

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 29th JANUARY, 2009

REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the Brierley Hill Area Committee on the 4TH December, 2008, that relate to services provided by the Council.

BACKGROUND

2. The Council provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to a range of services. 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, a progress report is attached.

FINANCE

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

LAW

6. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are largely governed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
7. Provisions relating to Highways including trees thereon are contained in the Highways Act 1980.
8. Provisions relating to the Council's Housing stock are contained in the Housing Act 1985.

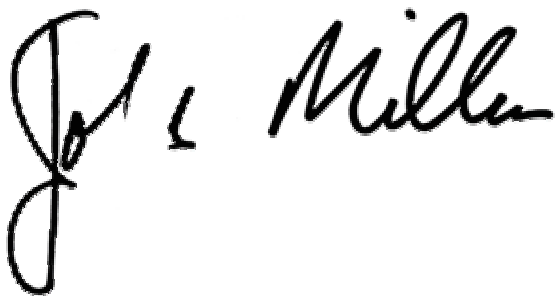
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 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.
12. 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.
13. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area.
14. The Council deal with school closures and the establishment of new schools mainly under the provisions of the Education and Children's Act.

EQUALITY IMPACT

14. This report is consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity policy. There is no direct effect on children or young people.

RECOMMENDATION

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



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Brierley Hill Area Committee Liaison Officer

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BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 29TH JANUARY 2009
AREA LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

PETITIONS

ISSUE (minute 41)

A Petition from residents regarding a request to close Dawley Brook Trading Estate off from Wartell Bank, Kingswinford due to the amount of general traffic and lorries and noise pollution caused by the traffic going over the speed bumps was received and referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for attention.

RESPONSE

The request raised in this petition related to an issue that was already being investigated following similar requests raised previously by the local community.

In this respect and in response to further enquiries that were also raised under the 'Public Forum' section of the Area Committee meeting, the Area Liaison Officer was able to expand on the current position in that the Council was currently seeking views on the legal position and potential implications of progressing this proposal.

In line with normal practice, the first named petitioner has been notified of the current position and it is intended that further updates will be provided to future meetings.

PUBLIC FORUM

ISSUE (minute 47a)

In response to a question raised in relation to the enforcement of the 'No Waiting' traffic regulation order in Brockmoor High Street, and the possibility of introducing parking permits for residents, it was reported that there was no policy in place at the present time, however the Cabinet Member for Transportation had been written to in relation to the introduction of a policy and the outcome was awaited.

RESPONSE

The Cabinet Member for Transportation has now asked that a draft strategy be prepared during 2009/10.

ISSUE (minute 47b)

In response to a question raised in relation to obstructive parking at Poets Corner, Brierley Hill, it was reported that traffic regulation orders were introduced in this area. The introduction of 'H' bars outside the properties affected was suggested. This question would be discussed following the meeting.

RESPONSE

Traffic Regulation Orders covering the streets in the vicinity of the Russell's Hall Hospital were advertised approximately 2 years ago but, for those streets where local residents were opposed to the proposals being introduced, the respective Orders were not implemented. The use of 'H' bars outside properties is a possible option for relieving some of the affected areas if driveways were being blocked.

The Section Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) discussed the matter more fully with the questioner at the end of the meeting with a view to giving the issues further consideration and also liaising with the Police regarding any action that they felt may be appropriate.-

ISSUE (minute 47e)

A question was raised in respect of the use of the Pensnett Community Centre by the Brierley Hill Operatic Society and clarification of the arrangements agreed with the Brierley Hill Operatic Society were sought. A full response would be sent to the questioner by the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

RESPONSE

As requested, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services provided a detailed response to the questioner.

MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING (minute 52)

ISSUE

Councillor Ms Foster reported that the consultation relating to The Crestwood School and Pensnett High School had begun, and Councillor Tyler requested that a Special Meeting of the Committee be arranged, within the consultation period.

RESPONSE

A Special Meeting of Brierley Hill Area Committee was arranged and held on Tuesday 6th January.

ISSUE

In responding to the question regarding the closure of Wartell Bank, Kingswinford, the Area Liaison Officer referred to the Petition that had been handed in by residents that evening, and advised that Officers would investigate the matters raised in the Petition, and provide updates to future meetings of the Area Committee.

RESPONSE

This issue has been responded to under the Petitions section of this report.

WARD ISSUES

ISSUE (minute 53s)

Councillor Ms Foster queried the response to the question she had received regarding hospital parking. The Area Liaison Officer responded by indicating that a commitment had been made to refer to the Cabinet Member for Transportation the issues in relation to the parking.

RESPONSE

The Cabinet Member for Transportation has now asked that a draft strategy be prepared during 2009/10.

ISSUE (minute 53t)

Councillor Mrs Jordan raised an issue in relation to 'No through traffic' signage for heavy goods vehicles, attempting to drive along High Street, Brockmoor from its junction with Station Road/Hickman Road towards Bank Street, as there had been vehicles reversing back onto Bank Street causing a danger and a hazard.

RESPONSE

In order to raise driver awareness that this section of High Street, Brockmoor is now a 'No Through Road', instructions have been issued for the erection of larger signage.

ISSUE (minute 53u)

Councillor Mrs Jordan also referred to the response to her question relating to the Council's responsibility in relation to hard standings, stating that a tenant had taken over a council tenancy, and a hard standing erected by the previous tenant had collapsed. Post inspection of the wall following erection of the same was referred to, and the need for planning permission for the dropped kerb at the property. The Head of Housing Options stated during the meeting, that a more detailed response would be provided to Councillor Mrs Jordan.

RESPONSE

As requested, the Head of Housing Options provided a detailed response to Councillor Mrs Jordan.