

**Central Dudley Area Committee – 10th June 2008**

**Report Of The Director Of The Urban Environment**

**Urban Environment - Matters Raised At The  
Central Dudley Area Committee - 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**Purpose Of Report**

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 Central Dudley Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

**Background**

2. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities. This diverse range of technical services focus on regenerating the Borough, maintaining our environment to high standards, protecting our communities and promoting leisure and other community services for all.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both Members and the general public, relating to matters such as traffic management, leisure and recreation, regeneration and new development. 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, progress reports are included as an appendix and the proposal resulting from the update is set out at the end of each paragraph.

**Finance**

5. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

**Law**

6. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.
7. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
8. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.

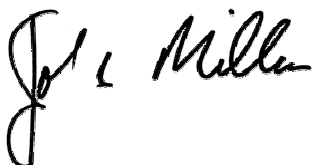
9. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State for Transport.
10. Guardrails may be provided under Section 66 of the Highways Act 1990.
11. Pedestrian crossing facilities are provided under powers contained in Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to Regulations made by the Secretary of State.
12. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
13. 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.
14. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its area to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
15. Part IX of the Highways Act 1980 contains provisions relating to the planting, care and control of trees in or on land adjoining the highways.
16. In the care and maintenance of its trees, the Council will owe the normal duty of care under the common law principles of nuisance and negligence.
17. 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.

### **Equality Impact**

18. The proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a diverse range of services that affect all sections of the community.

### **Recommendation**

19. That the proposals contained in Appendix 1 attached be approved.



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**John B Millar**  
**Director of the Urban Environment**

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**Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-**

1. Action Notes from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 Committee

## Appendix 1

### DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008

#### 1. INAPPROPRIATE WASTE FOR COLLECTION

**Background:** Councillor K Finch requested that the Council adopt a new policy for dealing with residents who leave inappropriate waste out for refuse collection. He requested that a policy be implemented whereby any residents leaving out inappropriate waste would receive a letter reminding them of the collection requirements and asking that they follow the guidelines in future.

He added that this was a particular problem in Marigold Crescent, and requested that the Council take action to clear up the rubbish which has now accumulated there.

**Comments:** The accumulated rubbish in Marigold Crescent has now been cleared.

The proposal put forward by Councillor Finch ie. send residents a letter, is what we would do anyway. Alternatively we could arrange for a site visit to be made by an officer. If this failed, we would look at following up with formal enforcement action if this was appropriate. If there is a problem with a particular location, once notified, we will take the appropriate action.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 2. DUDLEY HIGH STREET WATER FOUNTAIN AND THE EARL OF DUDLEY STATUE

**Background:** Councillor Craigie requested that both the water fountain in Dudley High Street and the statue of the Earl of Dudley in Castle Street be cleaned up as they have become dirty and unsightly.

**Comments:** Work is in hand on the fountain, Urban Design and Conservation are involved as it is listed. Due to erosion problems, it is preferred not to clean the Earl of Dudley Statue unless absolutely necessary for fear of eroding the stone.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 3. HIMLEY ROAD RUBBLE

**Background:** Councillor Craigie requested that accumulated rubble on Himley Road and Whitehall Drive be removed as quickly as possible.

**Comments:** The rubble has been cleared.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 4. **WATERLOO STREET/WELLINGTON ROAD - HAND CAR WASH**

**Background:** Councillor Roberts referred to the hand car wash operating at Waterloo Street/Wellington Road. It appears that the operation of the car wash may be illegal and not subject to planning permission.

**Comments:** DUE Planning officers confirm that an application was submitted in January 2008 but was returned due to insufficient information contained within the submission. A retrospective application was registered on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008 for the use of the car park as a hand car wash which is currently being considered. An email has been sent to Councillor Roberts informing her of the above.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 5. **DARBY END TRAFFIC SIGNAGE**

**Background:** Councillor J Martin raised concern re. traffic signage in Darby End. He reported that a number of traffic signs there have been damaged or removed resulting in heavy goods vehicles using the area as a “run through” to avoid traffic. He asked that officers investigate and replace signs where necessary.

**Comments:** Traffic signs can be replaced as part of maintenance programmes. Street Care officers will liaise with Traffic Management colleagues to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 6. **NETHERTON TRAFFIC SIGNAGE**

**Background:** Councillor J Martin expressed concern regarding traffic signage in Netherton shopping areas. He said that waiting time signs and parking restriction signs have been damaged or removed. He asked that officers investigate and replace signs where necessary.

**Comments:** Time plates are being maintained throughout the Borough in preparation for Civil Parking Enforcement. An officer will attend site to check for missing signage.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 7. **NETHERTON AIR QUALITY**

**Background:** Councillor J Martin raised concern regarding air quality in Netherton. He reported that a recent study had confirmed that air quality in Netherton was officially the worst in the Borough and requested that steps be taken to deal with the problem.

Councillor Rahman supported Cllr Martin's concerns above related to Netherton air quality and reiterated his previous request for an action plan to be drawn up for Netherton town centre to co-ordinate efforts and improve the environment.

**Comments:** Investigations will commence this year to determine necessary amendments to Traffic Regulation Orders.

With respect to the Air Quality issues in Netherton, Cllr Martin has corresponded with Environmental Protection Officers on the subject over the past 2-3 months and we have provided the information he has requested. In an attempt to control air quality, Traffic Officers have proposed a road scheme which is currently being considered.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

## 8. **POTHLES**

**Background:** Councillor Rahman requested that potholes in Walker Street, Griffin Street, Withymoor Road, Cole Street, St Peter's Road and Holly Hall Road be repaired as soon as possible.

**Comments:** The potholes in these roads have been repaired.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

## 9. **BUNNS LANE AND WATSONS GREEN ROAD**

**Background:** Councillor Ali commented that the 'assessment' of the problems in the 2008-09 financial year was unnecessary and inadequate as the safety issues in the area were already well known and required immediate attention to prevent a major accident.

**Comments:** Court proceedings relating to a fatal accident are still taking place. Police officers and Council officers cannot act until Wolverhampton Crown Court has made its verdict and recommendations known.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

## 10. **CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMUNITY GAMES 2010**

**Background:** Councillor Ali requested a report to the next meeting on a possible Central Dudley Area Community Games in 2010 engaging local schools, businesses and residents, similar to the St Thomas's Games.

**Comments:** Whilst it is very positive to see that the Central Dudley Area Committee is eager to consider the development of an event in 2010 as an extension of the St Thomas Community Games, this has raised an issue within the Council that requires a wider consideration than just this Area Committee.

This request has brought focus onto the Council's approach to the London 2012 Olympiad and the Cultural Olympiad that leads up to it over the 4 years following the completion of the Beijing Games later this year.

Discussions with the Cabinet Member for Leisure have identified a need for some work to be done on this as a Borough-wide initiative to identify options and resource requirements accordingly. This will require consideration of this matter by the Cabinet, given the policy development context of this issue, and the intention is that such a report be prepared and considered by Cabinet early in the 2008/09 Municipal Year which may lead to further work being required at both Select and Area Committees.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 11. **JUNCTION OF SALTWELLS ROAD/DUDLEY WOOD ROAD**

**Background:** Councillor Cotterill raised concern relating to traffic safety at the junction of Saltwells Road/Dudley Wood Road referring to a recent major accident there near to the Woodman public house and requested that traffic lights be installed to prevent further incidents.

**Comments:** Councillor Cotterill's request for traffic lights will be considered during the current financial year for possible action to be taken as part of a future annual scheme.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 12. **STONEY LANE/SALTWELLS ROAD**

**Background:** Councillor Cotterill requested action to alleviate flooding at the bottom of Stoney Lane where the road meets with Saltwells Road.

**Comments:** Street Maintenance Officers are currently in the process of desilting the pipe, once this has been completed further investigations into the problem will take place.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 13. **BOWLING GREEN ROAD**

**Background:** Councillor Cotterill requested that a zebra crossing be installed at the bottom of Bowling Green Road near the Cottage Spring public house so children can cross safely.

**Comments:** Councillor Cotterill's request for a zebra crossing will be considered during the current financial year for possible action to be taken as part of a future annual pedestrian crossing programme.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 14. **CRADLEY ROAD SPEEDING**

**Background:** Councillor Cotterill expressed concern regarding speeding on the stretch of Cradley Road between the canal bridge and the Golden Cross public house. He requested that traffic calming measures be implemented or speed cameras erected in the area.

**Comments:** Councillor Cotterill's request for traffic calming measures will be considered during the current financial year for a possible "speed visor" to be introduced as part of a future annual scheme.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 15. **GLOUCESTER ROAD AND BOWLING GREEN ROAD RESURFACING**

**Background:** Councillor Cotterill expressed concern that the resurfacing of Gloucester Road and Bowling Green Road has not yet been done and requested that these works be made priority and be done as soon as possible.

**Comments:** Bowling Green Road was resurfaced in microasphalt last year. Gloucester Road is not on the current Highway Maintenance Programme but will be inspected for defects.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

#### 16. **SALTWELLS HOUSE**

**Background:** At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008, a petition was received expressing concern over the proposed sale of Saltwells House and possible impact on the adjacent nature reserve.

**Comment:** Saltwells House is being sold as it is no longer viable for Council use. The sales brief takes into account planning policy concerns and any potential developers will have to:

- Retain the public right of way through the site
- Retain the mature trees in the front garden
- Utilise the existing 'footprint' to accommodate a visitor/warden's building and garage store.

It is envisaged that there will be no impact to the adjacent nature reserve and a full ecological and bat survey will be undertaken to help determine any measures that will have to be taken relative to the site.

**Proposal:** That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.