

WARDS: ALL

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

**URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY
AREA COMMITTEE – 4TH NOVEMBER 2004**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 4th November 2004 Central Dudley Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 To keep Committee updated, progress reports are attached as appendices and the proposal resulting from the update is set out at the end of each appendix.

3.0 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The proposal is set out at the end of each report in the appendices.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LAW

5.1 Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

5.6 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.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 The proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That the proposals contained in each of the attached appendices be approved.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 See individual appendices.



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Director of the Urban Environment - John B. Millar

Contact Officer: Matt Williams - Ext. 4510

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL APPENDICES TO REPORT

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND STREET LIGHTING PROBLEMS BATH ROAD

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Councillor Sparks raised a number of issues in relation to problems in Bath Road supported by a petition handed in by local residents. Councillor Sparks was concerned that no action had been taken in the area despite problems being raised previously.

Comments

Following the November Central Dudley Area Committee meeting officers from DUE investigated a specific problem with a lamppost outside N^o 49 Bath Road and found that remedial action had been taken previously, the unit being refurbished and brought up to current British standards. However, local residents will be contacted to find out if there are any additional concerns as a number of street lighting points in the area, although structurally safe, may benefit from similar refurbishment.

The maintenance of a grassed embankment that is causing concern to local residents will also be discussed at this meeting. Unfortunately, because of the gradient of the embankment Green Care can no longer mow the area due to health and safety implications. Two solutions have been identified, one being to provide ground cover on the embankment and the other to remove the embankment completely and provide a retaining wall. It is hope that once officers have met with local residents a mutually acceptable solution will be identified and implemented.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OFF HENLOW CLOSE,
FOXYARDS ESTATE**

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, a petition was submitted from the residents who live in and around Henlow Close relating to anti-social problems in the area. This matter was also debated in the public forum with a number of residents voicing their concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour, timescales involved before action was taken and other related comments.

Comments

In response, officers asked the Police to review the crime levels in light of recent legislation that may, under circumstances, allow public footpaths to be closed in areas subject to a Crime Prevention (Designated Areas) Order. The conclusion reached was that the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour was insufficient to substantiate the statutory grounds for closure.

Some of the potential causes of the problems appear to emanate from the incomplete new development in Sandwell M.B.C. Consequently, issues regarding this have been discussed between officers of the two authorities. On a recent visit it was pleasing to see that an adjacent embankment was finally being landscaped which should mean possible projectiles being removed.

On the 11th November 2004 the Directorate of the Urban Environment received another petition from other residents who live in Henlow Close and the adjacent area insisting that the problem has been grossly exaggerated and the Public Right of Way should not be closed.

Given the strength of objection and conflicting evidence it is highly unlikely that the Public Right of Way off Henlow Close could be considered for closure both now or in the foreseeable future.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

KING STREET ACCIDENT

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Mr B. Cotterill highlighted the recent fatal accident in King Street, Dudley in public forum. A number of Councillors also raised their concerns under Ward issues.

Comments

Officers await the results of the formal enquiry concerning the accident on King Street, Dudley. Any recommendations relating to traffic management, road layout or pedestrian safety will be taken very seriously and, where necessary, acted upon. Officers from our Traffic Management team have already met with the Police and bus operators to exchange views in relation to the incident, in an attempt to establish the facts associated with this tragedy.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

PEARTREE LANE/BLOWERS GREEN ROAD C.A. SITE

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Councillor Ali requested that consideration be given to the possible use of land at Peartree Lane/Blowers Green Road for use as a civic amenity site for the people of Central Dudley.

Comments

Officers welcome Councillor Ali's comments relating to the need for a second C.A. Site in the Borough, and concur. The derelict Post Office property at the location highlighted by Councillor Ali has been considered. However, the area of this site is not physically large enough for a modern designed C.A. Site with the necessary segregation of waste facilities. Also there would be major traffic problems with vehicles queuing from the very close Cinderbank island, along the already busy Bypass and the feeder roads to the island. Obviously, there are numerous traffic problems associated with this type of facility and we will continue to work with Members in an effort to identify the most suitable location.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

STREET LIGHTING AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROBLEMS NETHERTON

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Councillor Coulter raised two issues concerning street lighting in a public right of way between New Road and Prince Street, Netherton and problems with the pelican crossing on the Dudley Southern Bypass between Cinder Bank and Scotts Green roundabout.

Comments

The faults associated with two street lamps in the public right of way between New Road and Price Street have been repaired following inspection. In addition a fault on the pelican crossing on the Dudley Southern Bypass has also been attended and cleared.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

BOWLING GREEN ROAD, NETHERTON – TRAFFIC ISSUES AND LIGHTING PROBLEMS

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Councillor Male raised a number of issues relating to speeding problems in Bowling Green Road, Netherton. These issues were also raised and supported by Mrs Harris in the Public Forum, in addition to street lighting concerns.

Comments

Officers have inspected the lighting in Field Mews (just off Bowling Green Road as highlighted by Mrs Harris) and agree that the existing lighting would benefit from refurbishment. Consequently, an instruction has been issued to carry out the necessary works, upgrading the existing lighting points and installing new, more efficient street lighting lanterns.

In accordance with existing protocol, Bowling Green Road has been added to a list of sites that will be assessed for possible inclusion in a future programme of local safety schemes. As with all local safety schemes there is very much an emphasis on the reduction of personal injury accidents and this will have to be formally assessed in order for the scheme to be implemented.

However, in the meantime officers will take the opportunity to again advise the Police about the continuing concerns being expressed in relation to speeding problems along Bowling Green Road and in addition arrange for this road to be targeted as being suitable for a speed awareness campaign.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

DEVELOPMENT SITE – NEW ROWLEY ROAD

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Councillor C.L. Woodall requested that developers be approached to remove wire mesh barriers on the land adjacent to New Rowley Road in view of the hazards they are now posing.

Comments

Officers from DUE have visited the site and noted Councillor Woodall's concerns. Consequently, attempts are being made to contact the developer requesting that the site be made secure.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY IN GOLDEN HILLOCK ROAD

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Councillor Male raised concerns in relation to the public right of way in Golden Hillock Road.

Comments

All new public rights of way are designed in accordance with the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance "Design for Community Safety" which has the support of West Midlands Police.

Officers from DUE have inspected the public right of way in Golden Hillock Road and are of the opinion that the area would benefit from a sweep and general tidy. Instructions have been issued to complete the necessary remedial works.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS – LAND AT THE TOP OF QUARRY BANK HIGH STREET (OLD HIGH STREET)

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Councillor Sparks raised concerns relating to the condition of land at the top of Quarry Bank High Street (old High Street).

Comments

Following investigation, it appears the land in question was excavated by Central Networks (formerly MEB) in order for utility works to be undertaken. Appropriate reinstatement works were deemed substandard and consequently the area has not been maintained correctly and subjected to fly tipping incidents.

In order to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion, officers from DUE have issued a default notice which Central Networks have now accepted. Consequently, appropriate remedial works will be undertaken as a matter of urgency and the land returned to an acceptable and maintainable condition.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

NORTHFIELD ROAD, TRAFFIC ISSUES

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Councillor Rahman highlighted speeding problems in Northfield Road and the need for a pelican crossing.

Comments

The provision of a pelican crossing in Northfield Road, near to the Netherton Arts Centre, is scheduled for the new financial year subject to funding being identified.

A 20 mph zone will be considered during the pelican crossing design stage to determine if the request conforms to current legislation.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

LITTER PROBLEMS – CINDERBANK/DUDLEY SOUTHERN BYPASS

Background

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 4th November 2004, Councillor Rahman highlighted the litter problems in the Cinderbank/Southern Bypass vicinity and asked for an investigation/remedial action to be taken.

Comments

Litterpicks are conducted on the Dudley Southern Bypass on a monthly basis. The Cinderbank area is litterpicked once per week.

Wind blown litter does accumulate on the Bypass which under normal circumstances would be “blitzed” on a reactive basis. Unfortunately, because of access problems caused by traffic volume and speed access is limited within normal working hours. More maintenance work is being undertaken by Street Care at night and officers will review our current methods and frequencies in order to address problems of unsightly litter.

Proposal

That the Area Committee note the information contained in this report.