
Halesowen Area Committee – 3rd July 2007

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions Raised at the Halesowen Area Committee held on 14th March 2007

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 14th March 2007, questions were raised under the Public Forum item and the responses to those questions are as follows:-
3. Local residents had raised issues in relation to upgrading and adopting Foredraft Street. A residents meeting has taken place with local members and officers. The Council, through the Regeneration Plan for Cradley, will look towards a local development opportunity to help fund the necessary works.
4. A resident expressed concern about fencing that was giving way on land that belonged to the Council. There were also asbestos sheets that had caused his garden to deteriorate. The Head of Policy (Executive and Support) has investigated the issue and visited the property. Advice has been given in respect of insurance claims and the issue of asbestos is being addressed.
5. A resident reported on problems being experienced at the Colley Gate junction caused by the positioning of the yellow box leading to confusion and hence blocking traffic and causing accidents. He further pointed out that it was difficult to get out of his property due to the road being blocked by traffic, including buses. The Head of Policy (Executive and Support) has investigated the matter and established that the bus lay-by outside No. 116 Colley Gate has recently been filled in as part of the A458 Bus Showcase improvements to improve both bus operation and the public waiting area. In the past some traffic would have been able to pass the stopping bus by partially crossing into the on coming lane, however, this practice has now been substantially reduced by the new layout. The hatching within the junction of Colley Lane and Colley Gate has recently been repainted as part of a local safety improvement. This would have reinforced the message to drivers, the hatching having been previously well worn. The combination of these measures may have marginally reduced the capacity of the route although it is unlikely to be measurable outside the normal daily variations of traffic demand. The overall benefits to public safety should, however, outweigh this marginal reduction in capacity.
6. A local resident has applied to the Council to purchase land to the rear of 28-54 Windmill Hill, which would form part of the development opportunity referred to previously. The

request has also been refused previously. Accordingly, members are requested to refuse this request.

Finance

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

Law

8. 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

9. The report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and whilst, there are no direct implications for children and young people in noting the report, any decision made by the relevant body in relation to the closure of Cradley Hill School will impact on those groups.
10. This report will have no specific effect on children and young people. There is no requirement for consultation with children and young people or the involvement of children and young people in noting the report.

Recommendation

11. That the Committee note the contents of the report.
12. That the Committee advise the Cabinet Member for Transportation to refuse the application to purchase land at the rear of 28-54 Windmill Hill, Halesowen.



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List of Background Papers

Minutes – 14th March 2007