

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29th March, 2007 at 7.00 p.m.
at The Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Wilson (Chairman)
Councillor Tyler (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Blood, Ms Boleyn, Burt, Ms Foster, Harley, Ms Harris, Islam, Miller, Nottingham, Southall and Tomkinson.

Officers

Director of the Urban Environment, (Area Liaison Officer), Assistant Director (Economic Regeneration), Manager of Executive Support Team, Principal Recreation Officer, Principal Planning Officer (Policy) and Environmental Protection Manager, (all Directorate of the Urban Environment), Principal Solicitor and Ms K Smith (both Directorate of Law and Property)

In Attendance

Mr M Mason (Brierley Hill Community Forum), a representative from West Midlands Police, together with twelve members of the public.

69

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Jordan and Mrs Pearce.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

On behalf of Councillor Mrs Wilson and himself, Councillor Southall declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of item numbers 8a, b. and c on the agenda (Land issues), in view of their membership of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Mrs Wilson declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item number 13 (Matters raised at Brierley Hill Area Committee, 1st February 2007, Chapel Street flats), in view of her being a resident.

Councillor Miller declared a prejudicial interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item numbers 8a and 8b (Land at Audnam Centre and Audnam Road), in view of his being the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services.

Councillor Ms Harris declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item number 8c (Land at Cottage Street), in view of her chairmanship of Dudley Primary Care Trust.

71 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

The receipt of letters submitted to the Chairman in relation to security measures necessary at Chapel Street flats was reported by the Area Liaison Officer. The letters were referred for consideration under agenda item no 13 (Matters raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 1st February, 2007).

72 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1st February 2007, be approved as a correct record and signed.

73 YOUTH ISSUES

No issues were reported under this item.

74 PUBLIC FORUM

Several queries in relation to the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan, were raised by a member of the public and responded to under agenda item 9 on the agenda.

75 CHAIRMANSHIP

At this juncture, in view of the declarations of interest made by Councillor Southall on behalf of the members of the Development Control Committee in attendance at the meeting, Councillor Mrs Wilson vacated the Chair and the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Tyler, assumed the Chair.

76 LAND ISSUES

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on applications received in respect of land and property owned by the Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services be recommended to declare the land at Audnam Centre, Audnam, Stourbridge, as indicated on the plan attached to the report submitted, surplus to requirements for disposal on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services be recommended to declare the land adjoining 47 Audnam, Stourbridge, as indicated on the plan attached to the report submitted, surplus to requirements for disposal on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
- (3) That the Committee note the decision to sell the land at Cottage Street, Brierley Hill, as indicated on the plan attached to the report submitted, to Stourbridge College, following the presentation made to members, and the progress made to date, as set out in the report now submitted.

77

CHAIRMANSHIP

Councillor Mrs Wilson reassumed the Chair at this juncture.

78

BRIERLEY HILL AREA ACTION PLAN

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the preparation and progress of the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan, which aimed to recognise Brierley Hill as a new strategic centre. The Action Plan which would take about three years to prepare contained a vision for the future of Brierley Hill and its regeneration including integration of the High Street, Merry Hill and the Waterfont; up at least until 2021.

The Black Country Study and the documents produced by the Brierley Hill Regeneration Partnership would inform the preparation of the Area Action Plan. Consultation had been undertaken with key stakeholders and public consultation would continue throughout the various stages of the process. It was stated that publicity to raise awareness of the Plan would be high profile and all means of communication would be accessible to members of the public for their comments. It was anticipated that the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan would be adopted in 2009.

The issues raised by the public in the public forum were responded to by the Principal Planning Officer (Policy) at this juncture.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report submitted on the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan be noted.

79

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE JOINT CORE STRATEGY FOR THE BLACK COUNTRY

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the preparation and progress of the Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country including the local consultation events undertaken in Dudley Borough.

In presenting the report the Principal Planning Officer (Policy) advised that following consultation at the end of March 2007, the resultant options would be further consulted on during July 2007.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report submitted, on public consultation on the Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country, be noted.

80

BOROUGH WIDE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA FOR DUDLEY

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on a proposal to declare the whole of Dudley Borough an Air Quality Management Area, (AQMA).

The proposals for a whole Borough AQMA had been supported by the Select Committee on the Environment and the Corporate Board, whom had approved consultation through the Area Committees before the submission of a report to Cabinet in July 2007.

RESOLVED

That the proposals for a whole Borough Air Quality Management Area for Dudley, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report submitted, be supported.

81

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications for funding from the Capital Allocations budget.

The Working Group had also put forward proposals for consideration by the Area Committee in relation to clarifying the criteria under which applications for funding were to be considered for 2007/08. These proposals included, limiting the amount of the bid; discouraging multi applications, applications to include VAT, equipment where provided to be available for use by other groups and a timescale of nine months to be imposed in which groups had to spend allocated monies.

RESOLVED

- (1) That an application submitted on behalf of Kinky Hair Media Ltd for £2,400 to purchase a computer, printer and camera be refused owing to tenancy agreement issues.
- (2) That an application submitted on behalf of the Church of God of Prophecy for £1,290 for essential building works to improve the centre for community use be approved.
- (3) That an application submitted on behalf of Wordsley Festival for £4,700 to purchase a transportation trailer, storage container, festival banners and hoardings be refused; as members have concerns with this being a multiple application and on the storage of and use by other members of the public of equipment previously funded by the Committee.
- (4) That an application submitted on behalf of the Brierley Hill Project for £5,500 to develop two new kitchen areas within the new community centre be approved, subject to reports on actual actions and outcomes being reported back to the Capital Allocations working group.
- (5) That the proposed amendments to the Capital Allocation criteria for 2007/08, as submitted by the Working Group, be approved.

82

CHAIRMANSHIP

At this juncture, in view of the declarations of interest made by her, Councillor Mrs Wilson vacated the Chair and the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Tyler, assumed the Chair.

83

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2007

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 1st February 2007, which related to services provided by the Council.

In relation to the petition received with regard to Chapel Street flats, Brierley Hill, and the letters referred to in minute 71 above, it was confirmed that CCTV cameras, funded from the Brierley Hill Housing Forum Community Safety Budget, would now be installed at the flats.

In relation to parking issues, Councillor Ms Harris, confirmed that the Fire Service, in checking fire hydrants, had the authority to remove obstructive vehicles and would continue to do so where necessary.

Councillor Harley confirmed that he had been advised of the reasons for which an application for the tenancy of a shop in Beech Road, Kingswinford, for a bakery had been refused.

RESOLVED

That the report, and the additional issues referred to above be noted.

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CHAIRMANSHIP

Councillor Mrs Wilson reassumed the Chair at this juncture.

85

WARD MEMBER ISSUES

Members raised the following issues:-

- (1) Councillor Tomkinson drew attention to the issue of traffic lights at Pensnett Road and traffic at the junction of Bryce Road. The matter was referred to the Director of the Urban Environment who agreed to make a written response.
- (2) Councillor Ms Harris drew attention to litter and fly tipping problems on land at Addison Road, Hawbush Road, Cooper Avenue and Swan Lane. It was agreed that the Director of the Urban Environment would arrange a clean up of the areas and that the enforcement officers would undertake investigations as to tracing the culprits.

86

CHAIRMAN'S THANKS

In reporting that Councillor Burt was not to stand as a Councillor for Dudley at the forthcoming elections, the Chairman on behalf of the Committee thanked him for his services to the Committee and wished him well in his new endeavours.

87

NEXT MEETING

It was noted that future dates of meetings of the Brierley Hill Area Committee would be determined at the Annual Council Meeting

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm

CHAIRMAN