond undertook to investigate concerns expressed by a member of the public that there was a safety hazard caused by the bus shelter erected in Hurst Hill Road due to it blocking the view of drivers coming on to the main road from the side street.

In response to a question as to whose decision it was to withdraw certain services, Mr Bond advised that it was a matter for the service operator. He pointed out that the operators were private enterprises who ran the services for profit and were obliged by law to give 56 days notice of any changes to their services.

#### RESOLVED

That the information reported on Transport issues at the meeting be noted.

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#### YOUTH ISSUES

A report of the Area Youth Worker on projects and activities with young people in the area was submitted.

The Area Youth Worker responded to a question from a Member of the Committee, advising that the number of young people attending the new Coseley Centre was 40-50 per evening.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on Youth Issues be noted.

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#### POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Jones updated the Committee on a number of Police issues, including the effect of the recent protest march by the English Defence League (EDL) which had resulted in disorder in Dudley town centre and an adverse affect on local traders. There were no plans currently for further protests in Dudley.

He also referred to the work undertaken by the Sedgley Police teams to keep young people occupied during the school summer holidays. Plans were now well advanced for the Halloween and firework season.

Inspector Jones reported on the success of the Staysafe Project and the proposed alcohol ban for Gornal.

He also reported on the increase in thefts of metal, gas meter thefts and catalytic converters, as a result of the recent high cost of metals.

Inspector Jones invited those present to attend the annual open day at Sedgley Police Station on 9<sup>th</sup> October from 10 am – 4 pm. He also encouraged those in attendance to look on the Police website and use the links to participate in the Police Twitter page.

Members of the Committee expressed concerns that parents were giving alcohol to their under age children, and whether once the alcohol ban was introduced in Gornal, that it would be vigilantly policed.

In response to comments from Members of the Committee, Inspector Jones advised that his Officers would enforce the alcohol ban in Gornal, as they had in other areas, however he pointed out that the Police could not be everywhere and he encouraged everyone to be vigilant and report any incidents of concern.

Inspector Jones undertook to bring figures to the next meeting regarding the number of drink related arrests for the North of Dudley.

A Member of the Committee expressed concerns regarding incidents regarding motorists driving whilst using mobile telephones and requested that Inspector Jones bring back to the next meeting of the Committee, the figures of the number of arrests for driving whilst using a mobile telephone.

Inspector Jones commented on an increase in robberies in the Silver Jubilee Park area, reporting that the nuisance was often caused by young people visiting from a neighbouring area.

In response to comments from a Member of the Committee regarding a recent incident where a police car was overturned and no arrest made, Inspector Jones advised the Police could only arrest people for offences when they knew the identity of the person. He undertook to speak with the Member of the Committee outside of the meeting on this matter.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the oral reported be noted.

## FIRE ISSUES

Ms J Winpenny updated on a number of issues relating to the Fire Service advising that the number of grass fires in the area had increased, particularly around the Silver Jubilee Park area. Work was ongoing with the Police to address this problem.

Ms Winpenny also reported that there had been an increase in arson incidents caused by fly tipping, particularly in the Coseley East area. The Fire Service had removed an increasing number of dangerous materials abandoned which could present further possible arson attacks.

She also commented on the forthcoming firework season and encouraged those in attendance to advise the Fire Service of any concerns.

A Member of the Committee, supported by others, requested that the Fire Service and the Police support the Council in a bid to obtain a complete ban on fireworks in the borough, except for organised events, to prevent upset and nuisance to the very young, the elderly and animals in the area.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That Ms Winpenny be thanked for the report on fire issues, the content of which was noted.
- (2) That the Fire and Police Services be requested to support a request by the Council to ban fireworks in the borough, except for officially organised events.

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#### PUBLIC FORUM

1) A member of the public expressed concerns regarding possible dangers from large lorries travelling through residential areas. The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety undertook to speak with the questioner outside to the meeting to discuss the concerns.

2) A member of the public requested information regarding a planning application for a residential development on land, contaminated by Japanese Knotweed, which the Developer alleged had been disposed of.

The Chairman advised that he was not aware that the Japanese Knotweed had been disposed of responsibly and that this issue would be dealt with in the planning application. A Member of the Committee advised that no application had been received for a residential development on the land referred to. Ward Councillors offered their support to the questioner regarding the issues raised.

3) A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the Council's proposals to deliver a large roll of plastic bags on an annual basis and complained that no advance warning had been given to households prior to the delivery of the bags.

A Member of the Committee advised that the new system was to encourage residents to recycle household rubbish. He undertook to investigate the concerns expressed, with a view to improving the service.

4) Some members of the public questioned whether the Council would introduce wheelie bins, whilst others objected to the idea of wheelie bins.

5) A member of the public requested information on a proposed planning application for land at the rear of Brook Street, Bourne Street, Elmdale and Cedar Avenue. A Member of the Committee advised that a planning application for this area had not been received by the Council.

6) A member of the public requested information regarding the total cost of the demolition and clearance of the site at the former Coseley baths. The Area Liaison Officer advised that, as this was the subject of a Freedom of Information request, no comments could be made, other than that the actual cost had been significantly less than anticipated.

Some members of the public expressed support for a the Petition, submitted previously, requesting for traffic calming measures for Hurst Road and requested the support of their Ward Councillors, who agreed to support the request.

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#### DELEGATED CAPITAL BUDGET

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on six applications for funding from the Committee's Capital Allocation budget, which had been considered by the Capital Allocations Working Group. The report also contained information regarding the unspent monies for each Ward.

#### RESOLV ED

That grants to the organisations below for the purposes indicated, and in the sums shown, be approved:

	<b>The Applicant</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose of the Grant</b>
1.	Sedgley Shopkeepers (Sedgley)	£5,000	Purchase and installation of Christmas lights at Sedgley, <b>subject to the traders funding future installation and taking down of lights.</b>
2.	Sedgley in Bloom	£308	A new Sedgley Coat of Arms flag for Sedgley Town Centre
3.	Gornal Business Watch (Gornal)	£5,000	Christmas lights for Gornal, <b>subject to the traders funding future installation and taking down of lights</b>

4.	Summerhill Community Association (Coseley East)	£1,100	Towards the modernisation of the building to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.
5.	St. Peter's Church (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton)	£1,548	Purchase of 100 stacking chairs
6.	Christchurch Primary School (Coseley East)	£1,476	Towards the purchase of gardening items including a shed, a greenhouse, various tools and equipment to be used for gardening

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NORTH DUDLEY LIBRARY LOCALITY PANEL

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the proposed establishment of a North Dudley Locality Library Panel, as one of five panels across the Borough for on-going engagement and consultation on Dudley Libraries, following an initial pilot scheme in the Halesowen area.

RESOLVED

That consideration of the report be deferred until the results of the Halesowen Pilot scheme have been reported to this Committee.

38

PROPOSED PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND ONE-WAY ORDER - VARIOUS ROADS IN UPPER GORNAL

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on proposed Traffic Regulation Orders to control parking and vehicle movement in various roads in Upper Gornal, as indicated in the plans attached as appendices A to C to the report submitted, arising from result of requests from this Committee and the local community in Upper Gornal.

Letters of objection and a petition to the various areas covered by the proposals were set out in Appendix D of the report submitted.

The licensee and trader, as first signatory on the Petition previously submitted, objecting to the proposed prohibition and restriction of waiting in

Board School Gardens, spoke in support of the Petition commenting that a previously applied for waiting limit had not been allowed and barriers had since been erected outside of the premises. Parking in Board School



Gardens was only for 2-5 minutes whilst customers visited the store.

The licensee requested that consideration be given to the fact that the business had no private parking facilities directly outside the premises to allow for loading and unloading. When loading and unloading was carried out the vehicles were removed. The licensee advised that customers would be encouraged to be more considerate to local residents and that in any case, customers did not park for more than a few minutes at any time.

Ward Members expressed concerns that parking on a bend made visibility difficult for drivers travelling in both directions, and were a danger to local elderly residents.

A member of the public commented that vehicles had been seen parked from 4.30pm until 9.30 pm in Board School Gardens. Some members of the public present questioned the number of names on the Petition as Board School Gardens was only a very small cul-de-sac.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That, in view of the objections raised to the proposed Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting Order in The Arcade, as shown on the plan at Appendix A of the report submitted, the Order be not implemented.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised of the Committee's support for the introduction of a proposed Prohibition of Waiting in Pale Street, as shown on the plan at Appendix A of the report submitted, together with the advertising of further prohibition of waiting on the opposite side of the road.
- (3) That the proposed one-way order for The Arcade, as shown on the plan at Appendix B of the report submitted (which was submitted to support Appendix A) be not implemented; and
- (4) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised of the Committee's support for the introduction of a Prohibition of Waiting Order in Board School Gardens, as shown at Appendix C of the report submitted.

A report of the Director of Adult Community and Housing Services was submitted on the progress to date of the Working Group and monitoring of the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

#### RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report submitted, be noted and that support continue to be given to the work of the Community Renewal Team in community localities.

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40                    RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on responses to questions raised at the previous meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report submitted, be noted.

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41                    WARD ISSUES

Councillor Simms advised that Mr D Allen (representative of Oval and Tudor Residents Association) had received an award at the recent Regional Gardening Competition.

Councillor Caunt advised on the success of the four schools within the area of North Dudley Area Committee, whose recent excellent exams results were above the Borough Average, and congratulated the schools, including the staff, and particularly the students, on their outstanding exam results.

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42                    SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

Information was given regarding the date of meetings of Select Committees held at the Council House, Dudley, to which members of the public were invited and were welcome to attend.

RESOLVED

That the information given in respect of the dates of meetings of Select Committees be noted.

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43                    DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Information as to the dates and venues of future meetings as set out below, was noted:-

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2010 at 6.30 p.m. at the Coseley School, Henne Drive, Coseley

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011 at 6.30 p.m. at Lower Gornal Youth Academy, Temple Street, Lower Gornal; and

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 at 6.30 p.m. at The Dance Studio, Ellowes Hall School, Dudley

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

CHAIRMAN