

## **Public Forum**

The Business owners of 'the Arcade' Kent Street, raised their concerns to the Committee regarding the following:-

1. General uncleanliness of the area and calling for the use of the pavement sweeper - **the Housing Manager has requested a basic litter pick on a more regular basis. Highways manage the area to the front of the shops and therefore have sanction over where and when the pavement sweeper is used.**
2. Improvement to the flower beds – **complaint has been passed to highways for action.**
3. Service road and pathways – **funding has been approved from Community Safety budget to carry out repairs to the pot holes/resurfacing.**
4. A request for paintwork to be refreshed on buildings – **There is now a painting programme covering the whole Borough, however, the only information available is that the Arcade should be done relatively early in the five/six year programme.**
5. The issue of poor lighting in the arcade was raised and the Committee were asked to consider the installation of CCTV – **Highways have confirmed that they have now completed the problem with the lights at the front of the Arcade. Housing have only recently been made aware of the problems at the back and this has now been logged for attention. As regards CCTV there are huge budget implications as well as maintenance of such equipment and monitoring cameras. This could be an issue for Community Safety to consider.**
6. Gates being fitted at the bottom of the stairs – **all residents were written to for their views. The only responses were negative. The issue has been referred back to Community Safety.**
7. Also reported anti-social behaviour and groups of youths congregating in the evening - **If these can be identified then action can be taken by Housing/Private Sector. Nuisance should also be reported to the Police as all information logged may have influence on any dispersal orders approved in the future.**
8. Corner Shop – **Housing do not have powers to deal with this issue.**

A question was raised by a member of the public regarding the reasons behind the lopping of two oak trees in Tennyson Road, Sedgley and the felling

of a further tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order. – **Copy of correspondence passed to Development Control for reply.**

There was a written question from a member of the public requesting when the signage relating to the Heavy Goods Vehicle curfew during the hours of darkness imposed on Bradleys Lane, would be erected. **The decision sheet has been signed and the weight restriction order is being progressed. An implementation date of 19.7.05 has been established.**

A question was submitted from a member of the public regarding the problems with regard to traffic and parked cars in Bradleys Lane. **Traffic Section have written to the member of the public concerned.**

### **Ward Issues**

Councillor Evans called for Priory Lane to be opened to traffic as members of the public were unable to access Vicar Street and were using The Priory as an alternative route to the detriment of pedestrian safety. – **Priory Lane was severed to through traffic several years ago as part of the development at the Ladies Walk Health Centre. There was also a road traffic regulation order prohibiting vehicular traffic except for access along that part of The Priory behind Neville House. It is not considered to be in the interests of public safety for Priory Lane to be opened to through traffic due to the large numbers of vehicles that would use this route to avoid the congestion at peak times in Sedgley town centre. The regular Police enforcement of the prohibition of driving except for access traffic regulation order at the rear of Neville House would deter local drivers from using this route.**

Councillor Wright called for decent street lighting throughout Gornal and noted the improvements to lighting in Roberts Street; he requested CCTV to be extended into Church Street, Temple Street, Zoar Street, Abbey Street, Louise Street and Bull Street in order to combat anti-social behaviour and crime – **The lighting upgrade is in Church Street and the remaining roadways may be upgraded in the same manner. However, there are no plans at present to include this into this years' works programme. There is an issue relating to the proposed introduction of CCTV facilities, in that, in order for this to operate effectively, lighting levels must be of the correct levels and a complete redesign of the lighting in the roadways is probable, the cost and details of which can only be assessed upon a detailed design being produced.**

Councillor Mrs Millward raised the issue of vehicles being driven from Hopyard Lane into Himley Road, contrary to the prohibition of driving order currently in place. **In response an officer from the traffic section stated that additional bollards were required in Hopyard Lane at the junction with Himley Road. Recent developments that have taken place either side at the top end of the lane have replaced the bushy hedges with fences thereby increasing the width of the Lane. Cars have been driven**

**past the single bollard which is now insufficient due to the increased width of the lane.**

Councillor Evans expressed his concern with regard to the situation regarding the provision of a car park in Lower Gornal to permit the introduction of the 'on street waiting' restrictions and installation of the signage. **A verbal update will be given at the meeting.**