

**Central Dudley Area Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**Report Of The Director Of The Urban Environment**

**Urban Environment - Matters Raised At The Central Dudley Area Committee - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**Purpose Of Report**

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 8<sup>th</sup> June 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.

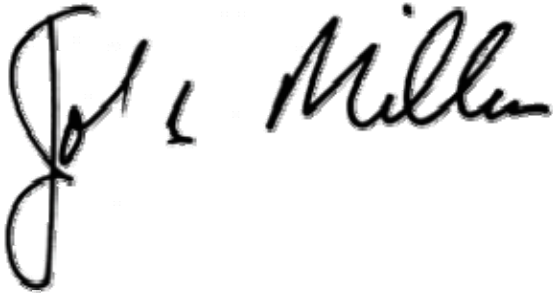
8. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.
9. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations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

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## **Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-**

1. Action Notes from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 Committee.

## Appendix 1

### DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010

#### 1. LISTER ROAD DEPOT - PARKING ISSUES

**Background:** A member of the public circulated photographs and drew attention to the ongoing parking problems caused by Council employees along Lister Road, Dudley.

**Comments:** Traffic problems associated with Lister Road will be alleviated once the new Blowers Green Recycling facility becomes operational. Members and officers will meet on site to determine if any interim improvements are viable.

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

#### 2. DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE - DESIGNATED TAXI PARKING

**Background:** A member of the public queried why the designated parking areas for Taxis in Dudley are never used and suggested that they be used for disabled parking.

**Comments:** Taxi companies maintain that they do use, and need, all of the taxi ranks in Dudley Town Centre. A review of taxi ranks in the town will commence in 2011-12.

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

#### 3. HILDERIC CRESCENT - PROPOSED H BARS/PARKING RESTRICTION

**Background:** Cllr J Martin, on behalf of an Hilderic Crescent resident, requested that white H bars be placed in front of dropped kerbs in Hilderic Crescent as residents are being prevented from accessing their drives by inconsiderate non-residents avoiding parking charges at Russell's Hall Hospital

He also requested that further consideration be given to a parking restriction opposite his property (no houses there) as non-residents using Russell's Hall Hospital often park there and again make access/egress difficult.

**Comments:** The management of Russells Hall Hospital are currently constructing a multi-storey car park for the use of hospital staff. The car park should be completed later this year.

White "H" lines only cover the dropped kerb area of driveways. Site observations do not indicate that hospital staff park across driveways.

It is recommended that consideration of white "H" lines be borne in mind for the time being, until the effects of Russells Hall Hospital's new staff parking facilities have been ascertained and analysed.

This matter will be reviewed by the Russells Hall Working Group.

#### 4. **HOLLY HALL GP SURGERY/WALK-IN CENTRE - PARKING ISSUES**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin, on behalf of a resident, referred to parking problems in the vicinity of the Holly Hall GP surgery and Walk-In Centre. Problems are being caused by visitors/workers at Russells Hall Hospital. The Council was asked to consider appropriate traffic regulation order and parking restrictions.

**Comments:** This matter will be reviewed by the Russells Hall Working Group.

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

#### 5. **PENSNETT ROAD, HOLLY HALL - PARKING ISSUES**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin, on behalf of a resident, referred to parking problems in Pensnett Road, Holly Hall in front of the shops again. This continues to affect business as customers cannot get near. Problems being caused by visitors/workers at Russells Hall Hospital. Council to consider appropriate traffic regulation order and parking restrictions.

**Comments:** This matter will be reviewed by the Russells Hall Working Group.

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

#### 6. **KING STREET TRAFFIC**

**Background:** A member of the public queried whether King Street should be reinstated for normal traffic use as proposals for the tram system had been cancelled.

**Comments:** King Street is an important bus route for Dudley Town Centre. To remove the public transport facilities that have been designed and implemented over some time in King Street might reduce the effectiveness of bus services for people wishing to shop in Dudley.

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

#### 7. **OAKHAM ROAD/BUNNS LANE/BLACKACRE ROAD/KING STREET - TRAFFIC ISSUES**

**Background:** Cllr Ali requested that traffic issues in relation to Oakham Road, Bunns Lane, Blackacre Road linked to King Street be investigated.

**Comments:** Oakham Road in the vicinity of Elizabeth Grove will be investigated during 2010-11 for possible inclusion in a future year's annual Local Safety Scheme.

Cllr Ali held a useful site meeting with DUE officers in Bunns Lane. When the Burnt Tree works have been completed and monitored, consideration could be given to a possible future Local Safety Scheme investigation.

Cllr Ali and his fellow Ward Members are advising officers, the Police and residents' representatives about possible future Traffic Regulation Order proposals for Blackacre Road.

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

#### 8. **HALL STREET/NORTH STREET - TRAFFIC PROBLEMS**

**Background:** Cllr Ali drew attention to traffic problems in Hall Street and North Street and requested that these be included and discussed at the proposed meeting between officers and the three Ward Members referred to earlier in the meeting.

**Comments:** Officers would make themselves available to discuss traffic problems in Hall Street and North Street with the three Ward Members. It is requested that the Ward Members might consider possible meeting times.

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

#### 9. **HIMLEY ROAD - SPEEDING VEHICLES**

**Background:** Cllr Mrs Roberts requested that an assessment be carried out in respect of commercial vehicles speeding along the Himley Road.

**Comments:** The issue of lorries being driven at speeds greater than speed limits in Himley Road permit will be brought to the attention of the Police.

#### 10. **STOURBRIDGE ROAD - PROPOSED 30 MPH SPEED SIGNS**

**Background:** Cllr Ahmed requested that 30 mph speed signs be erected on the dual carriageway of the Stourbridge Road.

**Comments:** 30mph speed limit signs are not usually installed in built up areas with street lighting. The lamp posts should remind motorists that they are in a 30mph speed limit.

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

#### 11. **KINGSWINFORD ROAD - SLIP ROAD**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin, on behalf of a resident of Hilderic Crescent, referred to the slip road for residents along Kingswinford Road which is becoming increasingly dangerous as non-residents are using it as a rat run to avoid traffic jams. He requested that:

- a. Give Way signs be erected along the slip road where Hilderic Crescent intersects with Kingswinford Road slip road. Speeding motorists are not stopping and several near misses have occurred where residents from Hilderic Crescent have nearly been hit by motorists speeding down the slip road and failing to give way.

- b. Road markings be refreshed and consideration be given to proper junction markings to help avoid further accidents and near misses.

**Comments:** Regrettably, funds for new "give way" signs have been allocated. Should finance be available during a future financial year, consideration will be given to the introduction of a "give way" sign in Kingswinford Road service road at its junction with Hilderic Crescent.

Work is currently taking place in Hilderic Crescent to remove unnecessary grass verges and assist residents' parking. Consideration is also being given to a possible highway alteration to assist refuse collections from Hilderic Crescent.

The white lining maintenance requirements for the two junctions of Kingswinford Road service and Hilderic Crescent will be assessed by Street Care highway maintenance officers.

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

## 12. **SYCAMORE GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE - TRAFFIC/PARKING PROBLEMS**

**Background:** During the CDAC debrief meeting, Cllr Ken Finch raised traffic/parking concerns in relation to the new development at Sycamore Green Community Centre and requested that speed signs be erected in that area.

**Comments:** An inspection of the area took place between DUE officers and the DACHS Housing Manager on Friday 9 July.

To complement the opening of the community centre, and bearing in mind that many journeys to it will be on foot or by cycle, a white "30mph" roundel will be laid on the carriageway near to the community centre from both directions.

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

## 13. **CRADLEY ROAD - PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

**Background:** Cllr Cotterill queried when work would be carried out on the proposed pedestrian crossing on the Cradley Road.

**Comments:** There has been local opposition to the proposed location of the pedestrian crossing. Therefore, possible alternative sites and crossing designs are under review.

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

## 14. **NEW STREET - DOUBLE YELLOW LINES**

**Background:** Referred to the notification in respect of double yellow lines in New Street, a few meters down from the junction with High Street, Quarry Bank and asked if

the double yellow lines on the left-hand side of the High Street (going up towards the church) could be repainted at the same time.

**Comments:** Street Care Highway Maintenance Officers will inspect the double yellow lines and take any necessary remedial action.

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

**15. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER, NETHERTON - UPDATE REQUEST**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested an update on Traffic Regulation Order for Netherton.

**Comments:** The Traffic Regulation Order proposals for Netherton are being advertised and objections invited.

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

**16. NETHERTON ARTS CENTRE - PROPOSED BOLLARDS**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested that, in consultation with the Arts Centre, bollards be introduced outside Netherton Arts Centre to prevent parking on the pavement and the pedestrian crossing. The pavement is also being broken and causing trip hazards. The Northfield Road/Halesowen Road junction is very busy and dangerous which exacerbates dangerous parking.

**Comments:** Bollards were considered for the footway outside Netherton Arts Centre last year until it was pointed out that the introduction of bollards would adversely affect loading and deliveries. Whilst funds are not currently available for new bollards during 2010-11, the views of Ward Members for new bollards during a future financial year would be appreciated.

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

**17. STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HOLLY HALL - REQUIRED ZEBRA CROSSING AND MID-ROAD REFUGE**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested that the appropriate Council officers investigate the possibility of having a zebra crossing, with mid-road refuge installed on the Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall near to the junction of Cochrane Road. Elderly residents need to cross this wide and very busy road to get to the bus stops for the bus to Russells Hall Hospital and Dudley.

**Comments:** An assessment of a possible pedestrian crossing facility in Stourbridge Road in the vicinity of Cochrane Road will be carried out during 2011-12, for possible inclusion in a future year's annual Pedestrian Crossing Programme.

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



18. **BOWLING GREEN ROAD - RAILINGS**

**Background:** Cllr Cotterill referred to the railings at the top of Bowling Green Road and the indication that works would be done in 2010/11.

**Comments:** Consideration will be given to the possible introduction of a further short section of pedestrian guardrail in Bowling Green Road, Netherton, at its junction with Saltwells Road.

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

19. **MAPLE ROAD - POTHOLES**

**Background:** Cllr A Finch referred to pot holes in the vicinity of Maple Road.

**Comments:** Maple Road was inspected on the 14<sup>th</sup> June and all outstanding priority work has now been completed. On the off chance that any work adjacent to Maple Road has been missed, we may need more detailed locations.

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

20. **WITHYMOOR ROAD, DARBY END - POTHOLES**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested that potholes and rutting at the top of Withymoor Road, Darby End by the Methodist Church be addressed urgently.

**Comments:** Remedial action was planned for Sunday 25th July and should now be completed.

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

21. **HALESOWEN ROAD, NETHERTON - POTHOLES**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested urgent action to fill potholes near to the petrol station on Halesowen Road, Netherton.

**Comments:** This work has been assessed and the worst area (about 700 sq m) can be patched from the patching budget. The National Grid Gas will soon be finishing work in Cinder Bank so arrangements will be made with the contractor for the resurfacing to be undertaken during August.

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

**22. HIGHBRIDGE ROAD, NETHERTON - ROAD SURFACE REPAIRS**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested urgent repair to the road surface on the lower part of Highbridge Road, Netherton. This is a very steep road and potentially very dangerous. The road is heavily rutted and the surface is worn away in other parts.

**Comments:** This area has been investigated by Highway Inspectors and appropriate remedial work will be undertaken, hopefully in time for the next Central Dudley Area Committee.

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

**23. THISTLEGREEN ROAD, DARBY END - CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested an update on when the full carriageway resurfacing promised for Thistlegreen Road, Darby End, Netherton will take place. This has been promised before and residents are fed up waiting. Cars are being damaged.

**Comments:** Now that National Grid Gas have completed their works, the resurfacing has been programmed to commence on 6th September 2010.

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

**24. RUSSELLS HALL - BLOCKED GULLIES**

**Background:** Cllr M Davis acknowledged that efforts had been made to clear the gullies on Russells Hall but requested that further action be taken.

**Comments:** An inspection was undertaken during recent rainfall and no significant issues were found with regard to blocked gullies or highway flooding. The larger roads have been done on the estate recently, but we will return to the area in due course for a more extensive cleansing operation, but as you can appreciate we are trying to deal with gully emptying across the whole Borough, based on greatest need. If Councillor Davis has some specific flooding issues that he can bring to our attention, we will of course investigate them as quickly as possible.

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

**25. WITHYMOOR ROAD, NETHERTON - REQUIRED DRAIN**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested, on behalf of a resident of Withymoor Road, Netherton the installation of a drain at an appropriate position on the carriageway in the vicinity of her property as rain water flows off the carriageway, across the pavement and onto her property causing flooding/water logging. Cllr Martin requested that an appropriate officer contact the resident to discuss and resolve updating him accordingly.

**Comments:** The flooding complaint has been investigated and improvement work will be undertaken to the footway to divert the water away from the resident's driveway.

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

26. **QUEEN STREET - OBTRUSIVE LIGHT**

**Background:** Cllr Cotterill requested that the lamp standard he referred to, which is adversely affecting an elderly couple, be moved to alleviate their concerns.

**Comments:** Our Street Lighting Team have now changed the offending street lighting lantern on two occasions in an attempt to use technical solutions to resolve the problem.

As we cannot compromise the lighting in the area or remove the street lighting column completely, there is now very little we can do to resolve this matter.

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

27. **FARM ROAD, NETHERTON - ILLUMINATED ROAD BOLLARD**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested the removal of an abandoned, illuminated road bollard by the Farm Road street sign at the entrance to Lodge Farm estate, Netherton. It has been there for several months and is being kicked around.

**Comments:** The bollard has now been removed.

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

28. **IVANHOE STREET, HOLLY HALL - LITTER/LITTER BINS**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested regular street cleansing for Ivanhoe Street, Holly Hall and litter picks due to high numbers of mainly school children dropping litter.

Cllr Martin also requested litter bins for Ivanhoe Street to be installed along the length and particularly near the shop at the top of the street near to its junction with Waverley Street.

**Comments:** Ivanhoe Street and Waverley Street have received a regular fortnightly litterpick for the last twelve months. Residents' fly-tipping is a problem there and Street Cleansing have recently removed an extensive amount of piled up waste to enhance Ivanhoe Street.

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

29. **NETHERTON PARK/WOODSIDE PARK SUNDAY LEAGUE FOOTBALLERS - LITTER**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested improved litter patrols at these parks. Sunday League footballers are leaving litter and other rubbish in Netherton Park and Woodside Park.

**Comments:** “Footballers’ litter” will be raised at the next Football Forum and officers from the Council will also speak directly to the footballers.

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

**30. COCHRANE ROAD, WOODSIDE - GREEN SPACE**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested On behalf of residents of No. 33 Cochrane Road, Woodside, urgent action by the Council to properly maintain the Council-owned green space next to their home. The green space is overgrown and needs a major cutback. This space is used by fly-tippers which is attracting vermin and causing the family worries. Council officers were requested to remove the rubbish urgently and contact Mr Cumberlidge to discuss a sustainable solution.

**Comments:** This is a Housing garage site which is mainly maintained on twice a year basis with the Side Arm Flail. This work is currently being carried out and the manager will arrange for completion within the next 2 weeks . Any fly- tipping will be removed as part of the work.

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

**31. DUNCAN EDWARDS PUBLIC HOUSE**

**Background:** Cllr Mrs Aston referred to complaints she had received in relation to Japanese Knotweed and queried the current position in respect of security on the former site of Duncan Edwards. Attempts have been made to contact the owners of the site and further attempts would be made to make contact.

**Comments:** We believe we have now identified the freehold proprietor of the former Duncan Edwards site and have written, requesting that the site be brought back to an acceptable standard.

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

**32. 42 - 45 COLE STREET, NETHERTON - OVERGROWN GRASS BANK**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin referred to an overgrown grass bank and fly-tipping in front of properties 42, 43, 44 and 45 Cole Street, Darby End, Netherton. He requested that Council officers remove rubbish and cut back the overgrown grass and bushes. Vermin is being attracted regularly to this site and families are worried as the Council is failing to maintain its land on this site. A sustainable solution needs to be found here as passers by discard litter and rubbish as they walk by above.

**Comments:** This grass bank is a “spider” bank and will not be cut due to budget cuts. The site will be visited by the fly-tip team to remove rubbish by Friday 23 July, and assess shrub pruning requirements.

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

**33. TANSLEY HILL AREA - DOG FOULING**

**Background:** Cllr Ali requested that problems relating to dog fouling in the Tansley Hill area be investigated.

**Comments:** Enforcement Officers will target the Tansley Hill Area.

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

**34. WORCESTER/HEREFORD ROAD - PROPOSED PLAY AREA**

**Background:** Cllr Ms Wood requested that consideration be given to turning the green space on the Worcester and Hereford Road into a play area.

**Comments:** The Parks Team have been asked to consider this request.

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

**35. POPLAR TREES - NO.S 1-5 HILDERIC CRESCENT**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin reported, on behalf the resident of No.1, Hilderic Crescent, that branches are dropping off the 100 ft tall Poplar Trees to the rear of numbers 1, 3 and 5 Hilderic Crescent and requested that:

- a. An inspection of the trees be carried out
- b. The appropriate Council officer contact the resident to discuss the matter and arrange for a site visit.

**Comments:** A Tree Inspector will contact Mrs Hazelton in order to assess the tree.

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