

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 2ND APRIL 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

ROUND OAK STEEL MEMORIAL SITE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on the results of a public consultation to determine the preferred positioning of the Round Oak Steel Workers Memorial.

BACKGROUND

2. To commemorate the significance of the former Round Oak Steelworks to the history of Brierley Hill it has been proposed to erect a memorial sculpture in the town.
3. At the Brierley Hill Area Committee on 4th December 2008 it was reported that two potential sites for its installation were being investigated as shown on the attached Plan No. HD/1275/128 and it was agreed that a consultation exercise would be carried out to gauge local opinion on the siting.
4. Option A is at the junction of Level Street with the new Venture Way on land adjacent to the Asda site, whilst Option B is on the Fire Station roundabout at the junction of Dudley Road and Waterfront Way.
5. The Level Street site is free of any buried obstructions whilst investigations of the Dudley Road island has shown that positioning will have to be carefully considered to accommodate underground services.
6. There was a two week consultation period that included a press release advising members of the public of the alternatives and notifying them of a consultation stand that was to be held in the lobby of Brierley Hill library during Half Term week. Council representatives were available at the stand between 12 noon and 2pm to answer questions.
7. Consultation leaflets were available in the library and could also be downloaded from the Council web site. A contact number was also provided to enable the public to ask any questions or seek further information.
8. A total of 200 votes were received with 179 by post, 15 online and 6 by email and the results are as follows:

	Postal	Online	Email	Total
Site A	18	4	0	22
Site B	159	11	6	176
Void	2	0	0	2

9. The primary reason given by people who offered an opinion for the preferred site was that it is directly opposite what was the original main entrance to the former Round Oak works.
10. Accessibility to the memorial for members of the public is a factor that merits consideration and whilst this will be possible at the Level Street site, on the roundabout it will not.

FINANCE

11. All costs associated with the Round Oak sculpture will be met from Directorate Budgets.

LAW

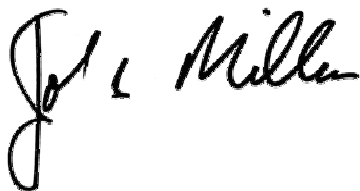
12. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or is incidental to the exercise of its powers.
13. General highway improvements are carried out under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
14. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 permits a Council to do anything which improves the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the Council's area.

EQUALITY IMPACT

15. This item of public art celebrates the industrial heritage of Brierley Hill and in particular the significance of the former Round Oak Steel Works and its associated workforce.

RECOMMENDATION

16. The Committee make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Transportation as to their preferred siting of the memorial with due regard to the consultation exercise results shown in paragraph 8 above.



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