

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th MARCH, 2011

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 3rd February, 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.

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.

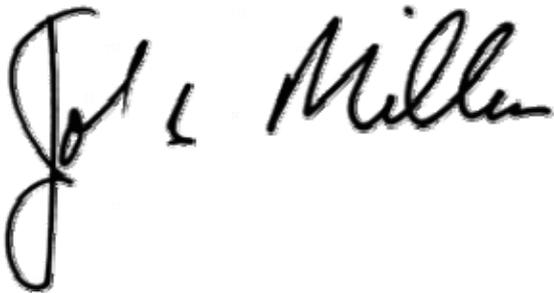
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
11. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.
12. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 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.



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Brierley Hill Area Committee Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers

PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2011

PUBLIC FORUM

ISSUE (Minute 41a):

In response to a written question regarding obstructive and hazardous parking on Larch Road and Standhills Road, Kingswinford, it was reported that the Section Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) was undertaking a review of the area and would respond direct to the questioner.

Response

Arrangements have been put in place during the forthcoming 2011/2012 financial year for a review of the Traffic Regulation Orders in the Kingswinford area.

This process can be quite lengthy given the impact any potential changes have on both individuals and the wider community. However, it is considered to be the most appropriate approach to take towards addressing the issues and, if restrictions are subsequently deemed appropriate, it will put in place the necessary framework which will then allow any enforcement action to be taken.

In addition to the above, the Police have been contacted to see if they can offer any assistance with the parking issue where they feel that the vehicles are causing an obstruction on the highway.

ISSUE (Minute 41b):

In response to a written question in relation to the accessibility from the Brierley Hill Town Centre to the Health and Adult Social Care Centre in Venture Way, Brierley Hill, the Area Liaison Officer indicated that an investigation would be undertaken in conjunction with Centro in relation to the possibility of providing a bus service to service the above location and would respond direct to the questioner and Members.

Response

Any decision regarding the location and frequency of Centro services is an operational matter over which the company will ultimately have the final say. However, local Councillors and Council Officers have met on site with a representative from Centro who has agreed to take up this issue with the bus operators in order to identify potential improvements in the quality of bus services available to the general public.

To assist the crossing of Venture Way, pedestrian phases have been incorporated into the traffic signals at the junction of Venture Way and the access to the Asda store to the south of the Health and Social Care Centre. In addition, there is also a pelican crossing just to the north of the Health Centre.

ISSUE (Minute 41c&d):

A member of the public raised concerns in relation to stray horses and whose responsibility it would be to remove these from either the Highway or from private properties.

Further members of the public raised concerns that the horse bailiff had removed horses that had been tethered from land where they had grazed for a number of years.

Response

The Council share people's frustrations in relation to the recent problem of horses roaming the borough and is concerned not only for the horses' welfare but also for public safety when they are left roaming the borough streets.

The Council can reassure residents that extensive work is going on behind the scenes and has been working closely with the Police to deal with the current strays sighted in the borough. The Council has also been in contact with some known horse owners and are continuing to work to establish a workable solution.

In law, horse owners are primarily liable for damage or injury caused by a stray horse and case law back this up. However, the owner is often impossible to trace as seems to be the case with current strays.

ISSUE (Minute 41e):

A member of the public raised concerns in relation to problems that drivers faced in relation to the no entry sign operating in Mill Street, Brierley Hill. The Section Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) would respond direct to the questioner and Members following alternative routes being investigated.

A Member stated that Brierley Hill Ward Councillors were aware of problems in Mill Street, Brierley Hill and were working with the Section Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) in order to attempt to reverse or change the Traffic Regulation Order in Mill Street, Brierley Hill.

Response

Modifications have recently been introduced resulting in Mill Street now operating as a two way street.

ISSUE (Minute 41f):

A member of the public raised concerns with over spilling litterbins in Brierley Hill High Street. The Head of Street and Green Care would respond direct to the questioner.

Response

The Street Cleansing service operates a number of different teams across the Borough with a range of different services including the emptying of litter bins. The service operates seven days a week, during this time a total of 776 litter bins and 495 dog bins are emptied. Due to the quantity, it is not possible to empty litter bins before 6am as requested by the member of public and as such, emptying take place throughout the day. However, the Team Manager for Street Cleansing has been asked to monitor standards of cleanliness in the High Street and to carry out any remedial works as considered necessary.

ISSUE (Minute 41g):

A member of the public requested that consideration be given to the provision of a bus stop within Brierley Hill High Street for those commuters leaving the Brierley Hill High Street
The Area Liaison Officer indicated that he would discuss the issue with Centro and respond direct to the questioner.

Response

As referenced previously in Minute 41b, any decision regarding the location and frequency of bus services rests entirely with Centro. However, local Ward Councillors and Council Officers have recently met on site with a representative from Centro who has agreed to support the introduction of an additional bus stop in High Street.

ISSUE (Minute 41h):

In responding to concerns raised in relation to Brierley Hill High Street being obstructed due to loading and unloading, the Area Liaison Officer confirmed that the Council's Parking Enforcement Officers would be instructed to investigate the above.

Response

Although legitimate loading and unloading is permitted, the Parking Enforcement Manager has been made aware of the problems and will monitor the position accordingly. Any unauthorised parking will be dealt with accordingly.
