

## **BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 3rd February, 2005, at 7.00 p.m.  
At Wordsley School, Brierley Hill Road,  
Brierley Hill

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs Wilson (Chairman)  
Councillor Tyler (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Blood, Burt, Debney, Ms Foster, Ms Harris, Harley, Islam, Miller, Mrs Jordan, Miller, Mrs Patrick, Mrs Pearce, Southall and Tomkinson.

### **OFFICERS**

Mr. Lowson (Area Liaison Officer), Chief Executives Directorate, Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Economic Regeneration), Assistant Director Law and Property (Property Services), Senior Solicitor (Directorate of Law and Property), Principal Engineer (Traffic and Transportation Directorate of the Urban Environment), Town Centre Manager (Directorate of Law and Property (Economic Regeneration) Education Officer (Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning), and Ms K Smith (Directorate of Law and Property).

There were approximately 40 members of the public in attendance.

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### **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2004, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Debney, Southall and Mrs Wilson declared a Prejudicial Interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in agenda item 15a (Kingswinford Skate Park) in view of their being members of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Mrs Wilson declared a Prejudicial Interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in agenda item 14 (Provision of car park on land south of Kinver Street, Wordsley) in view of being a member of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Miller declared a Personal Interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in Agenda Item 11 (Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order, Cot Lane), in view of his Governorship of Glynne Primary School.

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53            YOUTH ISSUES

It was noted that there were no Youth Issues to be discussed at this time.

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54            PUBLIC FORUM

The following question was raised and responded to:-

1.        A member of the public raised concerns over private companies being hired to "police" private car parks in Kingswinford and issuing £60 parking tickets. Members also commented on various complaints received from local residents regarding the implementation of this scheme and requested that the Council's Directorate of Law and Property look into ways of monitoring the situation.

The representative of the Directorate of Law and Property confirmed that the Council had no jurisdiction over private car parks and the activities of private companies, but would submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on new legislation.

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55            RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on written responses to questions asked at previous meetings.

Cllr Tomkinson requested that CENTRO be contacted again regarding the feasibility of providing a direct train from Stourbridge to Birmingham New Street Station and that a review of the bus timetable in relation to Cradley Heath Station be undertaken.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted and that a representative of the Directorate of the Urban Environment be requested to make enquiries with CENTRO regarding members comments.

## APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF LAND AND PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COUNCIL

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A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted regarding land and property within the committee's area.

On consideration of the report it was

### RESOLVED

- 1) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended to refuse the application to purchase an area of land adjacent to 5 Greenbank Gardens, Wordsley, as shown on the plan attached to the report submitted, for the reasons set out in the report.
- 2) That as Members welcomed the proposals for public open space, the Cabinet Members for Housing and Economic Regeneration, be recommended to approve the appropriation of the land at Barrow Hill, Pensnett, as shown on the plan attached to the report submitted, so that Barrow Hill can be declared a Local Nature Reserve.

## CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

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A verbal report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications received for funding from the Capital Allocation of the Committee.

Upon consideration of the recommendations of the Capital Allocations Working Group it was;

### RESOLVED

1. That the application on behalf of the Nine Locks Community Association, for double glazing, be refused as the Committee consider that capital expenditure of this nature should be met by the Council, as landlord, from central budgets.
  2. That the application by the Kingswinford Childminders' Support Group for equipment be deferred for further information.
  3. That, in cases where a second application was submitted for the same project, the Area Liaison Officer discuss the issues with the Chairman of the Capital Allocations Working Group and that the Chairman, in consultation with the Area Liaison Officer, be authorised to determine whether or not the second application was to be reported to the Working Group.
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DUDLEY MBC COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE SCHEME

A report of the Lead Officer for the Select Committee on Culture and Recreation was submitted on the proposed Dudley MBC Commemorative Plaque Scheme. Dudley did not have a policy within the borough for statues, monuments and memorials and the Select Committee on Culture and Recreation had developed a draft policy for consideration by Brierley Hill Area Committee, before presentation to the Cabinet.

Following a lengthy discussion it was;

RESOLVED

That Members comments that the number of years a person had been deceased should be reduced to ten years before being considered eligible for a Wall Plaque, and the Committees support for the policy be reported to the Cabinet.

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PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF WAITING ORDER - COT LANE, KINGSWINFORD

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on a proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order on Cot Lane, Kingswinford and its junctions with adjoining side roads near the Glynne Primary School.

RESOLVED

That, having fully considered the views of the objectors, and taking into consideration the request for the “no waiting at any time” to be extended into Earls Street, support be given to the making of the amended Traffic Regulation Order, as shown on the drawing number TM/2183A, attached to the report submitted, and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended to introduce the Scheme.

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PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF DRIVING ORDER – HOLBEACHE LANE AND OAK LANE KINGSWINFORD

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on a Prohibition of Driving Order to enable the construction of physical barriers to prevent through traffic from using Holbeache Lane and Oak Lane.

RESOLVED

That, having considered the objections received, the introduction of the Borough of Dudley (Holbeache Lane and Oak Lane, Kingswinford) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2004 in the modified form shown on drawing numbers TM2146A and TM2147, as attached to the report submitted, be supported.

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61                    PROPOSALS FOR DISABLED PARKING PLACES PROGRAMME G

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on requests for parking places to be included in Programme G of the on-street Disabled Parking Places Scheme.

Appendix A to the report showed sites where no objections had been received, Appendix B to the report showed objections which had been made and where it had been recommended that the objections should be upheld and Appendix C to the report showed sites where objections had been made and where it was recommended that the objections should be overruled.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised that :

- a)     The schemes detailed in Appendix A be recommended for introduction as advertised.
  - b)     The objections to the sites shown in Appendix B be overruled and that the sites be recommended for introduction as advertised.
  - c)     The site shown in Appendix C be recommended for introduction as advertised.
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62                    PROVISION OF CAR PARK ON LAND SOUTH OF KINVER STREET WORDSLEY

(Councillor Tyler took the Chair as Councillor Mrs Wilson had declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item being a Member of Development Control Committee).

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on a proposal for the introduction of a public car park within the open space area off Kinver Street, Wordsley. Appendix A attached to the report submitted outlined the views expressed by the Planning Policy Section of the Directorate of the Urban Environment, in which there was a clear statement that the proposal to build a car park on the amenity public open space south of Kinver Street, Wordsley, should be refused.

Following a lengthy discussion it was:-

## RESOLVED

That the officers be requested to look into ways of providing adequate and environmentally friendly car parking on land included in the Unitary Development Plan as “greenbelt”, taking into account all legal and financial restraints and report back to Members on their findings.

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### ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Councillor Tyler took the Chair as Councillor Mrs Wilson had declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item being a Member of Development Control Committee).

#### Kingswinford Skate Park

Councillor Burt registered his disappointment with regard to the withdrawal of the planning application for a skate-park in Kingswinford, due to the receipt by the planners of over sixty letters and e-mails objecting to the proposals. The application had been withdrawn so that objections could be considered, the project amended and then re-submitted. It was noted that this had caused a further delay in the project, that had been discussed and agreed with the local youths, and this issue had been ongoing for two years.

Members raised concerns over the delay and the perception of lack of support being shown by the Area Committee to the local youth over this project, to which they had put so much energy and enthusiasm.

Mr Watkins of Kingswinford Community Association raised concern over the lack of information and consultation with Association Members over the impact on the Centre of the Skate Park.

A representative of the Directorate of the Urban Environment stated that the lease held by the Kingswinford Community Association was to be reviewed by officers and a meeting arranged regarding consultation on the siting of the skate-park between all interested parties within the next fortnight.

#### Parking and sale of cars on private land

Councillor Debney raised concerns over the growing numbers of cars for sale on private land, grassed areas and verges within the Borough. Private individuals were allegedly selling these cars when in fact they were traders displaying mobile telephone numbers that changed on a regular basis to avoid being traced.

A representative of the Directorate of Law and Property confirmed that where it was Council owned land, action could be taken to remove the vehicles under the law of trespass. Sandwell Borough Council were currently looking at by-laws to prohibit the sale of cars on private land by traders and the legal representative confirmed he would write to Members to update them on the situation and options available, with a report back to future meeting of the Area Committee and also on a proposed Bill going through Parliament.

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#### DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

#### RESOLVED

That following details in respect of the next meeting of the Committee be noted, as follows:-

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005, at the Wordsley School.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN