

## **NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005, at 6.30 p.m.  
at Wallbrook Primary School, off Bradley's Lane, Coseley

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs Ameson (Chairman)  
Councillors Caunt, G H Davies, Evans, Fraser-Macnamara, Mrs  
Millward, Mottram, Mrs Ridley, Ryder, Simms, Stanley and Wright

### **Officers**

The Director of Children's Services (as Area Liaison Officer), Assistant  
Director of the Urban Environment (Culture and Community Services),  
Assistant Director of Law and Property (Legal and Democratic  
Services), the Senior Engineer, Directorate of the Urban Environment  
and Mrs Holland (Directorate of Law and Property),

Also in attendance was Inspector Bailey of West Midlands Police

Approximately 40 members of the public were in attendance.

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### **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup>  
September 2005, be approved as a correct record and signed,  
subject to Councillor D Simms being added to the list of those  
present at the meeting.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mrs Ameson, Caunt, Evans, Fraser-Macnamara, Mrs  
Millward, Ryder, Simms, Stanley Wright Davies, Mottram and Mrs  
Ridley, declared a Personal Interest in agenda item 8 (Delegated  
Capital Allocations) – application from Woodsetton Wolves Football  
Club in view of the fact that the applicant was known personally to  
them.

Councillor Stanley declared a Personal Interest in agenda item 8 –  
application from Friends of the Environment Zone, in view of the fact  
that he is a governor of Roberts Primary School.

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37                    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Mr D Round, Co-opted Member.

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38                    PETITIONS

A Petition was submitted asking for the painting of double yellow lines at the bottom of Avington Close, Sedgley, to be completed. The Petition was referred to the Director of the Urban Environment for attention.

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39                    YOUTH ISSUES

There were no issues that Members or the public wished to raise.

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40                    POLICE ISSUES

There were no issues that the police or members of the public wished to raise.

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41                    PUBLIC FORUM

1.            Questions were raised regarding the proposed relocation of Coseley Archives to Summerhill School, Kingswinford.

In response, the Area Liaison Officer informed the questioners that agreement to transfer the Archives to Summerhill School had already been reached after due process that included the item being “called-in” for scrutiny.

The Area Liaison Officer stated that he had not heard from Ian Austin, MP, regarding a date to visit Coseley Archives.

Further comments were made as follows;

Councillor Millward pointed out that the Kingswinford site was more central than Coseley; Councillor Simms stated that the advantages of relocating the Archives outweighed the disadvantages because the service would be fully computerised and it would also ensure that important artefacts would be protected; Councillor Evans stated that the current Archive building was suffering from damp.

Councillor Mrs Ridney pointed out the public transport links to Coseley that included a local railway station and bus service.

Further questions were raised regarding the advice given by Councillor Caunt at a previous Area Committee with regard to a Business Plan and on the compilation of a feasibility study in respect of retaining the Archives in Coseley. Concerns were raised regarding the shortage of time to put such a plan into action to save the Archives.

In response the Area Liaison Officer stated that there had been no capital outlay on the Coseley Archive building but Revenue monies had been spent. He confirmed that the land would be sold after the Archives had moved to 'C' block.

2. A question was raised with regard to the closure of Coseley Estate Office. In response Councillor Evans responded that health and safety issues had been considered when the closure was agreed.
3. A question was raised regarding the completion of the installation of double yellow lines at the bottom of Avington Close, Sedgley. Mr Butler, Senior Engineer, Directorate of the Urban Environment responded that the matter was already in hand.
4. A question was raised regarding the lack of Council money invested in Coseley Baths and asking whether the Council intended to close them.

In response Councillor Fraser Macnamara and Councillor Caunt stated that the Council had no intention of closing Coseley Baths. Councillor Davies informed the meeting that a consignment of new lockers had been delivered. A further consignment was due to be delivered next month and it was planned to carry out re-wiring.

5. A question was raised with regard to an empty house that was falling into disrepair in Bradleys Lane and asking whether the Council could take action to prevent it becoming further deteriorated; the issue would be referred to Housing Services.
6. A question was raised with regard to the lack of sports facilities and other activities for young people on new housing estates and whether developers were responsible for providing facilities.

In response Councillor Fraser Macnamara explained the current Section 106 rules.

7. A question was raised with regard to salt and grit bins placed at roadsides for use during icy weather and asking whether one could be placed in Kettles Bank Road, Gornal Wood.

In response, Mr Butler asked the questioner to request a bin by contacting Dudley Council Plus.

8. Questions were raised regarding the Primary School Review, in response to which the Chairman pointed out that a meeting of the North Dudley Area Committee would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005, in the Dormston Sports Hall commencing at 6.30 pm, to discuss the issue of the Review. The Area Liaison Officer confirmed that none of the schools in the Dudley Borough was subject to special measures imposed by OFSTED.

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### DELEGATED CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications received for funding from the capital budget allocation of the Committee.

Following discussion by the Committee, it was

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the application received from Access in Dudley in the sum of £1,541.65 to purchase a laptop computer and ancillary items, be deferred to await submission of further details.
- (b) That approval be given to a partial allocation in the sum of £4,500 in respect of an application received from Friends of the Environment Zone, for the purchase and installation of a Proven 6kW wind turbine on a 9m mast.
- (c) That the application received from Coseley Youth Centre to erect a fence between the Youth Centre and neighbouring houses to reduce the nuisance to local residents, be approved in the sum of £1,452.37.
- (d) That the application received from Woodsetton Wolves Football Club for £800 towards the cost of two new football strips, be not approved, as the Committee considered the application did not meet the criteria laid down in the Guidance issued by the Council.

- (e) That approval be given to a partial allocation in the sum of £2,500 arising from the application received from Housing Services and Neighbourhood Management working with local residents of the The Oval and Tudor Managed Neighbourhood, for improvement to barriers to Tenacre Lane fields, fencing to low walls along Tudor Road and six barrier hoops to the alley in Tudor Road.

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APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF LAND AND PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COUNCIL

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted regarding land and property within the Committee's area.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Cabinet Member for Housing be recommended to refuse the application to dispose of part of the site, 45/51 Old Meeting Road, Coseley, for residential development as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted for the reasons indicated in the report submitted.
- (b) That the Cabinet Member for Housing be recommended to refuse the application from the owner of shop premises to purchase an area of Council owned land adjacent to 34/36 Poole Crescent, Coseley, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted, for the reasons indicated in the report submitted.
- (c) That the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Cabinet Member for Transportation, be recommended to refuse the application to purchase land at the Dormston Youth Centre and the adjacent vacant land, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted, for the reason indicated in the report submitted.

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RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the current status of responses to questions posed at previous meetings of the Committee.

Mr D Lowndes, Assistant Director (Culture and Leisure) Directorate of the Urban Environment, reported on progress of the raising of funds for restoring the Beacon Tower.

In response, Councillor Mottram thanked Mr Lowndes for his assistance and also the assistance had given give with regard to Penwood Gardens.

Councillor Millward raised the issue of anti social behaviour in and around an area of the Darby and Joan Club in Gornal Wood and asked that the Council explore the possibility of land adjacent to the Club being turned into a car park for use by members of the public.

In response Mr Lowndes stated that he would submit a report to the meeting of the Area Committee to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report and the appendix to the report as now reported, be noted.

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CARE HOMES

The Assistant Director Law and Property, gave a comprehensive update with regard to the position of private care homes in the Borough, with particular reference to Greencorns and Pear Tree Lane. He reported that Greencorns intended to sell all their properties in the Borough and that this was as a result of a great deal of work on the part of Members, Officers and the general public. A representative of the public thanked Members and Officers of the Committee for their assistance with regard to 29 Pear Tree Lane.

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WARD ISSUES

1. Councillor Mrs Ridney raised the issue of the vandalism being perpetrated in the gully in Clayton Road that had been reported by local residents.

In response Inspector Bailey stated that the police work closely with other parties in an effort to resolve issues of this nature and informed Members that they could E mail her with regard to any complaints they receive. She further reported that the police had held meetings with Head teachers on ways to tackle anti social behaviour, but pointed out that there were varying degrees of anti social behaviour. She further reported that the police had held a meeting to discuss the deployment of police manpower to deal with anti social behaviour.

The Chairman stated that councillors and police should work together with regard to the anti social behaviour issue.

2. Councillor Davies raised the issue of traffic problems being experienced in Upper Ettingshall Road and asked Mr Butler to investigate. He pointed out that there may be some "cross border" issues, as part of Upper Ettingshall Road lay within an adjacent Borough.

3. Councillor Mrs Ridney raised the issue of the closure of Roseville Post Office and the long queues the closure had caused in other Post Offices in the area that had badly affected the quality of life of senior citizens living in the area.
4. Councillor Mrs Millward raised the issue of the use of download of information from Sherpa cameras and had asked the police whether the information could be downloaded on to a laptop. She commented that the system would be useful in some of the local parks.
5. Councillor Mrs Millward raised the issue of floral tributes at crematoriums and of the public being allowed to leave floral tributes for a longer period than twenty four hours over the Christmas period.

In response Councillor Fraser Macnamara stated that the request could definitely be accommodated.

6. Councillor Stanley raised the issue of the reinstatement of Stickley Lane and the junction of Holloway Lane and Ruiton Street and vehicles exiting Ruiton Street into Stickley Lane, having to mount the pavement and it was causing a road safety hazard to local school children.

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#### FUTURE DATES AND VENUES OF MEETINGS

It was noted that future meetings of the Committee would be held on the dates shown at the venues indicated:

Queen Victoria Primary School – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006  
Straits Primary School – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN