

North Dudley Area Committee – 20 September 2004

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions Raised at Previous Meetings

PURPOSE

1. To report to the Committee on the current status of responses to questions posed at previous meetings of the Committee.

BACKGROUND

2. The revised Protocol for Area Committees provides for a report to be submitted to each Area Committee reporting the current position with regard to questions raised by members of the public and Councillors at previous meetings of the Area Committee.

FINANCE

3. There are no direct financial implications at this stage.

LAW

4. Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive, or incidental, to the discharge of its statutory functions.

EQUALITY IMPACT

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

RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Committee note the report and the appendix to the report.



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John Freeman
Area Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers (see appendices)

Update on Ward Issues

- 1 Councillor Mottram raised the issue of Bradleys Lane, stating that the signage should be in place by 19 July 2005.

Letters have been sent to local residents to confirm an implementation date of 29 July 2005. Design work and consultation with neighbouring Boroughs now has to take place before orders can be sent for the installation of the new signs.

2. Councillor G Davies called on the Council to repair the numerous footpaths that had become hazardous to pedestrians in Coseley and to carry out a drain cleaning exercise following the problems experienced due to the recent heavy storms. Councillor Stanley spoke in support of Councillor Davies' comments and stated that cleaning drains and gullies needed to be carried out urgently in the northern part of the Borough.

We are currently inspecting the footways in Coseley as part of our Highway Safety Inspection Programme which we undertake annually. Where problems are identified they are programmed and remedial works undertaken. If the Members have any particular sites that they wish to be investigated you are requested to contact the Street Care Division direct.

Gullies have been emptied this year by the cyclic maintenance contractor and sections that have been identified as capacity problems within the Severn Trent Network have been subject to remedial works and as far as we are aware all issues have now been resolved. However, any particular problem areas that are still known to be causing problems should be reported to the Street Care Division direct.

3. Councillor Stanley raised the issue of horses grazing in Sandstone Close, Lower Gornal. He stated that the fence had fallen down and the horses had become a nuisance to local residents. He asked whether it could be determined whether grazing rights had been applied for.

An Officer from the Directorate of DUE has been out to inspect this matter and the Grazier has been notified under the Terms and Conditions of his contract that he is responsible for maintaining all fencing and hedging and has been requested to replace/repair the fencing where necessary. A further inspection will take place to ensure that this work has been carried out.

4. Councillor Wright called for street lighting to be upgraded at the top of Church Street, Gornal, particularly as this was the business area of the village.

The situation is still the same regarding this matter, namely that we have insufficient funding in our current budgets for the proposed works and, as a result of the possible introduction of CCTV facilities, even this amount may be insufficient to meet the work needed to bring the lighting up to CCTV standard. We will only be able to estimate the cost when we know the extent of the required works.