

**MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2005**

**UPDATE ON ISSUES RAISED IN PUBLIC FORUM AT LNP MEETINGS**

**Vehicular Access in Daw End Lane**

This issue was raised at the last LNP meeting on 7 July 2005

Mrs Isabel Mason, a LAP member, spoke on behalf of local residents about the lack of access for emergency services and delivery vehicles to particular properties in Daw End Lane. She said that houses numbered 72-92 were situated on a bank. There was a wide path by the Church at the top of the bank. Bollards have been installed and there was no way for vehicles to gain access to the houses there. Local residents were asking whether any action could be taken to enable them to park their cars in front of their houses.

This query was referred to Regeneration Housing and Built Environment (RHBE) and Walsall Housing Group (WHG) for comment.

Advice has now been received from RHBE that the path/alley by the Church (which leads to Stanley Place) as well as the path outside houses 82-92 Daw End Lane have been transferred to Walsall Housing Group (WHG). The land between the path outside these houses and the adopted footway is retained housing land. At the time of transfer 5 of the 10 houses (between ns. 72 and 92) were still owned by WHG.

WHG have confirmed that the path/alley is their responsibility but that the adjacent land is owned by the Council. WHG's view is that the gradient could be a problem if consideration were given to creating any car parking spaces. The cost implications and who would bear responsibility for this would also need to be considered.

**Access for Emergency Vehicles to the Bungalows in Rowley Place, Rushall**

This issue was raised at the last LNP meeting on 7 July 2005.

Local residents have expressed concerns relating to access for emergency vehicles to the bungalows in Rowley Place, Rushall. When people are using facilities in the park, their cars are parked all down the road, creating problems for local residents. Local residents have asked whether a car park for residents could be created to alleviate this problem.

Following enquiries, WHG has advised that they have no specific proposals at present relating to parking in Rowley Place but that they have been looking at improving fencing in the surrounding area. A ward walk of local Councillors, together with WHG's Estate Management Officer took place recently as part of the investigation of this problem.

### **Voting Facilities in Rushall**

At the last LNP meeting on 7 July 2005, local residents requested that consideration be given to relocating the Polling Station to Rushall Community Centre from its present location in New Street, Rushall. The view was expressed that many local people, particularly the elderly, find it more difficult to vote at New Street which in turn discourages many people from voting.

The Electoral Services Manager has advised that Rushall Community Centre has not been used for an election since May 1998 and that there have been eight elections across the Borough since then. Voting was moved to New Street in 1998 because of the run down state of Rushall Community Centre and information that it was to be closed. The only other suitable venue in the area at that time was New Street.

The Electoral Services Manager has pointed out in his reply that if the Community Centre is now considered suitable, Electoral Services would be happy to take another look at it as part of its build up for the May 2006 local elections, should this be the wish of the LNP.

### **Grassed Area at the rear of Eileen Mason's Studio in Station Road**

A local resident enquired at the last meeting on 7 July 2005 what future plans there were for the grassed area at the rear of Eileen Mason's photographic studio in Station Road, Rushall. Many local people were concerned as this was the only piece of 'green' land remaining in the centre of Rushall. The Chairman informed the meeting that he understood that the Council had some development plans that affected part of this land which was why Eileen Mason had not been allowed to purchase the land. Eileen Mason had given an assurance that she would not permit any building on the land but wished to make it as attractive as possible for residents in the area.

Following enquiries with Transportation Services, advice has been received that the former West Midlands County Council had imposed a highway improvement line to divert Station Road to join Lichfield Road opposite Daw End Lane to increase the capacity of the junction (by removing the stagger from the crossroads). This line involved using the small Council-owned car park and the grassed area on Station Road. The line was inherited by Walsall MBC but this was subsequently revoked after a blight notice was served on the Council. This is still the current position.

As a point of information, Lichfield Road is part of the A461 which is included in the proposed red route network in the West Midlands . Package 1 of this network has been approved and funding allocated. This does not, however, include the A461 north of Walsall. This will be included in a future submission (package 2 or 3, out of 5, not yet determined). Assuming future submissions are approved, Walsall MBC will be looking to undertake some improvements at this junction. No design work has been carried out yet so the implications in respect of the grassed area in Station Road are not known.

### **Extra Litter Bins for Special Events Days in Pelsall**

A Pelsall resident asked at the last meeting on 7 July 2005, whether it would be possible for more temporary litter bins to be provided in Pelsall on special events days such as the Carnival and the Victorian Christmas Event.

Following enquiries through the Council's Street Pride services, advice has been received that this is already being done for the Victorian Christmas Event, plus litter picking during and after the event. The Carnival Committee in Pelsall is responsible for litter/bins during Carnival weekend. Street Pride understand that skips are provided for this. All other events involving Street Pride across the Borough are, as a matter of course, provided with bins and have litter picked.

### **Problems of Under-age Drinking at Evenings and Weekends in the Area of the Education Development Centre, Pelsall Lane, Rushall**

A local resident raised the matter of under-age drinking in the area of the Education Development Centre (EDC), Pelsall Lane, Rushall at the last meeting on 7 July 2005.

The Police representative present at the meeting was asked to investigate this matter. The issue of possible sales of alcohol to underage drinkers has also been brought to the attention of Trading Standards Officers. It is understood that Detached Youth Workers are working with young people in the Rushall area, including the area of the EDC.

### **Recommendations**

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and to indicate any further action they wish officers to investigate in respect of the various issues identified in the report.

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