

**Central Dudley Area Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

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

**Urban Environment - Matters Raised At The Central Dudley Area Committee - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**Purpose Of Report**

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 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, 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.

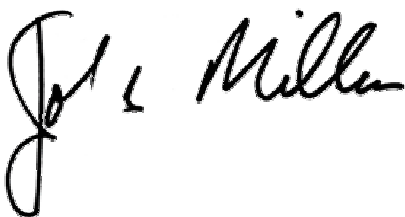
8. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.
9. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations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

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

1. Action Notes from 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 Committee.

## Appendix 1

### **DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**

#### **1. PETITION - THE GRANGE RESIDENTIAL HOME - REQUEST FOR A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

**Background:** Cllr M Davis submitted a petition on behalf of residents and friends of families at The Grange Residential Home, requesting the location of a pedestrian crossing near to The Grange so that residents can cross safely to a bus stop with buses going to Dudley.

**Comments:** The section of Himley Road, Dudley, in the vicinity of The Grange Residential Home will be assessed in due course for the possible introduction of a pedestrian crossing facility, in comparison with all other requests for this service.

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

#### **2. PETITION - OBJECTION TO SITING OF A BUS STOP AT AINTREE WAY**

**Background:** Following the meeting, a petition was submitted by residents objecting to the siting of a bus stop in Aintree Way.

**Comments:** The Council would not support a bus stop in Aintree Way. Centro have indicated that an application for a new bus stop in Aintree Way will not be made.

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

#### **3. BAPTIST END ROAD/HALESOWEN ROAD, NETHERTON - ROAD SAFETY**

**Background:** A Netherton resident requested action on road safety grounds at the junction of Baptist End Road and Halesowen Road, Netherton (children having to cross the road at that junction on their way to/from school). The resident reported that a large number of vehicles parking at the junction between 8 am and 1.30 pm make it difficult for people crossing from Arch Hill Street and Cinder Bank and vice versa. Children crossing the road attend Hillcrest School and Northfield Road Primary School. The resident also reported that large articulated lorries and vans park along the main Halesowen Road near the junction.

**Comments:** The junction of Baptist End Road and Cinder Bank will be reviewed as part of the Netherton Traffic Management Working Group.

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

4. **RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE (MIDDLEPARK ROAD AND CORBYN ROAD) - LITTER/UNKEMPT GREEN AREAS/DOG FOULING**

**Background:** A resident of Corbyn Road, Russells Hall complained about litter, unkempt green areas, particularly in Middlepark Road between houses (Councillor Davis also referred to these areas) and dog fouling throughout Russells Hall, and the jumbrella at the Old Park Inn public house (Corbyn Road)

**Comments:** Following Councillor Davis' enquiry an inspection was conducted and although relatively clean, a litter pick has been undertaken. Enforcement Officers have been active in the area and a fine issued to a member of the public who failed to clean up after allowing their dog to foul.

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

5. **OLD PARK INN PUBLIC HOUSE, CORBYNS ROAD - JUMBRELLA**

**Background:** The above resident referred to the jumbrella acknowledging that an appeal has been lodged by the public house but indicated that the public house is now under new management and it might be the appropriate time to approach the new owners with a view to getting the jumbrella and fence removed.

**Comments:** Planning permission for the Jumbrella has now been granted by the Planning Inspectorate, following a successful appeal.

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

6. **ASHENHURST ROAD AND RUSSELLS HALL ROAD - POT HOLE**

**Background:** The above resident also drew attention to a bad pothole at the junction of Ashenhurst Road and Russells Hall Road requesting that it be repaired.

**Comments:** Patching works are being undertaken at various locations in the street to hopefully address the situation.

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

7. **RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE - RAT HOLES**

**Background:** The above resident also drew attention to a number of rat holes in the area. The resident was particularly concerned that the new road being constructed for new build housing would result in rats emerging from the holes and causing problems. The resident strongly advocated the implementation of rodent treatment before the construction of the road.

**Comments:** Pest Control Officers have visited Middleton Hall Road and baited the area of land (where development will be taking place) with appropriate rodenticide.

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

**8. BUNNS LANE - TRAFFIC CALMING**

**Background:** Councillor Ali requested that traffic calming and speed restriction measures be taken at Bunns Lane in view of the recent fatal accident along the road and the remodeling of Burnt Tree Island. He asked if flashing warning lights could be installed.

**Comments:** Apart from the recent high-profile bus accident, there are no reported personal injury casualties recorded for Bunns Lane. Traffic calming has been introduced in Hollyhock Road, following a casualty. It is suggested that Councillor Ali and the Group Engineer responsible for Traffic and Road Safety conduct a walkabout in Bunns Lane during the 2009-10 financial year, in order to discuss possible future warning signs and carriageway markings.

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

**9. NETHERTON/WOODSIDE - LITTER AND STREET CLEANSING**

**Background:** Councillor Martin drew attention to enquires from residents of the Ward about litter and street cleansing, particularly in the central Netherton Shopping Area and Woodside.

**Comments:** The Netherton shopping area is covered by a static litter patroller six days a week Monday to Saturday. At the beginning of March the usual operative was on Annual Leave and although visits were made by the Mobile Cleansing Team, it was not as comprehensively cleansed as it could be with a permanent static resource.

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

**10. DARBY END - THISTLE GREEN ROAD - ROAD SURFACE**

**Background:** Councillor Martin asked for Darby End, with particular regard to Thistle Green Road area, to be included in a highways maintenance programme because of vehicular rat-running.

**Comments:** Consideration will be given to including the area in a future highways maintenance programme.

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

**11. RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL ISLAND - TRAFFIC CONGESTION**

**Background:** Councillor J D Davies requested that action be taken on traffic congestion at Russells Hall Hospital Island, where traffic is often bumper-to-bumper in the direction of Dudley from Kingswinford and difficult to get through at peak times. He suggested the installation of a yellow box.

**Comments:** Officers have considered Councillor Davies' suggestion. Regrettably, there could be disadvantages for traffic movements by the introduction of a yellow hatched box at this roundabout. Nevertheless, the subject will be considered.

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

## 12. **LITTER - FIXED PENALTY FINES**

**Background:** Councillor K Finch advocated greater enforcement regarding litter dropping, with more penalty fines. He also expressed the view that the Council should do more to provide litter bins for the public.

**Comments:** In 2002 the Council had 600 free standing litter bins, currently 2155 have to be serviced. Dog fouling bins have increased from 69 to 431 which are serviced twice a week. Although we try to accommodate every request for a litter/dog bin, where appropriate, resources are limited.

In the period 19/5/2008 to 19/5/2009, officers have issued 224 fixed penalty notices to people for litter related offences, these have included fines for dog fouling, depositing waste and dropping litter.

There have also been 6 successful prosecutions for littering, which have generated press releases published in the local newspapers and a further 2 prosecutions for dog fouling. There are a further 5 littering cases pending with Legal at the moment.

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

## 13. **OLD PARK ROAD/PRIORY ROAD/ SUMMER ROAD - LITTER/STREET CLEANSING**

**Background:** Councillor Finch drew particular attention to litter problems around the shops in Old Park Road, Priory Road and Summer Road. He advocated that more bins be installed and signage erected regarding dropping of litter. He also asked for regular cleansing in those areas particularly affected by litter dropping.

**Comments:** Concrete litter bins provided at the shops sites here have been deliberately smashed probably using sledge hammers. Plastic bins previously sited have been set alight. We have now arranged for metal bins to be installed. The area is regularly cleansed.

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

## 14. **BANKLAND ROAD - GULLY CLEANSING**

**Background:** Councillor J R Davies requested the cleansing of a gully in Banklands Road where it meets the football pitch.

**Comments:** Investigation has found that water is ponding in a low spot on the Public Right of Way as it exits a gully alongside rear gardens. This is creating a nuisance with

mud and puddles. The footpath will be raised to divert water away onto adjacent grassed area.

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

15. **WASTE SERVICE COLLECTION DATES - WARD INFORMATION**

**Background:** Councillor Sparks considered that it would be useful if all Councillors were notified of the collections for recycling, garden waste etc in their wards.

**Comments:** All residents were issued information stating that calendars would not be issued for the period Dec 08 - Dec 09 for their recycling collections (black box) as the collection frequencies and dates would not be changing. This information was available on the website and was issued via the Press. Should residents require a collection calendar then they are available to download via the Authority's website or by post from Dudley Council Plus.

This year we have external funding from WRAP and we will be issuing calendars along with other useful recycling information during October and November as part of our ongoing drive to increase participation.

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

16. **HIMLEY ROAD/RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE - UNLAWFULLY GRAZING HORSES**

**Background:** Councillor Mrs Roberts requested that action be taken regarding horses grazing unlawfully on the grass verges at Himley Road and Russells Hall. She drew attention to the safety elements involved.

**Comments:** A letter explaining the related protocol was sent to Councillor Roberts on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

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

17. **EARLS FOLD/DIBDALE LANE - IVY CLEARANCE**

**Background:** Councillor Mrs Roberts said that the clearance of ivy at the junction of Earl's Fold and Dibdale Lane, which she requested at the last meeting, has not been done and asked for the required action to be taken.

**Comments:** Action is being taken to remove the ivy from the area.

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



18. **RUSSELLS HALL SCHOOL - SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL**

**Background:** Councillor Davis requested the installation of a School Crossing Patrol in the vicinity of Russells Hall School.

**Comments:** A zebra crossing is being installed outside the school as a result of long running concerns from the school as part of the Safer Routes programme, given that the present criteria for provision of a SCP was not met.

The provision of a zebra crossing will provide a better facility for all the community for times outside normal school hours. This is particularly relevant to cater for any pre and extended school activities and the playing fields at the rear of the school.

The provision of the crossing further enhances the 20 mph speed limit.

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

19. **RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE - CHICANES**

**Background:** Councillor Davis drew attention to the fact that buses are not slowing down at the chicanes on the Russells Hall Estate and requested action.

**Comments:** This matter will be brought to the attention of National Express, the main bus operator.

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

20. **MERRYFIELD ROAD - DOG BINS**

**Background:** Councillor Davis requested the installation of dog bins in the vicinity of Russells Hall School at the bottom of Merryfield Road.

**Comments:** There are already 2 dog fouling bins in Merryfield Road, another has been sited in Overfield Road next to the school. Hopefully, there is now sufficient capacity in the area.

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

21. **DUNCAN EDWARDS WAY - LITTER**

**Background:** Councillor Davis drew attention to the litter on Duncan Edwards Way, which he considered a disgrace.

**Comments:** This has to be carried out at weekends, on Sundays, given the volume and speed of traffic on Duncan Edwards Way. Litter picks have now been programmed for the remainder of the year.

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

**22. DUDLEY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Background:** Councillor Ali indicated that he had not received any correspondence about the relocation of Dudley Town Football Club, which he had asked for at previous meetings. He indicated that, should there be any issues of confidentiality, the matter be discussed with him.

**Comments:** The Assistant Director responsible for Leisure and Culture Services will arrange a meeting with Cllr Ali to discuss the Dudley Sports Village Study and the proposed way forward.

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

**23. PILLAR BOX AT DUDLEY MARKET PLACE**

**Background:** The Committee, at its meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009, supported a Member request for the reinstatement of a pillar box in the vicinity of Boots the chemists shop at the Market Place, Dudley.

**Comments:** A letter has been sent to both Royal Mail and the Post Office and the Royal Mail are investigating.

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