

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday 24th March, 2011 at 7.00 pm
at The Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford

PRESENT:-

Councillor Southall (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs D Harley (Vice Chairman)
Councillors D Blood, Mrs E Blood, Foster, P Harley, Ms Harris, Islam, J T Jones, Mrs Jordan, Tyler and P Woodall.

Officers:-

The Director of the Urban Environment (As Area Liaison Officer), Head of Sport and Physical Activity, Manager, Executive Support Team, Group Engineer and Section Engineer, (Traffic and Road Safety), (all Directorate of the Urban Environment); Assistant Director Housing Management (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services); Senior Account Manager, Marketing and Communications (Chief Executive's Directorate); Ms H Kidd, Solicitor and Miss K Fellows (Directorate of Corporate Resources),

together with Inspector Garry Malpass and Sergeant Richard Evans, West Midlands Police, Mr C Newton, West Midlands Fire Service and approximately 8 members of the public.

49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Greenaway, Miller and Mrs Wilson.

50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a Declaration of Interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

51 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd February 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed.

52 PETITIONS

No Petitions had been received since the last meeting and no further Petitions were presented at this meeting.

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PUBLIC FORUM

Consideration was given to the following written/oral questions raised:-

- (a) In response to a written question regarding the provision of a crossing at the junction of Cochrane Road and Stourbridge Road, Harts Hill, the Section Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) indicated that a future assessment would be completed in relation to the Highways Minor Works Capital Programme for 2011/12, and it would be the decision of the Cabinet Member for Transportation in consultation with the Shadow Cabinet Member, as to whether this should be added to the programme.

Councillor Foster as Shadow Cabinet Member for Transportation indicated that she saw no reason why she would not support the above application.

- (b) In response to a question from a Member in relation to visual impairment to pedestrians created by incorrectly parked vehicles outside the Woodside Day Centre, Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, Inspector G Malpass undertook to investigate the position.
- (c) In responding to a written question in relation to proposals for parking restrictions, and the impact they would have upon residents in Byron Street, Brierley Hill, the Area Liaison Officer indicated that the Group Engineer would address the question later in the evening when presenting the report in relation to the Central Dudley Area Committee (Russells Hall Traffic) Working Group.
- (d) A Member of the public thanked Councillor Foster and the Principal Planning Enforcement Officer for their work in order to alleviate a problem with the possible provision of a car washing facility in Brockmoor High Street, Brierley Hill.
- (e) The same Member of the public, raised a query as to when the provision of the guard rail in High Street, Brockmoor would take place. The Area Liaison Officer undertook to respond direct to the questioner.
- (f) The same questioner raised concerns in relation to several refuse sacks remaining in Campbell Street, Brierley Hill and problems experienced with Dudley Council Plus in securing their removal. The Area Liaison Officer provided assurances that he would arrange for the removal of the sacks and an investigation by the Council's Enforcement Officer.

The same questioner raised concerns in relation to the Council's three refuse sacks per household system. The Area Liaison Officer responded stating that a saving of £250,000 had been made and recycling had increased by 5% following the introduction of the system. However, should individual members of the public require assistance with refuse collections, he gave assurances that if they contacted the Council arrangements would be made for an assessment to take place.

He also stated that a very high percentage of telephone calls following the introduction of the system had been positive calls from the elderly and the disabled, in relation to the assistance that the Council had provided them with in relation to their refuse collections.

- (g) The same questioner raised concerns that a resident of Cressett Lane, Brierley Hill had not received assistance with his refuse collection, following a request. The Area Liaison Officer gave assurances that those who were disabled and elderly and requested assistance with their refuse collections, would be assisted by the Council, and undertook to arrange a visit by an officer to assess their needs.

54

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE (RUSSELLS HALL TRAFFIC) WORKING GROUP.

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the findings of the Russells Hall Traffic Working Group. Plans of proposed Traffic Regulation Orders were Appended to the report submitted.

In relation to an earlier question from a Member of the Public, the Group Engineer undertook to visit the resident in Byron Street, Brierley Hill in order to assess their individual situation.

Arising from the presentation of the report and Appendices to the report submitted, Members raised questions, concerns and made suggestions as follows:-

- In relation to the proposals regarding Kingswinford Road, the possibility of including a prohibition of Parking Order;
- A suggestion that marked spaces may be a solution to residents parking problems as a result of the introduction of any Traffic Regulation Orders;
- That a Hospital representative had indicated that details of vehicles belonging to staff would be obtained, in order that they could assist with parking problems;
- Clarification was needed as to who would enforce the Traffic Regulation Orders;

- That the residents who may be affected by the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders should be individually written to as part of the Consultation process;
- That in view of the re-organisation of the Primary Care Trust, this could impact upon the volume of staff vehicle parking;
- Issues concerning sufficient parking at the Hospital for those with disabilities;
- That the Council should liaise with the Hospital in relation to problems with student parking;
- That the recommendations of the Working Group had been made having regard to feasibility; the importance of residents responding to the Consultation in relation to the proposals and the difficulty with striking a balance between dealing with inconsiderate and problematic parking and providing parking for the residents within those areas affected.

The Group Engineer confirmed that Members' suggestions would be noted as far as the Consultation process was concerned.

In responding the Group Engineer indicated that marked spaces would be advisory and there would be no enforcement provision for those spaces.

The Working Group would consider enforcement issues, should the Traffic Regulations proposed be made.

Inspector Malpass indicated that the Police should be involved in relation to any Traffic Regulation Orders in order to limit any confusion to the public in relation to responsibility for enforcement.

The Group Engineer confirmed that, in relation to Traffic Regulation Orders, the Police and Ward Members would be written to in any event.

The Area Liaison Officer indicated that he would write to Councillor Tyler direct in relation to the enforcement of the Traffic Regulation Orders outlined in the Appendix to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report and Appendices to the report submitted, on the findings of the Russells Hall Traffic Working Group, be noted.

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on recommendations made in respect of an application received for funding from this year's Capital Allocation budget and to update Members on progress to date.

In presenting the report and Appendix to the report submitted, particular reference was made to the interim arrangements for dealing with Capital Allocation applications for the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chairman at the first meeting of the Area Committee in the new municipal year, and the arrangements for dealing with urgent applications in between meetings during the next municipal year.

The Area Liaison Officer also referred to the letters of thanks that had been received from those recipients of funding from this Committee's Capital Allocations budget, recommending that such letters should be circulated to all Members of the Committee at future meetings.

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval be given to the application received from Hawbush Community Gardens in the sum of £4,092 for the installation of external lighting and a new floor in the on-site multi use community building.
- (2) That in the period between the Annual Council Meeting and the election of a Chairman at the first meeting of the Area Committee in the new municipal year, the Lead Officer, in consultation with a representative from each political group on the Committee, be authorised to consider and determine any application received for capital funding and that the decisions made, be reported to the first meeting of the Committee in the new municipal year.
- (3) That in between meetings during the next municipal year, in respect of urgent applications for a capital allocation funding, any such applications be considered and determined by the Area Liaison Officer in consultation with Members of the Capital Allocations Working Group and reported for information to the following meeting of the Committee.

MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2011.

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted updating the Committee on a number of issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd February, 2011. Details of the matters raised at that meeting were set out in the Appendix to the report submitted.

Arising from the presentation of the report and Appendix to the report submitted, Councillor Mrs Jordan, wished to thank Sergeant Tomkinson for his help with addressing problems with stray horses.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report submitted, be noted.

57

WARD ISSUES

It was noted that no Ward Issues had been raised prior to the meeting.

Matter raised by Councillor Foster

In relation to the off road parking outside 98 to 106 Pensnett Road, Brierley Hill a request was made that Officers investigate this, as the area of grass verge had become a quagmire.

In responding to a further question from Councillor Foster, Inspector Malpass confirmed that the alcohol ban remained in place in the Brierley Hill High Street and confirmed that he would investigate reports that members of the public were drinking in the High Street.

58

IAN WITHEY – PRINCIPAL ENGINEER, TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY.

The Chairman referred to the forthcoming retirement of Ian Withey, and he and Members thanked Ian for his support to the Committee, wishing him a long and happy retirement.

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DATES OF FUTURE AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

It was noted that the dates of meetings of the Committee in 2011/12 would be determined at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, 2011.

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CLOSING REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee thanked Councillor Mrs E Blood for her service and wished her well for her retirement.

The meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN