
Halesowen Area Committee – 14th March 2007

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions Raised at the Halesowen Area Committee held on 24th January 2007

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 24th January 2007, questions were raised under the Public Forum item and the responses to those questions are as follows:-
3. A question was asked regarding the position on an alcohol ban in and around Huntingtree Park. It was commented that the problems that were being caused had been reported and that PC Gary Hall had made an application in October of last year. It was advised that the evidence that had been presented had related to under-aged drinking and it was indicated that legal powers already existed for the police to confiscate the drink. However, the Principal Solicitor agreed to reconsider the matter upon further evidence indicating that the problem was with older people. Inspector Hobson confirmed that there was an issue and supported an alcohol ban and agreed to submit the evidence to the Council, which is still awaited.
4. Under Ward Issues the Cabinet Member for the Environment referred to the decision of Centro to withdraw Bus service Nos 236 and 236A and commented on the impact on residents of Olive Hill. The Committee agreed that a letter of objection should be submitted to Travel West Midlands for the withdrawal of the bus services. The Area Liaison Officer has accordingly written to Centro and a response has been received from Mr Clive Whatling, Head of Bus Network. The response indicates that Bus service Nos 236, 236a, 636 and 637 are commercial operations of Travel West Midlands and as such Centro do not have control over their route or timings. The letter further states that Centro is funded to subsidise bus services where the Passenger Transport Authority's targets in respect of access to the bus network are not met. In the case of these changes these targets would remain met and as from 25 February, 2007 Bus No 637 would follow the same route as currently taken by Bus No 236 between Quinton and Blackheath. Passengers wishing to travel to Halesowen would be able to interchange at The Stag.

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 whilst, there are no direct implications for children and young people in noting the report, any decision made by the relevant body in relation to the closure of Cradley Hill School will impact on those groups.
8. This report will have no specific effect on children and young people. There is no requirement for consultation with children and young people or the involvement of children and young people in noting the report.

Recommendation

9. The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.



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Mike Williams, Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Manjit Johal
Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 01384 815267
Email: manjit.johal@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Minutes – 24th January 2007