

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 9th November, 2004, at 7.00 p.m.
At Brockmoor Primary School,
Belle Isle, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill

PRESENT:-

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

OFFICERS

Mr. Lawson (Area Liaison Officer), Chief Executives Directorate, Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Economic Regeneration), Senior Solicitor (Directorate of Law and Property), Principal Engineer (Traffic and Transportation Directorate of the Urban Environment), SDA Secondary Assessment Officer (Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning), Landscape and Urban Design Manager, Design Manager (Directorate of the Urban Environment), and Ms K Smith (Directorate of Law and Property).

There were approximately 40 members of the public in attendance.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14th September 2004, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Debney, Southall and Mrs Wilson declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in agenda item 10 (Draft Development Brief for Wordsley and Ridge Hill Hospital Sites) in view of their being Members of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Ms Harris declared a personal interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in agenda item 9 (Capital Allocations) in view of her being a member of the Dudley Employees Sports and Social Club.

Councillor Southall declared a personal interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in agenda item 9 (Capital Allocations) in view of his being a member of the Birmingham Football Association, a Football Association Registered Referees Assessor and President of the Stourbridge Referees Association.

Councillor Miller declared a personal interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in agenda item 7 (Public Forum – access to Glynne Primary School) in view of his governorship of Glynne Primary School.

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PETITIONS

It was reported that the following petition had been received and would be referred to the officer indicated for attention:-

From Councillor Ms Harris on behalf of the Brierley Hill Sikh Welfare Association, residents of John Street and supported by Brierley Hill Community Fire Station, requesting that John Street, Brierley Hill, become a one-way street referred to the Director of the Urban Environment for investigation.

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YOUTH ISSUES

Jean Garwood, a Youth worker, raised concerns on behalf of local young people over the lack of progress on youth provision on the area of land known as "The Square" adjacent to the Next Generation fitness facility and the lack of progress with the development of the skate park.

Councillor Burt stated that skateboard equipment, namely a "quarter-pipe" that had been purchased through a "Sports for All" grant, was having to be kept in storage.

The Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Economic Regeneration) confirmed that the Section 106 agreement in relation to "The Square" had been located.

It was confirmed that a planning application had been submitted for the skateboard park at Kingswinford.

RESOLVED

That the Director of the Urban Environment be asked to follow up the issue of the Section 106 Agreement with Next Generation and report back to the Committee.

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APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF LAND AND PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COUNCIL

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted regarding land and property within the Committee's area.

On consideration of the report it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Lead Member for Housing be recommended to approve the application for a release of the restrictive covenant on land adjoining 137 The Portway, Kingswinford, as shown on the plan attached to the report submitted, on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.
- (2) That the Lead Member for Housing be recommended to refuse the application to purchase an area of land forming a grass verge adjacent to 8 and 10 Cam Gardens, as shown on the plan attached to the report submitted and that all of the land be retained in Council ownership.

That the Lead Member for Housing be recommended to refuse the application to purchase land to the rear of 12-16 Planet Road, Brierley Hill as shown on the plan attached to the report submitted, for the reasons set out in the report.

- (4) That the Lead Member for Transport be recommended to approve the granting of an access agreement over the council car park to the rear of 53 Lawnswood Road, Wordsley as shown on the plan attached to the report submitted on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property, subject to the route of the access being agreed by the Directorate of the Urban Environment to ensure minimal impact on car parking spaces, and to a commuted sum for maintenance being included in any agreement.

The following questions were raised and responded to:

1. A member of the public raised concerns over the proposed demolition of the public toilet block, the cost of fencing and management of security at King George VI Park, Wordsley.

The Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Economic Regeneration) responded that demolition of the toilet block would commence on the 22nd November 2004, that the fencing costs totalled £13,092 and that park Security was under review.

2. A member of the public requested that the Committee support an application to be submitted on behalf of the Stourbridge Radio Group, for a licence for a radio station that would cover a five kilometre area of Brierley Hill and Stourbridge.

The Committee endorsed the proposed application.

3. A member of the public requested that the feasibility of a direct train link from Stourbridge Junction to Birmingham New Street Station be investigated.

It was agreed that a representative of the Directorate of the Urban Environment would respond in writing once enquiries had been made with CENTRO.

4. A member of the public raised concerns over the proposed new access to the Glynne Primary School and listed objections from local residents to the proposals. It was requested that the Committee support the request for further consultation to take place between local residents and the school before the school governors made any decisions at their meeting to be held on the 18th November 2004.

The Committee supported the request of the residents for the school governors to defer consideration of the scheme until such time as full consultation with residents concerned had taken place.

5. A member of the public raised concerns over the proposed closure of the Brierley Hill Swimming Baths and Leisure Facilities.

It was reported that the Select Committee on Culture and Recreation would be reviewing the re-provision of leisure facilities within the Borough.

6. A member of West Midlands Police submitted a proposal to use an area of land at Kinver Street, Wordsley as a car park to help alleviate traffic problems in the vicinity of Ashwood Park Primary School.

It was agreed that the proposal should be investigated and that the conclusions be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

45 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

A report of the Director of Law and property was submitted on written responses made to questions asked at previous meetings.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

46 CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A verbal report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications received for funding from the capital allocation of the Committee.

Upon consideration of the recommendations of the Capital Allocations Working Group it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the sum below be allocated to the following organisation for the purpose indicated:

Organisation	Purpose	Amount
Dudley Employees Sports and Social Club	Towards replacement of flood lights	£10,000

- (2) That the application on behalf of St Mary's RC Church, Brierley Hill, be refused as the Committee were concerned that the application would not provide benefit to the wider community.

WORDSLEY AND RIDGEHILL HOSPITAL SITES – DRAFT DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposals contained within the Draft Development Brief for the Wordsley and Ridge Hill Hospital sites.

The Development Brief had been approved for public consultation at the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on the 25th October, 2004. Details regarding the current position and the proposals for the land adjacent to the brief were set out in Section 2 of the report.

Following a lengthy discussion the concerns relating to the need for wider public consultation with residents of the Hawbush, High Acres and Swan Estates ; the increase in traffic and associated problems, the provision of recreational facilities and a probable increase in anti-social behaviour; and the provisions of adequate drainage and sewage facilities, were raised.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the comments made by members and the public on the draft development brief be reported to the Director of the Urban Environment.
- (2) That the information contained in the report submitted be noted.

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ARCHIVES AND LOCAL HISTORY SERVICE

A report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning was submitted on proposals to relocate the Archives and Local History Service from its present location at Mount Pleasant, Coseley to C Block at Summerhill, Kingswinford.

In the discussion on this matter, some members of the Committee expressed dissatisfaction that the matter had been referred to the Committee after the decision had been made.

RESOLVED

That the Committee does not approve of the relocation of the Archives and Local History Service to "C" Block at Summerhill School, Kingswinford and will not, therefore, endorse the decision.

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ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Councillor Ms Harris raised concerns over the condition of the public footpath connecting the Springfields Estate to Moor Street, Brierley Hill. She considered this unfit for public use as the path was overgrown and rubbish was causing obstructions.

A representative of the Directorate of the Urban Environment agreed to look into the issue and respond in writing to the Chairman and Councillor Ms Harris.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the remaining schedule of meetings for the current municipal year be noted, as follows.

Thursday, 3rd February, 2005 at the Wordsley School.

Tuesday, 5th April, 2005 at Wall Heath Community Centre.

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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