

## **NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 at 5.45 p.m.  
at Queen Victoria Primary School, Bilston Street, Sedgley

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs Ameson (Chairman)  
Councillor Simms (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Caunt, G H Davies, Evans, Fraser Macnamara,  
Mrs Millward, Mottram, Mrs Ridley, Ryder, Stanley and Wright and  
Mr Round.

### **Officers**

Director of Education (Area Liaison Officer)  
Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services (Directorate of Law  
and Property)  
Assistant Director, Culture and Recreation (Directorate of the Urban  
Environment)  
Mr Butler, Section Engineer (Directorate of the Urban Environment)  
Mrs Holland, Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Law and  
Property)  
Ms A Glaisher (Directorate of the Urban Environment)  
Ms J Wakeman Project Engineer (Directorate of the Urban Environment)  
Mr G Pomford (Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning)  
Mr A McDonald (Directorate of Housing)

### **Also In Attendance**

Chief Superintendent Green and Inspector Bailey (West Midlands  
Police)

### **Members of the Public**

Approximately 65 members of the public were in attendance.

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### **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

### **RESOLVED**

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972,  
the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of  
business on the grounds that the item involves the likely  
disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of  
that Act, in particular the paragraph of Part I of that Schedule  
indicated below:-

Description of Item

Relevant Paragraph  
of Part I of Schedule  
12A

Park Buildings, Park Road, Gornal

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PARK BUILDINGS, PARK ROAD, GORNAL

A report of the Director of Housing was submitted on proposals in respect of this site.

RESOLVED

- (1) That further consideration of this matter be deferred to enable a site visit and further consultation with Ward Members to take place.
- (2) That the Housing Association concerned be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee, to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005, at Roberts Primary School, when the matter would be discussed further as an exempt item.

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ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

At the conclusion of the above matter, it was

RESOLVED

That the meeting do now adjourn until 6.30 pm.

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CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting, including Chief Superintendent Green of West Midlands Police.

She also expressed the Committee's condolences to the family of Mr D Ferguson, who had passed away recently and had been an active worker within the community and on the death of Tom Walker, a pupil at Dormston School. A two minutes silence was held.

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## MINUTES

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2nd November, 2004, be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the following amendment;

That Councillor Mrs Ridney's name be deleted from the list of those present at the meeting and that her apologies for non attendance at the meeting be recorded.

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## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Davies and Stanley declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest, in agenda item 5 (Park Buildings, Park Road, Gornal) in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in view of the fact that they are Members of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Mrs Millward declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in agenda item 7 (Delegated Capital Allocations) in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in view of the fact that her two sons had been members or had connections with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lower Gornal Scout Group.

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## YOUTH ISSUES

Mr Pomford (Area Team Leader Dudley North) informed the Committee of his concern that the young people were no longer using Sedgley Youth Club and that he intended to ascertain why this was the case. He stated that the "Safe Group" had been taking on more and more responsibility and events were being organised, including a fund raising disco. A first aid course had been held and seven young people had attended. Other young people had also been working towards achievement awards and a youth catering course was being organised.

Mr Pomford also asked Members and Officers for feedback on the progress of the Skate-wheel Park initiative as young people had been enquiring about progress. He also reported that young people from Sedgley would be standing for election to the Youth Parliament and that they would be attending an "awayday".

Ben Millward (Youth Parliament Member) informed the Committee of the impending "Have a Say Day" designed to publicise Youth Parliament Elections and informed the Committee that events were planned across schools in the Borough between 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005 and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

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PETITIONS

A petition was submitted on behalf of residents of Summer Hill Road and Harding Street, Coseley, in respect of anti social behaviour being experienced in Dormston Drive and Castle Street, Sedgley.

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PUBLIC FORUM

1. A question was raised by a member of the public about the current position on the proposed "High Trees and Hedges" legislation.

Mr P Tart (Assistant Director Directorate of Law and Property) stated that the matter would be discussed under agenda item 17.

2. Questions were submitted by members of the public with regard to Bradley's Lane.

In response the Area Liaison Officer stated that these question would be dealt with under agenda item 15.

3. A question was submitted by a member of the public on behalf of residents of Dimmocks Avenue, Pemberton Road, Peartree Lane and Philip Street, Coseley, with regard to the dirty state of the footpaths and roads, particularly around the Coseley Cricket Ground and Coseley Swimming Baths.

In response the Area Liaison Officer referred the matter to the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure for a written response, to be copied to all Members of the Committee.

4. A question was submitted by a member of the public asking if the Council had any plans to develop houses and flats on a site to the rear of Brooke Street.

In response the Area Liaison Officer referred the matter to the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure for a written response, to be copied to all Members of the Committee.

5. A question was submitted by a member of the Turls Hill Residents' Association with regard to their Capital Allocation bid for funding in respect of the production of a video publicising the Turls Hill Woodland Project.

In response the Area Liaison Officer stated that the matter would be discussed further at the next North Dudley Area Committee Capital Allocation Working Group Meeting.

6. Questions with regard to a proposal for a remand/childrens' home in Pear Tree Lane, Coseley, and the modifications being made to the property to be used for such a home, were submitted by two local residents.

In response the Area Liaison Officer referred the matter to the Director of the Urban Environment requesting that a report be prepared for submission to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005.

7. A question was submitted by a member of the public with regard to the recycling of waste within the Borough and calling for all departments of the Council and local Colleges to support the recycling of waste.

In response the Area Liaison Officer referred the matter to the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure for a written response, to be copied to all Members of the Committee.

8. A question was submitted by a member of the public with regard to incidents of fly tipping and motorbike nuisance on High Arcal Estate in Sedgley near to Downfield Drive.

In response the Area Liaison Officer referred the matter to the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure for a written response, to be copied to all Members of the Committee.

## POLICE ISSUES

Chief Superintendent Green and Inspector Bailey were present at the meeting and responded to questions asked by members of the public, namely

1. In response to a question from a member of the public as to why the police did not have enough manpower to police the motorbike nuisance reported on the High Arcal Estate; Chief Superintendent Green stated that he hoped that one or two teams of Police Community Support Officers would soon be operating in the Sedgley area representing a change in the style of policing in the area.
2. In response to a question from a member of the public, Inspector Bailey explained the legalities and timescales of Dispersal Orders.

Chief Superintendent Green also reiterated his earlier commence about the operating of one or two teams of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the Sedgley area. He acknowledged that the recruitment of more PCSO's would not bring about immediate change, but that with the help of the community and support in partnership with the local authority, it could be achieved. He stated that he was hopeful that the PCSO roles available in Coseley would soon be filled and that long term funding for employment of PCSO's was being explored.

3. In response to a question from a member of the public regarding Bradley's Lane, Inspector Bailey agreed to meet with the questioner after the meeting.
4. In response to a question from a member of the public regarding miniature motorbike nuisance on the Bramford Estate, Inspector Bailey responded that small motorbikes still needed to be insured and the rider to have passed a test if being ridden on public highways.
5. Mr D Round (co-opted member) outlined difficulties he had experienced in trying to contact Brierley Hill police. He also complained of the attitude of the operator who answered his calls. He pointed out that it had been reported to him that there had been no response to 999 calls made by youth workers.

In response Inspector Green stated that the attitude of staff would be addressed and that the concerns raised by Mr Round with regard to 999 calls would be investigated. He asked the questioner to advise him of a specific incident of no response to a 999 call made to the police.

6. In response to a question from Councillor Stanley with regard to vehicles parking on double yellow lines on both sides of the carriageway in Wolverhampton Street at its junction with Southall Lane and causing an obstruction to Lower Gornal residents trying to access Dudley town centre, Chief Superintendent Green explained the limitations of police resources stating that at present there were only four traffic wardens to cover the whole of Dudley.
  7. Councillor Davies appraised Chief Inspector Green and Inspector Bailey of under-age drinking and intimidation by gangs of youths hanging about outside an off-licence in Wallbrook Street.
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APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF LAND AND PROPERTY OWNED BY  
THE COUNCIL

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Housing be recommended to agree to the declaring of land between No. 1 Ellowes Road and the bungalow 1H Ellowes Road, Lower Gornal, as shown hatched on the plan circulated at the meeting, as surplus to requirements and for addition to the Land Disposals Programme for sale on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended to agree to the declaration of the car park adjacent to 90 Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted as surplus to requirements and for addition to the Land Disposals Programme for sale, on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
- (3) That the Cabinet Member for Housing be recommended to agree to the declaration of land to the rear of 20/26 Duke Street, Upper Gornal, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted as surplus to requirements, on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
- (4) That the Cabinet Members for Housing and Education and Lifelong Learning agree to the declaration of land, the former Red Cross Offices, Cross Lane, Sedgley, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted, as surplus to requirements and for addition to the Land Disposals Programme for sale, on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Law and Property.

- (5) That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, be recommended to approve the declaration of Council owned land at Barrow Hill as a Local Nature Reserve under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 Section 21 in line with the Revised Deposit UDP policy and a project grant agreement with English Nature, as presented to the Committee by Ms A Glaisher of the Directorate of the Urban Environment.
  - (6) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation, be recommended to agree to the declaration of Council owned land at High Holborn Shopping Centre Car Park fronting Tipton Street, Sedgley, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted as surplus to requirements and that the Director of Law and Property be authorised to negotiate terms and conditions for the transfer of the land to the owner of High Holborn Shopping Centre, on terms and conditions to be negotiated by the Director of Law and Property.
  - (7) That item 11.7, application to purchase an area of Council owned land to the rear of "Strathmore", St James's Street, Lower Gornal, be withdrawn.
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#### DELEGATED CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications received for funding from the capital allocation of the Committee.

In presenting his report, the Area Liaison Officer sought the Committee's agreement to the recommendations of the Working Group at their meeting held on 7th January 2005.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the application received from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lower Gornal Scout Group, Gornal Wood, in the sum of £1141.24, for the purchase of 10 folding lightweight tables and a trolley to store, be approved.
- (2) That the application received from Gornal Athletic FC be withdrawn and a new application submitted to a future meeting for consideration.
- (3) That the application received from Upper Gornal Kids Club, in the sum of £1525, for the purchase of a laptop computer, printer, stationery and ink, be deferred in order for a further quote to be obtained and liaison to take place with ICT Services as to the availability of a second hand lap top.



- (4) That the application from Turls Hill Residents' Association be referred to the Directorate of Finance, ICT and Procurement with a request that they contact the Association to discuss the eligibility of the application with the applicants.
- (5) That a sum of £750.00 for capital items only, be approved arising from the receipt of the application by the Saltmine Trust towards the purchase of equipment for drama, music and dance sessions at the Mill Theatre, Sedgley.
- (6) That, the Schedule of Unspent Commitments as at December 2004, be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group, for further consideration.

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RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the current status of responses to questions asked at previous meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, be noted.

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PROPOSED DUDLEY MBC COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE SCHEME

A report of the Lead Officer of the Culture and Recreation Select Committee was submitted seeking the Area Committee's views on the proposed Dudley MBC Commemorative Plaque Scheme.

In presenting the report on behalf of the Lead Officer of the Culture and Recreation Select Committee, Mr Tart (Assistant Director Directorate of Law and Property) stated that there was currently no policy within the Borough for statues, monuments and memorials and, consequently, the Culture and Leisure Select Committee had developed a proposed scheme attached as appendices 1 and 2 to the report submitted.

Following a discussion, during which Members of the Committee welcomed the introduction of the proposed scheme, but commented that twenty years was a long time to wait before a commemorative plaque could be erected, it was

RESOLVED

That the Proposed Dudley MBC Commemorative Plaque Scheme, as set out in the report and appendices to the report submitted, be noted and endorsed.

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PROPOSED NIGHT TIME (7.00 PM TO 7.00 AM) 7.5 TONNE WEIGHT RESTRICTION – DAISY STREET, HARDING STREET, SUMMERHILL ROAD AND BRADLEY’S LANE, COSELEY

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the results of advertising the Order and asking the Committee for their support and to note the concerns of the residents of Rounds Road and also support the introduction of additional signage and monitoring to deter potential rat-running by HGV Drivers.

In presenting the report, Mr J Butler reported on the letters and petitions received for and against the proposals and explained how the letters and petitions would be pursued.

Councillor G Davies thanked the Committee on behalf of the Ward Councillors, for their help and support in obtaining the weight restriction.

The Committee noted the concerns of members of the public who reside on the Sandwell side of the proposed weight restriction.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Committee supports the proposal and advises the Cabinet Member for Transportation to implement the Borough of Dudley (Daisy Street, Harding Street, Summer Hill Road and Bradleys Lane, Coseley (Weight Restriction) Order 2004.
- (2) That the Committee notes the concerns of the residents of Rounds Road and supports the introduction of additional signage and monitoring to deter potential rat-running by HGV drivers.

PROPOSALS FOR DISABLED PARKING PLACES – PROGRAMME G

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted for consultation and comments from Members of the Committee regarding requests to be included in Programme G of the on-street Disabled Parking Places scheme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised that the schemes detailed in Appendix A (which have not been objected to) should be introduced as advertised.

- (2) That the Committee advises the Cabinet Member for Transportation that the site objected to shown in Appendix B should be introduced as advertised.
  - (3) That the Committee advises the Cabinet Member for Transportation that the site shown in Appendix C should be revoked.
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### GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION ON HIGH TREES AND HEDGES

The Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) verbally reported on the current position with regard to the proposed government legislation in respect of high trees and hedges, stating that the legislation had been delayed. He further stated that liaison was ongoing with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and that the legislation was now due to go before Parliament during the Spring.

#### RESOLVED

That the verbal update received from Mr Tart, be noted.

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### WARD ISSUES

1. Councillor Evans requested that a pedestrian crossing be installed in Gospel End Lane.
  2. Councillor Wright raised the issue of burnt-out vehicles being dumped in Bayswater Road and on land adjacent to the Memorial Hall and requested that bollards be placed around the area in question in order to stop people driving vehicles on to the land.
  3. Councillor Mrs Millward expressed her dismay at the preponderance of young people driving around the streets on miniature motorbikes and expressed concern that it would not be long before a serious accident occurred.
  4. Councillor Stanley raised the issue of young people throwing cans and bottles into the road and using them as missiles during an incident recently and praised the Environmental Management Division of the Directorate of the Urban Environment Department for turning out during unsociable hours to clean up the debris.
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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at Roberts Primary School on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm

CHAIRMAN