

**WARDS: Netherton and Woodside, St Thomas's**

**AGENDA**

**ITEM NO.**

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2003**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**CLAUGHTON DEVELOPMENT SITE ACCESS ISLAND**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 To seek views and advise the Committee of progress on the design of a new traffic island to provide access to the Claughton Development Site.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 A draft Development Brief for the Claughton site was presented to Area Committee on the 7th March 2002 for comment and a public meeting held on the 28th May 2003 to discuss the proposals in detail. The brief was subsequently approved by the Development Control Committee on the 14th October 2002. At those meetings a number of issues were raised about the traffic implications arising from the construction of an access island to serve the Claughton Site and it was agreed that once more detailed proposals had been produced they would be presented for comment.

2.2 A detailed planning application has been submitted for consideration and a public meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September to provide people the opportunity to discuss the proposals - the details of the scheme will be displayed at the Area Committee. The outcome of that meeting will be reported verbally to the Committee.

2.3 The scheme has been designed on the basis of the previously submitted draft but taking account of the anticipated traffic movements that will be generated by development of the site, making allowance for pedestrian movements, the provision of cycle ways and various current design standards.

2.4 Design features include:

- A roundabout at the junction of Blowers Green Road and Tanfield Road.

- A central refuge that will extend from the new island to the existing Cinder Bank Island on the Dudley Southern Bypass, which will prevent right turns out of Shaw Road and Thornleigh Trading Estate.
- An improved left turn from Blowers Green Road into the Thornleigh Trading Estate.
- Provision for on street parking along Blowers Green Road where alternative off street parking is not available.
- A Pelican Crossing across Blowers Green Road immediately to the south of the island to assist pedestrian movements.
- Landscaped areas to be incorporated within the scheme.

2.5 It is anticipated that construction of the access will take approximately 5 months but access to adjoining properties will be maintained at all times.

2.6 Members will see in paragraph 4.0 that funding for the construction of the access is a combination of resources from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Advantage West Midlands and the Council's Capital Programme. The ERDF funding is only available up to the end of 2003 and therefore it is vital that that planning application is considered at the next available Development Control Committee, in order to be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

### 3.0 **PROPOSALS**

3.1 That the views of the Committee be reported to the Council's Development Control Committee, together with other observations received during the public consultation period.

### 4.0 **FINANCE**

There are no direct financial issues arising from this report. Resourcing the project will need to be considered by the Council's Executive.

### 5.0 **LEGAL**

5.1 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive to the discharge of its statutory function.

5.2 General highway improvements are undertaken under section 62 of the Highways Act 1980 and new highways are provided under section 24 of the same Act.

### 6.0 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

6.1 The proposals within this report do not conflict with the Council's Equal Opportunities policy.

### 7.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 That a public meeting be held to discuss the proposals in more detail.
- 7.2 That the proposals set out in paragraph 3.1 be approved.

.....**Director of the Urban Environment**

Contact Officer: J Anderson, ext. 4460

**8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report of the Chief Planning and Leisure Officer to Dudley Central Area Committee 7<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

Cloughton Development Site – Development Brief – October 2002