

Central Dudley Area Committee – 19th January 2010

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

**Urban Environment - Matters Raised at the Central Dudley Area Committee -
4th November 2009**

Purpose of Report

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 4th November 2009 Central Dudley Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

Background

2. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities. This diverse range of technical services focus on regenerating the Borough, maintaining our environment to high standards, protecting our communities and promoting leisure and other community services for all.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both Members and the general public, relating to matters such as traffic management, leisure and recreation, regeneration and new development. Few enquiries can be answered immediately, with many prompting further investigation, feasibility studies and public consultation, prior to being reported back to Committee.
4. To keep Committee updated, progress reports are included as an appendix and the proposal resulting from the update is set out at the end of each paragraph.

Finance

5. Where there are financial implications of the actions listed below that impact on Council responsibilities, these will be financed from existing Council resources.

Law

6. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.
7. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
8. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.

9. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State for Transport.
10. Guardrails may be provided under Section 66 of the Highways Act 1990.
11. Pedestrian crossing facilities are provided under powers contained in Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to Regulations made by the Secretary of State.
12. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
13. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.
14. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its area to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
15. Part IX of the Highways Act 1980 contains provisions relating to the planting, care and control of trees in or on land adjoining the highways.
16. In the care and maintenance of its trees, the Council will owe the normal duty of care under the common law principles of nuisance and negligence.
17. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.

Equality Impact

18. The proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a diverse range of services that affect all sections of the community.

Recommendation

19. That the proposals contained in Appendix 1 attached be approved.



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Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

1. Action Notes from 4th November 2009 Committee.

Appendix 1

DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 4TH NOVEMBER 2009

1. BOWLING GREEN ESTATE/NETHERBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL PETITION

Background: Cllr Cotterill submitted and presented a petition from residents of the Bowling Green Estate and parents of children at Netherbrook Primary School/Nursery requesting traffic calming measures in the vicinity following a recent road traffic accident. (This was later advocated by Cllr Sparks.) The petition be referred to the Director of the Urban Environment for consideration and attention.

In presenting the above petition, Cllr Cotterill referred to a request he had made for a rail to be provided at Exeter Road where the accident had happened and that he had been advised that this would take six weeks to facilitate. He indicated that the rail has yet to be provided and requested that action be taken within 48 hours.

Comments: A protective guardrail has been introduced at key points on the public footway near to Netherbrook Primary School. An assessment will be carried out during 2010-11 into the justification for introducing a Local Safety Scheme in streets surrounding Netherbrook Primary School.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

2. NORTHFIELD ROAD SPEEDING TRAFFIC

Background: A local resident drew attention to vehicle speed along Northfield Road and suggested that the provision of a flashing speed warning sign might be appropriate.

Comments: At the meeting it was confirmed that the Directorate is aware of certain traffic issues in Netherton and these are being considered by the CDAC (Traffic Management in Netherton) Working Group. The feasibility of this request is now being investigated by Traffic Engineers. In relation to Northfield Road, Inspector Downen confirmed that the police had been carrying out some pro-tazer speeding checks resulting in prosecutions. Data is being passed on by the Police to DUE.

Consideration will be given during 2010-11 to the possibility of further Local Safety Scheme measures in Northfield Road, Netherton, as part of a future year's annual programme of works.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

3. PROPOSED PELICAN CROSSINGS ALONG STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HOLLY HALL

Background: At the 4th November CDAC meeting it was confirmed to a member of the public that although the traffic management budget for 2009/10 is fully committed, endeavours would be made to fund the shortfall to convert the existing pedestrian refuge on Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall into a controlled crossing.

The same member of public then asked why the lunch time crossing patrol has been withdrawn and advocated reinstatement since there did not appear to be a reduction in the number of people using it. In relation to this, Cllr J Martin later requested that the lunch time crossing warden at Stourbridge Road and Avenue Road, Woodside be reinstated until the controlled pedestrian crossing has been installed.

Comments: An investigation indicated that a School Crossing Patrol could no longer be justified at this location at lunchtimes, as it no longer met the criteria for a lunchtime Patrol site. The establishment of a lunchtime School Crossing Patrol cannot be justified. Parents prepare lunch for their children, collect them from school, and return them to school after they have eaten their lunch

Members will recall that they each received a copy of the document "proposals to update school crossing patrol criteria for new and existing sites". The procedures and justifications for introducing school crossing patrols lie within that document. A new copy of "proposals to update school crossing patrol criteria for new and existing sites" can easily be sent to any Member who would find it helpful to receive one.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

4. **HIGHGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL SPEED WARNING LIGHT**

Background: The above member of public referred to the need for the erection of a speed warning light outside Highgate Primary School.

Comments: At the meeting the recent very serious road traffic accident at the location was referred to and the urgent meeting between Ward Members and traffic engineers held on 3rd November to consider action.

It was agreed that an assessment would be carried out to determine the justification for introducing further traffic calming in Highgate Road. Furthermore, actions have since commenced to reduce the speed limit in Highgate Road from 40mph to 30mph.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

5. **CAR PARKING IN DUDLEY**

Background: A member of the public expressed concern about the inadequacy of available car parking facilities in Dudley Town Centre and advocated a relaxation of the current on-street parking restrictions. It was maintained that potential shoppers are sometimes unwilling to use the public car parks in central Dudley because of a fear of vehicle crime, and therefore shopped at Merry Hill or Brierley Hill instead.

Comments: Earlier this year Dudley MBC obtained accreditation for 2 more "Safer by Design" car park sites. All the existing car parks - including the Flood Street complex, King Street and Stafford Street in Dudley were re-accredited.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

6. DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE ON-STREET PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Background: A member of the public questioned the validity of the increase in parking restrictions in Dudley Town Centre over the last few years on the grounds of traffic management and safety and suggested that the local economy might be assisted by a relaxation of on-street parking restrictions in that area effected at certain times over weekends, (eg. after 12.00 noon on Saturdays).

Comments: No new waiting restrictions have been recently introduced in Dudley Town Centre. Regrettably, if existing waiting restrictions are relaxed, instances of obstruction of the public highway are likely to increase, which would make the town centre less attractive for shoppers and increase obstruction enforcement duties for the Police.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

7. STONE STREET SQUARE

Background: In relation to the regeneration of Dudley Town Centre, the proprietor of the shop in Dudley Town Centre (previously submitted a petition to CDAC on 8th September 2009 requesting the reinstatement of Stone Street Square as a car park) asked to be advised of progress on the issue. The proprietor provided a calculation of trading hours lost as a result of the Square being out of use as a car park. Both the proprietor and Cllr M Davis, who had supported the petition, asked to be advised of the response.

Comments: The contents of the previously submitted petition have been carefully considered. However, it remains necessary to retain Stone Street Square as an area for public events within this historic part of Dudley Town Centre.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

8. DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE - PUBLIC TOILET AVAILABILITY

Background: Cllr Mrs Roberts drew attention to a lack of public toilet availability in Dudley Town Centre, with particular reference to evenings and Sundays. She requested that action be taken to improve the situation, including an extension of hours of the existing provision.

Comments: Toilet Provision within existing budget allocation is from 6am – 6pm Monday to Saturdays each week and some special Sundays, eg Remembrance Sunday or similar special occasions.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

9. STOURBRIDGE ROAD/HOLLY STREET WHITE LINES

Background: The Chairman of Governors of Holly Hall School asked why white lines have been erected at Stourbridge Road/Holly Street

Comments: Following consultations with residents, and bearing in mind that yellow lines could not yet be proposed for Holly Street, new white “edge of carriageway” lines, junction markings and dropped kerb “pram crossings” were introduced in order to break up junction parking. The Chairman of Governors has been emailed additional information.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

10. **CAR PARKING - RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL**

Background: Further to her reference to it at the last CDAC, Cllrs Mrs Roberts raised parking problems being caused to local residents by visitors to Russells Hall Hospital and park at Overfield Road and Aintree Way. She requested that action be taken to alleviate the situation.

Cllr Davis also drew attention to problems of vehicular parking at the end of Ashenhurst Road which prevents local residents parking outside their homes and requested that action be taken.

Comments: Consideration will be given to the introduction of a pedestrian crossing facility, and the associated white zig zag lines, in Aintree Way, to assist primary school children to walk to and from school. Overfield Road will be added to a list from which future annual programmes for Traffic Regulation Orders will be drawn.

Ashenhurst Road will be added to a list from which future annual programmes for Traffic Regulation Orders will be drawn.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

11. **SCOTTS GREEN CLOSE STREET LIGHTING**

Background: Cllr Davis reported on poor lighting at Scotts Green Close and requested that action be taken. He asked to be advised of the date on which the lighting would be improved.

Comments: A letter has been sent to Cllr Davis explaining the current situation. Scotts Green Close is on the register for future improvement and it is hoped that sufficient funding will be available to complete the scheme in the next financial year.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

12. **DUDLEY BOROUGH SPORTING FACILITIES**

Background: Cllr Ali drew attention to a lack of sporting facilities within the Borough, including the lack of a site in the central Dudley township for Dudley Town Football Club. He recalled the former grounds of the Dudley Town Football Club and the Dudley Cricket Club, abandoned following subsidence problems, noting the opportunity to replace both (which had not been taken under the Castlegate development, after the

stabilisation of the site). Cllr Ali advocated the invitation of the Chief Executive of New Heritage Regeneration Company to a future meeting of the Committee in order to discuss regeneration plans for Dudley.

Comments: Dudley Town Football Club is happily ensconced at the Dell Stadium and as such there is no need to relocate them. We are working with them to develop and improve the facilities there.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

13. **TRINDLE ROAD CYCLE PATH**

Background: Cllr Ali Reported, that since the installation of the cycle path at Trindle Road in the vicinity of Grosvenor Furniture, there is no room for pedestrians to cross the road. He requested that remedial action be taken.

Comments: This matter will be investigated and necessary action taken.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

14. **TRINDLE ROAD SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL**

Background: Cllr Ali referred to the withdrawal of the school crossing patrol warden at Trindle Road and requested that the operative be relocated to St John's Road. He also requested the installation of flashing speed signs in St John's Road.

Comments: Two complete assessments have been made regarding the justification for introducing a School Crossing Patrol in St. John's Road, Dudley. Neither study indicated that a School Crossing Patrol might be justified in St. John's Road under current conditions. Consideration will be made during 2010-11 for the possible introduction of a speed visor in St. John's Road, Dudley.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

15. **BUNNS LANE ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ACTION PLAN**

Background: Cllr Waltho drew attention to the fact that the action plan resulting from the Bunns Lane road traffic accident has not yet been forthcoming and requested that the matter be followed up.

Comments: The fatal accident to which Councillor Waltho refers occurred on the 15th May 2007 and as with all sites where there is a fatality in the Borough, our approach was to automatically consider whether the site should be included in a future programme of local safety schemes.

This assessment was carried out in advance of the following 2008/2009 programme of works. The 3 year accident record at the time of the assessment included the fatal accident and 3 other incidents which all occurred at the junction of Bunns Lane with the A4123.

These other 3 incidents were all classified as 'Slight' injuries. Two of them resulted from illegal right turn manoeuvres in February 2005 and December 2005 with the other being a rear end shunt in February 2007.

Anti-skid surfacing was introduced on the Bunns Lane approach to the A4123 as part of a series of measures in 2001/2002 together with improved signing and road markings that clearly indicated vehicles were required to turn left out of Bunns Lane.

Since the fatal accident, there have been no other recorded personal injury accidents along Bunns Lane.

The most recent 3 year review (currently up to 5th September 2009) would now show that the accident record is lower than previously with only the fatal accident and a rear end shunt still being reported.

If a further assessment were to be carried out for the forthcoming 2010/2011 financial year, it seems unlikely that it would have a higher order of relative priority than previously and hence it would still not be included in the Local Safety Scheme programme of works.

Other than the option to introduce Variable Message Signs or Speed Visors which can be activated as visual reminders to raise driver awareness, the justification for introducing physical traffic calming measures remains low. This type of measure is likely to be opposed by the emergency services, because Bunns Lane has been identified as having strategic importance to emergency operations.

A Letter will be sent to Cllr Waltho.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

16. **DIBDALE STREET/AINTREE WAY ROAD SAFETY ISSUES**

Background: Cllr A Finch referred to road safety issues at Dibdale Street/Aintree Way in the context of Safer Routes to Schools, and the routes to Milking Bank and Bishop Milner Schools, and suggested the installation of a pelican crossing to serve the schools.

Comments: Consideration will be given during 2010-11 to the possible inclusion of Dibdale Road at its junction with Aintree Way in a future year's annual Pedestrian Crossing Programme or Safer Routes to School Programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

17. **THE BROADWAY SPEEDING TRAFFIC**

Background: Cllr A Finch referred to the speed of traffic at a recent road traffic accident along The Broadway and asked that traffic calming measures at the location be considered.

Comments: The Broadway, Dudley, will be considered during 2010-11 for possible inclusion in a future year's annual Local Safety Scheme programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

18. SUMMER ROAD/WILLOW ROAD STORM DRAINS

Background: Cllr Mrs Aston referred to problems with storm drains at Summer Road and Willow Road, Wrens Nest and requested remedial action.

Comments: Gully cleansing of the general area has been undertaken over the last week or so, in response to a request at a recent site meeting with Wrens Nest Tenants & Residents Association. Summer Road gullies were cleansed on the 23rd November and Willow Road gullies will be done on Friday 4th December.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

19. BOWLING GREEN ROAD BOLLARDS

Background: Cllr Cotterill requested the removal of bollards at Bowling Green Road, which he considered were superfluous and could be used inappropriately to obstruct the highway if vandalised or torn up.

Comments: Guardrailing will be introduced at the junction of Saltwells Road and Bowling Green Road in order to complement the existing Local Safety Scheme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

20. VICTORIA ROAD REMOVAL OF BUILD-OUTS

Background: Cllr Cotterill said that further to his request at the last CDAC, he has been advised that the removal of the build-outs in Victoria Road will not be facilitated. He indicated that he will continue to press on the matter.

Comments: Regrettably, funds are not currently available for the removal of these speed reduction measures.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

21. BAPTIST END ROAD, NETHERTON LITTERING

Background: Cllr J Martin conveyed concerns expressed by local residents in the Baptist End Road, Netherton, area regarding increased littering and requested additional street cleansing.

Comments: For safety reasons, some parts of Baptist End Road and St Peter's Road Netherton, have had to be put on an eight week traffic management programme to carry

out the litter picking of embankments which are now in progress. In addition, a normal cyclic litter patrol is servicing Baptist End three times per week.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

22. NORTHFIELD ROAD - ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

Background: Cllr J Martin requested the introduction of road safety measures in Northfield Road, to include consideration of a flashing electronic road sign to slow the traffic between the junctions of Northfield Road at Recreation Street and St Peters Road/Cole Street/Withymoor Road. He indicated that residents turning right into Knighton Place had contacted him stating that there have been several “near misses” owing to vehicles overtaking at speed.

Comments: Consideration will be given during 2010-11 to the possible future inclusion of sections of Northfield Road, Netherton, in a future year’s annual Local Safety Scheme programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

23. NORTHFIELD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL - SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Background: Cllr J Martin requested that the vicinity of Northfield Road Primary School be considered for inclusion in the safer routes to school programme, due to the volume and speed of traffic along Northfield Road and Halesowen Road.

Comments: Consideration will be given during 2010-11 to the possible future inclusion of sections of Northfield Road and Halesowen Road, Netherton, in a future year’s annual Local Safety Scheme or Safer Routes to School scheme programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

24. FRIENDS OF WOODSIDE PARK

Background: Cllr J Martin requested the establishment of a Friends Group for Woodside Park be progressed by relevant Council Officers as soon as possible, as a small number of Woodside residents are eager to start. He indicated that support from the Council had not yet been forthcoming.

Comments: A meeting has taken place with keen representatives from Woodside and the residents would like to start generating interest for a new Friends of Woodside Park. A public meeting has been provisionally scheduled for the 10th February 2010 at 7:00 pm at Woodside Community Centre.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

25. CAMBRIDGE ROAD, WOODSIDE/DUDLEY SOUTHERN BYPASS

Background: Cllr J Martin requested the removal of rubbish from the junction of Cambridge Road, Woodside and Dudley Southern Bypass. He also reported that overgrown shrubs are obscuring visibility for motorists and pedestrians at the site and in the vicinity and that the tunnel area also requires tidying.

Comments: The fly tipped material and litter has been cleared and mechanical sweeping in this area has been done. The overgrown shrubbery has been identified at the junction of Holly Hall Road / Cambridge Road and the Bypass and work will be undertaken by week ending 11th December.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

26. CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE OVERHANGING TREES/SHRUBS

Background: Cllr J Martin requested that trees and shrubs adjacent to the Crown Public House, Highgate Road, Woodside, be inspected as they are overhanging older peoples' bungalows causing loss of light. Residents have complained about having to keep their lights on for most of the day, causing worry about the resulting increased electricity bills.

Comments: The complex itself is in a dip, approximately 5 metres below the level of Highgate Road which is probably having more of an effect on the light than the shrubs. However Green Care will arrange for some pruning works to be undertaken before the end of this week as a response to the enquiry.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

27. NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD , HOLLY HALL ROAD, WOODSIDE - ROAD SAFETY SCHEME

Background: Cllr J Martin requested that consideration be given to the introduction of a road safety scheme, including, perhaps, the installation of bollards on pavements to surround the New Testament Church of God, Holly Hall Road, Woodside owing to inconsiderate parking by church goers. He reported that this is causing severe obstructions to the highway and pavement at the busy junction of Holly Hall Road/Wood Street/Crossgate Street/Hallchurch Road every Sunday and for special services such as Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms etc.

Comments: Regrettably, funds are committed for the current financial year. However, consideration will be given to the introduction of pedestrian guardrail in appropriate sections of public footway in May 2010.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

28. HIGHGATE ROAD, WOODSIDE - ENHANCED SAFETY SCHEME

Background: Cllr J Martin submitted a request for an enhanced safety scheme in the vicinity of the shared site at Woodside Children's Centre, School and Community Centre at Highgate Road, Woodside. This follows a fatality and several near misses over a number of years and a very serious road traffic accident at the location which had occurred in the last two days. He requested that consideration be given to reducing the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph and the introduction of flashing warning signs to alert drivers of the positioning of the concealed car park entrance/exit from the shared site.

Comments: This matter is the subject of a current investigation. A proposal to revoke the 40mph speed limit, so that it reverts to 30mph will be made next year.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

29. ST JOHN'S ROAD CROSSING PATROL

Background: Cllr John R Davies referred to the recent retirement of the crossing patrol operative at St John's Road and requested the appointment of a replacement patrol. He also requested the provision of a report containing user figures for all crossing patrols in the Borough in order that Members of the Committee might be assured of a consistent approach to provision throughout the Borough.

Comments: Two complete assessments have been made regarding the justification for introducing a School Crossing Patrol in St. John's Road, Dudley. Neither study indicated that a School crossing is required. Consideration will be made during 2010-11 for the possible introduction of a speed visor in St. John's Road, Dudley.

Members will recall that they each received a copy of the document "proposals to update school crossing patrol criteria for new and existing sites". The procedures and justifications for introducing school crossing patrols lie within that document. A new copy of "proposals to update school crossing patrol criteria for new and existing sites" can easily be sent to any Member who would find it helpful to receive one.

When a vacancy occurs at a School Crossing Patrol site, that location is assessed for the justification of advertising for a new School Crossing Patrol. If the location no longer meets the criteria described in "proposals to update school crossing patrol criteria for new and existing sites", a new Patrol will not be appointed for that crossing point.

If a School Crossing Patrol operates at a site, their work will continue until they leave, when the location will be assessed.

It must be remembered that School Crossing Patrols live very close to their crossing points. The hours are not long, but they are onerous enough, twice every weekday through the school term, to intrude on Patrols plans for each day.

Most School Crossing Patrols are proud of what they do and regard their work as providing a service to the local community, rather than being a minor source of income.

General Information regarding School Crossing Patrol Sites

- A count is taken at sites, to determine the busiest 30 minute to/from school period, recording child pedestrians crossing the road and passing vehicles being driven along the road.
- A School Crossing patrol is not maintained at sites with less than 15 children crossing the road in the busiest 30 minute period.
- A Patrol operates at a Light Controlled Signal Crossing if the speed limit is 40mph, the Light Controlled Signal Crossing is immediately outside a school entrance, and the pedestrian crossing cannot be operated by pedestrians.
- No existing School Crossing point not meeting the requirements will cease as long as the current Patrol remains employed at that site.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

30. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN QUARRY BANK

Background: A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted and recommendations made by the Capital Allocations Working Group of the Committee with regard to applications for grant from the Delegated Capital Budget of the Committee for 2009/10.

Reference was also made orally by the Principal Project Officer in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services, in introducing the report, to an additional application from the Members of the Council for the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward, who had indicated their approval to the allocation of a grant of £5,000 for the purchase and installation of Christmas lights in Quarry Bank. In this regard, however, the Principal Project Officer indicated that, before this could be implemented, further discussions were required with Street Lighting on associated expenditure, with particular reference to running costs, such as electricity and insurance, which could not be funded by the Committee.

Comments: The DUE Street Lighting section has worked very closely with the traders in Quarry Bank to provide the best display in the limited time available. Dudley Council will continue to work with the traders and hopefully the Quarry Bank Christmas lights will go from strength to strength over the next few years.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.