

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 10TH NOVEMBER, 2011

REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 30TH

JUNE 2011

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 30th June, 2011, Brierley Hill Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Council.

BACKGROUND

2. The Council provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to a range of services. 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, a progress report is attached (Appendix 1). In addition, a letter of thanks has been received from Andrew Lacon who, via Area Committee in February 2011, was awarded a grant of £1,782 from the Wordsley Art & Technical Institute Charity towards studying fine art at the Royal College of Art in London (Appendix 2).

FINANCE

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

LAW

6. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are largely governed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
7. Provisions relating to Highways including trees thereon are contained in the Highways Act 1980.

8. Provisions relating to the Council's Housing stock are contained in the Housing Act 1985.
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas 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.
12. 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.
13. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 allows the Council to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area.

EQUALITY IMPACT

14. This report is consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity policy. There is no direct effect on children or young people.

RECOMMENDATION

15. The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.



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Brierley Hill Area Committee Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers:

Appendix 1: Progress report
Appendix 2: Letter of thanks from Andrew Lacon

**PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT THE
BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 30TH JUNE 2011**

PUBLIC FORUM

Issue: Minute 14 (a)

A written question from a member of the public in relation to parking issues affecting Larch Road and Standhills Road, Kingswinford. The member of the public also made particular reference to the above causing visibility problems for moving traffic.

Response:

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety met with the member of the public immediately after the meeting. The officer agreed to commence proposals to introduce yellow lines in the area surrounding the electricity company premises.

Issue: Minute 14 (c)

A written question from a member of the public in relation to the provision of a bus service on Venture Way, Brierley Hill in order to provide public transport for those attending the Waterfront Surgery.

Response:

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Transportation arranged for a site meeting to take place on 26th October between traffic engineers and representatives from Centro to discuss the matter further. It was agreed that Centro would attempt to find a bus operator willing to undertake a service

Issue: Minute 14 (d)

A written question from a member of the public in relation to anti social behaviour. The Area Liaison Officer undertook to forward the information to the Assistant Director of Housing Management and ensure that the police were also aware of the anti social behaviour referred to.

Response:

Complaints concerning a particular tenancy were received in June 2011 and in partnership with the police, matters were addressed and resolved. In mid September there was agreement to close the case due to the much improved position. Unfortunately, two further serious incidents occurred in late September that resulted in a legal warning letter issued and notification that any further incidents will jeopardise the individual's tenancy.

Issue: Minute 14 (d) continued

Councillor Mrs Wilson also raised concerns with regard to anti social behaviour and in response to those concerns, the Assistant Director of Housing Management reported that in accordance with the request of the Cabinet Member for Housing, a review of anti social behaviour was taking place in order that the Directorates' procedures in relation to housing would be investigated in order to speed up processes.

Response:

The corporate review of anti social behaviour is still ongoing. In addition to the review, Housing have agreed with Legal that to prevent the over use of diary sheets, that on receipt of two weeks of diary sheets, cases will now be assessed to determine the most appropriate action. It is also intended to speed up any legal action involving the courts by making earlier recommendations for action.

Issue: Minute 14 (e)

A member of the public raised concerns in relation to a neighbour operating a business from home which was causing a fire hazard and a nuisance. In responding the Area Liaison Officer undertook to provide the questioner and relevant Ward Councillors with the history of planning enforcement action in relation to the above.

Response:

A full written response was provided directly by the Planning Control Manager to the member of the public and the Ward Councillors.

Appendix 2.

Friday 26th August

Dear Brierley Hill Area Committee Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for the grant you awarded me from the Wordsley Art & Technical Institute Charity and update you on my current progress.

I have recently Graduate from the Royal College of Art with excellence in my Masters and had an extremely successful final show. I was awarded the highly coveted Metro Imaging Award, which will result in me working with Metro to introduce my work to international galleries and collectors. My work was also selected by a Danish curator to be included in an exhibition in Copenhagen throughout September and I will be holding a solo show later this year in Norwich. At the end my course we also published a book *HardCover: Image Perspectives* with Black Dog Publishing, which is being distributed throughout Europe and America.

Whilst continuing my work in and about the area, I have been commissioned alongside local artist Brian Griffin and artists Michael Collins and Stuart Whipps to produce work about the new Library of Birmingham, to be completed in 2013.

Thank you very much once again for your support and I have recently updated my website with my new work if you would like to have a look.

Kind regards,

Andrew Lacon