

Stourbridge Area Committee - 19th June 2006

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions

Purpose of Report

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

Background

2. At the meetings of this Committee held on 13th February 2006 and 20th March 2006, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners concerned. The responses are as indicated.
3. In response to a member of the public's query regarding the replacement of an oak tree at Corbett Hospital Site, the Assistant Director Development and Environmental Protection, has written to the Construction Manager of Summit Healthcare, requesting that consideration be given to planting a replacement oak tree on the site allocated.
4. In response to a member of the public's concerns, at the lack of a written response to his correspondence dated January 2006, regarding to matters in respect of the Withymoor area, an undertaking was given that an Officer of the Street Cleansing Team would arrange a site visit with the questioner. A letter has now been sent to the questioner advising of the action taken in respect of all the issues raised.
5. In response to comments made by a member of the public disputing the contents of the results of the consultation undertaken on the suggested skatepark facility at the Junction Road playing fields, the Head of Design and Projects has written to the questioner, answering all the issues raised; including,
 - a) the fact that, as a result of the consultation carried out, there was no evidence to suggest that the demand for wheeled sports is declining and therefore the Council's aspiration to provide a skatepark in each of its five area committee regions is still relevant.
 - b) that there is no evidence to suggest that existing skateparks and multi use games areas in other parts of the Borough attract increased volumes of anti social behaviour and crime
 - c) that there is no evidence to suggest that increased car parking occurs as a direct result of skatepark facilities.

- d) detailed plans, together with costs for the development of a skatepark in location 1, will be submitted for approval to the Cabinet Member for Leisure. If approval is given, a planning application will then be prepared which will progressed in the normal way.
6. In response to a member of the public's requests for dropped kerb wheelchair crossings at locations around Stourbridge, a member of the Traffic and Road Safety Team undertook an extensive site visit of the area with the member of the public. The Head of Traffic and Road Safety, has now written to the questioner, who had been unable to attend the meeting, confirming discussions which had taken place during the site visit, which had taken place prior to the meeting. The results of analysis following the meeting were being investigated and the questioner would be advised of the results when determined.
 7. In response to comments from a member of the public, regarding the suggested positioning of the proposed traffic signals and pedestrian crossing facilities on the Stourbridge Ring Road, the Senior Engineer – Traffic and other Officers of the Traffic Team, has conducted a site visit with the questioner, during which a full exchange of views and observations took place. The meeting was deemed very useful, although no conclusions had been drawn.
 8. In response to a member of the public's comments regarding the Planning approval for a telephone mast at Wollescote Hall, Wollescote Road, the Planning Regulations and On-Line Manger, has written to the questioner, advising that the planning application referred to had been refused in February 2006, and explaining the reasons for the refusal.
 9. In response to a member of the public's comments regarding the sites chosen for public consultation notices, exhibitions and displays in respect of the Stourbridge Town Centre Masterplan, the Regeneration Manager, has written to the questioner, advising of the Council's robust process for consultation. He also advised of the changes in the new planning system, as a direct result of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, enclosing a copy of the draft "Statement of Community Involvement" document, currently out for Public consultation until May 2026.
 10. Some members of the public expressed concerns regarding obstructive car parking on the public footway near to their homes. The Chairman has written to Stourbridge Police regarding this matter, requesting that the necessary action be considered.
 11. In response to comments made by the co-ordinator for Stourbridge in Bloom, regarding using roundabout signage and Stourbridge Britain in Bloom, the Assistant Director, Environmental Management, has met with the Co-ordinator to discuss a number of action points which were intended to improve the success of last year's competition, and build on the existing good partnership.

Finance

12. There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

Law

13. 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

14. The report takes into account the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.
15. The views of young people who are likely to use the skatepark facilities will be sought both through any public consultation on the proposed site, and in respect of any subsequent design proposals.

Recommendation

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

John Polychronakis

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J POLYCHRONAKIS
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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List of Background Papers

Question slips handed in at previous meetings of the Stourbridge Area Committee.

Correspondence sent in response by Council Officers.