

NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 23rd June, 2010 at 6.30 pm
at Roberts Primary School, Roberts Street, Lower Gornal

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs Ameson, Caunt, G.H. Davies, Evans, Ryder, Stanley, Mrs. Westwood and Wright

Officers

The Director of Corporate Resources (as Area Liaison Officer); Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure and Environmental Protection Manager (both Directorate of the Urban Environment); Area Youth Worker (Directorate of Children's Services); Quality and Complaints Manager and Area Community Renewal Officer – North Dudley (both Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources)

Also in attendance

Inspector R. Jones (West Midlands Police), Mr. C. Wood and Ms. J. Winpenny (West Midlands Fire Service), together with ten members of the public.

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Caunt be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

(Councillor Caunt thereupon took the Chair)

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. Millward, Mottram, Mrs. Ridney and Simms; Miss G. Healey

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member declared an interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

4	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 29th March, 2010, be approved as a correct record and signed.</p>
5	<p><u>APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Councillor Evans be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.</p>
6	<p><u>TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROTOCOL FOR AREA COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted setting out the Terms of Reference and Protocol for Area Committees.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the Terms of Reference and Protocol for Area Committees, be noted.</p>
7	<p><u>APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS</u></p> <p>A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the co-option of persons to serve on the Committee for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.</p> <p>In presenting the report, the Area Liaison Officer referred to paragraph 5 of the report which stated that Ms. Healey, the previous co-opted member appointed to represent young people, had indicated that she would be willing to continue as a co-opted member on the Committee.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Miss Georgina Healey be appointed as the co-opted member for North Dudley Area Committee for the 2010/11 Municipal Year, representing young people in the North of the Borough.</p>
8	<p><u>APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS</u></p>

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of Working Groups for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

- (1) That North Dudley Area Committee Capital Allocations Working Group be re-appointed for the ensuing Municipal Year with its existing Terms of Reference, and that the Working Group comprise the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Councillors Mrs. Ameson, Mrs. Ridney and Stanley.
- (2) That the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Working Group be re-appointed for the ensuing Municipal Year, with its existing Terms of Reference and that the Working Group comprise the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Councillors Mrs. Ameson, G.H. Davies and Stanley and that the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to invite Mr. D. Allen to continue to be a co-opted member on this Working Group.

9

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the nomination of Members of the Committee to serve on outside bodies for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

During consideration of this item it was noted that the name of the Baggeridge Miners' Welfare Club had been changed to that of Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre.

RESOLVED

That the following Members be appointed to serve on the bodies indicated for the 2010/11 Municipal Year:-

Social Inclusion

Term of Office

Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre - Councillors
Mrs. Millward and Wright

Annual

Community Associations

Sedgley and District - Councillor Evans

Annual

Upper Gornal Voluntary Recreation Association -
Councillor Ryder

Annual

Hurst Hill - Councillor G.H. Davies

Annual

Rainbow (Coseley) - Councillor Mrs. Ridney

Annual

10

PETITIONS

It was reported that a petition had been received by the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services in respect of the development of Wood Road Garage Site, which was being investigated by that Directorate.

A further petition was submitted at the meeting from residents living in the locality of Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal, who wished for traffic calming measures to be put into place as soon as possible between the Five Ways Island and Stickley Lane.

RESOLVED

That the receipt of the petition in respect of the Wood Road Garage Site be noted and that in respect of the petition relating to Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal, the Director of the Urban Environment be requested to investigate this matter and report to a future meeting of the Committee.

11

YOUTH MATTERS

A report of the Area Youth Worker on projects and activities undertaken had been submitted.

Arising from consideration of the report submitted, Councillor Davies reported that he had attended the official opening of Coseley Youth Centre and wished to place on record his appreciation for the help and support that had been given in respect of this project.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on Youth Matters be noted.

12

POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Richard Jones updated the Committee on a number of police issues including the planning that had gone on and was going on in relation to the activities of the English Defence League and in respect of the World Cup.

He also referred to a volunteer scheme at Sedgley Police Station and invited anyone who was interested in becoming a volunteer to contact him.

In relation to the petition submitted regarding traffic issues in the locality of Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal, he indicated that the police were also looking into this matter.

Inspector Jones also commented on the planning, in conjunction with partners, that was being undertaken for the forthcoming six weeks' school holidays to put in place activities for children during that period.

Arising from the presentation given, Councillor Davies referred to a recent incident at a public house in Coseley and in response to this, Inspector Jones indicated the action that would be taken arising from this incident. If appropriate, the matter could be referred for consideration by one of the Council's Licensing Sub-Committees.

RESOLVED

That the information reported on be noted.

13

FIRE ISSUES

It was reported that Mr. Steve Vincent had now moved to another post and would not, therefore, be attending meetings of this Committee.

As his replacement, Mr. Phil Towers, was unable to be in attendance at tonight's meeting, Mr. Chris Wood, Station Commander, was in attendance and reported on the various activities undertaken by the Fire Service in the area of the Area Committee.

In addition to the actual incidents referred and commented to, it was also reported that various preventative measures which had a cost-saving implication had also been carried out emphasising the particular role of the Fire Service in relation to educating and stopping fires from happening in the first place.

Arising from the comments made, Councillor Stanley referred to the dumping of 7 tonnes of builders' rubble which had been reported to the Director of the Urban Environment and to the clearance of that rubble within two hours of it being reported.

RESOLVED

That the information reported on at the meeting on fire issues be noted and that the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, be requested to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Steve Vincent for all the work he had undertaken in relation to the work of the Area Committee.

14

TRANSPORT ISSUES

The Chairman referred to discussions that had taken place at the December, 2009 meeting of the Committee when a Mr. C. Whatling of the West Midlands Passenger Transport Service had been in attendance and spoke, in particular, on plans by CENTRO to install bus shelters along the 558 bus route.

Although a request had been made that no progress be made on this matter without prior consultation with elected Members it had been noted that progress had, in fact, been made without Member involvement. The concerns expressed by Members on this had been passed to the Group Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety), so that hopefully such a situation would not reoccur.

In supporting the comments made, Councillor Stanley referred to concerns that had been expressed regarding the possible location of a bus shelter on housing land opposite Jockey Fields on a green area in front of the flats, which, if installed, would, it was considered, cause inconvenience to tenants of those flats.

Although the Committee had previously requested that a representative from CENTRO attend future meetings of the Committee, it was again noted that no such representative was in attendance to speak on transport issues raised.

RESOLVED

That the Area Liaison Officer be requested to send a letter to CENTRO requesting that a representative be provided to speak on, and answer questions in relation to, transport issues affecting the area of the Committee.

15

PUBLIC FORUM

Representatives of the Tenants' and Residents' Association in Ellowes Hall raised concerns regarding a road junction in their area. It was noted that the Secretary of the Association had sent a letter to the Group Engineer - Traffic and Road Safety requesting that a visit be undertaken by Officers to the site.

In response to the concerns expressed, Councillor Stanley undertook to pursue this matter.

16

PROGRESS OF ELECTED MEMBER VISITS TO ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS, 2010/11

A joint report of officers was submitted on information about the progress of visits to Adult and Children's Social Care Establishments undertaken by Members during 2009/10 and on actions taken in response to Member comments.

Nominations from the Committee for Members to carry out visits to Social Care Establishments within the area of the Area Committee during 2010/11 were also requested.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted be noted and that Councillors Mrs. Ameson, Caunt, Ryder and Wright be nominated to carry out visits to Social Care Establishments within the area of the Area Committee during 2010/11.

17

DELEGATED CAPITAL BUDGET

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on standing authorisations and procedures for distributing capital funds delegated to this Area Committee and in respect of three applications considered by the Area Liaison Officer under delegated authority.

During consideration of this matter, the Area Liaison Officer referred to a fourth application, that he had considered using his delegated authority, in relation to a request for funding from Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the current arrangements for considering capital allocations made to this Area Committee be considered and approved, as defined in paragraph 6 of the report submitted, for the remainder of this Municipal Year and up to the first meeting of the Committee in the new Municipal Year for 2011/12.
- (2) That the determination of the following applications considered by the Area Liaison Officer under delegated authority and after consultation with Members of the Committee, be noted, as follows:-
 - (i) approval of an application from the Rainbow Community Centre (Coseley East) in the sum of £3,007.44 for the purchase of new chairs and tables to further encourage and widen the use of the Centre.
 - (ii) approval of an application from Upper Gornal Voluntary Recreation Association (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton) in the sum of £4,175.36 for lighting improvements in the Community Centre's main hall.
 - (iii) approval of an application from Woodsetton Charitable Trust (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton) in the sum of £3,000.00 for path improvements, drainage and hedgerow works in Swan Valley (between Rosemary Crescent and Eve Lane); and
 - (iv) refusal of an application for additional funding from Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre in respect of their new disabled toilet and baby changing facility.

- (3) That the time expired grant referred to in paragraph 10 of the report submitted relating to 1st Lower Gornal St. James Rainbow be returned to the capital allocations fund.

18

HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Crossings within the North Dudley Area for the 2010/11 financial year.

Arising from the presentation of the report, the following comments were made:-

- (i) Clarification was requested as to whether there were any specific pedestrian crossing schemes for 2010/11 as Appendix C to the report submitted referred to the 2009/10 programme.
- (ii) Arising from a query as to whether pedestrian crossings would be implemented at locations by the shops on the Northway and Gospel End Street, the Assistant Director (Culture and Leisure) undertook to investigate the matter and arrange for a response to be sent direct to the Chairman.
- (iii) Arising from a query as to why there had been no recent reports in respect of Disabled Reserve Parking Places in Streets to the Committee, especially in view of requests made for such places, the Assistant Director (Culture and Leisure) undertook to investigate this matter and arrange for a report back to the Committee.
- (iv) Arising from a query regarding the provision of railings in the vicinity of shops in Clarence Street, Councillor Mrs. Ameson requested that the Group Engineer - Traffic and Road Safety meet her on site to discuss this matter. The Assistant Director (Culture and Leisure) undertook to pursue this matter.
- (v) That in relation to a pedestrian crossing at Gospel End Street which it was considered could also be considered as a Safer Routes to School issue, it was noted that no progress had been made on this matter and it was requested that it be looked into as a matter of urgency.
- (vi) In relation to works in Ruiton Street and adjoining streets referred to as the second Local Safety Scheme in Appendix A to the report submitted, Councillor Wright requested that consideration be given to the provision of a further pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Ruiton Street, Summer Lane and the Five Ways Island.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the comments made at the meeting, the proposed Local Safety Schemes and Safer Routes to School Schemes outlined in Appendices A and B to the report submitted, be noted.

19

BOROUGH WIDE AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN FOR DUDLEY

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted detailing the Air Quality Action Plan proposed for the Borough and addressing a number of issues.

Arising from the presentation given on the content of the report ,and Appendix to the report, submitted comments were made, in particular, on those areas identified in paragraph 6 of the report submitted, as being in excess of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide, which included Sedgley - High Street and Dudley Street and Lower Gornal – Himley Road.

In response to comments made, the Environmental Protection Manager commented that the situation in Sedgley could not be dealt with in the same way as, say, in Brierley Hill and, therefore, consideration was being given to implementing smaller, less obvious, changes.

In this connection, a suggestion was made by a Member that consideration be given to diverting heavy goods vehicles to alternative routes, rather than through Sedgley. The Environmental Protection Manager indicated that he would arrange for consideration to be given to this suggestion.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the progress made with developing the Air Quality Action Plan, be noted and that support be given for:-

- (1) The proposed consultation for the Air Quality Action Plan as detailed in paragraph 9 of the report submitted; and
- (2) The actions detailed in the Air Quality Action Plan designed to improve air quality within the Borough for the future including the suggestion made at the meeting regarding the possible diversion of heavy goods vehicles from the centre of Sedgley.

20

COMMUNITY RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on progress to date of the Working Group and on monitoring of the North Dudley Area Committee Community Renewal Plan.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted be noted and that support continue to be given to the work of the Community Renewal Team in community localities.

21 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on responses to questions raised at the previous meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted, be noted.

22 WARD ISSUES

No ward issues were raised.

23 SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

Information was given regarding the dates of meetings of Select Committees, held at the Council House, Dudley, to which members of the public were invited and were welcome to attend.

RESOLVED

That the information given in respect of the dates of meetings of Select Committees, be noted.

24 DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Information as to the dates and venues of future meetings, as set out below, was noted:-

Wednesday, 15th September, 2010 at 6.30 p.m. at High Arcal School, High Arcal Drive, Sedgley (to be confirmed)

Wednesday, 1st December, 2010 at 6.30 p.m. at the Coseley School, Henne Drive, Coseley

Wednesday, 2nd February, 2011 at 6.30 p.m. at Lower Gornal Youth Academy, Temple Street, Lower Gornal; and

Monday, 28th March, 2011 at 6.30 p.m. at the Dance Studio, Ellowes Hall School

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN