

**Central Dudley Area Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**Report Of The Director Of The Urban Environment**

**Urban Environment - Matters Raised At The  
Central Dudley Area Committee - 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

**Purpose Of Report**

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007 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. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
8. 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.

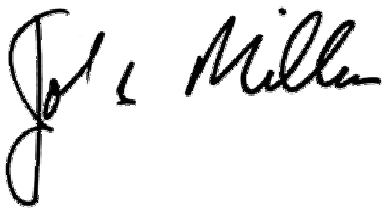
9. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State for Transport.
10. Guardrails may be provided under Section 66 of the Highways Act 1990.
11. Pedestrian crossing facilities are provided under powers contained in Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to Regulations made by the Secretary of State.
12. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. Part IX of the Highways Act 1980 contains provisions relating to the planting, care and control of trees in or on land adjoining the highways.
16. In the care and maintenance of its trees, the Council will owe the normal duty of care under the common law principles of nuisance and negligence.
17. 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.

### **Equality Impact**

18. 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**

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



.....  
**John B Millar**  
**Director of the Urban Environment**

Contact Officer: Matt Williams  
Telephone: 01384 814510  
Email: [Matt.Williams@Dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Matt.Williams@Dudley.gov.uk)

**Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-**

1. Action Notes from 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007 Committee
2. Letter of 27<sup>th</sup> September 1999, re. Access Road to April Cottage and Neighbouring Properties, Woodland Avenue, Quarry Bank
3. Letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2000, re. Woodland Avenue, Quarry Bank

## Appendix 1

### DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007

#### 1. BARRIER - BELLE VUE ROAD, QUARRY BANK

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16<sup>TH</sup> January 2007, Cllr Cotterill asked if the previously reported problem with through traffic in Belle Vue Road, Quarry Bank could be revisited.

**Comments:** Following the meeting, a site visit was organised and it was established that access to the unadopted section of road was the responsibility of the frontages. Consequently, there is very little the local authority can do to limit access.

Unfortunately, access is required at all times to the electricity sub-station in the vicinity so permanent closure of the Belle Vue Road access cannot be considered.

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

#### 2. ACCESS - SALTWELLS VALLEY, QUARRY BANK

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, both Cllr Sparks and Cotterill supported a member of the public's request for urgent action to be taken in relation to access to a private road used by vehicles visiting Saltwells Valley.

**Comments:** This matter has been investigated by the Council's Legal Officers on a number of occasions and it has been established that the access road is being used by vehicles legitimately.

However, a letter has been sent to Mrs Edwards asking if any new information has come to her attention that could change matters and cast doubt over the original decision. If this is the case, then the issue will be re-investigated.

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

#### 3. CROSSING UPGRADE - COPPICE LANE/COPPICE CLOSE

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Mr Keys expressed concern that he had not been contacted since the November 2006 Area Committee in relation to issues associated with Coppice Lane and Coppice Close.

**Comments:** Traffic Officers are attempting to set up a meeting with Mr Keys to update him in relation to the crossing upgrade being planned in the vicinity.

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

#### **4. ELECTRONIC SPEED CAMERA - CINDER BANK, NETHERTON**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, a member of the public enquired if the Committee would support his request for an electronic speed camera near the Cinder Bank approach to Netherton.

**Comments:** The management and operation of permanent speed cameras across the region currently comes under the control of the West Midlands Casualty Reduction Partnership and not the Local Authority.

The Partnership has previously stated that it is prepared to consider removing existing cameras from their present site, if the local authority feels they were no longer necessary in that particular area. Unfortunately, it would not be prepared to relocate the camera to an alternative site identified by the local authority unless it happened to be the next site in their own order of relative priority.

In short, this means that individual sites are considered entirely on their own merits so that there is no advantage to be gained from merely trying to juggle existing resources.

Whilst speeding issues are strictly an enforcement matter for the Police Authority, the Council does remain mindful of the supporting role it can play by introducing complimentary measures that raise motorists' awareness of the prevailing road conditions thereby encouraging a more responsible driving behaviour.

The Council is arranging for temporary 30 mph "Speed Kills" signs to be erected in the area of concern and the Council is also considering the use of a "speed visor" which gives a flashing speed limit message and has been found to be quite effective, due to the visual impact that it makes.

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

#### **5. SCOTTS GREEN ISLAND - TRAFFIC CONTROL**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, a member of the public asked for an update on the current traffic control on and around Scotts Green island. He expressed concern that traffic is travelling well in excess of the speed limit, despite speed humps.

**Comments:** In the past, consultation has taken place in relation to severing a section of Scotts Green Close to create a cul-de-sac. Unfortunately, this proposal met with stiff public opposition.

In April of this year, an officer will be allocating time to the design of a white carriageway lining "gateway" feature in Scotts Green Close at the Pegasus Island. This should assist in counter-acting some of the difficulties which residents encounter.

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

6. **SPEED ISSUES - DIBDALE ROAD/PEARCE CLOSE/OVERFIELD ROAD**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Ahmed expressed concern at the speed of traffic travelling on Dibdale Road and requested that bushes in Pearce Close and Overfield Road be cut back to enable visibility of nearby road signs.

**Comments:** Traffic Engineers have stated that they will order a speed survey in Dibdale Road in an attempt to quantify the problem in relation to speeding traffic.

The DUE Street Care Express Team has now undertaken some work in Pearce Close to help address the problem of obscured signs.

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

7. **LITTER - DUDLEY/WOLVERHAMPTON BOUNDARY**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr M Davis requested that rubbish on the hedgerow entrance to Dudley near the boundary between Dudley and Wolverhampton be cleared. He also referred to rubbish on land behind a fence which he understood to be owned by the Wolverhampton University and which was causing an eyesore to local residents.

**Comments:** This area of Dudley is cleaned on a very regular basis and a number of penalty notices have also been issued to those who have been caught littering.

Contact has been made with both Wolverhampton University and adjacent businesses in an attempt to get land cleared up which does not fall within the Council's jurisdiction.

Officers will continue to monitor this area of the town.

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

8. **RESURFACING - WALTERS ROW**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr M Davis sought a solution to a previous request to resurface Walters Row.

**Comments:** A meeting has been arranged to discuss this matter on the 26<sup>th</sup> February with a view to making some progress. Cllr Davis will be kept informed.

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

9. **SPEEDING ISSUES - RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr M Davis asked for an update in relation to speeding problems on the Russells Hall Estate.

**Comments:** Issues relating to the volume and speed of traffic on roads throughout the Russells Hall Estate had been raised long before any traffic calming measures were implemented. In the period of time since speed humps and chicanes were introduced across various parts of the estate views have continued to be divided on how best to deal with the traffic related issues.

There are currently no proposals or resources to carry out any additional works on the Russells Hall Estate. However, given that this issue has been raised at several recent meetings of the Central Dudley Area Committee, it is proposed that a report be submitted to a future Committee setting out the current position and possible options for resolving local concerns.

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

10. **TRAFFIC CALMING - THE BROADWAY, DUDLEY**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Finch requested traffic calming measures on The Broadway in the interests of safety.

**Comments:** Cllr Finch's request will be considered by Traffic Engineers, together with other numerous traffic calming requests in the new financial year.

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

11. **OPENING - KING STREET/FLOOD STREET**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Ali requested that an opening in the road on the corner of King Street and Flood Street be blocked off for safety reasons.

**Comments:** Traffic Engineers have confirmed that this matter has been raised before, however, blocking this access would have a detrimental effect on the accessibility for delivery vehicles and therefore it is recommended that this opening is not closed under the present climate.

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

12. **DRAINAGE - CORPORATION ROAD/HIGHFIELD ROAD/BLACKACRE ROAD/BEAN ROAD**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Ali requested improved drainage in the Corporation Road and Highfield Road area and also at the junction of Blackacre Road and Bean Road to prevent flooding.

**Comments:** Unfortunately, the Council has no funds at present for any substantial drainage schemes. However, DUE will ensure that the gullies are cleaned and the situation is monitored.

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

13. **TREE ISSUES - ST JAMES'S WARD**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Ms Craigie raised numerous tree issues that were awaiting attention in her Ward.

**Comments:** Unfortunately, due to recent high winds, our tree programme has fallen behind and a number of trees identified by Cllr Craigie, do not fall within a "high risk" category. We will attempt to give priority to those trees that could present an immediate danger to the public and do apologise for the delay in implementing this work.

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

14. **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - HIGHFIELD ROAD**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Bradney raised the need for traffic calming measures on Highfield Road.

**Comments:** The Council currently introduces traffic calming measures only as part of a Local Safety Scheme where the emphasis is very much related to a reduction in the recorded number of personal injury accidents and not to address issues of environmental nuisance such as rat-running traffic. A review of the accident records for Highfields Road shows that, with the possible exception of any recently occurring incidents, there have been no personal injury accidents along this street in the last 3 year review period.

Given the number of initiatives that have been implemented in the area over the last few years, it is with regret that no further work can be sanctioned at this time.

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



15. **TRAFFIC ISSUES - HURST LANE, LODGE FARM**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Bradney requested a solution to the ongoing traffic problems near the bus stop in Hurst Lane, Lodge Farm. He requested the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing in the area to aid pedestrians, the elderly in particular, when crossing.

**Comments:** Having investigated the matter, Traffic Engineers have stated that this is not a safe location for a pedestrian crossing. In addition, the alternative of relocating the bus stop in Farm Road is not acceptable to Centro.

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

16. **SPEED RESTRICTIONS - NORTHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Rahman requested speed restrictions near Northfield Road Primary School.

**Comments:** Having investigated this matter, Traffic Engineers have reported that there are already 2 pedestrian crossings in Northfield Road either side of the school which have traffic calming measures. On balance, it has been determined that resources could be better used in an alternative location.

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

17. **ROAD REPAIRS - UPTON STREET**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Rahman requested urgent road repairs to Upton Street.

**Comments:** The necessary remedial works have now been completed.

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

18. **RAILINGS - HALESOWEN ROAD, NETHERTON**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Rahman made an enquiry in relation to the need for railings at Halesowen Road, near to the bank on account of the big slope and danger to the public from falling.

**Comments:** Having consulted with Structural Engineers, it is not the Council's intention to erect any railings/fencing at the top or bottom of the gentle slope between the car park and Halesowen Road, Netherton. There is a trip rail around the car park and there are many other slopes in the Borough which have steeper and longer inclines.

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

**19. PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS - ROAD OAK PUBLIC HOUSE, QUARRY BANK**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Cotterill requested that pedestrian lights at the Round Oak Public House, Quarry Bank be investigated as they do not “bleep” to indicate to pedestrians that it is safe to cross the road.

**Comments:** There is purposely no audible signal at this crossing as there is another crossing adjacent which could cause confusion to the blind and partially sighted. However, there is a knurled revolving spigot fitted to the underside of the “Wait” sign which revolves when it is safe to cross.

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

**20. SAFE CROSSING ACCESS - BOWLING GREEN ROAD/HALESOWEN ROAD**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Male requested a safe crossing access, possibly to include a “Keep Clear” area at the junction of Bowling Green Road/Halesowen Road, to enable local residents to cross this junction.

**Comments:** Following a further review of the site, it has been decided that a pedestrian crossing facility is not justified. However, currently Traffic Engineers are upgrading traffic signals at the crossing junction of Saltwells Road and Cole Street which will provide improved pedestrian crossing due to its amended phasing.

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

**21. BOX JUNCTION - COPPICE LANE/VICTORIA ROAD AND DOG FOULING BIN - STEVENS PARK, THORNS ROAD ENTRANCE**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 16th January 2007, Cllr Sparks asked for a box junction to be introduced at the junction of Coppice Lane and Victoria Road and also asked for dog fouling bins to be replaced which have recently been removed from the Thorns Road entrance in Stevens Park, Quarry Bank

**Comments:** Traffic Engineers have confirmed that a box junction will be constructed in Coppice Lane in the new financial year.

The dog fouling bin highlighted by Cllr Sparks was subjected to vandalism and had to be removed. However, a new dog fouling bin has been ordered for the site and once delivered, will be installed as a matter of urgency.

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