

NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday 15th June 2011 at 6.30pm
at the Coseley School, Henne Drive,
Coseley

PRESENT:-

Councillors Mrs. Ameson, A. Aston, Caunt, G H Davies, Evans, Mottram, Mrs
Ridney, Ryder, Stanley, S Turner and Mrs Westwood

Officers

The Director of Corporate Resources (as Area Liaison Officer); Assistant
Director, Culture and Leisure and the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road
Safety (Directorate of the Urban Environment); Assistant Director, Older
People and Physical Disabilities (Directorate of Adult, Community and
Housing Services); Mr M Khan-Youth Worker – (Directorate of Children's
Services) and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in Attendance

Inspector R. Jones (West Midlands Police), Representatives from West
Midlands Fire Service and eleven members of the public.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Caunt be elected Chairman of the Committee for the
ensuing Municipal Year.

(Councillor Caunt thereupon took the chair)

2 OPENING REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and made particular
reference to the fact that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Borough
(Councillors Evans and Mrs Ameson) in this particular Municipal Year were
members of the Committee. Councillor Caunt also welcomed the two newly
elected members of the Committee, Councillors A Aston and S Turner.

3 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of
Councillor Wright.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Caunt and Mrs Westwood both declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 19-Highways Minor Capital Works Programme for 2011/2012 - in so far as it relates to the road in which they live.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed

6 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ryder be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

7 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROTOCOL FOR AREA COMMITTEES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted setting out the Terms of Reference and Protocol for Area Committees.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the Terms of Reference and Protocol for Area Committees, be noted.

8 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the co-option of persons to serve on the Committee for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

During the consideration of this matter it was noted that paragraph 5 of the report submitted stated that the Dudley Youth Forum had now nominated a Miss Danielle Lewis to be the co-opted member to represent young people on the Committee.

RESOLVED

That Miss Danielle Lewis be appointed as the co-opted member for North Dudley Area Committee for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year, representing young people in the North of the Borough.

9 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of working groups for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

Only the Capital Allocations Working Group was suggested for re-appointment.

RESOLVED

That the North Dudley Area Committee Capital Allocations Working Group be re-appointed for the ensuing Municipal Year with its existing Terms of Reference and that the Working Group comprise the Chairman and Vice Chairman and Councillors Mrs Ameson, Mrs Ridney and Stanley.

10 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the nomination of members of the Committee to serve on outside bodies in the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the bodies indicated for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year:-

<u>Strong Communities</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre - Councillors Stanley and Wright	Annual
<u>Community Associations</u>	
Sedgley and District - Councillor Evans	Annual
Upper Gornal Voluntary Recreation Association - Councillor Ryder	Annual
Hurst Hill - Councillor G.H. Davies	Annual
Rainbow (Coseley) - Councillor Mrs. Ridney	Annual

PETITIONS

A petition was submitted at the meeting by Councillor Mottram from local residents opposing the siting of a new bus stop in Fountain Lane, Coseley, opposite numbers 6 and 8 Fountain Lane, by Centro for bus services 544 and 582.

One of the petitioners present at the meeting addressed the Committee in respect of the petition submitted and comments made were supported by local ward Councillors.

RESOLVED

That the petition received regarding the new bus stop in Fountain Lane, Coseley be referred to the Group Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) for onward submission to Centro and that the representative of Centro attending this Committee also be sent a copy of the petition.

YOUTH MATTERS

A report prepared by the Area Youth Worker was circulated to members of the Committee and presented by Mr M Khan of the Youth Service present at the meeting. A copy of the report would be included on the Council's Committee Management Information System.

Arising from the presentation of the report submitted the Chairman requested that in future actual attendance figures be given for events reported upon. Mr Khan undertook to see that this was done.

Arising from comments made by a member of the public regarding the opening times of the Coseley Youth Centre, it was noted that the centre was not open on a Monday or Friday due to staffing issues and that to try and overcome these a request had been made for volunteers to attend on those nights.

Arising from this a representative of West Midlands Fire Service indicated that the Police and Fire Services may be able to assist in this regard and she undertook to speak to the relevant persons following the meeting about this.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on Youth matters be noted.

POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Richard Jones updated the Committee on a number of Police issues including the work that was ongoing regarding metal theft which appear to be particularly prevalent in the North of the Borough at the moment.

Inspector Jones also reported that two experienced Police Constables had joined Sedgley Police Station in the last few weeks. He also commented on additions to the force in respect of Special Constables and the work that the six Special Constables were carrying out.

Following the presentation given members made a number of comments and in particular welcomed the information given regarding additions to police numbers.

RESOLVED

That the information reported on be noted.

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FIRE ISSUES

Current activities involving the fire service were reported on including activities to combat arson in particular arson relating to rubbish which for a number of reasons had increased during April.

Reference was also made to the School quiz held by the Fire Service and that St Chad's school had won the area semi-finals and would be appearing in the finals to be held in due course.

Arising from the comments made, tribute was paid to the work of the Fire Service relating to community involvement and the Mayor in particular reported that he had attended the semi-final and would be attending the final.

RESOLVED

That the information reported on at the meeting on fire issues be noted.

15

TRANSPORT ISSUES

It was reported that the representative from Centro was unable to attend this meeting of the Committee.

No particular transport issues were raised at this juncture.

16

PUBLIC FORUM

- (1) A member of the public referred to press reports concerning land in Peartree Lane and whether it had been sold and, if so, for what purpose. In response it was reported that the land had not been sold and that when arrangements were to be made to sell the land Ward Members would be consulted. It was therefore reiterated that currently the land was retained by the Council.
- (2) A member of the public raised a number of questions regarding the relocation of the Dudley Archives. Particular issues raised were:-
 - (a) Whether Sandwell Borough Council would continue to contribute to the costs of building the archives;
 - (b) What would be the total cost now, including provision for land, buildings and any interest payable on loans used, to fund the project in respect of the archives so that the total cost to the Council tax payer could be identified; and
 - (c) What would be the value of the Mount Pleasant site, the current location for the archives, when the archives were moved.

The Area Liaison Officer (as Director of Corporate Resources) undertook to respond direct to the questioner.

The Chairman indicated that in respect of point (b) the costs identified in respect of the site had fallen by approximately £2 million given the slightly different location that was now to be used for the archives. The Chairman also reported that Sandwell Borough Council were continuing to contribute to the costs of the project.

- (3) A member of the public asked what action was being considered to address the problem of car parking near to Coseley Railway Station affecting Gough Road and neighbouring streets.

In responding to the question raised the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety referred to the visit made to the area and to proposals concerning the imposition of double yellow lines which it was hoped to be introduced with other streets in the north of the borough in the current financial year.

Arising from the comments made a member of the public indicated that there was a need for another car park to provide a long term solution to this problem. Mention had however been made that Centro were not willing to acquire more land for use as car parking for the Station.

- (4) Reference was made to a planning application to be considered by the Council's Development Control Committee at a meeting to be held on Monday 20th June, 2011, in respect of the former landfill site at Bourne Street, Coseley. Residential development (outline) was proposed for the site with a recommendation that the application be approved.

It was noted that this Area Committee had previously recommended that the land not be developed and following consideration of this matter it was:-

RESOLVED

That the Development Control Committee at its meeting to be held on 20th June, 2011, be informed of the strong objections of this Committee to the development of the site, in particular residential development, given the previous usage of the site.

17 PROGRESS OF ELECTED MEMBER VISITS TO ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS 2010/11

A joint report of officers was submitted on information about the progress of visits to Adult and Children's Social Care Establishments undertaken by Members during 2010/11 and the actions taken in response to Member comments.

Nominations from the Committee for Members to carry out visits to Social Care Establishments in the area of the Area Committee during 2011/12 were also requested.

Arising from consideration of the report submitted Councillor Mrs Ridney queried the position regarding improvements to the craft room at Roseville Day Centre and the Assistant Director, Older People and Physical Disabilities indicated that she would look into this.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted be noted and that Councillors A Aston, Caunt, Ryder and S Turner be nominated to carry out visits to Social Care Establishments within the area of the Area Committee during 2011/12.

18 COSELEY AND WOODSETTON AND UPPER GORNAL (ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE) ORDERS 2011

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on proposals made by the Council's Licensing and Safety Committee for Orders making Coseley and Woodsetton and Upper Gornal designated public places where the consumption of alcohol would be prohibited other than within the curtilage of licensed premises.

Attached as Appendix 1 to the Report were reports submitted by West Midlands Police explaining why Orders would be justified whilst Appendix 2 to the Report indicated the areas to be covered.

Members, other than those Members who were also Members of the Licensing and Safety Committee, commented on the content of the report following its presentation and supported the proposals contained therein.

RESOLVED

That support be given to the making of Designation Orders for Coseley and Woodsetton and Upper Gornal and that approval be given to the making of a contribution towards the costs for the requisite signage from the capital allocations budget of this Committee.

19

DELEGATED CAPITAL BUDGET

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on two applications received for a capital allocation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval be given to the payment of £240 only to Age Concern, Sedgley and District (Sedgley) towards the cost of purchasing a book case, lockable cabinet and shredder.
- (2) That approval be given to the payment of £1,944 to Sedgley Youth Centre (Sedgley) arising from receipt of an application for the purchase and installation of CCTV inside the Youth Centre.

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HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12

Having previously declared personal and prejudicial interests Councillors Caunt and Mrs Westwood left the meeting for the consideration of this item.

(Councillor Ryder (Vice Chairman) in the Chair)

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes and Safer Routes to School within the North Dudley Area for the 2011/12 financial year.

Following the presentation of the content of the report and its Appendices Councillor Evans expressed his disappointment that a scheme for a crossing in Gospel End Street, Sedgley had not been included in those schemes to be put forward referred to in one of the Appendices to the report submitted. In response the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety undertook to respond in writing to Councillor Evans on the matter raised.

RESOLVED

That the proposed initiatives within 2011/12 programmes for work for Local Safety Schemes and Safer Routes to School be noted and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation be informed that the proposed initiatives were supported by the Area Committee.

At the conclusion of this item Councillors Caunt and Mrs Westwood returned to the meeting.

(Councillor Caunt - in the Chair)

WARD ISSUES

- (1) Councillor Mrs Ridney reported on the receipt of a notice to the effect that the Council proposed to close the public conveniences in Roseville. Particular concerns relating to elderly residents and the lack of a viable alternative in the area were also raised and she asked that the Committee support a request that the proposed closure of the facilities be looked at again especially as this site was not included with those other public conveniences scheduled for closure as part of the previous budget proposals.

The Committee agreed to support the request for reconsideration of the closure of the public conveniences in Roseville and the Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure was asked to arrange for the concerns raised by Members of this Committee to be considered and for a response to be sent to all Members of the Committee.

- (2) Councillor S Turner raised the issue of the closure of the public conveniences in Gornal and arising from consideration of the points made the technical reasons for the closure of these particular toilets were reported on.

Councillor Turner however requested that, as there were no appropriate alternatives in the area, consideration be given to the provision of public toilets in Gornal. The Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure undertook to arrange for the matter to be investigated and for a response to be sent direct to Councillor S Turner.

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

Information was given regarding the dates of Scrutiny Committees, held at the Council House, Dudley, to which members of the public were invited and were welcome to attend.

RESOLVED

That the information given in respect of the dates of meetings of Scrutiny Committees, be noted.

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DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following Information, as to the dates and venues of future meetings, was noted:-

Wednesday, 12th October 2011 at 6.30 p.m. at High Arcal School, High Arcal Drive, Sedgley.

Wednesday 1st February 2012 at 6.30 p.m. at Roberts Primary School, Roberts Street, Lower Gornal.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

CHAIRMAN