

Central Dudley Area Committee – 13th June 2006

Report Of The Director Of The Urban Environment

**Urban Environment - Matters Raised At The
Central Dudley Area Committee - 14th March 2006**

Purpose Of Report

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 14th March 2006 Central Dudley Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

Background

2. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities. This diverse range of technical services focus on regenerating the Borough, maintaining our environment to high standards, protecting our communities and promoting leisure and other community services for all.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to matters such as traffic management, leisure and recreation, regeneration and new development. Few enquiries can be answered immediately, with many prompting further investigation, feasibility studies and public consultation, prior to being reported back to Committee.
4. To keep Committee updated, progress reports are included as an appendix and the proposal resulting from the update is set out at the end of each paragraph.

Finance

5. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

Law

6. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.
7. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.

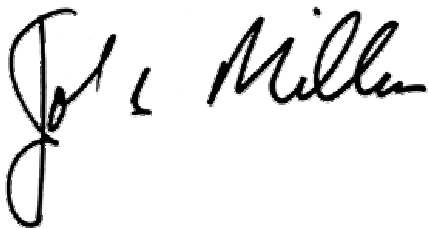
8. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its area to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
11. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.

EQUALITY IMPACT

12. The proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a diverse range of services that affect all sections of the community.

RECOMMENDATION

13. That the proposals contained in Appendix 1 attached be approved.



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John Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

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Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

Action Notes from 14th March 2006 Committee.

DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 14TH MARCH 2006

1. **RESURFACING WORKS - GREEN ROAD, DUDLEY**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, a petition was received on behalf of residents of Green Road, Dudley requesting that the road be resurfaced.

Comments:

Green Road will be resurfaced as part of the 2006/07 Highways Maintenance Programme commencing in April.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

2. **RESURFACING WORKS - BUNNS LANE, WATSONS GREEN ROAD AND FIRS STREET**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Councillor Ali asked for the above roads to be resurfaced.

Comments:

Both Watsons Green Road and Firs Street are due to receive extensive carriageway treatment in the 2006/07 Highway Maintenance Programme.

Unfortunately, Bunns Lane is not in the programme. However, instructions have been issued for the carriageway to be reassessed and providing the survey identifies the necessary criteria, the works will be included in a forthcoming programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

3. **FOOTPATHS/ROADS - FOXYARDS ESTATE**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Councillor Finch requested that the footpath and roads on the Foxyards Estate be included in the Highways Maintenance Repairs Programme.

Comments:

Officers from DUE have investigated this request. Unfortunately, having inspected all the roads on the estate, no action is identified and no work has been included on any forthcoming programme.

Given the concern, the Team Manager responsible for compiling the programme, will reassess the estate and measure the level of deterioration since the last inspection and should that reassessment meet the appropriate criteria, the works will be included in a forthcoming programme.

The Assistant Director Environmental Management will inform Councillor Finch on the outcome of the reassessment.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

4. DUDLEY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Mark Kavanagh, supported by Cllrs Ali and Woodall, raised the need for a football stadium in central Dudley.

Comments:

The Council shares the same enthusiasm for this project which has been readily expressed in public forum and a project team has been set up.

Initially, the team are undertaking land searches in an attempt to identify an appropriate and affordable site. This process could take some time as it is important to get the location right, in order to create a facility that can accommodate the long-term ambition of the team, at the same time ensuring the proposals are acceptable to local residents and the necessary infrastructure is in place. A follow up report will be submitted to the next Area Committee.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

5. DUNCAN EDWARDS PUBLIC HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, DUDLEY

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Mr R Bruton expressed concerns regarding anti-social behaviour on the car park of the Duncan Edwards Public House.

Comments:

Officers from DUE have spoken to the owners of the site, Punch Taverns, who have confirmed that they have no intention of re-opening the public house and have put it up

for sale on the open market. It is envisaged that the site will be purchased by a developer for housing purposes.

Punch Taverns confirmed that the building was securely sealed with metal screens and was being supervised by a security company called Safe Estates. Safe Estates installed an alarm system to inform them of any breach of security or activity within the building and gave an assurance that they will undertake an immediate response.

Unfortunately, a serious fire has now left the building in a poor state of repair. At the time of writing this report, the cause of the fire had not been confirmed, although arson is suspected.

A perimeter security fence has been erected around the building pending any decision relating to demolition.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

6. **TRAFFIC ISSUES, COPPICE CLOSE**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Dean Sharpe raised concerns regarding traffic problems in Coppice Close.

Comments:

Officers within DUE are looking at the design of the pelican crossing on Coppice Lane to include high signal aspects and the provision of a central refuge. The high aspects would assist drivers' forward vision over the summit of the hill and the refuge would prevent drivers overtaking on the zigzag road markings.

This scheme will be assessed during the current financial year and will, if it is successful when compared against similar requests throughout the Borough and dependant on resources and appropriate approval, be included in the next minor highway improvement programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

7. **PRIORY ROAD TREES**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, George Williams requested that trees in Priory Road be pruned, particularly near the entrance to Priory Primary School as people in wheelchairs and pushchair users are unable to pass on the footpath.

Comments:

A site meeting has been scheduled with Mr Williams in order to ascertain the extent of the problem and hopefully come up with a mutually acceptable solution.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

8. MONS HILL COLLEGE LOCATION SIGN

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, George Williams requested that the Mons Hill College location sign be turned in right direction.

Comments:

Officers from DUE have attended site and removed the sign to avoid any further confusion.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

9. GULLY CLEANSING - LAUREL ROAD, MARIGOLD CRESCENT AND CHARLESCOTE DRIVE

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Councillor Aston requested that the drains in Laurel Road, Marigold Crescent and Charlescote Drive be cleared.

Comments:

An order has been raised to cleanse the gullies in the above roads and the work should be completed on a priority basis.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

10. LITTER - BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD AND PINE ROAD, FOXYARDS

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Councillor Johnston requested the clearance of large amounts of rubbish dumped on banks near Birmingham New Road and Pine Road, Foxyards.

Comments:

A litter pick has been undertaken on and adjacent to Birmingham New Road and in the vicinity of Pine Road and Foxyards. The general cleanliness of the area will continue to be monitored.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

11. **LITTER - HALL STREET**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Councillor Ali requested that litter dumped on Hall Street, especially at the vacated fish and chip shop, be cleared up.

Comments:

A litter pick will be undertaken in the general area. Officers are in the process of issuing one of the "new" legal notices under the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to the owners of the site, requiring them to remove litter. A letter will be sent allowing them 7 days to clear the site, if there is no response, a litter removal notice will be served.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

12. **DRAINAGE PROBLEMS AND ACCESS ISSUES - RUSSELLS HALL SKATE PARK**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Councillor Hart reported drainage problems at the Russells Hall Skate Park.

Comments:

Works will be undertaken in the summer to footpaths adjacent to the site in an attempt to reduce "ponding". Unfortunately, this site is prone to flooding and the drainage in the whole area is very poor due to the geology of the site.

The issue of "off road" bikers using the site has been passed to our Community Safety Team, who will liaise with the Police.

Following a number of complaints from the disabled, care has to be taken as to where bollards are installed to prevent access from bikes, as inevitably access is also restricted for wheelchairs and disabled buggies. In addition, access by emergency services cannot be hindered as they may need to get onto the site in the case of an accident.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

13. **DOG FOULING - SLEDMERE ROAD**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Councillor Ali requested that the dog fouling on Sledmere Road be cleared.

Comments:

The Sledmere Road area has now been cleared. Councillor Ali's concerns have been brought to the attention of our enforcement team and extra patrols will be undertaken in

the Sledmere Road area in order to deter and take enforcement action where necessary.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

14. **AIR QUALITY AND TRAFFIC ISSUES - CINDERBANK, NETHERTON**

Background: At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 14th March 2006, Councillor Rahman requested a public meeting to discuss the air quality and traffic issues in the Cinderbank, Netherton area.

Comments:

A meeting including DUE officers and Councillor Rahman is being arranged to take place on the 5th July 2006 to discuss the Councillor's concerns.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.