

Central Dudley Area Committee – 7th November 2006

Report Of The Director Of The Urban Environment

**Urban Environment - Matters Raised At The
Central Dudley Area Committee - 5th September 2006**

Purpose Of Report

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 5th September 2006 Central Dudley Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

Background

2. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities. This diverse range of technical services focus on regenerating the Borough, maintaining our environment to high standards, protecting our communities and promoting leisure and other community services for all.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to matters such as traffic management, leisure and recreation, regeneration and new development. Few enquiries can be answered immediately, with many prompting further investigation, feasibility studies and public consultation, prior to being reported back to Committee.
4. To keep Committee updated, progress reports are included as an appendix and the proposal resulting from the update is set out at the end of each paragraph.

Finance

5. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

Law

6. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.
7. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.

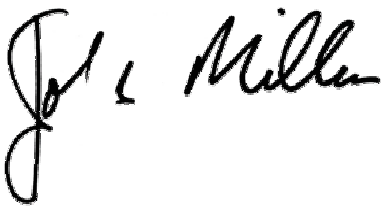
8. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its area to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
11. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.

Equality Impact

12. The proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a diverse range of services that affect all sections of the community.

Recommendation

13. That the proposals contained in Appendix 1 attached be approved.



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John Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

Contact Officer: Matt Williams
Telephone: 01384 814510
Email: Matt.Williams@Dudley.gov.uk

Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

Action Notes from 5th September 2006 Committee.

Appendix 1

DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 5TH SEPTEMBER 2006

1. TRAFFIC ISSUES - BLACKACRE ROAD

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, a member of the public expressed concern at the number of motorists illegally accessing the southern bypass through Blackacre Road.

Comments:

The police have, in the past, been very proactive in enforcing the Traffic Order in Blackacre Road and on one occasion, over 70 offending drivers were issued with fines. However, it is the view of the Council's Traffic Officers that motorists are aware of the through traffic restriction and are prepared to risk any enforcement action in order to continue using Blackacre Road. Consequently, a meeting with Ward Members is being arranged to discuss the matter further.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

2. TRAFFIC ISSUES - DUDLEY BUS STATION

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, a member of the public raised concern regarding cars driving through Dudley Bus Station at dangerous speeds in order to bypass traffic, the questioner also made comment in relation to moving the entrance of the Britannia Car Park to Trindle Road which could help alleviate the problem.

Comments:

Following an investigation by Traffic Engineers, it is clear that a regular Police presence has been observed in the area and Police Officers patrol whenever possible as resources permit.

Numerous signs exist within the area to deter motorists and a 20 mph speed limit is in place in Fisher Street complimented by 10 mph speed limit within the confines of the bus station. In addition, a road hump will be introduced at the pelican crossing which exists in Fisher Street by the bus station to help calm traffic.

As part of the investigation, it was noted that current signing in the area may cause some confusion and this will now be reviewed.

It would not be safe for vehicles to enter and leave the private "Britannia" car park by way of Trindle Road and if the car park entrance was opened onto Porters Field there would be a major implication for well established taxi operations.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

3. **RUSSELLS HALL TRAFFIC ISSUES**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, Cllr M Davis requested that the Council remove the traffic calming chicanes on the Russells Hall Estate, particularly as a car accident had occurred on the estate the previous night.

Comments:

Traffic Engineers are investigating Cllr Davis' request and will reply in due course.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

4. **CAR PARK CHARGES - RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, Cllr M Davis asked the Council to investigate the parking charges levied at Russells Hall hospital and asked if the Council had used its influence to support either the removal or further reduction of parking charges.

Comments:

Cllr Davis' request has been passed to Traffic Engineers who will investigate the matter and respond accordingly.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

5. **DRAINAGE PROBLEMS - MILKING BANK**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, Cllr M Davis expressed concern regarding problems residents of Milking Bank are experiencing with drains in the area.

Comments:

Officers from DUE are aware of a problem in Balmoral View but will investigate and liaise with Cllr Davis to ensure appropriate action is taken.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

6. BLOCKED GULLIES - WRENS NEST AND PRIORY ESTATES

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, Cllr Aston raised concerns regarding the maintenance of drains on the Wrens Nest and Priory Estates.

Comments:

Following the report from Cllr Aston, extensive works have been undertaken on the Wrens Nest and Priory Estate areas.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

7. STREET LIGHTING - PRIORY ROAD

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, Cllr Aston expressed concern regarding street lighting between No. 26 and No. 46 Priory Road and reported that there were no street lights on that side of the road.

Comments: Street lighting is designed to strict standards and can be sited on either the left-hand, right-hand or, in the case of dual carriageways, the centre of any highway. Street lighting lanterns are designed to “throw” light across a road and as such, their siting in this respect is not critical. However, if spacings are excessive, then lighting levels can suffer and problems are experienced with longitudinal uniformity.

It is acknowledged that there are problems with trees on Priory Road obscuring lighting and this problem is currently being investigated and prioritised within the tree remedial works programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

8. CINDER BANK ISLAND - TRAFFIC ISSUES

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, Cllr Ali raised the problem of traffic build-up at Cinder Bank island.

Comments: Traffic Engineers are investigating Cllr Ali’s concerns and will contact him as soon as their investigation is complete.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

9. **PROBLEM TREES - LEVESON WALK**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, Cllr J Davies requested that the trees in Leveson Walk be cut back as they are currently blocking the footpath.

Comments: This problem is a result of branches over-hanging from forestry planting within the grounds of Kates Hill Primary School. Officers from Green Care have already given the school a quotation to undertake the necessary work and are awaiting approval.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

10. **GOLDEN HILLOCK ROAD - STREET LIGHTING**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, Councillor Cotterill requested that officers investigate the possibility of improving street lighting in Golden Hillock Road.

Comments: Officers at DUE are investigating the possibility of a new lighting scheme in Golden Hillock Road and Cllr Cotterill will be contacted once a feasibility study has been undertaken.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

11. **KATES HILL REFUSE COLLECTION**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 5th September 2006, a member of the public asked if residents of Kates Hill who have their waste collected on a Monday could have a different collection day as there is an unacceptable build-up of rubbish when waste is not collected on a Bank Holiday Monday.

Comments: Working practices are currently being reviewed in the Waste Care Section in an attempt to address issues such as Bank Holiday working. It is anticipated that problems associated with Bank Holiday Mondays will be addressed in late 2007.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.