

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE – 2ND FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2004**

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform the Committee of the written responses made to questions asked at the previous meeting.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 At the meeting of this Committee held on 17th November 2004 questions were raised under the Public Forum item and the responses to those questions are as follows:-

2.2 A member of the public queried reasons for the delay in completing simple tree maintenance jobs, expressed concern at repairs not being completed and referred to a repair that the Council had undertaken in November 2003, after which a central support wire had been left trailing on a pathway. Officers have been unable to pursue the matter any further due to a need for the questioner to provide further details.

2.3 Following various concerns expressed by Shenstone Valley Road residents in relation to Severn Trent construction work in Spies Lane, the works were closely managed and the works were successfully completed in early December.

2.5 In relation to a query on whether there were any plans to encourage businesses into Halesowen by, for example, updating the town centre, which had fallen into disrepair, a general report in relation to the state of the town centre would be submitted to a future meeting.

2.6 In response to the query in respect of the vacated Murco Garage site, a formal planning application has not been made, however there have been discussions for a retail development on the site.

2.7 In response to the position of the vacated car sales building on the Hagley Road, a formal planning application has not been made, however there have been enquiries in relation to a residential development.

2.8 Reference was made to the car parking charges in Halesowen town centre and of the adverse impact that it would have on businesses. As agreed, a general report

on car parking charges is to be discussed at this meeting at Agenda Item No 12.

2.9 In response to the comments made in relation to the Christmas tree, the Directorate of the Urban Environment have erected decorative fencing around the permanent Christmas tree and consideration will be given to the railing being in place permanently. The Town Centre Manager is also writing a letter of thanks to Mr Steve Patrick (Representing the Chamber) and also to the management of Sandvik.

2.10 In relation to the complaint from a resident about the condition of Wesley Avenue, it has been confirmed that Wesley Avenue has been included in the provisional carriageway resurfacing programme for 2005/06, subject to finance being available and the statutory undertakers' clearances.

3.0 PROPOSAL

3.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the report.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

5.0 LAW

5.1 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.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 The report takes into account the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.



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AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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