

## NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2010  
at the Coseley School, Henne Drive, off Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley

### PRESENT:-

Councillor Caunt (Chairman)  
Councillor Evans (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors G.H. Davies, Mrs. Millward, Mottram, Mrs Ridley, Ryder, Simms,  
Stanley and Mrs. Westwood.

### OFFICERS

The Director of Corporate Resources (Area Liaison Officer), Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure and The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety (both Directorate of the Urban Environment), Area Youth Worker (Directorate of Children's Services), Area Community Renewal Officer - North Dudley (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services ) and Mr Sanders (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources).

### In Attendance

Inspector R. Jones (West Midlands Police), Mr Grosvenor and Ms J. Winpenny (West Midlands Fire Service) and seven members of the public.

#### 44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Mrs Ameson.

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#### 45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared a personal or prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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#### 46 MINUTES

##### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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AGENDA ITEMS NUMBERS 6 AND 7

Owing to the inability of the Area Census Manager to attend the meeting, in consequence of the inclement weather and, in the absence of a representative of Centro in attendance, items 6 and 7 on the Agenda were withdrawn from consideration at the meeting.

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PETITIONS

No petitions were received at the meeting.

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YOUTH ISSUES

A paper by the Area Youth Worker indicating the projects and activities with young people in the area was circulated covering the following:-

- The projects carried out at the three youth centres in the area since the previous meeting of the Committee;
- details of an event for Children in Need held at Lower Gornal Youth Academy;
- A Social Enterprise project with Young People at Coseley Youth Centre where young people were developing a range of skills and engaging with different members of the community;
- Events planned at Sedgley Youth Centre, including evening sessions provided for young people working towards their V–inspired award;
- work with specific groups carried out by the detached team; and
- the use of funding gained by the Youth Forum for the production of publicity leaflets and hoodies with a view to encouraging young people to resolve local issues with contact with Council Officers or Councillors.

In response to a question, the Area Youth Worker stated the approximate numbers of young people attending Sedgley Youth Centre. He indicated that there were regular attenders numbered 20-30, although the figure had diminished in the past few weeks owing to the bad weather. Some 30 young people were across the area were working towards the V award, about 6 of whom attended at Sedgley.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Jones updated the Committee on Police issues pertinent to the area since the previous meeting of the Committee, including statistical information regarding arrests made on topical issues, including drug related offences and metal theft. He also reported on action being taken in relation to contact with licensed premises, with particular reference to the sale of alcohol to minors over the festive period.

Inspector Jones also provided numerical details of the numbers of fixed penalties awarded to motorists in the West Midlands Local Authority areas for the use of mobile phones while driving, over the period from September 2009 to September 2010, and drug and alcohol related arrests over the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. He also referred to work carried out by the Police in relation to the proposed Lower Gornal alcohol exclusion zone.

In response to a comment made by a Member of the Committee that more local information regarding the use of mobile telephones while driving would have been preferable, Inspector Jones indicated that a further breakdown could not be provided owing to other priorities for the Police. Another member advocated that alcohol free zones should be applied more widely across the Borough than that proposed for Lower Gornal, in response to which Inspector Jones clarified the nature of the legislation in this regard, under which alcohol exclusion zones could only be approved and implemented if relevant evidence was supplied. He agreed to arrange for appropriate evidence in this regard to be studied in relation to other areas within the area of the North Dudley Area Committee, including in Upper Gornal and Woodsetton and Coseley.

In the context of the information provided on metal thefts, the contact with local scrap merchants being made by the Police was discussed.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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### FIRE ISSUES

The Chairman welcomed the new Borough Commander for the West Midlands Fire Service, Andy Grosvenor, who was attending his first meeting of the Committee in that capacity. In reporting on current issues applicable to the Fire Service, Mr Grosvenor drew particular attention to advisory and preventative measures being undertaken in the Christmas period regarding safety issues in relation to cooking, alcohol consumption and Christmas lights.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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### PUBLIC FORUM

- (1) A member of the public asked to be advised when resurfacing of Yew Tree Lane would take place. The Chief Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety was asked to investigate and respond in writing to the questioner.
- (2) In the context of the closure of Coseley baths, a member of the public expressed the view that a disproportionate amount of the Council's expenditure was directed at areas other than Coseley. In making the point that the matter of the baths had been raised and answered at the Committee on a number of occasions previously, the Chairman and other members again indicated the level of expenditure that would have been necessary to repair Coseley baths in order to enable them to remain open to the public and the expenditure allocated to other leisure facilities.
- (3) (On consideration of the question below, in relation to the Bourne Street planning application, a declaration of personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, was made by Councillor Wright in view of his Chairmanship of the Development Control Committee. Councillor Wright made no comment on the issue, except to confirm that a planning application had not been submitted to the Development Control Committee).

A member of the public asked to be advised of the current position regarding the Bourne Street planning application. Upon its being indicated that the matter had not yet been referred to the Development Control Committee, a request was made that the members of the Council for the Upper Gornal and Woodsetton electoral ward be notified when the planning application would be submitted to that Committee.

### UPDATE OF CAPITAL BUDGET

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the recommendations of the Capital Allocations Working Group on five applications for funding. The report also stated the level of unspent capital monies by Ward.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That, subject to resolutions (2) and (3) below, grants in the sums indicated be awarded to the applicants below for the purposes stated:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant</u>
Old Park Farm Tenants and Residents Association	£276.75	Purchase of laptop, printer, associated software for the Association
Quarry Youth Café	£988	Purchase of games machine and associated equipment, a projector and lockable store cupboard for the equipment

Pegasus Community Events	£1270	Purchase of a covered lockable GRP trailer for the transport of equipment to events in the Borough
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- (2) That the award to the Old Park Farm Tenants and Residents Association be subject to an equivalent amount being funded from the budget of the Central Dudley Area Committee.
  - (3) That the award to Pegasus Community Events, Sedgley be made subject to confirmation that the trailer be stored at a secure location to the satisfaction of the Area Liaison Officer and that, should the group fold, the trailer be returned to Dudley MBC.
  - (4) That the application now submitted on behalf of the Lower Gornal Youth Academy be deferred, pending further discussion with the applicant and ward members.
  - (5) That the application by the Coseley Athletic Cricket Club be deferred pending the submission of further information.
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COMMUNITY RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted updating the Committee on progress to date regarding the work of the Community Renewal Working Group and on the monitoring of the Community Renewal Plan for North Dudley.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report be noted and that the work of the Community Renewal Team in community localities continue to be supported.

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HURST ROAD, COSELEY - ROAD SAFETY INVESTIGATION: INTERIM REPORT IN RESPONSE TO PETITION

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on an investigation carried out into the implementation of a possible future Local Safety Scheme in Hurst Road, Coseley, further to the petition submitted at the meeting of the Committee in September requesting the provision of traffic control measures on Hurst Road between Childs Avenue and Ettingshall Road.

In accordance with the Petition Scheme, the petition organiser, Mrs Matthews, attended the meeting and addressed the Committee on the petition. In so doing, she referred to the volume of traffic using the road, the nature of accidents and near misses that had occurred and the particular locations where the potential for accidents was high. Councillor Mottram confirmed the support of the Ward Councillors for the petition on grounds of road safety and indicated the intention of those Members to monitor the situation through further meetings with the petitioners and with Wolverhampton Council.

The report indicated the nature of the investigation, which had commenced and was expected to be completed in March, 2011. This involved a twelve hour pedestrian and vehicle count in the vicinity of the existing school crossing patrol site in Hurst Road near to Childs Avenue, to ascertain difficulties experienced by pedestrians. An assessment of personal injury accidents over the previous three years, in order to assess the justification of the road's inclusion in a future local safety scheme programme would be carried out. The work involved would be undertaken in conjunction with the Police to consider possible future joint actions. Liaison would continue with the petition organiser and Ward members on the outcome of the investigations and possible future actions.

#### RESOLVED

That the contents of the report now submitted be noted.

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#### LOWER GORNAL (ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE)

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a proposal by the Licensing and Safety Committee for the making of an Order to designate the Lower Gornal area a public place where the consumption of alcohol would be prohibited other than in the curtilage of licensed premises.

In presenting the report, the Area Liaison Officer, as Director of Corporate Resources, indicated that 110 e-mails had been received in response to consultation on the proposal and that all supported the making of the Order.

The report also sought consideration of the funding of the necessary signage, should the making of the Order be approved.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the making of a Designation Order for the consumption of alcohol in the Lower Gornal area to prohibit the consumption of alcohol other than in the curtilage of licensed premises, be supported.
- (2) That approval be given to the cost of the requisite signage being met from the Capital Allocations Budget of the North Dudley Area Committee, subject to the cost being shared equally with the Police.

WARD ISSUES

Councillor G H Davies drew attention to parking congestion in Havacre Lane and surrounding roads, including Elm Road, which emanated from Coseley Rail Station, and requested that appropriate action be taken, including a Police presence. Councillor Davies was supported by Councillor Mrs Ridney on this matter.

Councillor Mottram suggested that the Directorate of the Urban Environment contact Centro on the issue of the location of additional parking accommodation for users of Coseley Rail Station. It was agreed that a letter in this regard be sent to Centro and that Councillor Adams, in his capacity as Chairman of Centro, be copied into the correspondence.

Councillor Mrs Ridney asked to be advised of progress with regard to the licence for contractors' vehicles working on the Extra Care Housing Scheme. In responding, the Area Liaison Officer, as Director of Corporate Resources, confirmed that the issue of the licence should be resolved within the next day or so.

In referring to the audit requirements regarding the provision of Christmas decorations at Sedgley, Councillor Evans expressed the view that the provision of decorations might not be possible in future years without financial assistance from retailers.

In recognising and expressing appreciation of the work undertaken in the community by the Turls Hill Tenants and Residents Association, Councillor Simms requested that a letter of thanks on behalf of the Committee be sent to the Chairman of the Association, George Morran.

SELECT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The dates of the remaining Select Committee meetings in the current municipal year were noted.

DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

The dates and venues of the remaining meetings of the Committee in the current municipal year, the next of which would be held at Lower Gornal Youth Academy on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011, were noted.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

CHAIRMAN