

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 3rd DECEMBER, 2009

REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 1st October, 2009 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.

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.

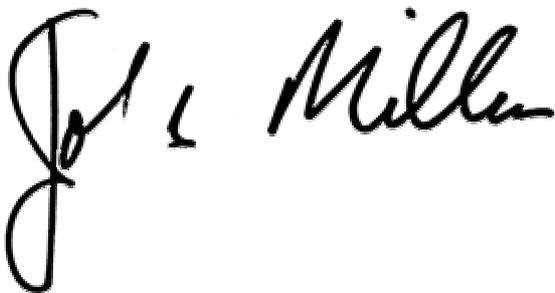
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 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 1972 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.



.....
Brierley Hill Area Committee Liaison Officer

Contact Officer: John Millar
Telephone: 01384 814150
Email: john.millar@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers - See progress report attached

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 3RD DECEMBER 2009
AREA LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 1ST OCTOBER

PETITIONS (Minute 38)

Councillor Islam submitted a petition on behalf of residents of Housing 21 Myles Court and their neighbours the residents of Bent Street, Brierley Hill, requesting permission to carry out works to trees at Myles Court.

Response:

The Council's Tree Preservation Officer has written to the first named petitioner and informed that during a site inspection, a number of trees had been identified for either felling or pruning.

The appropriate forms have been sent to the Centre Manager so that a formal application can be put forward for consideration. As part of the application process, the views of local residents on the proposed works will be taken into consideration. The process takes approximately eight weeks from the date of submission to determination and subject to the outcome, the Centre Manager would be able to arrange for the work to be undertaken during the early part of 2010.

WARD ISSUES

Issue (Minute 44 [a])

Councillor Mrs Jordan, together with Councillor Southall commented on various anti-social behaviour issues in relation to Wordsley Park and queried in particular the role of the Police in combating the activities being carried on.

In response Inspector Quinby reported on the Police activities that had been undertaken and expressed his disappointment at the comments now made. Councillor Southall indicated that, arising from previous concerns expressed, a site meeting had been called for. Inspector Quinby also reported that Wordsley Park was a PACT priority and that he would look into the matter further

Response:

A site meeting was held on the 20th October attended by Neighbouring Police Sergeant Sharon Dalton and the PCSO Officers for the area where various issues were discussed.

In an effort to tackle and resolve the problems, the Police have been carrying out targeted patrols in the park having had officers on cycle patrol, foot patrol and plain clothes patrols both during daytime and evening.

In addition, Officers have attended several youth and children's groups in Wordsley giving safety talks and speaking about anti social behaviour as well as setting up a youth diversion initiative in the form of a successful football tournament attended by over 40 young people.

Efforts to deal with incidents are ongoing and Officers hope that the above measures will reassure councillors and residents of their positive action and community engagement.

Issue (Minute 44 [c])

Councillor Islam referred to two wooden benches by the Brier Flower in the vicinity of High Street/Bank Street, one of which was broken and asked that action be taken to improve/repair the benches.

Response:

Highway inspectors undertook a site visit to view the condition of the benches, following which they were subsequently removed given their poor condition. New benches were ordered and were subsequently installed during the last week of October.

Issue (Minute 44 [d])

Councillor Islam referred to the withdrawal of the school crossing patrol in relation to the Brook Primary School and asked that the parents of the children concerned be informed of the reasons for its withdrawal.

Response:

A pedestrian count has shown that the number of children wishing to cross the road as part of their journey to and from the school does not support the continuance of a school crossing patrol at this time.

Although there are currently no proposals to reinstate a school crossing patrol, arrangements will be put in place to undertake a further pedestrian count in order to see if the position has changed.

The Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety, has written to the Headteacher requesting that a copy of his letter to Councillor Islam is copied and circulated to all parents.