

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 10th November, 2010 at 6.30 p.m.
At Earls High School, Furnace Lane, Halesowen

PRESENT

Councillor James (Chairman)
Councillor Burston (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Body, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Faulkner, Hill, Ms Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Mrs Shakespeare, Taylor, K Turner, Mrs H Turner, Vickers and J Woodall.

Officers

Area Liaison Officer (Treasurer), Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector, (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Assistant Director, Quality and Partnership, (Directorate of Children's Services), Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration and Transportation, Head of Economic Regeneration Delivery, Head of Traffic and Transportation, Group Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety), Principal Planning Officer, Senior Planning Policy Officer, (all Directorate of the Urban Environment), Area Community Renewal Officer (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Interim Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services and Mrs M Johal – (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources).

Also in Attendance

Inspector Clive Steedman – West Midlands Police
Sergeant Martin Hall – West Midlands Police
Mr Chris Wood – West Midlands Fire Service

There were approximately 30 members of the public in attendance.

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APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Crumpton.

42

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members in respect of the matters indicated:

Councillor Mrs Faulkner declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No 14 (Dudley Group of Hospitals Foundation Trust Membership) in view of her being an appointed Governor of the Foundation Trust.

Councillor Taylor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item No 11 (Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders in Shell Corner) in view of him having an interest in a property in the area covered by the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders.

Councillor K Turner declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item No 6 (Emergency Services Issues) in view of him being the Deputy Shadow Leader for West Midlands Fire Service.

Councillor K Turner declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No 15 (Halesowen Town Centre Development) in view of him being a member of the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

43

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9th September, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

44

PETITIONS

It was reported that no petitions had been received since the last meeting. No petitions were presented at this meeting.

45

YOUTH SERVICE AREA PLAN

A report of the Acting Director of Children's Services was submitted on the Youth Service provision for the Halesowen and Cradley Area.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the Youth Service provision for the Halesowen and Cradley Area, be noted and endorsed.

46

EMERGENCY SERVICES ISSUES

Mr Chris Wood, West Midlands Fire Service briefly explained about work that had been undertaken by the Fire Service.

RESOLVED

That the information given in the verbal update on emergency services issues be noted.

47

AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT) ISSUES

A schedule of PACT meetings arranged in the area of the Committee had been included with the agenda for information.

Inspector Clive Steedman reported on forthcoming operations, including a drink and drive campaign and indicated that efforts were being made to make the community safer, particularly during the Christmas and New Year period.

RESOLVED

That the information given in the verbal update on policing issues be noted.

48

PUBLIC FORUM

- (a) Reference was made to the success of the Victorian Fayre held last month by the Halesowen and Rowley Regis and Hasbury and Cradley Rotary Clubs and it was queried whether a commitment could be given for continued financial support from the Council.

In responding the Head of Economic Regeneration and Delivery indicated that the Council had supported the event for a number of years and that no guarantee could be given for expenditure from next year's budget.

- (b) A member of the public referred to the proposed car park on Huntingtree Park that had been approved by the Development Control Committee. The cost for the construction of the car park was in the region of £50,000 and it was queried as to how the car park would be funded. It was pointed out that the car park would be the second at Huntingtree Park and would encroach on to the small park. It was further commented that if funding was available for the construction then the money should be directed to other worthier projects such as Hope Street and Homer Hill Parks.

The Head of Economic and Regeneration Delivery confirmed that the estimated cost for the car park was in the region of £50,000 but it was explained that funding was not available and that the construction was entirely reliant on securing future Section 106 receipts.

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WARD ISSUES

(a) Councillor K Turner

Reported on an accident that had occurred on the A456 involving an elderly gentleman, which had resulted in him being seriously injured and it was queried when work to install crossings on the A456 would be undertaken.

The Head of Traffic and Transportation reported that the matter would be included for consideration as part of next year's programme.

(b) Councillor Mrs Faulkner

Referred to the withdrawal of the 230 bus in the Hurst Green area and also from Springfield Road estate and informed the meeting that Centro had listened to concerns raised and had agreed the operation of a new bus service to cover the affected areas.

(c) Councillor Body

Referred to the decision made at the last meeting with regard to a grant to Wollescote Community Association towards a major kitchen refurbishment and indicated that residents and users had asked that the matter be reviewed as it was difficult to raise the money to match fund.

The Chairman reported that the Area Committee had made its decision and that there was no mechanism for the decision to be reviewed.

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RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2010

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted informing the Committee of the written responses made to questions asked at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, be noted.

PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS IN SHELL CORNER, HALESOWEN AND SURROUNDING STREETS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders to control waiting and vehicular movements in Long Lane and surrounding streets in Halesowen.

In introducing the report the Group Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) informed the meeting that a series of proposals for traffic regulations in the Shell Corner area of Halesowen had been advertised between 2nd July and 27th July, 2010. The proposals had been drafted in response to public requests for yellow lines and one-way streets, made over a number of years. Both petitions and letters of objection had been received to some of the proposals and other proposals had been supported by the local community. Both Ward Members and Officers had attended meetings of the Shell Corner Partnership and they had also met with community members on site. The Head of Traffic and Transportation referred to the plans and indicated that plans lettered 'A' showed the original proposals and plans marked 'B' were the amended proposals and that plans numbered without a letter 'A' or 'B' showed schemes that had not been modified.

The Group Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) further reported that the present yellow lines for much of the area were for no waiting between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm, Monday to Saturday. Current limited waiting was for one hour (no return within one hour) Monday to Saturday, 7.00 am to 7.00 pm.

The following persons referred to had indicated that they wished to speak at the meeting and, unless indicated, were in attendance at the meeting and spoke on the Traffic Regulation Order proposals as indicated:-

- (i) Proposal No 4B – Mr Sadique and Mr Taylor and Councillor Shakespeare (Ward Member)
- (ii) Proposal No 5B – Mr Lowe and Councillor Shakespeare (Ward Member)
- (iii) Proposal No 7B – Mr Lowe and Councillor Shakespeare (Ward Member)
- (iv) Proposal No 8B – Mr Lowe and Councillor Shakespeare (Ward Member)

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended to approve proposals as set out in paragraph 9 of the report submitted, and modified, as appropriate, as follows:-
 - (i) Proposal numbers 1B, 2B, 3, 6B, 9B, 10B, 12B, 14 and 15, as set out in the report submitted in relation to double yellow lines in Long Lane, Greenhill Road, and area near to 'Stag & 3 Horseshoes', Springfield Road/Woodland Road area, Stewarts Road/Olive Lane, New John Street and Beech Avenue/Beechfield Close, Fairfield Road/Narrow Lane/Fairfield Drive, double yellow lines and limited waiting in Feldon Lane near Halesbury School and a one way traffic flow in Malt Lane;
 - (ii) Proposal numbers 4B and 11, as set out in the report submitted in relation to double yellow lines and limited waiting in Long Lane/Malt Mill Lane/Nimmings Road, together with a further amendment that the scheme be extended to Southwick Road and one way traffic flow in Belgrave Road and Southwick Road, together with a further amendment that Southwick Road remain open to two way traffic.
 - (2) That consideration of proposal numbers 5B, 7B, 8B and 13 be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to enable the Director of the Urban Environment to inform the first named petitioners of the amended proposals.
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COMMUNITY RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

A report of the Interim Director of Adult Social Services was submitted on progress made by the Working Group in updating the Halesowen Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report be noted and that the Community Renewal Plan be accepted as a working document for the current year.

53

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE HALESOWEN AREA ACTION PLAN 'OPTIONS' STAGE DOCUMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the consultation responses received on the Halesowen Area Action Plan (AAP) Options document.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report and progress made in relation to the Halesowen Area Action Plan be noted.

54 DUDLEY GROUP OF HOSPITALS FOUNDATION TRUST MEMBERSHIP

A copy of presentation slides on “Your Hospital of Choice” had been included in the agenda. It was noted that there was no representative from the Trust in attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the presentation slides on “Your Hospital of Choice”, be noted.

55 HALESOWEN TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on progress with regard to physical developments taking place in and around Halesowen Town Centre.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, on progress with regard to developments in and around Halesowen Town Centre and regarding the formation of a community led Steering Group to take forward the Halesowen in Bloom project, be noted.

56 DELEGATED CAPITAL BUDGET

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on requests for funding from the Delegated Capital Budget.

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval be given to a grant of up to £3500 being made to the Halesowen/Dudley Yemeni Community Association towards the purchase of a minibus.
- (2) That the action taken by the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, in approving a grant of up to £800 to Security Gates Action Committee to install gates to a private access road serving the rear of 56 properties on Shenstone Valley, Compton, Kent and Gower Roads, be noted.

57

DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the dates and venues of future meetings of the Committee be noted as follows:-

13th January, 2011 – Hurst Green Primary School
9th March, 2011 – Lutley Community Centre

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SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

As a way of giving additional publicity to meetings of the Council's Select Committees, details of Select Committee meetings had been included on the agendas of meetings of Area Committees.

The information given in respect of publicity for future meetings of Select Committees was noted.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN