

Stourbridge Area Committee - 19th November 2007

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of written responses made to questions asked at a previous meeting.

Background

2. At a meeting of this Committee held on 5th September 2007, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners on the following questions:
3. A representative of the Wollaston Village Hall requested that the white line parking bays in the car park to the Wollaston Village Hall be reinstated. The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety has responded, advising that the Village Hall car park is controlled by the Council's Directorate of Children's Services and he has therefore requested that the Building Estates Manager for that Directorate remark the parking bays at the Village Hall.
4. Some members of the public expressed concerns relating to health and safety issues and planning permissions regarding a Balti restaurant in Lye. In response, the Assistant Director has written to the questioners, giving the relevant planning history for the premises referred to. She has also advised of the regulations under which approval was given for the applications.
5. A member of the public expressed concerns that when the Parks Department cut the grass in urban green spaces they left the mown grass to blow about choke up water courses and drains. He also expressed concern that vegetation was allowed to encroach on the urban pathways and eventually destroyed the surface. In response the Team Manager – Green Care Section of the Directorate of the Urban Environment has written to the questioner advising that maintenance of urban grassed areas and pathways were carried out in accordance with the standard practice for Local Authorities nationwide. And that grass cuttings were not collected, but allowed to fall back onto the plot and decompose naturally. To collect the quantity of grass cuttings would result in an additional £2 million per annum. There would also be increased emissions into the environment from use of more machines and additional transport for collection, transfer and disposal of the cuttings, which would not assist the aims of the Local Agenda 21. The Team

Manager – Green Care Section also advised that two herbicide applications to grass perimeters and around obstacles were carried out each year to stop encroachment and create a “mowing margin” to assist mowing operations.

Finance

6. There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

Law


7. 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

8. The report takes into account the Council’s Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

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



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J POLYCHRONAKIS
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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List of Background Papers:

Question slips handed in at previous meetings of the Stourbridge Area Committee.
Correspondence sent in response by Council Officers.