

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday, 30th June, 2011 at 7.00 pm
at The Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford

PRESENT: -

Councillors Mrs Billingham, D Blood, Foster, Mrs D Harley, P Harley, Ms Harris, Islam, J T Jones, Miller, Mrs Simms, Southall, Mrs Wilson and P Woodall.

Officers: -

The Director of the Urban Environment (as Area Liaison Officer), Head of Sport and Physical Activity, Manager, Executive Support Team and Group Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) (all Directorate of the Urban Environment); Assistant Director of Housing Management and Improvements and Complaints Consultant (both Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services); Area Team Leader, Early Years Youth and Education Services (Directorate of Children's Services), Senior Account Manager (Chief Executive's Directorate) and Mr T Holder, Solicitor, and Miss K Fellows (both Directorate of Corporate Resources).

together with 17 members of the public.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

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

(Councillor Southall in the Chair)

2 OPENING REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed new Members to the Committee and congratulated them upon their election.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs D Harley be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Greenaway and Mrs Jordan.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Miller declared a personal interest in Agenda Item number 14 – Highways Minor Works Capital Programme for 2011/12 – in so far as the report referred to safer routes to schools and he was a Governor of both the Glynne and Fairhaven primary schools.

Councillor Southall declared a personal interest in Agenda Item number 7 – Youth Issues - in that the presentation referred to funding that had been obtained for a football coaching project and he was a Council Member of Birmingham County Football Association.

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24th March 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed.

7 PETITIONS

The following petitions had been received since the last meeting of the Committee:-

- (1) From residents of Elgar Crescent, Russells Hall in support of the proposed Prohibition of Driving Order except for access in Elgar Crescent.
- (2) From residents of Highcroft Avenue, Wordsley in respect of continued access to Ridge Hill Woods from Highcroft Avenue.

The following petition was submitted to the meeting:-

- (3) Objecting to a planning application that was being considered by the Directorate of the Urban Environment. It was noted that the Petition had already been forwarded to the Directorate of the Urban Environment and no member commented upon the Petition at the meeting.

YOUTH ISSUES.

The Area Team Leader, Early Years, Youth and Education Services gave a verbal presentation of the youth service activities which were taking place in the Brierley Hill Area Committee area making particular reference to the following:-

The Dudley Youth Survey for 2011-2013, led by the Youth Service, with contributions from partners, including the Police, Health, DCVS, Extended Services, Connexions, Early Years was currently being compiled and analysed by Corporate Policy and Research.

It was stated that one emerging theme of interest was in structured football sessions.

It was reported that the Youth Service have been successful in obtaining funding of just under £2,000 for a football coaching project which would involve over one hundred young people from 14 to 19 years and up to 25 years for young people with disabilities and that the project would increase participation for young people with limited engagement in after school activities.

That coaching would be delivered in five areas of the borough to specific groups, and they would receive ten hours of coaching supported by the Leisure Services Department who were providing the coaches and referees.

The Source

That the Wednesday inclusion group, (4Us Project) had joined forces with the Prince's Trust in order to celebrate young people's achievements from both groups. That the twelve week Prince's Trust programme offered personal development training, helping individuals from all backgrounds and circumstances to realise their potential.

The Inclusion project provided opportunities for young people with disabilities to participate in positive activities, with support from other able bodied young people and staff.

That the Mayor of Dudley, who was present at the Awards Evening on Wednesday 20th April, 2011 had handed out certificates to young people. Fifteen young people with disabilities completed an Inclusive first aid course, fifteen completed an AQA unit award and ten had taken part in youth challenge awards. Young people attending the Princes Trust course had also successfully completed their first aid and food hygiene courses.

Nine Locks Youth Centre

Dudley Asian Women's Network had been meeting at Nine Locks Youth Centre for a year. As part of their SLA it was agreed that they would establish a young women's group for Asian girls within the Brierley Hill area and the above group had met for the first time on Saturday 25th June, 2011.

Pensnett Youth Centre

It was reported that seven young people were learning to play golf on the playing fields at Pensnett and once each month they attended Sedgley Golf range. Young people had also taken part in a six week cooking project that had explored cultures and stereotypes associated with different kinds of foods.

Kingswinford Youth Centre

It was further reported that a Youth Service youth club for Looked After Children continued to meet every Monday evening at Kingswinford Youth Centre. The leader was Mr Andrew Poole. That a mixed group of approximately twenty young people were taking part in a wide range of activities ranging from mentoring, sports activities and residential.

Detached youth work

It was stated that in response to local concerns in relation to anti social behaviour the Detached Team now ran the Dell Football project on Friday evenings, with the project attracting up to twenty young people who were working towards taking part in the Youth Service summer tournament.

It was further stated that following the success of the last Activity Day at the rear of Kingswinford Youth Centre during the Whitsun bank holiday and the Youth Service would also be taking the lead on organising three other Open Activity days at The Source, Hawbush Community Gardens and The Dell Stadium.

Holiday Activities

It was reported that the area summer programme was being finalised and a copy would be circulated to elected members.

RESOLVED

That the information reported on at the meeting be noted.

9 **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.

10 CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of persons to serve as co-opted members of the Committee for the 2011/12 municipal year.

RESOLVED

That, at this time, no co-opted members be appointed to serve on the Committee.

11 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of representatives to serve on various outside bodies for the 2011/12 municipal year.

RESOLVED

That the following Members be appointed to serve on the following bodies for the 2011/12 municipal year:-

Social Inclusion

- (a) Brierley Hill Committee for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped – Councillors Mrs Wilson and Islam with Councillor Ms Harris as a Deputy.

Community Associations

- (a) Brockmoor – Councillors Mrs Greenaway and Mrs Jordan.
- (b) Dingle – Councillors J Jones and Southall.
- (c) Fens Pool – Councillor Foster.
- (d) Hawbush – Councillors Ms Harris and Islam.
- (e) Kingswinford – Councillors P Harley and Miller.
- (f) Nine Locks – Councillors Ms Harris and Mrs Wilson.
- (g) Pensnett – Councillors Foster and Mrs Greenaway.
- (h) Wall Heath – Councillors Mrs Billingham and P Harley.
- (i) Wordsley – Councillors Mrs Simms and Southall.

12 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the reappointment of Working Groups for the 2011/12 municipal year.

In presenting the report submitted, the Area Liaison Officer referred to the procedure for dealing with urgent applications for capital allocation in between meetings, as set out in paragraph 2 of the report submitted.

The Area Liaison Officer recommended that youth issues continue to be reported upon by way of verbal presentations and briefing notes. He also undertook to provide Members with information in relation to the most appropriate ways to work with young people.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Capital Allocations Working Group be reappointed with its existing terms of reference and comprising Councillors Southall, (Chairman), Mrs P Harley, (Vice Chairman), Foster, Miller, Mrs Wilson and P Woodall.
- (2) That the Young People's Working Group be not reappointed and that the Area Liaison Officer arrange for verbal presentations and briefing notes to be submitted to future meetings of the Committee on Young People's issues.

13 PROGRESS OF ELECTED MEMBER VISITS TO ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS 2010/11

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 2010/11 and on actions taken in response to Member comments. Further nominations from the Committee were sought for Members to carry out visits to Social Care establishments during 2011/12.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the progress of elected Member visits to Adult and Children's Social Care establishments during 2010/11, be noted.

- (2) That Councillors Mrs Billingham, Mrs Greenaway, Ms Harris, Miller and Mrs Simms, be appointed as nominees of this Committee to undertake visits to Social Care establishment during 2011/12 and that any further Member who wished to undertake such visits be requested to contact Democratic Services so that their names could be forwarded to the relevant Officers.
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14 PUBLIC FORUM

Consideration was given to the following written/oral questions raised:-

- (a) A written question from a member of the public in relation to parking issues affecting Larch Road and Standhills Road, Kingswinford. The member of the public also made particular reference to the above causing visibility problems for moving traffic. The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety undertook to update the questioner in relation to the above.
- (b) A written question in relation to the provision of a crossing on Stourbridge Road, near to Cochrane Road. The questioner also spoke on this issue. The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety referred to the Highways Capital Work Programme report which he would present later in the evening, indicating that it was proposed that a refuge island would be installed in the 2011/12 pedestrian programme, although the island had not as yet been designed, he would forward to the designers recommendations that the island should be sufficient to accommodate pushchairs and those in wheelchairs.
- (c) A written question from a member of the public in relation to the provision of a bus service on Venture Way, Brierley Hill in order to provide public transport for those attending the Waterfront Surgery. The questioner also referred to a Petition in support of the above that had not as yet been submitted to the Authority.

Councillor Islam confirmed that he supported the above.

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Transportation responded stating that Officers were in consultation with CENTRO, however the provision of the service was dependant upon an Operator willing to operate the route. He undertook to contact CENTRO in order to update the questioner and would arrange to receive the Petition referred to above.

- (d) A written question from a member of the public in relation to anti social behaviour. The Area Liaison Officer undertook to forward the information to the Assistant Director of Housing Management and ensure that the police were also aware of the anti social behaviour referred to. The Assistant Director of Housing Management undertook to respond to the questioner direct.

Councillor Mrs Wilson also raised concerns with regard to anti social behaviour and in response to those concerns, the Assistant Director of Housing Management reported that in accordance with the request of the Cabinet Member for Housing a review of anti social behaviour was taking place in order that the Directorates' procedures in relation to housing would be investigated in order to speed up processes.

- (e) A member of the public raised concerns in relation to a neighbour operating a business from home which was causing a fire hazard and a nuisance. In responding the Area Liaison Officer undertook to provide the questioner and relevant Ward Councillors with the history of planning enforcement action in relation to the above.

15 HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Crossings within the Brierley Hill Area for the 2011/12 financial year. Details of proposed schemes were set out in Appendix A to the report submitted.

In presenting the report submitted the Group Engineer, Traffic and Transportation confirmed that he would refer the recommendation that the refuge island that was to be installed on the Stourbridge Road near Cochrane Road, Brierley Hill should be large enough to accommodate pushchairs and wheel chair users, to the designers of the island.

RESOLVED

That, the proposed Local Safety Schemes and Safer Routes to School Schemes and Pedestrian Crossings, as outlined in Appendix A to the report submitted, be noted.

16 MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH MARCH, 2011

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted updating the Committee on a number of issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 24th March, 2011.

Details of the matters raised at that meeting were set out in the Appendix to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

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

17 WARD ISSUES

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

18 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

The dates of future meetings of the Council's Scrutiny Committees in the current municipal year were received and noted.

19 COMMENTS OF COUNCILLOR MS HARRIS

Councillor Ms Harris requested that the possibility of holding Area Committee meetings at different venues be investigated.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED

That, subject to availability the next meeting of the Committee be held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

20 DATES OF VENUES OF FUTURE AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following dates and venues for future meetings of this Area Committee were noted:-

Thursday 10th November, 2011 (To be Confirmed)

Thursday 8th March, 2012 at the Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford;

Meetings to commence at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN