

## NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2004, at 6.30 p.m.  
at Parkes Hall Study Centre

### PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Ameson (Chairman)  
Councillor Simms (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors G H Davies, Evans, Fraser Macnamara, Mrs Millward,  
Mottram, Mrs Ridley, Ryder, Stanley and Wright and Mr Round.

### Officers –

(Director of Education - Area Liaison Officer)  
(Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services Directorate of Law  
and Property)  
(Assistant Director Culture and Recreation Directorate of the Urban  
Environment)  
Ms Adams (Directorate of Housing),  
Mr Butler (Senior Engineer Directorate of the Urban Environment)  
Mr T Glews (Directorate of the Urban Environment)  
Mrs Holland (Democratic Services Officer Directorate of Law and  
Property),  
Mr G Pomford (Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning)

### Also In Attendance

Inspector Bailey (West Midlands Police)

### Members of the Public

Approximately 45 members of the public were in attendance.

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### MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup>  
September, 2004, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the  
Members' Code of Conduct.

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### YOUTH ISSUES

Mr G Pomford (Area Team Leader Dudley North) conveyed thanks to the Committee from the young people of Sedgley for the role the Committee had played in the provision of a new building for use by members of the Sedgley Youth Club.

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PETITIONS

A petition was submitted on behalf of residents of Summer Hill Road and Harding Street, Coseley, in respect of a ban on Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) using Summer Hill Road and Harding Street.

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PUBLIC FORUM

1. A question regarding misuse of fireworks and whether or not incidents of misuse could be termed “anti-social behaviour” was submitted by a member of the public, in response to which the Assistant Director of Law and Property (Legal and Democratic Services) responded that incidents involving fireworks being let off after 11 pm should be reported to the Police but that complaints against improper sale and supply of fireworks should be submitted to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

Councillor Mrs Millward stated that the use of fireworks should be restricted to supervised displays; Councillor Stanley stated that there were problems with fireworks around the Recreation Ground in Lower Gornal and called on the support of the local police to help eradicate the nuisance.

In response to other questions put by Members of the Committee, Councillor Fraser-Macnamara explained that the Council could not put a blanket ban on the issue of licences to sell fireworks as each case had to be treated individually on its merits.

The Environmental Protection Manager confirmed that if the public passed on the addresses where fireworks were being used, causing nuisance to neighbours on a frequent basis, the Housing Department and the Directorate of the Urban Environment would investigate.

2. A request was submitted by a member of the public calling for the temporary speed camera in Bradleys Lane to be replaced by a permanent facility.

3. A question on whether the Council was expecting any objections from road hauliers regarding the proposed 7.00 pm to 8.00 am ban on HGVs using Bradleys Lane, was submitted by a member of the public. A letter written to a member of the public/Committee by Ross Cranston MP, alleging some opposition to the proposals, was circulated to some of the Officers present.

A member of the public provided the Senior Engineer, Mr Butler, with a list of the numbers of HGVs that use Bradleys Lane during daylight hours.

4. A member of the public thanked the Senior Engineer, Mr Butler, and his colleagues in the Traffic and Transportation section of the Directorate of the Urban Environment for their response to the concerns he had raised at a previous meeting, regarding traffic problems in The Ridgeway, Sedgley.
5. A question regarding a feasibility study into the Borough's leisure centres was raised by a member of the public who asked for information on the costs associated with the study.

In response, Councillor Fraser-Macnamara costs could not be quantified until the study had been completed.

6. A question regarding the posting of traffic banning notices was asked by a member of the public, in response to which the Senior Engineer, Mr Butler, stated that notices were displayed on lampposts and advertised in the Express and Star.
7. A question regarding compensation for damage caused to houses by heavy lorries using Bradleys Lane and whether or not the noise from the passing lorries could be described as noise pollution, was raised by a member of the public, in response to which the Environmental Protection Manager stated that if homeowners had suffered structural damage to their houses due to heavy traffic, this matter should be dealt with under their buildings insurance.

Councillor Fraser-Macnamara also responded and explained the steps leading up to the placing of the order.

Councillor G H Davies thanked Members of the Committee for all their hard work and efforts to resolve the issue of Bradleys Lane adding that the speed camera issue still needed to be resolved.

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APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF LAND AND PROPERTY OWNED  
BY THE COUNCIL

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted regarding land and property within the Committee's area.

RESOLVED

That the Lead Member for Transportation be recommended to approve the sale of part of the Council owned car park at Bilston Street, Sedgley, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted, for a replacement doctor's surgery and six car parking bays for staff and disabled patients, on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Law and Property.

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DELEGATED CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications received for funding from the capital allocation of the Committee.

In presenting his report, the Area Liaison Officer sought the Committee's agreement to the recommendations of the Working Group at their meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2004.

In response to a request from a member of the Turls Hill and Swanbrook Valley Tenants and Residents' Association, the Committee agreed to reconsider their application in the sum of £1,114 for the reproduction of videos for circulation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the application received from St James The Great Parochial Church Council (Gornal Wood) be deferred for further consideration in order that the Ward Councillor can;
  1. Contact the applicant again and advise regarding the submission of a business plan to support the application;
  2. Ascertain where the equipment would be stored.

- (2) That the application received from St Andrews Singers, St Andrews Church (Sedgley) in the sum of £1,191.98 for the provision of an electric piano to provide leisure activity for people of all ages and to educate and inform by developing the musical skills of the group and achieve music of a high quality, be approved.
- (3) That the application received from Sedgley and District Community Association for a contribution of £30,000 towards the cost of the proposed extension of the building used by the Association at Ladies Walk, Sedgley, be refused, but that the Ward Councillor for Sedgley discuss with the Association the amount of funding required and the Area Liaison Officer ascertain the up to date position with the Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning (Community Education and Development).
- (4) That the application from Dudley Gymnastics Club in the sum of £10,000 for the purchase and replacement of equipment for the training of gymnastics students due to the loss of equipment from damage caused by a roof collapse at Dudley Leisure Centre, be deferred to ascertain further information as follows:
  1. The Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Culture and Recreation) and Councillor Stanley to ascertain information regarding an insurance claim in relation to the equipment at the Dudley Leisure Centre.
  2. That confirmation be sought as to where the equipment would be stored and where the club intends to meet.
- (5) That, as it does not fall within the criteria laid down for the grant of capital funding, the application in respect of the Turls Hill and Swanbrook Valley Tenants and Residents Association in the sum of £1,114 for the reproduction of videos for circulation, be refused but that, in response to a request by a member of the Turls Hill and Swanbrook Valley Tenants and Residents' Association at this meeting, further consideration to the application be given at the next meeting of the Capital Allocations Working Group.

- (6) That the application in respect of the Royal British Legion (Sedgley) for a contribution of £450 towards the cost of a memorial plaque to be installed within Sedgley Parish Church (All Saints) at a total cost of £1,078, be approved.
- (7) That the application received from Sedgley Junior Angling Club in the sum of £3,727.28 for the purchase of fishing tackle, trophies, digital camera, printer, two-way radio set, hire of specialised amenity for the disabled, bait and prizes, be further deferred to ascertain the nature of the equipment required as a minimum, the location of the accommodation in which the equipment would be stored and the Area Liaison Officer to discuss the matter with the applicant.

(8) Wallbrook Primary School

That it be noted that a formal application from Wallbrook Primary School is anticipated.

(9) That the application received from Beacon Hill Tenants and Residents Association (Sedgley) in the sum of £1,535 for the purchase of gardening tools, be deferred, pending confirmation from the Association on whether or not they wish to proceed with the application.

(10) That the application from Swanbrook Valley Tenants and Residents' Association in the sum of £1,114 for the reproduction of videos for circulation, be reconsidered.

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RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the current status of responses to questions asked at previous meetings of the Committee.

In presenting the report the Area Liaison Officer stated that the appendix to the report, containing up to date information on issues raised at the previous meeting, was self-explanatory.

Following a short discussion, it was

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, be noted.

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DECLARATION OF AN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA –  
SEDGLEY

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking support for the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in the centre of Sedgley and the proposed initiative in that regard.

In response to a question from Councillor Stanley and requests put by members of the public regarding extending the initiative to other parts of North Dudley, the Environmental Protection Manager confirmed that there were no plans to do so at present.



RESOLVED

That the proposals in the report for the declaration of an AQMA in the centre of Sedgley, as shown on the map in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted and the timetable leading up to the declaration, be supported.

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WREN'S NEST NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE AND BLUEBELL PARK WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking the Committee's support for the Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve and Bluebell Park Woodland Grant Scheme.

In presenting the report, the Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Culture and Recreation) stated that grant aid was available through the Woodland Grant Scheme at a rate of 50% of the total costs and that an application had been submitted to the Woodland Grant Scheme in February, as a result of which a contract had been awarded to the Council for the management of woodland areas at Wren's Nest for 2004 through to 2009.

Following a short discussion, it was

RESOLVED

That the Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve and Bluebell Park Woodland Grant Scheme, be welcomed and supported.

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ARCHIVES AND LOCAL HISTORY SERVICE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted informing the Committee of the proposals to relocate the Archives and Local History Service from its present location at Mount Pleasant, Coseley, to C Block at Summerhill School, Kingswinford.

Following a short discussion, during which Councillor Evans welcomed the provision of a new, more modern building to house the Archives and Local History Service, and also during which members of the public called for the Archives to be more widely publicised, it was

RESOLVED

That the proposal to relocate the Dudley Archives and Local History Service to the Summerhill School, Kingswinford, be noted and endorsed.

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WARD ISSUES

1. Councillor Evans raised the issue of Southerndown Road play area and asked the Council to reconsider the provision of facilities for the play area.
2. Councillor Evans introduced Inspector Bailey of West Midlands Police, who reported on recent crime figures for the North Dudley area and stated that over the past month crime had reduced for motor theft, burglary and commercial burglaries but that reports of incidents of public disorder had risen and Dispersal Orders had been applied for.

Inspector Bailey reminded the Committee of the impending retirement of Superintendent Hodson and also reported on the opening of the new Youth Club in Sedgley, which would open three nights a week.

Inspector Bailey also reported on issues involving an area around Spencer Avenue and also advised that four warrants in respect of drugs had been issued in the area. She also reported on a police operation conducted to reduce the nuisance caused by taxis parking in Ettymore Road.

## RESOLVED

That Superintendent Hodson's successor be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Evans asked that the Committee extend their thanks to Chief Superintendent for all the efforts he had made on the Committee's behalf. The Area Liaison Officer agreed to write to Chief Superintendent Hodson on the Committee's behalf.

3. Councillor Millward and Councillor Stanley expressed their concerns at the continued sale of alcohol to under-age young people by some off-licences in the area and called for a tighter control of the problem, particularly in Gornal.
4. Councillor Millward raised the issue of burnt-out, stolen and abandoned vehicles in Humphrey Street, stating that problems were still being experienced in the area.

5. Councillor Stanley asked for a reassurance from Inspector Bailey regarding assistance in policing the forthcoming Remembrance Day parade.

In response, Inspector Bailey assured Councillor Stanley of the full co-operation of the local police.

6. The Assistant Director of Law and Property (Legal and Democratic Services) informed the Committee of the impending, new, Liquor Licensing legislation that would come into force and enter a transitory period from February 2005. He explained that Local Authorities would be responsible for the licensing of all existing licensed premises, including off-licences. He advised that a public meeting was due to be held at Brockmoor Primary School at 6.30 pm on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2004 to discuss the new legislation. An invitation was extended to members of the public to attend the meeting on the 4th November 2004.

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm.

CHAIRMAN