



CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

**URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE
CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 14TH JUNE 2005**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 14th June 2005 Central Dudley Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

BACKGROUND

2. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities. This diverse range of technical services focus on regenerating the Borough, maintaining our environment to high standards, protecting our communities and promoting leisure and other community services for all.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to matters such as traffic management, leisure and recreation, regeneration and new development. Few enquiries can be answered immediately, with many prompting further investigation, feasibility studies and public consultation, prior to being reported back to Committee.
4. To keep Committee updated, progress reports are attached as appendices and the proposal resulting from the update is set out at the end of each appendix.

FINANCE

5. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

LAW

6. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.

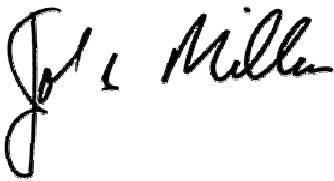
7. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.
8. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its area to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
11. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.

EQUALITY IMPACT

12. The proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies.

RECOMMENDATION

13. That the proposals contained in Appendix 1 attached be approved.



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Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

Action Notes from 14th June Committee

URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 14TH JUNE 2005

1. RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE - DROPPED KERBS

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor M Davis submitted a petition requesting the supply of dropped kerbs on the Russells Hall Estate "at no cost".

Comments: Unfortunately, it is not economically viable to supply dropped kerbs free of charge on the Russells Hall Estate or any other estate within the Borough. However, dropped kerbs will be installed as part of any major refurbishment or reconstruction works commissioned as part of a highway improvement programme or working on the instructions of the Housing Directorate.

As far as DUE officers are aware, no such work is planned in the Russells Hall area at the moment.

2. WALTERS ROW – CONDITION OF ROAD SURFACE

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor M Davis once again highlighted the plight of residents in Walters Row and the condition of the unadopted road surface.

Comment: A comprehensive investigation has been undertaken in relation to the history of Walters Row to determine if the Council could intervene to assist in the ongoing maintenance.

A definitive answer should be available for the next Area Committee that may enable the Council to undertake some minor maintenance at no cost to the residents.

3. GREEN ROAD AND GREENFELLS RISE, OAKHAM – HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor Ali requested that resurfacing work be carried out to Green Road following the resurfacing work undertaken on Buffery Road.

Councillor Ali also referred to a letter that he had received from residents in Greenfells Rise, Oakham complaining about the recently laid road surface.

Comment: Officers from DUE can confirm that Green Road is included in the provisional highway maintenance programme for 2006/07.

The residents who raised the maintenance issue in Greenfells Rise have been contacted and a site investigation has been undertaken.

As part of the micro asphalt process, it is quite common for a new surface to take time to “bed in”. Our site investigation identified loose aggregate that had collected at the junction of Greenfells Rise. Instructions have been issued to sweep the road and remove any surplus aggregate which should hopefully resolve the residents’ concerns.

4. **FLOOD STREET AND BLACKACRE ROAD AREA – STREET LIGHTING**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor Ali requested improved lighting in the Flood Street and Blackacre Road area.

Comment: As Flood Street is illuminated with modern light sources, the levels of illumination should be well up to current standards. However, officers from DUE will confirm this and report back.

Blackacre Road is not lit to current lighting standards and while conversion of some of the existing street lights would improve things considerably, in all probability “ad hoc” improvements would not bring the road up to current standards. DUE lighting engineers are surveying the site with a view to a long-term solution.

5. **WRENS NEST ESTATE – LITTER ISSUES**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor Finch highlighted litter problems on the Wrens Nest Estate.

Comment: Officers from DUE followed up the request from Councillor Finch and dispatched a sweeper to help address the problem.

6. **RICHBOROUGH DRIVE – FOOTPATH LIGHTING**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor Aston asked for lighting improvements on the public right of way adjacent to Richborough Drive.

Comment: The footpath from Richborough Drive to Deepdale Lane is extensive and no funding is currently available to undertake a scheme of this size.

The land adjacent to the public right of way has yet to be developed and pressure will be placed on any future developer to light the footpath as a primary means of access as part of the development costs. This could be justified through additional usage.

7. **BUFFERY ROAD FENCE**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor John Davies highlighted the need to replace the fence at Buffery Park once the funfair had moved on.

Comment: The fence has now been reinstated.

8. NEW STREET – FLY-TIPPING PROBLEMS

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor John Davies highlighted the problem of fly-tipping on a piece of private land in New Street and asked if the land could be fenced off.

Comment: An investigation is ongoing by officers in DUE to ascertain who actually owns the land.

9. WINDSOR ROAD/COLE STREET – REQUEST FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor Rahman asked for the installation of play equipment on the playing fields adjacent to Windsor Road and Cole Street.

Comment: Officers from DUE are currently investigating Councillor Rahman's request and will contact him directly once the feasibility has been determined.

10. QUEENS CROSS - PROPOSED PELICAN CROSSING

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor M Davis made reference to a notification he had received regarding the proposed installation of a pelican crossing at Queens Cross which he considered inappropriate. Councillor Davis suggested that locations in High Street and junction of Stafford Street/High Street, Dudley would be more appropriate.

Comment: The pelican crossing in Queens Cross is being provided as part of an approved planning permission to promote safe routes to schools linking Westley Street with Blowers Green Primary School in Blowers Green Road and conforms to the Council's policies on sustainable development encouraging walking rather than the use of the private cars.

11. DARBY END ROAD – SPEEDING MOTORISTS

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th June 2005, Councillor Rahman asked for action to be taken to prevent motorists speeding on Darby End Road.

Comment: West Midlands Police will be advised of Councillor Rahman's concern with the request that they monitor vehicular speeds in Darby End Road with a view to taking enforcement action when their resources permit.