

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday, 5th July, 2007 at 7.00 p.m.
at The Brierley Hill Civic Centre,
Bank Street, Brierley Hill

PRESENT:-

Councillors Mrs E Blood, Blood, Mrs L Boleyn, Harley, Ms Harris, Islam, Lavender, Miller, Nottingham, Tomkinson, Tyler and Mrs Wilson

Officers

Director of the Urban Environment, (Area Liaison Officer), Assistant Director (Economic Regeneration), Manager of Executive Support Team, Principal Recreation Officer, Principal Planning Officer (Policy) and Principal Engineer (all Directorate of the Urban Environment), Principal Solicitor and Ms K Smith (both Directorate of Law and Property)

In Attendance

Representatives from West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service, together with twenty-five members of the public.

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs Wilson be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor Mrs Wilson thereupon took the Chair)

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Foster, Mrs Jordan and Southall.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Miller declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of item number 17 (Capital Allocations, Townsend Place Tenants Association), in view of his having knowledge of the applicants.

Councillor Miller declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of item number 12 (Youth Issues - Skatepark Provision at The Source, Maidensbridge Primary School), in view of his being a school governor at Maidensbridge Primary School.

Councillor Tyler declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of item numbers 14 b, c and d (Land Issues), in view of his having knowledge of the applicants.

Councillor Mrs Wilson declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of item number 14c (land Issues), in view of his having knowledge of the applicants.

4

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th March 2007 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

At this juncture, a correction was made to minute 57 of the meeting of the Committee held on 1st February, 2007 to include the decision of the Committee to request the Cabinet that the sale proceeds from land at Cottage Street, Brierley Hill sold to Stourbridge College for a scheme proposed by the College be utilised towards the Brierley Hill Regeneration Project.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th March, 2007, be approved as a correct record and signed, and the following addition to the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2007 be made:
 - (2) That the Cabinet be recommended that the Capital Receipt from the scheme at Cottage Street, Brierley Hill by Stourbridge College be utilised towards the Brierley Hill Regeneration Project.
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APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tyler be appointed Vice Chairman of the committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

6

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROTOCOL FOR AREA COMMITTEES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted setting out the Terms of Reference and Protocol for Area Committees.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the Terms of Reference and Protocol for Area Committees, be noted.

7

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the co-option of persons to serve as members of the Committee for the 2007/08 municipal year.

The Area Liaison Officer reminded Members of the view taken previously by the Committee that as all members of the public were welcome to speak on all agenda items at all meetings of the Committee, the co-option of persons was not necessary.

RESOLVED

That no person be co-opted to the Committee at the present time.

8

APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of Working Groups of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

RESOLVED

That the following Working Groups be re-appointed for the 2007/08 Municipal Year with their existing terms of reference and with the composition and membership indicated:-

- Brierley Hill Young People's Group – To comprise the Chairman, plus one Member from each Ward in the area of the Area Committee – to be notified.
 - Capital Allocations – To comprise Councillors Mrs Wilson, Ms Harris, Tomkinson, Blood, Southall and Tyler.
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APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of representatives to serve on various outside bodies for the 2007/08 municipal year.

RESOLVED

That the appointments below be made to the bodies indicated for the 2007/08 municipal year:

<u>Name of Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s) Office</u>	<u>Period of Office</u>
Brierley Hill Committee For the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped	Councillors Mrs Wilson and Islam with Councillor Mrs Harris as a deputy	Annual

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

(a)	Brockmoor	Councillors Ms Foster with Mrs Jordan and Tomkinson	Annual
(b)	Dingle	Councillors Mrs E Blood with Nottingham and Southall	Annual
(c)	Fens Pool	Councillors Mrs Jordan and Tomkinson with Councillor Mrs Foster	Annual
(d)	Hawbush	Councillors Ms Harris and Islam with Councillor Mrs Wilson	Annual
(e)	Kingswinford	Councillors Harley, Miller with Blood	Annual
(f)	Nine Locks	Councillor Islam with Councillors Ms Harris and Mrs Wilson	Annual
(g)	Pensnett	Councillors Ms Foster and Mrs Jordan with Councillor Tomkinson	Annual
(h)	Wall Heath	Councillors Lavender, Ms Boleyn, and Tyler	Annual
(i)	Wordsley	Councillors Mrs E Blood, Annual Nottingham and Southall	Annual

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ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO VISIT SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS

A joint report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Director of Children's Services was submitted on progress of visits to Adult and Children's Social Care establishments during the 2006/2007 municipal year and requesting further nominations of members to make visits in the 2007/2008 municipal year.

In introducing the report, the Quality and Complaints Manager thanked all Members who had taken part in previous visits. He also advised that Members wishing to take part in the visits would need to be CRB checked and to attend a training programme, which was scheduled for 16th September 2007.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report now submitted be noted and that any Members wishing to undertake visits to Adult and Children's Social Care establishments in 2007/2008 be requested to contact the Directors of Adult, Community and Housing Services and Children's Services direct.

11

RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

A petition was submitted on behalf of youths in the Kingswinford and Wallheath areas, requesting provision for a Skatepark. The Committee acknowledged the petition and agreed that the first item for discussion by the Young People's Working Group would be to review Skatepark provision within the Brierley Hill Area Committee area.

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YOUTH ISSUES

The Area Liaison Officer briefed the Committee and public on the availability of the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund 2007/08. A briefing note and flyer were distributed to those in attendance. Concerns were raised by Youth Workers that the dates whereby groups were informed if funding applications had been approved were at very short notice and led to problems when trying to organise events. It was agreed that the issue concerning dates would be brought to the attention of the Director of Children's Services

Further to minute 11 above, the Committee also agreed that the issue of Skatepark provision within the Brierley Hill Area Committee area would be of primary importance for discussion by the Youth Working Group at its first meeting.

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PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public raised an issue on behalf of the Pool View Tenants and Residents Association concerning “boy racers” congregating in the Fens Pool Avenue, Canal Street and Terrace Street car parks. The Police confirmed that a manned operation had been in place to erect temporary barriers from early evening to the early morning to help deter the “boy racers”. Meetings had been held between the Directorate of the Urban Environment and Police and the situation would continue to be monitored.

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LAND ISSUES

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on applications received in respect of land and property owned by the Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Leisure be recommended to refuse the application made by the owners of 11 and 12 Hope Street, Wordsley; for a permanent easement over the Council owned land at the rear of Hope Street, as indicated on the map attached to the report submitted, for the reasons outlined in the report, but to grant an Equitable Easement on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
- (2) That the Cabinet Members for Leisure and Personnel and Legal and Property be recommended to approve the application, on behalf of the Lions Amateur Boxing Club to purchase land at Springfield Neighbourhood Centre, Springfield Road, Brierley Hill, as indicated on the map attached to the report submitted, on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
- (3) That the Cabinet Member for Leisure be recommended to grant a licence to Dudley Sports Bowls Club, Dudley to occupy and give permission to erect a portacabin on King George VI park, Park Lane, Kingswinford, as indicated on the map attached to the report submitted, on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.

- (4) That the Cabinet Member for Leisure be recommended to refuse the application on behalf of the owner of 159 Balfour Road, Kingswinford, to purchase an area of Public Open Space and the lifting of the Restrictive Covenants, as indicated on the map attached to the report submitted, for the reasons outlined in the report.
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BRIERLEY HILL AREA ACTION PLAN

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the timescale and process for public consultation on the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan Issues and Options report, which aimed to recognise Brierley Hill as a new strategic centre. The Action Plan, which would take about three years to prepare, contained a vision for the future of Brierley Hill and its regeneration including, integration of the High Street, Merry Hill and the Waterfont; up at least until 2021.

The consultation process in preparing the Area Action Plan, which included informal consultation, which had already started, and two six-week statutory periods of public consultation, the second period of which would end on 10th August 2007, was described in the report. Consultation would involve the public and stakeholders on the "Issues and Options" for the development and regeneration of Brierley Hill.

The Issues and Options Report set out three strategic options on how to take forward the regeneration of Brierley Hill, in particular where new shops should be sited, if the town centre needed to expand, the role of the High Street for shopping and living, consideration of where new wildlife corridors could be created and sensitivity to the historic environment and the locally distinctive character of Brierley Hill.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report submitted on the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan be noted.

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HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed programmes of work for Local safety Schemes, Pedestrian Crossings and Safer Routes to School within the Brierley Hill Area for the 2007/08 financial year. Details of the proposed works for 2007/08 were appended to the report.

Members requested that the width of refuges be looked at to ensure they accommodated the width of a mother with a pushchair to ensure greater safety.

RESOLVED

That the proposed Local Safety Schemes, Pedestrian Crossings and Safer Routes to School initiatives within the Brierley Hill area for the 2007/08 financial year, as set out in the appendices attached to the report submitted, be endorsed.

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CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications for funding from the Capital Allocations budget.

RESOLVED

- (1) That an application submitted on behalf of the Waterfront Christian Fellowship for £5,000, towards the purchase of a new roof, be approved subject to submission of two additional quotes and a report back to committee on the impact that the improvements have had on the community groups.
 - (2) That an application submitted on behalf of Dudley Sports Bowls Club for £5,000, towards the purchase of a portacabin, be approved subject to planning permission being granted.
 - (3) That an application submitted on behalf of Townsend Tenants Association for £2,000 towards the purchase of new Christmas festoon lighting be refused, as submissions can only be submitted from the same organisation within a three year period as stated in the approved revised Capital Allocations criteria.
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MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 29TH MARCH 2007

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 29th March 2007, which related to services provided by the Council.

In relation to Addison Road, Councillor Mrs Harris requested that a CCTV camera be sited in the vicinity of Addison Road to deter future incidents of fly tipping.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Director of the Urban Environment undertakes to liaise with the Police with regard to the siting of a CCTV camera in the vicinity of Addison Road.
- (2) That the report, and the additional issues referred to above be noted.

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WARD MEMBER ISSUES

Members raised concerns over the recent problems suffered due to flood damage and the difficulties encountered with claims and insurance companies. Council policy and procedures were queried with regard to local incidents and it was acknowledged that there were "all party" concerns. It was suggested that an all-party consultation-working group be implemented to look at such future eventualities.

RESOLVED

That the concerns and suggestion of Members for implementation of an all party consultation working group, be communicated to the Head of Contingency and Disaster for his consideration.

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NEXT MEETING

The dates and venues of future meetings of the Committee were noted as follows:-

Thursday 4th October 2007, at The Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford

Thursday 6th December 2007, at a venue to be confirmed

Thursday 31st January 2008, at a venue to be confirmed

Thursday 3rd April 2008, at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street, Brierley Hill

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm

CHAIRMAN