

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 30th SEPTEMBER, 2010

REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 1st July, 2010, Brierley Hill Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Council.

BACKGROUND

2. The Council provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to a range of services. 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, a progress report is attached.

FINANCE

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

LAW

6. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are largely governed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
7. Provisions relating to Highways including trees thereon are contained in the Highways Act 1980.
8. Provisions relating to the Council's Housing stock are contained in the Housing Act 1985.

9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas 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.
12. 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.
13. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 allows the Council to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area.

EQUALITY IMPACT

13. This report is consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity policy. There is no direct effect on children or young people.

RECOMMENDATION

14. The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.



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Brierley Hill Area Committee Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers - See progress report attached

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 1ST JULY 2010

PETITIONS

ISSUE (Minute 11): link to Minute 14 g Public Forum

Councillor J Jones submitted a petition on behalf of residents against the Council's decision to stop cutting the grass bank at the foot of Rectory Fields Estate in High Street, Wordsley and request the ruling to be superseded and reinstated.

Note: This issue was also raised during the Public Forum item on the agenda.

RESPONSE:

The Area Liaison Officer informed the Cabinet Member for Transportation of the comments and concerns expressed during the meeting and reported back to the Ward Members concerned so that their constituents were informed.

In accordance with Council procedures, the first named petitioner was written to.

HAWBUSH COMMUNITY GARDEN

ISSUE (Minute13):

Arising from the presentation given, Members commented on the project with particular reference to the involvement of the local community and schools with the project and in relation to the purposes for which funding obtained had been used. A breakdown between the costs of actually providing the infrastructure as against costs of officer time and professional fees was requested. In response the Area Community Renewal Officer indicated that as the funding was sourced from external circumstances he would attempt to obtain as detailed a breakdown as possible.

RESPONSE:

The Area Community Renewal Officer wrote to the respective Members outlining the funding arrangements as requested.

PUBLIC FORUM

ISSUE (Minute 14 b):

A question was raised in relation to parking issues affecting the Poets Corner Estate with particular reference to Byron Street and adjoining streets including the parking by motorists on double yellow lines.

In connection with this item, a letter was also submitted by a resident of Byron Street regarding parking issues.

RESPONSE:

Parking Enforcement Officers visit the locations at various times of the day on a regular basis. During the two months June and July, the 'Pagebet' location was visited on 22 occasions. Vehicle details were logged accordingly and where enforcement action was appropriate the vehicles were driven away before tickets could be issued.

The location continues to be monitored regularly.

Double yellow lines have recently been put down in Byron Street, Milton Street and Tennyson Street. Regular monitoring is undertaken by Parking Enforcement Officers and fixed penalty notices have been issued where considered necessary.

ISSUE (Minute 14 c):

The issue of pot holes was raised and following receipt of a list of their location, arrangements would be made for the matter to be investigated. In connection with the question raised, the questioner also referred to a number of cones/railings that had been left by workmen approximately six weeks ago.

A Member also commented on the issue of pot holes and following the comments made the Area Liaison Officer undertook to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the issue of pot holes and how the Council were dealing with the matter.

RESPONSE:

Upon receipt of details, highway inspectors visited the locations resulting in the works being carried out at the following sites:

- *Elgar Crescent and Vicarage Lane – works completed.*
- *Milton Street and Tennyson Street – road surface made safe as a temporary measure prior to the Gas Board undertaking utilities works.*

Both roads are included in the planned resurfacing programme. Two reinstatements outside Charlie's Fish and Chip Shop in the High Street have also been done.

A report will be submitted on the issue of potholes for consideration by Area Committee in December.

ISSUE (Minute 14 d):

A question was raised on the issue of flooding with particular reference to such problems in the Pensnett area in particular Hollies Street.

RESPONSE:

A site inspection after heavy rainfall noted no evidence of any obvious localised 'ponding'. All highway gullies in the street are working within their expected capacity.

ISSUE (Minute 14 e):

The issue of people putting out their own cones in High Street, Pensnett was raised.

RESPONSE:

In response to the point raised, the matter was reported and the cones removed.

ISSUE (Minute 14 g): link to Minute 11 Petitions

A number of questioners commented on the condition of the grass bank at the foot of the Rectory Fields Estate in High Street, Wordsley, the subject of a petition referred to earlier in the meeting. Questioners expressed their concerns at the eye sore that the bank had become in that it was considered to be dangerous and contained rubbish including a 'Wordsley in the Park' sign in the undergrowth.

RESPONSE:

As minuted, the Area Liaison Officer informed the Cabinet Member for Transportation of the comments and concerns expressed during the meeting and reported back to the Ward Members concerned so that their constituents were informed. All items of rubbish, including the sign were removed the following day.

HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11

ISSUE (Minute 16 a):

Councillor Ms Harris requested that consideration be given to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit throughout the Hawbush Road estate as it was considered that the current 30mph limit, apart from the bend in the road, was too fast.

RESPONSE:

The following proactive measures are proposed:

1) The Hawbush Estate is added to the list of sites to be assessed later in the year for possible inclusion in a future programme of works that will enable traffic engineers to review the position in order to identify any changes in the current position and to potentially identify any individual streets that may have particular problems.

2) Arrange for temporary 'Kill Your Speed' signs to be erected as a reminder to motorists of the prevailing speed limit although I do realize that this is currently 30mph and not the 20mph you have suggested.

ISSUE (Minute 16 b):

Councillor Ms Harris also requested that in view of the new traffic flows in relation to High Street, Brierley Hill, there were particular concerns for pedestrian safety in that section of High Street in relation to Moor Street, Mill Street and Little Cottage Street and she requested that the position be looked in to.

RESPONSE:

Pedestrian phases are to be incorporated within the traffic signal installation at this location. Works are currently being progressed and should be completed at the beginning of October. In addition, the three pedestrian crossings in High Street, Brierley Hill are also to be upgraded. Two of these sites are located between the Bank Street/Level Street and the Moor Street/Mill Street junctions whereas the third is to the south of the Moor Street/ Mill Street junction.

ISSUE (Minute 16 c):

In commenting on the safer routes to school proposal in respect of Bromley and Pensnett Primary school, Councillor Foster referred to concerns in respect of the footway link which gave rise to problems of anti-social behaviour. She indicated that she had contacted an officer regarding the possibility of the installation of an alley gate.

RESPONSE:

The process for considering Gating Orders is a legal process that initially depends on data being provided by the Police.

In this respect, the Council's Public Rights of Way Officer has already written to the Police on this subject and will provide Councillor Foster and the other Ward Members with direct updates to ensure the matter is progressed accordingly.

MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
25TH MARCH 2010

ISSUE (Minute18 d):

In relation to the collapsed boundary wall at King George V Park, the Area Liaison Officer reported that tenders for the work had been sent out today for return in two weeks time. Following their return Ward Members would be informed of the position. It was also hoped that works would start in approximately six weeks time following receipt of tenders.

RESPONSE:

Dudley Property Consultancy's Surveyor has given a date of w/c 13th September for a start by the reclamation contractor who has been allowed a week to take down the wall and carry out some minor brickwork repairs below ground, with the fencing starting the following week. Overall duration of the contract is four weeks, giving a completion of 8th October.

ISSUE (Minute18 e):

In respect of traffic issues raised by Councillor Mrs Jordan it was reported that the situation in High Street, Brockmoor had not improved and in view of this the Area Liaison Officer would arrange for further consideration to be given to the matters raised.

RESPONSE:

An additional sign giving warning that the road ahead is 'No Through Road' has been erected in advance of the traffic signals at the junction of High Street with Hickman Road and Station Road.

WARD ISSUES

ISSUE (Minute 19.1):

Further to the issues raised by Councillor Mrs Jordan in respect of the LIFT Healthcare Project and in respect of traffic management proposals she also requested that given the concerns raised in respect of High Oak and Tansy Green Road the matter be looked into. The Area Liaison Officer undertook to take the concerns raised into consideration

RESPONSE:

The LIFT project is at an early stage but as proposals become more fully developed, a Traffic Impact Assessment will consider highway infrastructure improvements on the adjoining and nearby roads.

ISSUE (Minute 19.2):

Councillor Islam requested that the deep pot holes at the front of 3d Addison Road be investigated.

RESPONSE:

Work undertaken as requested

ENDS