

## **BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE**

Thursday 10th November, 2011 at 7.00 pm  
at The Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Southall (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs D Harley (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Billingham, D Blood, Foster, P Harley, Ms Harris, Islam, J T Jones, Mrs Jordan, Miller, Mrs Simms, Mrs Wilson and P Woodall.

### **Officers:-**

The Director of the Urban Environment (As Area Liaison Officer), Head of Sport and Physical Activity, Manager, Executive Support Team, Group Engineer, (Traffic and Road Safety), (all Directorate of the Urban Environment); The Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director of Older People and Physical Disabilities, Assistant Director Housing Management and the Quality and Complaints Manager (All Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services); Detached Youth Worker, (Directorate of Children's Services); Senior Account Manager, Marketing and Communications (Chief Executive's Directorate); Mr T Holder, Solicitor and Miss K Fellows (Directorate of Corporate Resources),

together with Inspector Garry Malpass and Sergeant Richard Evans, West Midlands Police, Mr C Wood and Ms J Winpenny, West Midlands Fire Service and approximately 49 members of the public.

### 21 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

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

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### 22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a Declaration of Interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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### 23 **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed.

PETITIONS

The following petition had been received since the last meeting of the Committee:-

From residents in relation to neighbour nuisance and anti social behaviour and dealt with by officers from the Directorate and Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Police.

The following petitions were submitted to the meeting:-

- (1) From residents requesting the Council to install floodlights on the play Area of Wordsley Park.
- (2) From residents in relation to the proposed traffic flow changes at Earl Street, New Street and Barnett Lane, Kingswinford.

It was further reported that a Petition had been received in relation to the closure of New Bradley Hall Care Home and in view of the number of signatories this would be debated at Council on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2011.

## RESOLVED

That the petitions referred to as (1) and (2) above be forwarded to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

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YOUTH ISSUES

The Detacher Youth Worker, Early Years, Youth and Education Services gave a verbal presentation in relation to the youth service activities which were taking place in the Brierley Hill Area Committee area making particular reference to those activities which were taking place at Nine Locks Youth Centre, The Source, the Team Dell Friday Football activities, Kingswinford Youth Centre, Pensnett Youth Club and a drama project at the Wordsley School.

Details of the above activities had been circulated to Members prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## RESOLVED

That the information reported on at the meeting be noted.

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PUBLIC FORUM

Consideration was given to the following written/oral questions raised:-

- (a) In response to a written question regarding concerns in relation to stray horses impacting upon the habitat and use of Fens Pool Nature Reserve the Area Liaison Officer reported that the Council were aware of the issues which were both delicate and complicated as far as the Fens Pool land was concerned. It was reported that a task and finish working group within the Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education Scrutiny Committee had been appointed in order for proposals to be formulated to deal with the issues and once those proposals had been formulated a report would be presented to a future meeting of the Area Committee.
- (b) In response to a written question and the Petition presented to the meeting regarding the proposed change in traffic flow in Earl Street, New Street and Barnett Lane, Kingswinford and the potential problems this would cause to residents in relation to the driveways and possible road safety issues, the Area Liaison Officer responded and referred to the current consultation process that was taking place advising that a final decision had not been taken and that this would be a matter for the Cabinet Member for Transportation. The Group Engineer – Traffic and Transportation undertook to speak to the residents present following the meeting and respond to the Petition presented.

Councillor Blood requested the Group Engineer – Traffic and Transportation to consider widening Earl Street, Kingswinford on the park side and putting 'herringbone' parking in place.

- (c) A written question was submitted regarding concerns in relation to Youth Service cuts and the alleged impact that this was having on anti social behaviour particularly on Bells Lane, Wordsley and a request to be advised whether there were proposals for further cuts in relation to youth workers. The Area Liaison Officer advised that The Director of Children's Services and the Council's Community Safety team be requested to respond direct to the questioner.
- (d) In responding to written questions in relation to the planning applications submitted pertaining to Ketley Quarry, Kingswinford and the affect on local residents if approved as far as noise, house stability and road safety issues were concerned, the Area Liaison Officer advised that the comments should be conveyed to the Council's Planning Division and as some of the Members of Brierley Hill Area Committee were also Members of the Council's Development Control Committee they were unable to comment further.

- (e) Concerns were raised by a member of the public in relation to the closure of New Bradley Hall Care Home, Stream Road, Kingswinford and the impact that this would have upon residents including health issue. He also requested the Council's views on concerns raised by residents' doctors and whether an impact assessment had been carried out and what the conclusions were.

The building was also referred to and a request for information as to the extensive repair work which was required to the building.

The Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services responded, acknowledging and recognising the concerns raised advising that the closure formed part of a long term plan for the closure of residential homes. She referred to the forthcoming Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee meeting when all issues would be discussed and additional detail would be provided and undertook to provide a written response to the questioner and other family members.

- (f) In responding to requests from Members that a Special Meeting of the Brierley Hill Area Committee be convened in relation to the closure of New Bradley Hall Care Home, the Chairman responded by referring to the Petition received in relation to the closure advising that this would be debated at Council on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 and also referred to the meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 urging Members of the public to attend.

Following further concerns discussion and debate, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services offered to convene a public meeting in relation to the closure of New Bradley Hall Care Home.

- (g) A further member of the public suggested that a compromise be sought to avoid the closure of New Bradley Hall Care Home for the benefit of those resident and their families.

PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER MOVING, WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS IN RUSSELLS HALL AREA.

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders to control moving traffic, waiting and loading in streets around Russells Hall hospital as shown at Appendix F of the report submitted.

At this juncture the nominee of the Petition organiser in relation to the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders relating to Elgar Crescent addressed the Committee referring to the overwhelming support for the introduction of the Orders and the strength of feeling within the local community, which had resulted in the production of the Petition and 121 individual letters.

Councillor Foster agreed with the comments made indicating that this demonstrated the strength of feeling within the local community.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended to approve the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders to control moving traffic, waiting and loading in streets around Russells Hall Hospital, as set out in Appendix F to the report now submitted, in so far as they related to the area of Brierley Hill Area Committee.

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CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

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

In presenting the report submitted, the Area Liaison Officer referred to the decisions made in relation to the Applications submitted since the previous meeting of the Area Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 advising that these were for the Committee to note.

The Area Liaison Officer also reported on recommendations made arising from consideration of three applications received, as indicated in the report submitted and one further application, considered by this Committee's Capital Allocations Working Group earlier this day.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted on the three urgent applications considered under delegated powers, indicated in section 3 of the report, be noted.
- (2) That approval be given to the application received from the Brockmoor Community Centre for the sum of £4,841 to purchase various items including an electric cooker, chairs, floor polisher and carpet for the entrance area.
- (3) That approval be given to the application received from the Bromley Methodist Church for the sum of £5,000 towards a £7,750 project to construct a new disabled access facility into the church hall with Council Officers working with the Church in order to provide best value.
- (4) That in respect of the application received from St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Kingswinford for the sum of £3,868 towards the cost of a £6,418 project cost to establish a 'Forest School' facility on the premises a maximum allocation of £5,000 be offered.

- (5) That in respect of an additional application received from the 1<sup>st</sup> Pensnett Boys Brigade for the sum of £4,477 to purchase new musical instruments and equipment a maximum allocation of £5,000 be offered.

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MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2011.

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted updating the Committee on a number of issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 30th June, 2011. Details of the matters raised at that meeting were set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted.

In presenting the report submitted the Area Liaison Office made particular reference to the letter appended to the report submitted from Mr A Lacon thanking the Committee for the grant awarded to him and outlining some of work he had conducted to date.

The Chairman welcomed the letter and wished Mr Lacon well for the future.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted be noted.

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WARD ISSUES

Councillor Mrs Wilson thanked the Assistant Director, Housing Management for her assistance with a recent ward issue.

Councillor Mrs Simms proposed a dispersal order in relation to anti social behaviour activities which were taking place in King George V Park, Wordsley. It was proposed that the Dispersal Order should apply to Bells Lane, Barnett Lane and Cot Lane, Kingswinford and remain in force for a period of six months.

The Ward Councillors expressed their support for a Dispersal Order.

It was noted that a meeting was to take place with representatives from the Police and the Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2011 when the matter would be discussed further.

Inspector Malpass advised that Sergeant Springthorpe would be attending the above meeting when the number of incidents would be investigated in order to establish whether the Police could support the Dispersal Order.

Councillor Mrs Jordan suggested that the Dispersal Order also encompass Lawnswood Road and Inspector Malpass responded stating that he had no objection to that being considered.

The Area Liaison Officer advised that following the above meeting there would a process to follow confirming that the position in relation to the Dispersal Order would be reported to Members.

Councillor Mrs Harley referred to the provision and price of residential parking permits within the Birmingham area, indicating that such a scheme would be popular within the Kingswinford area.

The Area Liaison Officer responded stating that he would investigate the above position and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Mrs Jordan referred to a report in relation to Japanese knotweed thanking the Area Liaison Officer and his Officers for developing a policy to deal with this. She urged those present to report sightings of the knotweed to the Council in order that it could be disposed of. She also requested confirmation as to how Japanese knotweed was disposed of.

#### RESOLVED

That the Area Liaison Officer be requested to:-

- (1) Advise the Police that Members supported the making of a Dispersal Order in Bells Lane, Barnett Lane and Cot Lane Kingswinford and in respect of Lawnswood Road, Wordsley.
- (2) Submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee in relation to any Dispersal Order in the areas in (1) above.
- (3) Submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee in relation to residential parking provision within the Birmingham Area and the possibility of adopting a similar scheme within the Dudley Borough.
- (4) Email to Members details of how Japanese knotweed is disposed of.

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#### SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

The dates of future meetings of the Council's Scrutiny Committees in the current municipal year were received and noted.

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#### DATE OF NEXT AREA COMMITTEE MEETING.

That the following date for the next meeting, and venue in this municipal year be noted:-

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 at the Brier School.

Meeting to commence at 7p.m.

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The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN