

Central Dudley Area Committee – 8th June 2010

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Urban Environment - Matters Raised at the Central Dudley Area Committee - 9th March 2010

Purpose Of Report

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 9th March 2010 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.

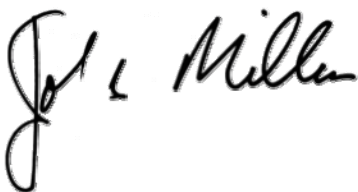
8. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.
9. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations 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 policies on equality and diversity. 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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John B Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

Contact Officer: Matt Williams
Telephone: 01384 814510
Email: Matt.Williams@Dudley.gov.uk

Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

1. Action Notes from 9th March 2010 Committee.

Appendix 1

DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 9TH MARCH 2010

1. PETITION - CAR PARKING IN LISTER ROAD

Background: A petition was received from residents of the flats in Lister Road in relation to car parking in Lister Road.

Cllr Ali supported comments made in relation to Lister Road and suggested signage and traffic calming measures.

Comments: The Assistant Director for Environmental Management has written to the lead petitioner, outlining the likely time frame relating to the relocation of the Council's recycling service to a new facility at Blowers Green. The removal of the recycling service from Lister Road will create additional parking capacity within the Depot which will have a significant impact on the number of cars parking on Lister Road.

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

2. PARKING AT HOLLY STREET, HOLLY HALL

Background: A resident of Holly Street again raised the issue of an ongoing parking problem at the junction at the top of Holly Street onto Stourbridge Road despite the installation of white lines.

Comments: The white carriageway markings will be reviewed during the 2010-11 financial year. In the interim, the existing markings will be inspected to ensure that the severe winter weather conditions have not had a detrimental effect on their impact.

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

3. PARKING IN OVERFIELD ROAD

Background: A member of the public referred to the problems of vehicular parking at Over field Road caused to residents by visitors to the hospital. The Chairman suggested that a Working Group involving Ward Members and appropriate officers look at the whole of the Russell's Hall area. I agreed to look into the formal appointment of a Working Group in the new municipal year.

Cllr J Martin also asked that such Working Group consider parking problems and other related vehicular issues in the Russell's Hall area.

Comments: As suggested by the Chairman, officers will work closely with elected members in the new Municipal Year with a view to setting up a working group that can look at a number of long-standing traffic problems associated with the Russells Hall area.

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

4. **RESIDENT PARKING PERMITS**

Background: Cllr M Davis requested the introduction of resident parking permits due to problems parking around Russell's Hall Hospital.

Comments: The Council does not currently have a policy regarding Residents Parking. However, no doubt this issue can be discussed and investigated if included within the Terms of Reference for the proposed Russells Hall Working Group.

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

5. **LIGHTING IN PEARCE CLOSE AND SCOTTS GREEN CLOSE**

Background: Written reply required to the above member of public on the latest position in relation to where lighting for these roads is on the priority list and how long it will take for work to be carried out.

Comments: Although street lighting works are planned for the Russells Hall Estate in the near future, as part of our ongoing replacement programme, we are currently giving priority to street lighting columns with structural defects due to their age profile. Unfortunately, the lighting in Pearce Close is not that old, although the existing light source would not meet the current British Standard.

Pearce Close has been placed on our Street Lighting Request Register for consideration in the future.

The lighting in Scotts Green Close will be undertaken in this year's programme.

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

6. **LITTER ON RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE**

Background: The same member of public raised concerns in respect of litter on the estate and the playing fields in Over field Road in particular.

Comments: Regular litter picking and street cleansing activities are undertaken on and adjacent to Overfield Road. However, the playing fields are litter picked every 4 weeks and when recently inspected, a small quantity of litter was evident. The amount of litter present was an acceptable build-up given the cleansing frequency.

It was noted that quite an extensive accumulation of litter was present amongst the forestry planting on the public open space adjacent to Overfield Road. This area has now been litter picked.

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

7. **MIDDLEPARK AREA - VERMIN**

Background: A member of the public drew attention to Vermin in this area, especially around the new development. The Assistant Director - Environmental Management undertook to discuss with the questioner following the meeting and raise the matter with the developers directly.

Comments: A Pest Control Officer visited site and identified a number of rat holes on adjacent open land. All identified rat holes have now been baited.

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

8. **DOG FOULING SIGNS**

Background: Cllr M Davis requested that large signs prohibiting dog fouling be erected in the Russell's Hall area.

Comments: A number of dog fouling notices have been ordered, once received notices will be strategically placed around the Russells Hall Estate.

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

9. **OVERFIELD DRIVE - GRAFFITI**

Background: Call Mrs Roberts requested the removal of graffiti from the centre of Overfield Drive.

Comments: The reported graffiti is both extensive and a considerable amount is at high level. Consequently, a specialist contractor has been engaged to complete the works.

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

10. **EDNAM ROAD - TRAFFIC LIGHTS/PELICAN CROSSING**

Background: Cllr Ahmed requested traffic lights/pelican crossing in Edna Road in view of safety issues.

Comments: An investigation will take place during 2010-11 to determine the justification for a possible future pedestrian crossing facility in Ednam Road, Dudley, to be selected as part of an annual Pedestrian Crossing Programme.

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

11. **RUSSELL STREET/ALEXANDRA STREET - POTHOLES**

Background: Cllr Ahmed requested that potholes be repaired in Russell Street/Alexandra Street.

Comments: These potholes were repaired on the 7th April by the Street Maintenance Team.

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

12. **AVENUE ROAD/HOLL ROAD, WOODSIDE - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

Background: Cllr J Martin requested traffic calming measures in Woodside, Avenue Road/Holly Road and also repairs to reflectors in Holly Hall Road.

Comments: Consideration will be given during 2010-11 to the possible inclusion of traffic calming measures in Avenue Road, Holly Hall.

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

13. **LAND PARALLEL TO HOLLY HALL ROAD**

Background: Cllr J Martin requested that ownership of the land parallel to Holly Hall Road be established with a view to removing fly-tipped materials.

Comments: The land in question falls within the jurisdiction of DACHS. Officers from DUE and DACHS have been working closely on plans to remove the fly-tipped material and reduce the undergrowth in the area. The work to address this issue is now imminent.

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

14. **DUDLEY SOUTHERN BYPASS FENCING PANELS**

Background: Cllr J Martin requested that missing wooden fencing panels on the Dudley Southern Bypass be investigated.

Comments: New Road Bridge has damaged metal panels after impact from vehicle. Damage to be rectified shortly during planned closure on DSB.

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

15. **PARK HEAD MISSING LOCKS**

Background: Cllr J Martin was concerned that locks are missing/broken on the railings near Park Head and requested removal of the railings or a better fencing solution.

Comments: Extensive site inspections have found that the lock and chain have recently been replaced on the gates to the Severn Trent Compound adjacent to Parkhead Locks. The fenced compound protects deep water in the catch-pit at the downstream end of stepped spillway from DSB run off.

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

16. **BOLLARDS - HOLLY HALL ROAD/WOOD STREET**

Background: Cllr J Martin requested that bollards be installed on the pavement at Holly Hall Road/Wood Street due to inconsiderate parking by people using the New Testament Church.

Comments: Consideration will be given during 2010-11 to the possibility of introducing pedestrian guardrail in Wood street, Holly Hall, to reduce instances of parking on the public footway. However, sensitivity will be used in this issue relating to a Place of Worship.

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

17. **UNAUTHORISED DROPPED KERBS**

Background: Cllr J Martin Referred to unauthorised dropped kerbs and asked for the matter to be investigated.

Comments: An email was sent to Cllr Martin on the 23rd March asking if he had any specific locations in mind or whether this was a general observation and also outlined our enforcement powers and that private contractors can do vehicle crossings, provided suitably licensed and insured.

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

18. **WARRENS HALL ROAD/FOUR WINDS ROAD**

Background: Cllr Waltho acknowledged that improvements have been made at the junction of Warrens Hall Road/Four Winds Road with regard to road safety issues, but raised concerns that there are now problems on an adjacent location and requested that the matter be investigated urgently.

Comments: Cllr Waltho is assisting officers to investigate the issues of concern.

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

19. **BUNNS LANE TRAFFIC ISSUES**

Background: Cllr Waltho referred to traffic issues in Bunns Lane and reported that a meeting to discuss this had now been arranged.

Comments: A site walkabout took place on the 7th April with Cllr Ali and a representative of the Police which was friendly, low-key and useful.

It was agreed that Bunns Lane would be assessed for possible inclusion in a future year's annual Local Safety Scheme programme.

Cllr Ali also requested that consideration might be given to some funding from the Burnt Tree works being used in Bunns Lane to reduce the intrusive effects of traffic being driven through that residential street. It is hoped that Cllr Ali's request can be considered as part of the Burnt Tree white carriageway lining work.

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

20. **BLACKACRE ROAD TRAFFIC**

Background: Cllr Waltho reported that meetings had and would be held with residents, Police and Ward Members regarding traffic issues in Blackacre Road

Comments: A great deal of positive action has taken place regarding Blackacre Road. Traffic Engineers have met with representatives of the police, residents and businesses at site walkabouts in Blackacre Road.

Proposals have been agreed, dependant on those meeting all the needs of factory owners, who will give their joint decision in the next few weeks.

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

21. **BUFFERY PARK CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

Background: Cllr Ali requested investigation into the damage to the children's play area in Buffer Park.

Comments: The safety surface at Buffery Park has been repaired, the fire damaged panels have been removed and replacements ordered. Some of the metal work has been repainted. Once the panels arrive they will be fitted straight away.

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

22. **BOWLING GREEN ROAD BRIDGE**

Background: Cllr Cotterill referred to the condition of the bridge at the bottom of Bowling Green Road and requested that the matter be investigated.

Comments: An email was sent to Cllr Cotterill on the 24th March, acknowledging the poor condition of the downstream parapet to this bridge. Some quick repairs have been carried out but a final conclusion is awaited to the negotiations with Barratt 's the developer of the adjacent housing site as this is likely to affect this parapet with the works required for flood mitigation. These negotiations are nearing a conclusion and when their work is complete the parapet will be re-built to upgrade it closer to modern day standards.

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

23. **BOWLING GREEN ROAD/SALTWELLS ROAD GUARDRAIL**

Background: Cllr Cotterill requested that the length of the railing at Bowling Green Road/Salt wells Road be extended to the corner.

Comments: This subject will be considered during 2010-11.

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