

---

**Halesowen Area Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Responses to Questions Raised at the Halesowen Area Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**Purpose of Report**

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

**Background**

2. Several questions were raised about the Halesowen Library. A report on the matter is included on the agenda for this meeting.
3. A question with regard to Coombswood Green Wedge was asked expressing the view that a precedent had been set by the Council's Development Control Committee when, in 2000, it had refused the developers, Barratts, planning consent for residential development at Coombswood because of the Landscape Heritage Area status of the site. The member of the public who raised the issue contended that the recent planning application for Coombswood should have been refused for the same reason. In response, the Chairman of the Committee stated that all planning applications had to be judged on their merits, and in line with planning guidance the situation that had applied to one application would not necessarily relate to another. A detailed written response has been sent to the questioner. In brief this noted that a planning application in 2000 for residential development was on land only designated as being within a Landscape Heritage Area and not having Green Belt status. Therefore, the Landscape Heritage Area Policy formed the basis of the refusal of this particular application. The planning application in 2008 proposed facilities for outdoor sport and recreation on an adjoining site. This location was within the Green Belt and had Landscape Heritage Area status. However, the proposed development for sports facilities was deemed in accordance with Green Belt Policy and not to have a detrimental impact on views relative to the Landscape Heritage Area status. Clearly both applications were for fundamentally different purposes and the impacts of such developments were considered on their own merits. This included, in both instances, the impact of Landscape Heritage Area consideration.

**Finance**

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

**Law**

5. 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.

## **Equality Impact**

6. The report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and there are no direct implications for children and young people in noting the report.

## **Recommendation**

7. That the Committee notes the contents of the report.



.....  
**Bill Baker**  
**Area Liaison Officer**

Contact Officer: Manjit Johal  
Democratic Services Officer  
Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources  
Telephone: 01384 815267  
Email: [manjit.johal@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:manjit.johal@dudley.gov.uk)

## **List of Background Papers**

Minutes of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010