

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday, 6th July 2006 at 7.00 p.m.
at the Civic Hall, Brierley Hill

PRESENT:-

Councillors Blood, Ms Boleyn, Ms Foster, Harley, Ms Harris, Islam, Mrs Jordan, Miller, Nottingham, Mrs Pearce, Southall, Tomkinson, Tyler and Mrs Wilson.

Officers

Mr J Millar, Director of the Urban Environment (as Area Liaison Officer), Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration and Section Engineer (Design and Implementation) (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Assistant Director, Targeted Services (Directorate of Children's Services), Quality and Complaints Manager (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Principal Lawyer and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property).

Together with Inspector Malpass (West Midlands Police) and 7 Members of the public.

1 **INTRODUCTION BY AREA LIAISON OFFICER**

John Millar, Director of the Urban Environment, introduced himself to the meeting as the new Area Liaison Officer for Brierley Hill Area Committee. He reported that Eric Lowson, the previous Area Liaison Officer, had obtained a post with another Authority.

2 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs Wilson be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor Mrs Wilson thereupon took the Chair)

3 **COMMENTS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Mrs Wilson commented on the work done by Eric Lawson in his capacity as Area Liaison Officer for Brierley Hill and, on behalf of the Committee, expressed the best wishes of the Committee to Eric in his new job. She also welcomed new Members to the Committee, following the recent municipal elections, Councillors Ms Boleyn and Nottingham, and ,as this was the first meeting of the Committee in the new municipal year, Members and Officers present introduced themselves to the meeting.

4 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Burt.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared a personal interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in the Agenda Items indicated and for the reasons stated:-

Councillor Ms Boleyn - Agenda Item no 17 - Capital Allocations - Wall Heath Community Association - in that she is a Member of the Management Committee of that Association.

Councillor Miller - in Agenda Item no 16 - Cot Lane, Kingswinford - proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order near the Glynne Primary School - in that he is a Governor of that Primary School.

Councillor Tomkinson in Agenda Item no 17 - Capital Allocations - Pensnett Youth Centre and Fens Pool Community Centre – in that she is a member of the Neighbourhood Committee and Member of the Management Committee respectively.

Councillor Tyler - in Agenda Item no 17 - Capital Allocations - Wall Heath Community Association - in that he is a Member of the Management Committee of that Association.

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9th March, 2006, be approved as a correct record and signed.

7 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tyler be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

8 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROTOCOL FOR AREA COMMITTEES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted setting out the Terms of Reference and Protocol for Area Committees.

RESOLVED

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.

9 CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the co-option of persons to serve as Members of the Committee for the 2006/07 municipal year.

The Area Liaison Officer reminded Members of the view taken previously by them that as all members of the public were welcome to speak on all agenda items at all meetings of the Committee the co-option of persons was not necessary.

Mention was also made of the decision of the Council at its meeting held on 15th March, 2006, suggesting to all Area Committees that a representative of the "young people" be co-opted to the Committee.

RESOLVED

That no person be co-opted to the Committee at the present time.

10 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of Working Groups of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

RESOLVED

That the following Working Groups be appointed for the 2006/07 municipal year with their existing terms of reference and with the composition and membership indicated, as previously:-

1. Brierley Hill Young People's Group - To comprise the Chairman plus one Member from each Ward in the area of the Area Committee - to be notified.
2. Capital Allocations - To comprise the Chairman plus one Member from each Ward in the area of the Area Committee - to be notified.

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APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of representatives to serve on various outside bodies from the 2006/07 municipal year. An updated copy of the Appendix to the Report submitted had subsequently been circulated to Members. Consideration was also given to the appointment of representatives to the organisation known as Men of Wordsley.

RESOLVED

That appointments to the organisations indicated below be made as follows:-

<u>Name of Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>	<u>Period of Office</u>
Brierley Hill Committee for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped Men of Wordsley	Councillors Mrs Wilson and Islam with Councillor Ms Harris as a Deputy	Annual
	Councillors Nottingham and Mrs Pearce and that in future the three Ward Members for the Wordsley Ward comprise the Council's representation on this body.	Remainder of the four year periods to 31 st December, 2007 and 31 st December, 2008 respectively.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

(a)	Brockmoor	Councillors Ms Foster with Mrs Jordan and Tomkinson	Annual
(b)	Dingle	Councillors Mrs Pearce, Nottingham and Southall	Annual
(c)	Fens Pool	Councillors Mrs Jordan and Tomkinson with Councillor Ms Foster	Annual
(d)	Hawbush	Councillors Ms Harris and Islam with Councillor Mrs Wilson	Annual
(e)	Kingswinford	Councillors Blood, Harley and Miller	Annual
(f)	Nine Locks	Councillor Islam with Councillors Ms Harris and Mrs Wilson	Annual
(g)	Pensnett	Councillors Ms Foster and Mrs Jordan with Councillor Tomkinson	Annual
(h)	Wall Heath	Councillors Ms Boleyn, Burt and Tyler	Annual
(i)	Wordsley	The Members of the Council for the Wordsley Ward	Annual

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PROGRES OF ELECTED MEMBER VISITS TO ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS 2005/06

A joint report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the progress of visits to Adult and Children's social care establishments undertaken by Members during 2005/06, actions taken in response to Member visits and their comments and identifying issues arising from the rota visits.

During the consideration given to this matter Councillor Miller, Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services stressed the importance to all those concerned of the visits undertaken and thanked those Members who had previously carried out visits. In this connection mention was made of visits undertaken by former Councillor Debney and Councillor Tyler and of former Councillor Debney's recent illness. Members wished him a speedy recovery.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the Report, submitted be noted and that Members wishing to visit establishments in the 2006/07 municipal year be requested to submit their names direct to Stephen Rice ,the Quality and Complaints Manager, Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services whose contact details were in the joint report submitted.

13 RECEIPT OF PETITION

It was reported that the following petition had been received and referred to the Officer indicated for attention:-

From Councillor Harley on behalf of traders, residents and users of the shop in and around Beech Road, Kingswinford, requesting improved lighting and the making secure of garages to the rear of shops in and around Beech Road, Kingswinford - referred to the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

14 YOUTH ISSUES

No specific issues were raised under this Agenda Item however Councillor Tyler commented that a number of young people had undergone work experience last week and that in this connection he had been shadowed by Daniel Horrocks, present at this meeting, who was the Chair of the Kingswinford School Council. Councillor Tyler also commented on the good work being done by Youth in the area.

15 PUBLIC FORUM

The following questions were raised by Members of the public and a response given as indicated:-

- (1) The Chair of Parkes Street Area Tenants and Residents Association raised the question of eliminating concerns of antisocial behaviour and fast cars being driven within a closed street causing danger to residents within the Parkes Street area, and in elaborating on his question he referred to other instances of antisocial behaviour and actions taken by the Local Police and Ward Members. However, despite action taken the problems persisted.

A number of Members supported the comments made and in response the Section Engineer (Design and Implementation) commented that measures could be investigated however this was a wider problem involving Police Enforcement, Community Safety and other Directorates of the Council. He would therefore arrange for initial consideration to be given to this matter in conjunction with the Community Safety Team in the Chief Executives' Directorate.

Arising from a question asked by a Member Inspector Gary Malpass, Inspector for the Kingswinford, Pensnett and Brierley Hill areas commented on new arrangements regarding the Neighbourhood Police Team and how they were to operate which would involve consulting residents through various forums about their concerns so that these could be prioritised and hopefully addressed. In this connection a series of meetings with Councillors had begun and at these meetings contact numbers and other details would be distributed. The Police were also looking at ways to advertise local forum meetings through the media. There was therefore a recognition that all persons and agencies involved should come together to tackle the problems cited.

In response to a further question from the Chair of the Tenants and Residents Association Inspector Malpass asked that he speak to him outside the meeting regarding the matter raised.

- (2) In response to a question asked the Section Engineer (Design and Implementation) indicated that attention would be given to the speed camera at Cinder Bank which was allegedly being obscured by foliage.
- (3) In response to a question asked regarding the activities of builders, and the effects of their works on local residents, in Victoria Street, which it was stated had been the subject of a number of complaints, the Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration undertook to have the issues raised investigated.

At the conclusion of questions the Area Liaison Officer reported that a report would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee on questions raised at meetings indicating the action taken.

16 APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF LAND OWNED BY THE COUNCIL

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application received in respect of land adjacent to 11 Church Street, Brierley Hill.

RESOLVED

That, arising from consideration of the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted consideration of the request made to purchase land adjacent to 11 Church Street, Brierley Hill, as indicated on the plan attached to the report submitted, be deferred pending a site visit to be undertaken by the three Ward Members of the Ward in which the land was situated, together with Councillor Tomkinson, and that these Members also be requested to look at works being carried out to the Memorial Gardens.

17 OBJECTIONS TO DISABLED PARKING PLACES

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on a proposed change to the reporting procedure to objections to disabled parking places.

RESOLVED

That, in view of the Cabinet Member for Transportation having delegated powers under the terms of the Constitution to deal with traffic regulation orders which received objections, the proposed change of procedure so as to remove those objections for disabled parking places which receive objections from the Area Committee Arena and to deal with them by way of Decision Sheet, following full and proper consultation with the relevant Ward Members, be supported.

18 COT LANE KINGWINFORD - PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF WAITING ORDER NEAR THE GLYNNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed introduction of a prohibition of waiting order in Cot Lane and Mount Pleasant in the vicinity of the Glynne Primary School.

RESOLVED

That, arising from consideration of the objections received, support be given to the making of a reduced traffic regulation order, as shown on drawing number TM/2183B, as circulated at the meeting, and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended to arrange for the scheme to be introduced.

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications for funding from this year's allocation budget and to update Members on progress to date.

Consideration was also given to additional criteria for making allocations as set out in the report submitted.

The Area Liaison Officer commented on a Schedule setting out details of seven allocations that had been considered at an informal meeting prior to this meeting and sought confirmation of the recommendations made.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the additional criteria for making "one off" expenditure relating to projects that had community benefits, as set out in paragraphs 3 to 10 of the report submitted, be approved.
- (2) That approval be given to the recommendations made at an informal meeting held prior to this meeting of the Committee in respect of the following applications made for capital expenditure as follows:-
 - (a) Victim Support Witness Service - that, due to potential funding by two other Area Committees, the request be refused.
 - (b) Stourbridge Social Cricket Club - that the application be deferred pending receipt of further information including the numbers of the members of the social cricket club who actually live in the area comprising the area of this Committee.
 - (c) Age concern - that the application be deferred pending the receipt of further information in respect of their application and details in respect of their premises.
 - (d) Pensnett Youth Centre - that application number 4/06 for £5,000 for the provision of ICT equipment for disadvantaged young people and for software packages to enhance young people's skills and education be approved.

- (e) Kingswinford Community Anti Vandalism DVD Group - that application number 5/06 for the purchase of a camcorder for use by students of Kingswinford School in order to produce a DVD promoting anti vandalism throughout the Borough be approved in the sum of £3,500 and that the Group be requested to submit an annual report on their progress and details regarding the future use of the equipment with a view to the DVD being viewed at a future meeting of this Committee and that in supporting this application the young people involved be congratulated, supported and encouraged in their endeavours.
 - (f) Fens Pool Voluntary Association - that application number 6/06 for the erection and installation of security measures be approved in principle up to £5,000 and that arrangements be made for an officer of the Council to assist Members of the Association so that appropriate measures might be introduced.
 - (g) Wall Heath Community Association - that consideration of the application made be deferred pending receipt of further information including details of the responsibilities of the Association for carrying out some of the work the subject of the application.
- (3) That the overall position in respect of the budget for allocations be noted and that further consideration be given to the publicising of the allocation budget and the giving of assistance in completing application forms.
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MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL, COSELEY

At this juncture questions in respect of Mount Pleasant School, Coseley, the current location of the archives and local history service, were submitted.

As these questions had not been submitted at the time of the public forum agenda item and were the subject of consideration by North Dudley Area Committee, it was:-

RESOLVED

That the questions received relating to Mount Pleasant School, Coseley, be referred to the Area Liaison Officer for North Dudley Area Committee for consideration and response to the questioner.

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ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

- (1) Councillor Tomkinson referred to a recent meeting of residents of Parkes Street and reiterated some of the problems and concerns raised earlier in the meeting and asked that all appropriate agencies work together so that residents could have an improved quality of life.
 - (2) Councillor Ms Foster supported Councillor Tomkinson in her comments and in so doing asked that Inspector Malpass familiarise himself with current issues in the area given the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing.
 - (3) Councillor Islam reiterated concerns made earlier in the meeting by a member of the public regarding the inconsiderate actions of the builders referred to and also referred to the nuisance suffered by residents of Miles Court. He asked that in the investigation of this matter the need to ensure that such events were not repeated should also be looked at.
 - (4) Councillor Islam also referred to antisocial behaviour affecting residents of Miles Court occasioning visits by Police Officers and the need for residents of Miles Court to be supported.
 - (5) Councillors Mrs Wilson referred to instances of antisocial behaviour and the effect this was having on the lives of people and the need for action to be taken.
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DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Arising from consideration of the details given of dates and venues of future meetings of the Committee Councillor Tyler requested that the venue for the meeting to be held on 28th September, 2006 be changed in view of the likely numbers of persons wishing to attend given that a report in respect of parking in relation to Russells Hall Hospital was to be considered at that meeting. In this connection the Area Liaison Officer reported that unless representatives of the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust were present at the meeting questions likely to be raised in respect of the hospital could not be properly responded to. Officers of the Council could only respond on the traffic issues within their responsibility.

RESOLVED

- (1) That, subject to the availability of an alternative venue, the next meeting of the Committee to be held on Thursday, 28th September, 2006 be held at a venue other than the Kingswinford School, Water Street, Kingswinford.
- (2) That it be noted that the remaining dates and venues for future meetings of the Committee were as follows:-

Thursday, 7th December, 2006 - Brierley Hill Civic Hall
Thursday, 1st February, 2007 - Brockmoor Primary School
Thursday, 29th March, 2007 - The Brier School.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN