

WARDS: ALL

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 14TH JUNE 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

**URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY
AREA COMMITTEE – 31ST MARCH 2005**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 31st March 2005 Central Dudley Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.

3.0 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The proposal is set out at the end of each report in the appendices.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LAW

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

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

5.6 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.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That the proposals contained in each of the attached appendices be approved.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 See individual appendices.



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Director of the Urban Environment - John B. Millar

Contact Officer: Matt Williams - Ext. 4510

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE - 14TH JUNE 2005-05-24

1. AIR POLLUTION AND HIGHWAY CONCERNS - CINDER BANK

Background:

At the CDAC on the 31st March 2005, Cllr Rahman raised concerns in relation to air pollution and a Mr M Haddock raised concerns in relation to road widening both in the Cinder Bank area.

Comments:

Officers in the Council's Environmental Protection Service monitor the ambient air quality, in a number of locations throughout the Dudley Borough.

Although there is currently no monitoring taking place in the Cinder Bank area of Netherton, no obvious problems in respect of air quality have previously been brought to officers' attention at this location. However, we are currently reviewing the location of a number of our test sites and we will look at Cinder Bank as a possible location.

It will take 3-4 months to receive any meaningful results and 12 months of monitoring before we can tell if there is any specific issue with a measured concentration of nitrogen dioxide. Nitrogen dioxide is associated with emissions from traffic and is found in higher concentrations along heavily trafficked road sides. The concentrations are diminished very rapidly with distance from the highway. We would therefore only consider locating testing facilities where residential property is sited close to the road side.

Officers from DUE investigated Mr Haddock's enquiry and confirmed that no widening is proposed at Cinder Bank at present or the foreseeable future. In addition, it was reiterated that there are no plans to resurrect the Netherton Bypass.

As with any highway or traffic scheme, where local people are affected, officers always undertake an appropriate consultation exercise, even with relatively minor schemes, to ensure all parties have their say and have a platform for comment.

Proposal:

That the area committee note the information contained in this report.

2. DOG FOULING ISSUES - PRIORY ESTATE

Background:

At the CDAC on the 31st March 2005, Cllr Johnston expressed concern in relation to the number of dog fouling incidents on Priory Estate and asked for additional signs and dog fouling bins.

Comments:

Officers from DUE have inspected the site and concur with Cllr Johnston. A new batch of dog fouling bins is due to arrive very shortly and an installation will go ahead in consultation with Cllr Johnston once an appropriate location has been identified. In addition, a number of dog fouling warning notices will be installed throughout the vicinity to raise the profile and send out a strong message.

Proposal:

That the area committee note the information contained in this report.

3. ISSUES IN RELATION TO PRIORY PARK LITTER, RUSSELLS HALL SKATE PARK AND UNLAWFUL PARKING - ASHENHURST ROAD, RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE

Background:

At the CDAC on 31st March 2005, Cllr Hart-Bowman raised concerns in relation to the amount of litter visible at Priory Park and the lack of lighting at the new Russells Hall Skate Park.

Comments:

In relation to litter problems in Priory Park, a thorough investigation will be undertaken and if appropriate the cleansing regime in the area will be reviewed. We remain determined to improve the local environment and have recently increased the level of litter inspections right across the Borough in order to comply with new Government legislation. We have a commitment to raise the cleanliness standards throughout our local neighbourhoods and particularly town centres.

Unfortunately, there is no funding available at present to provide any lighting in or adjacent to Russells Hall Skate Park. However, Cllr Hart-Bowman's request has been forwarded to the officer responsible for the next phase of the skate park, for inclusion, should the necessary funding become available.

Proposal:

That the area committee notes the information contained in this report.

4. **PETITION - RESIDENTS OF PEREGRINE CLOSE, MERLIN CLOSE, MIDDLEPARK ROAD - RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE**

Background:

Petition presented by Cllr M Davis at the CDAC on 31st March 2005 regarding lack of regular bus services through Russells Hall.

Cllr Davis drew attention to the need for road markings prohibiting parking at the bus stops and for action to be taken against people parking in the green areas abutting the flats.

Comments:

The provision and frequency of bus services is a matter for CENTRO and the service providers. Officers from DUE will pass the petition on to CENTRO in order that they may consider its contents and liaise further with the service providers.

CENTRO, in consultation with this Borough and public transport providers, have recently undertaken local area network improvements within the Russells Hall Estate for the route 222 bus service.

These improvements will include bus stop clear way markings where requested by CENTRO to indicate to drivers that it is an offence to park their cars at a bus stop.

Proposal:

That area committee note the information contained in this report.

5. **ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH TESCO, BURNT TREE**

Background:

At the CDAC on 31st March 2005, Mrs A Sargeant raised issues associated with trolleys and litter at the Burnt Tree Tesco site.

Comments:

Officers from DUE have contacted Tesco in relation to problems highlighted by Mrs Sargeant, with particular emphasis on the trolley problem in Corporation Road, Kates Hill. Officers suggested that Tesco carry out periodic checks around this location and pick up any stray trolleys.

Enforcement officers will continue to monitor both litter and trolley issues in the area and look for a positive improvement. Hopefully, the situation will improve and the problem can be resolved to the mutual

satisfaction of all parties. If the situation does continue to deteriorate, further action will be considered.

Proposal:

That area committee note the information contained in this report.

6. ISSUES WITH VERMIN - KATES HILL

Background:

At the CDAC on 31st March 2005, Cllr Cyril Woodall requested action be taken regarding vermin at High View Street and St John's Crescent, Kates Hill and in the vicinity of businesses at Constitution Hill and Prospect Row.

Comments:

Officers from DUE are currently investigating the vermin issue and once located will take any necessary action.

Proposal:

That area committee note the information contained in this report.

7. LITTER PROBLEMS - BRETTELL STREET, BLOWERS GREEN

Background:

At the CDAC on the 31st March 2005, Mr Bromfield reported litter problems at Brettell Street and Gammage Street and requested more regular cleaning.

Comments:

Officers from DUE have been asked to review cleansing intervals and any problems in relation to litter in this area.

Once this investigation is complete Mr Bromfield will be contacted to discuss a solution.

Proposal:

That area committee note the information contained in this report.

8. **SPEEDING - BUFFERY ROAD AND CLEANSING - BLACKACRE ROAD**

Background:

At the CDAC on 31st March 2005, Cllr John Davies requested that consideration be given to cars speeding in Buffery Road and asked how often the camera site is used?

Cllr Davies also requested that Blackacre Road be swept in the vicinity of the park.

Comments:

Officers from DUE are currently seeking information from West Midlands Police in relation to Buffery Road and will respond to Cllr Davies in writing once an appropriate response has been received.

Both Blackacre Road and the adjoining streets have been swept.

Proposal:

That the area committee note the information contained in this report.

9. **TRAFFIC LIGHT ISSUES AND BUFFERY ROAD RESURFACING**

Background:

At the area committee on the 31st March 2005, Cllr Ali requested that Buffery Road be resurfaced and the timings of the pedestrian crossing at Dudley Southern Bypass junction Flood Street be looked at.

Comments:

Officers from DUE concur with Cllr Ali that Buffery Road is in need of resurfacing and consequently the works are now being completed.

An investigation is being undertaken in relation to the timings on the Dudley Southern Bypass pelican installation.

Proposal:

That area committee note the information contained in this report.

10. ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING PROHIBITION - HIGH STREET, QUARRY BANK

Background:

At the CDAC on 31st March 2005, Cllr Sparks requested enforcement of parking prohibition at Quarry Bank High Street at 4 points:

1. High Street at pelican crossing near library (parking on zigzag lines)
2. In the vicinity of the Tinseng Chinese Takeaway
3. At junction of New Street and High Street in the vicinity of the Off License
4. Inconsiderate parking by lorries loading/unloading opposite each other in High Street where 2 supermarkets are situated opposite each other.

Comments:

A request has been made to West Midlands Police that they visit the area and take whatever appropriate enforcement action they consider necessary to clear the public highway of illegally parked vehicles.

Proposal:

That area committee note the information contained in this report.

11. PETITION - RESIDENTS OF COPPICE CLOSE - QUARRY BANK

Background:

Petition presented to CDAC on the 31st March 2005 by Cllr Sparks regarding the use of the Close for turning head/unlawful overtaking/disregard for pedestrian crossing and yellow boxed area at head of Close.

Comments:

A letter has been sent to Mr Sharpe acknowledging receipt of his petition. The various points that he has raised will be passed to the relevant sections of the Council to action.

Proposal:

That area committee note the information contained in this report.

12. **HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2005/2006**

Background:

At the CDAC on the 31st March 2005, Cllr Male requested information of the implementation date of two schemes contained in the Highways Minor Works Capital Programme.

Comments:

The mobile speed camera and associated signs proposed in Bowling Green Road is on the reserve list subject to funding which will not be known until later in the year. The pelican crossing proposed in Northfield Road will be implemented in the last quarter of the current financial year.

Proposal:

That area committee note the information contained in this report.