

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 4th DECEMBER, 2008

REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 2nd October, 2008, Brierley Hill Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Council.

BACKGROUND

2. The Council provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to a range of services. 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, a progress report is attached.

FINANCE

5. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

LAW

6. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are largely governed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
7. Provisions relating to Highways including trees thereon are contained in the Highways Act 1980.
8. Provisions relating to the Council's Housing stock are contained in the Housing Act 1985.

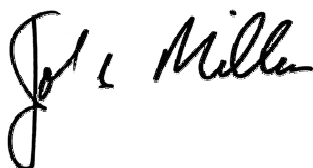
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area.

EQUALITY IMPACT

14. This report is consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity policy. There is no direct effect on children or young people.

RECOMMENDATION

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



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Brierley Hill Area Committee Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: John Millar
Telephone: 01384 814150
Email: john.millar@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

See progress report attached

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 4TH DECEMBER 2008

AREA LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

PETITIONS

ISSUE

A petition from residents of Bromley submitted by Councillors Ms Foster and Mrs Jordan, requesting that the Council install a safety camera in Bromley to counteract the problem of speeding vehicles, was received and referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for attention

RESPONSE

Flashing signs, in the form of mini speed visors have been used previously along Bromley but are not currently in place at the moment due to only a limited number being available to serve the Borough as a whole and the need to rotate the use of this equipment from site to site, usually for a period of two to three months duration. The poles on which the equipment is erected do however, remain in place so that in due course, the mini speed visors will be used in this area again.

ISSUE

A petition from residents of Oak Street, Kingswinford, against Oak Street Conservative Club, Kingswinford, regarding allegations of illegal parking and unsocial excessive noise after twelve midnight on weekdays and weekends, was received and referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for investigation in conjunction with West Midlands Police

RESPONSE

Both the anti-social behaviour and illegal parking are matters for the Police. Legal's Enforcement Officers will be speaking to the residents as a matter of courtesy and advising them who to contact to about the various problems. The Licensing Act does not allow the Council's Licensing Team to suggest or make changes to the actual club licence.

PUBLIC FORUM

ISSUE

In response to two questions asked relating to the closure of Wartell Bank from Dawley Brook Trading Estate and in respect of tipping arrangements at Dawley Brook Trading Estate, the questioner was informed that the Section Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) would investigate the issue of the closure of Wartell Bank and respond to him and the local Ward Councillor involved in writing.

RESPONSE

As requested, the Section Engineer provided the questioner, Ward Councillors and Committee Chairman with a full response.

MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

ISSUE

Councillor Ms Foster referred to consultation on the regeneration of Pensnett, which had importance not only for Pensnett but for the Borough as a whole and the current position following the ending of the consultation period.

It was agreed that the Area Liaison Officer would arrange for Councillor Ms Foster to receive an update on this matter and for periodic reports to be submitted to this committee.

RESPONSE

Cllr Ms Foster received the information as requested. Periodic reports will be provided to Area Committee as required.

ISSUE

Councillor Ms Foster asked that consideration be given to the making of the issue of Pensnett/Crestwood School a standing item on future agendas of the Committee. The Chairman indicated that consideration would be given to this request.

RESPONSE

Following a meeting on the 8th September when all interested parties were invited to attend, comments were forwarded to the Directorate of Children's Services in relation to the site that had been chosen for the new academy. As a result, OASIS Community Learning will start their consultation in November and will invite all Ward Councillors and interested parties to their meeting when a date has been arranged.

The date of the formal consultation in relation to the schools is not known as there is an Expression of Interest that needs to be signed off by the Minister. Until this has been completed, the formal consultation cannot commence.

ISSUE

Councillor Mrs Jordan referred to the horse trough outside St Mark's Primary School Pensnett, erected in 1911, that had recently been damaged by a vehicle and asked that consideration be given to the re-location of the horse trough to another site in Pensnett where there was less likelihood of it being damaged

RESPONSE

A site visit was arranged for a Highways Inspector to assess the damage to the horse trough and to establish whether it could be moved without causing further damage.

It appeared that a vehicle had hit one corner of the trough and taken a piece off it.

Given that the structure is almost 100 years old and this appeared to be the only instance of damage, the Inspector has reservations about moving it as the weight of the trough is considerable and any attempt to uplift the structure may result in further damage.

NB: Cllr Foster has contacted the Black Country Museum who are very interested in acquiring it. A formal response from them is awaited.

ISSUE

Councillor Tyler reported that in addition to the horse trough previously mentioned, there were two other horse troughs erected in 1911 and suggested that overall the number of such artefacts in the Borough was not known. In view of this, he suggested that if such heritage was to be preserved for future generations, it needed to be documented and if it was meant to work, should be made to work and arrangements made for future maintenance

RESPONSE

The Directorate of the Urban Environment's Historic Environment team maintain accurate and detailed records of horse troughs and other such artefacts throughout the Borough and are always pleased to receive information about any new ones that come to light.