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**Halesowen Area Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Responses to Questions Raised at the Halesowen Area Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the written responses made to questions asked at the previous meeting.

**Background**

2. At the meeting of this Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010 a resident of Hollybank Grove complained about car parking problems and queried when double yellow lines to restrict parking would be placed on the road. In responding the Group Engineer (Transportation) indicated that the road had been added to the list of schemes to be investigated.
3. A question was asked on behalf of the Halesowen History Society. The Society used the Shenstone Theatre for its lectures and other business and complaints had been made about the intrusion of music being played by the ladies aerobic exercise group in the adjoining room. It was requested that sound insulation be installed. In responding the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services reported that they were aware of the problem and costs for sound insulation were being investigated, and if feasible, insulation would be installed. An update on the situation has been given in that sound insulation has been investigated at the Shenstone Theatre, but has proved difficult to implement. A site investigation has identified a potential solution of replacing the doors that had been removed between the two rooms to alleviate the problem. This is now being progressed, including ensuring that the additional doors do not adversely impact disabled access to either room. The addition of the doors will create an additional buffer area between the two rooms.
4. It was stated that the trees on Highfield Park were being felled and the reason for this was queried. It was rumoured that the trees were being felled to extend the skate park, and if this was the case, assurances were sought that the area would be fenced off with a lockable gate. Residents experienced various problems caused by drug users, drinking and other incidents and protection was required for residents. The questioner has been responded to and it was explained that the Green Care Team had received a request to improve visibility around the site to aid surveillance, following reports of anti-social behaviour. The area in question was planted as part of the National Urban Forest Scheme in the late 1980s/early 1990s and was in need of extensive maintenance. In an attempt to resolve the matter mutually it is intended to partially replant the area worst affected, which will provide a more balanced and sustainable solution, which would assist the overall longevity of the park. Officers would continue to work with Ward Members and the police in an attempt to address issues associated with anti-social behaviour in

the area. A productive meeting had been held on site with Members who were very much in favour of additional bushes/trees being planted to provide appropriate cover.

### **Finance**

5. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

### **Law**

6. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

### **Equality Impact**

7. The report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and there are no direct implications for children and young people in noting the report.

### **Recommendation**

8. That the Committee notes the contents of the report.



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**Bill Baker**  
**Area Liaison Officer**

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### **List of Background Papers**

Minutes of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010