

WARDS: ALL

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY  
AREA COMMITTEE – 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2005**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005 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**

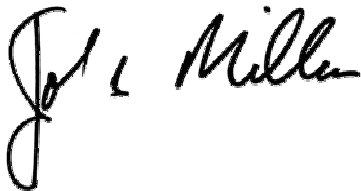
6.1      The proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies.

**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**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**STREET LIGHTING – GOLDEN HILLOCK ROAD AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillor Cotterill raised concerns about the standard of street lighting in Golden Hillock Road and the adjacent area.

**Comments**

Officers from DUE have looked into the existing street lighting installation and have found that the levels of lighting produced no longer meet existing British and European standards, although the lighting may have been installed in accordance with the standards then in force at the time of installation.

Unfortunately, the street lighting improvement budget for 2005/06 is already committed.

Golden Hillock Road and roads in the surrounding area have therefore been placed on our street lighting improvement register for future improvement. All such schemes are then tackled on a priority basis when funding becomes available.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**PROPOSED BMX TRACK – DUDLEY WOOD**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillor Cotterill raised concerns in relation to the implementation of the proposed Dudley Wood BMX track.

**Comments**

A public consultation exercise is currently underway on the proposals for the BMX track and development of the proposals will be reviewed in the light of responses to the consultation. Officers in DUE were asked to prepare a consultation at the end of November 2004. However, given the disadvantage of doing this exercise in the run up to Christmas it has regrettably been delayed.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**KINGS STREET FOOTBRIDGE**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillor Ali enquired as to when the barrier would be moved at the foot of the steps giving access to King Street footbridge.

**Comments**

Due to limited funding, remedial works on the bridge are being phased over three years. The bridge and ramps have received treatment over the last two years and works to the steps are programmed for the coming financial year.

Although the bridge remains open, it is envisaged that once the steps are repaired all barriers will be removed and access to the bridge will be gained by both the ramp and steps.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**BUFFERY PARK**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillor Ali on behalf of the Friends of Buffery Park requested that Buffery Park be reclassified as a Town Park to enable additional funding to be sought from the Liveability Project. This matter was also raised in the Public Forum.

**Comments**

The Friends of Buffery Park have lodged an appeal against the classification and officers are presently preparing a paper for the Cabinet Member responsible for Culture and Community.

Once this matter has been considered further, officers will contact the Friends of Buffery Park to discuss a way forward and in the interim, the Friends will be kept informed of any developments.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**NEW ROWLEY ROAD DEVELOPMENT**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillor Woodall raised concerns in relation to the amount of time being taken to remove the safety barrier from the site of the old pubic house, off New Rowley Road, due for redevelopment.

**Comments**

Having secured permission from the developer, officers from DUE removed the offending safety fence and the developer has now put up a substantial wooden perimeter fence to stop any unauthorised access on the site.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**LIGHTING AND SEATING – RUSSELLS HALL SKATE PARK**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillor Hart-Bowman requested lighting and seating for the Skate Park at Russells Hall estate.

**Comments**

Unfortunately, there is no funding for lighting at the Skate Park, but this will be reviewed as and when any funding becomes available.

Seating is already included in the Phase 2 proposals agreed last year.

Officers will investigate security issues associated with the site as part of the Phase 2 feasibility works.

**Proposal**

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



**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**HONISTER CLOSE, QUARRY BANK – LITTER/FLY TIPPING**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillor Male asked for an update as to when the Housing land adjacent to Honister Close will be tidied up.

**Comments**

A team from DUE has undertaken a general litter cleanse and removed items of fly tipped material. However, there is an area on the site at the rear of the factory units that has been subjected to larger items of fly tipping. The ground in this area is saturated with contaminated water which has been brought to the attention of the Environment Agency. Unfortunately, until this problem has been resolved we will not be in a position to remove any material from this area because of the saturated ground conditions. Once the source of leaking water has been identified and addressed the remainder of the site will be cleansed.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**REQUESTS FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES – RUSSELLS HALL  
AND SALTWELLS**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillors Craigie and Male requested additional pedestrian crossing facilities located at Russells Hall adjacent to the Primary School and Saltwells Road/Halesowen Road near the Aldi store.

**Comments**

Both these requests for pedestrian facilities will be added to the programme for assessment for implementation 2006/07.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**LITTER – CINDER BANK AND NETHERTON AREA**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillor Rahman raised concerns in relation to the standards of cleanliness, with particular emphasis on the side roads leading off Cinder Bank.

**Comments**

Officers from DUE are investigating and monitoring the levels of cleanliness in the Netherton area and will take any necessary action to improve the situation if possible within the current service provision.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**COLE STREET TRAFFIC LIGHTS**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, Councillor Rahman requested that the traffic lights at Cole Street and Halesowen Road be altered to prevent accidents involving traffic wishing to turn right.

**Comments**

The traffic signals have recently been altered to provide three phases which permits traffic exiting Cole Street to turn into Halesowen Road or Saltwells Road unopposed by other vehicular traffic. Since these works have been completed, additional delays have been created at the junction and the situation will continue to be monitored for future improvement to traffic flows and continued reduction in road traffic accidents.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**KATES HILL DOG FOULING**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, a question was asked in the Public Forum relating to dog fouling in the Kates Hill area.

**Comments**

The Kates Hill area is included in the designation order under the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 which will allow officers of the Council to issue fixed penalty fines to any dog owner who is witnessed failing to clear up after their dog has fouled.

An Enforcement Officer from DUE is monitoring the area and liaising with the member of public who raised the question in an attempt to get a better profile of when the dog owners are likely to be active in the general locality.

**Proposal**

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

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**CLAUGHTON DEVELOPMENT**

**Background**

At the Central Dudley Area Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005, a request was made in the Public Forum for an update on the Claughton Development, off Blowers Green Road and near Shaw Road.

**Comments**

Dudley MBC is working with Advantage West Midlands, the owners of the site, to secure a viable development.

Since the construction of the new roundabout, a number of developers have shown a keen interest and negotiations are currently taking place that will hopefully move the project forward to a successful conclusion.

It is anticipated that an update report will be presented at the Central Dudley Area Committee early in the next Committee cycle.

**Proposal**

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