

Stourbridge Area Committee - 27th June 2011

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 meetings of this Committee held on 17th January 2011 and 8th March 2011, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners on the following questions:
3. A member of the public questioned whether the renovation of the gates at Mary Stevens Park would be considered as revenue, rather than capital and also commented on the amount of interest quoted in the accounts for the Ernest Stevens Trust accounts.

The Assistant Director, Planning and Environmental Health has written to the questioner advising that the renovation of the gates was capital, because it was not routine repair and maintenance. The renovation would enhance the asset and therefore add to its future usefulness.

She also advised that Dudley Council invested its balances in line with its Treasury strategy and any funds held by Dudley MBC on behalf of trusts were included as part of this process.

4. A member of the public raised concerns regarding the lighting, including two lanterns at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, which were switched on at 4.30 pm on the previous afternoon.

The Head of Building Surveying has written to the questioner advising that arrangements had been made for the timing mechanism that controls the lighting to be reset or repaired within the next few days. This has now taken place.

5. A member of the public requested that consideration be given to the installation of

clothes hooks in the ladies toilets at the Ryemarket Shopping Centre to enable ladies to hang their handbags and coats.

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety has written to the Operations Manager of the Ryemarket Shopping Centre, requesting that he give consideration to this request.

The Centre Manager has responded, advising that he was aware of the need for hooks and that when suitable hooks are identified they will be installed on the backs of the toilet doors. He also advised that as the toilets Ryemarket toilets are for customers and not the general public, he would appreciate it if any future concerns could be addressed to Karl Taylor, Centre Manager, The Ryemarket Shopping Centre, Stourbridge DY8 1HJ or telephone 01384 378183.

6. A member of the public raised concerns regarding vehicles being parked in High Park Avenue near to its junction with Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston.

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner advising that as a major Traffic Regulation Order for the greater Stourbridge area had just been completed, it would not be possible to consider new traffic regulations around Stourbridge for the foreseeable future.

He also advised that subject to available funding consideration would be given in the 2011/12 financial year to the introduction of guardrailing and white carriageway markings in High Park Avenue at Bridgnorth Road.

7. A member of the public provided some suggestions, regarding the necessity for carrying out repairs to the Vicarage Road railway bridge, Amblecote. These included the possible introduction of two new pedestrian footbridges, one on either side of the rail bridge, or that "armoco" barriers be installed on both sides of the bridge to protect the pedestrian footways.

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety has written the questioner, advising him that a number of options were being investigated by the Council's structural engineers to progress the matter further, under the guidance of Councillors. Following these investigations final proposals will be drafted for consultation with the Stourbridge Area Committee.

Finance

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

Law

9. 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

10. The report takes into account the Council's Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

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



.....
Jane Porter
Area Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: Joan Rees, Democratic Services Officer
 Directorate of Corporate Resources
 Telephone: 01384 815242
 Email: joan.rees@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers:

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