

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE

Monday, 31st January, 2005 at 7.00 pm
at Redhill School, Junction Road, Stourbridge

PRESENT:-

Councillor Adams (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Cowell (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Attwood, Banks, Mrs Collins, Donegan, Jones, Kettle,
Mrs Martin, Musk, Rogers, A Turner, C Wilson and Vickers; Mr P Singh,
Mr G Downing and Miss R Hill.

Officers:-

Director of Law and Property (as Area Lead Officer); Head of Public Protection, Head of Design and Projects (Directorate of the Urban Environment); Head of Bereavement Services, Stourbridge Town Centre Manager, Senior Engineer Traffic and Transportation, Trainee Traffic Technician, Area Youth and Community Worker (Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning); Group Accountant Corporate Finance (Directorate of Finance) and Mrs. J. Rees (Directorate of Law and Property).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Approximately 130 members of the public were in attendance, together with the Station Manager of Stourbridge Fire Service.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 15th November, 2004, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Adams declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item No 8 paragraph 2.6.1, in view of his being a Governor of Rufford Primary School.

Councillor Rogers declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item No 8 paragraph 2.7, in view of his association with the Guides Headquarters.

Councillor Rogers declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item No 8 paragraph 2.8, in view of his being a member of congregation of St Mary's Church.

Councillor Rogers declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item No 9, in view of his being a member of the fund raising committee for the St. Michael's Scout Unit, who submitted the application.

Councillor Turner declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item No 8 paragraph 2.8, in view of his being a member of the congregation of St Mary's Church.

Councillor Vickers declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item No 8 paragraph 2.6, in view of his being a governor at Rufford Primary School.

Mr Polychronakis declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item No 8 paragraph 2.4, in view of his being a member of the Pedmore Cricket Club.

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Knowles and Ms Shepherd.

65 RECEIPT OF PETITION

The following petition was received and referred to the Officer indicated for consideration and attention:

A petition was submitted by Mrs Coad, on behalf of local residents living in the vicinity of the Corbett Hospital, objecting to proposed high density housing on the Corbett Hospital site, in view of the increased traffic and additional congestion this would cause. The petition was referred to the Director of the Urban Environment for consideration and a written response to Mrs Coad.

66 APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF LAND AND PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COUNCIL

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted regarding land and property within the Committee's area.

Upon consideration of the report and comments made it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised to approve the sale of the freehold title of 8 Hagley Road, Stourbridge on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
 - (2) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised to approve the sale of the land adjoining 12A Crown Lane, Stourbridge on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
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PUBLIC FORUM

Before reading questions from the public, the Area Liaison Officer stated that any questions which were not addressed at the meeting, would receive a written response from the appropriate officer. Questions and answers were then given as follows:-

1. In response to comments by a member of the public, objecting to Dudley's proposed contract with South Staffordshire, to provide a green waste composting facility at Iverley Park Farm, the Senior Engineer, Traffic and Transportation undertook to investigate the intricate terms of the contract and other issues raised and send a written response to the questioner.
2. In response to concerns expressed by a member of the public, that residents living on a private road in Stourbridge, do not receive the same facilities as residents living in local authority adopted roads, the Senior Engineer, Traffic and Transportation undertook to speak with the residents outside of the meeting to seek clarification on the concerns expressed and investigate the possibility of providing street lighting, and send a written response to the questioner.
3. A request for further information relating to the proposed re-alignment of the Stourbridge Ring Road was deferred for consideration under the item regarding the Master Plan for Stourbridge Town Centre.
4. In response to a request by a member of the public, as to when the Sir Cedric Hardwicke Memorial would be erected in Lye, the Senior Engineer, Traffic and Transportation undertook to investigate and send a written response to the questioner.
5. Concerns regarding the alleged withdrawal of the nail cutting and bathing services for the elderly were referred to the Director of Social Services for investigation and a written response to be sent to the questioner.

6. In response to enquiries from members of the public as to when the proposed 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Dunsley Road Wollaston would be enforced, the Committee supported the immediate enforcement of weight restriction.
 7. The following concerns, expressed by some members of the public, were referred to the Stourbridge Area Committee Town Centre Traffic Management Working for consideration:
 - (a) the lack of a surface level crossing on the Stourbridge Ring Road, in particular to allow elderly and disabled people to cross safely to the Town Centre.
 - (b) concerns for public safety, especially the elderly, using the subway, in view of the steps being dangerous and the very unsavoury smells of the subway.
 - (c) the lack of police presence at the recently installed police station in the subway.
 8. Concerns expressed by a member of the public regarding the use of cones as barriers at the junction of Amblecote Road and Mount Pleasant were addressed by the Senior Engineer, Traffic and Transportation, who advised that the use of such cones enabled the Traffic Engineers to assess exactly how the traffic was moving in the area and allow for appropriate traffic calming measures to be introduced.
 9. In response to a query as to why agendas for the meeting were not available in Stourbridge library prior to the meeting, the Area Liaison Officer undertook to investigate and ensure that agendas were available in future.
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CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

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

A letter of gratitude from the Stourbridge Theatre Company for a recent grant towards the proposed tiered seating for the Stourbridge Town Hall was acknowledged.

Members of the Committee, who had previously declared prejudicial interests in applications for a grant, withdrew from the meeting whilst the applications in which they had declared interests, were considered.

Upon consideration of the report, it was

RESOLVED

That the sums below be allocated to the following organisations for the purposes indicated

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Pedmore Cricket Club	Bowling machine	£1,904.79
Stourbridge Photographic Society	Digital projector and laptop with sound system	£2,900
Rufford Primary School	Play equipment	£5,000
Hagley Girls Guides Division	Refit of kitchen	£5,000
St Mary's Church, Oldswinford	Disabled toilet and wheelchair ramp	£5,000
Stourbridge Football Club	Replacement roof for stand covering terraces	£5,000

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GRANT APPLICATIONS: STEVENS PARK AND RECREATION GROUND FOUNDATION TRUST

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted seeking consideration of an application for funding from the Trust.

Upon consideration of the report it was

RESOLVED

That the sum below be allocated to the organisation for the purpose indicated, subject to the organisation confirming to the Director of Finance that the remaining funding required has been secured.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
16th Stourbridge Norton, St Michael's Scout Unit	New brick building	£5,000

PROPOSALS FOR DISABLED PARKING PLACES - PROGRAMME G

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on proposals to introduce Programme G of the on street Disabled Parking Places Schemes for 2005.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised to introduce the schemes as detailed in Appendix A of the report submitted.
 - (2) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised to introduce the scheme as detailed in Appendix B of the report submitted.
 - (3) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised to revoke the scheme detailed in Appendix C of the report submitted.
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HALL STREET, OLDSWINFORD, STOURBRIDGE - OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on objections received to proposals to introduce a section of one-way traffic flow and the introduction of Waiting Prohibition orders in Hall Street, Oldswinford, and the introduction of two Traffic Regulation Orders.

The Senior Engineer Traffic and Transportation undertook to investigate possible improvements to the signage on Hagley Road advertising the car park at the rear of the shops on the Hagley Road, to make motorists aware of the car park.

It was pointed out that illegally parked cars were a matter for the police to address.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised to overrule all objections received and accordingly introduce the one way traffic flow and waiting prohibitions at Hall Street, Stourbridge, as described in Appendices A and B of the report submitted.

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STOURBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE - CENTRE MASTER PLAN

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the progress of the Stourbridge Area Town Centre Master Plan.

The comments made by a member of the public, in the public forum session requesting information regarding the realignment of the ring road, was addressed within the content of the report submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the contents of the report submitted be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised of the Committee's support for the commencement of the work on the Stourbridge Town Centre Masterplan as part of the development of the Stourbridge Town Centre Area Action Plan.
- (3) That the Director of the Urban Environment be requested to submit a full written report to each future meeting of the Stourbridge Area Committee updating the Committee on current progress.

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REPORT OF THE CULTURE AND RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE
- THE DUDLEY PLAQUE

A report of the Lead Officer for the Select Committee for Culture and Recreation was submitted on proposals for a Dudley MBC Commemorative Plaque Scheme.

A sample of a proposed plaque was on display for consideration.

RESOLVED

That the Select Committee for Culture and Recreation be advised of the Committee's support for the proposed Dudley MBC Commemorative Plaque Scheme, as described in the appendices attached to the report submitted.

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RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on written responses made to questions asked at previous meetings.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

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ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

- (1) Councillor Mrs Cowell, on behalf of Councillor Knowles, raised concerns at the unkempt state of the garage sites at Wyre Road Stourbridge, and the urgent need for them to be repaired. The issues were referred to the Director of Housing for consideration and a written response to Councillor Knowles together with a written report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.
- (2) Councillor Adams raised the issue of the excessive amount of litter, mostly from fast food establishments left on Stourbridge High Street following the New Year Celebrations and asked why litter had not been collected. The Head of Public Protection undertook to investigate the possibility of issuing Street Litter Control notices on fast food establishments, to ensure that their frontages were maintained appropriately.
- (3) Councillor Cowell expressed concern at the proposed reduction in the number of fire appliances available in the early hours of the morning. The Station Manager of Stourbridge Fire Station undertook to make a presentation at the next meeting of the Committee, to address the issues raised and those of the regional call centres.
- (4) Councillor Attwood raised the issue of the lack of arrangements for opening and closing the gates at Swinford Common car park and the small Mary Stevens Park gate on the Norton Road. The Senior Engineer, Traffic and Transportation undertook to investigate and send a written response to Councillor Attwood.
- (5) Councillor Turner raised concerns at the temporary removal of the shuttle service between Stourbridge Town and Stourbridge Junction and the replacement bus/coach stop being situated too far away from the station, and the resulting inconvenience and distress caused to the elderly or disabled train users. Central Trains had advised him that travellers could request assistance via the "Central Trains Assistance Line" to enable easier travel to and from the railway station. Concern was also expressed regarding the access for disabled travellers. It was suggested that a notice advertising the availability of the "Assistance Line" should be placed in public view at the library. Councillor Jones added that the long term provision of the shuttle was in question.

RESOLVED

That the Director of the Urban Environment be requested to write to Central Trains, copied to Centro, all Members of the Committee and the Director of Law and Property (as Area Liaison Officer), expressing concern over the effects of the temporary withdrawal of the shuttle on disabled and elderly travellers, that the replacement bus/coach stop was too far away from the station, the issue of access for disabled travellers and the advertising of the "Assistance Line" more widely than at present.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Committee would be as follows:-

21st March 2005 at 7.00 pm - Hob Green Primary School, Hob Green Road, Stourbridge.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN