

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD – 13.09.11

NEW SCRUTINY SUGGESTIONS

Scrutiny suggestions received since the previous meeting on 12th July 2011

Suggestion 1

This issue relates directly to the Highways department. The condition of T&W districts' footpaths and specifically whether residents who are wheelchair users can travel to their district or local centre without assistance using the existing footpath network.

This problem as experienced and documented by some residents in the College Ward is that many footpaths have cambers on them, the tarmac is crumbling or there are no continuous drop kerbs on their journey to their district centres or local shops effectively making them house-bound until or unless they get support.

Our footpaths should be fit-for-purpose for all our residents and it should be seen as part of our communal human rights that nobody is prevented from accessing their social environment by poor highways services.

I ask that the Scrutiny Committee ask that a survey is carried out ward by ward looking at the extent of the accessibility problem and the cost of refurbishing those paths to a European compliance standard. A programme of works properly costed and time tabled could then be put forward for cross party agreement on its long term implementation.

Suggestion 2

To confirm whether or not the Council is either looking into or progressing (2 year project) the decriminalisation of on-road parking for the whole borough.

Wellington is well known for the above problem. For the last 8 years, I myself and Wellington Council have pushed for this problem to be solved one way or the other. (Use of CSOs as Street Wardens has been mooted.)

Suggestion 3

The allocation of housing through 'Choose Your Home'

This is specifically in relation to rural areas where local housing is provided to meet the identified community requirements as stipulated through Section 106 Agreements at the point of development, which identifies a specific role of the Parish Council as a partner within any agreement.

Outcome required: The Borough Council stipulates to RSLs that enforcement of any 106 agreement must be a priority unless the community-based requirements are not met.

Suggestion 4

The provision of accommodation based on national priorities

This request relates to discriminatory practices whereby this Council was funding from existing balances the purchase of accommodation (caravans) for either families or individuals based upon ethnicity, but excludes the same options for the population majority. It should be noted that such purchases can currently be done under delegated authority with just agreement of the cabinet member without ratification of either Cabinet or Full Council.

Suggestion 5

Use of Section 106 Agreements

This is how Section 106 in Telford & Wrekin should enhance the role of our Authority:

- a) Enforcement of Existing Agreements
- b) How they could be used for the greater benefit of the community
- c) Equality of practice when agreements are signed
- d) How, in some instances, 106 monies have been vired to support projects outside of the area of the development / agreement

Suggestion 6

Princess Royal Hospital

I am aware that continued dialogue exists between our Authority, County Council and NHS Trust with regards to medical provision within the Hospital. What we miss is the continued evaluation with regards patient care and its provision. Therefore, as part of this ongoing dialogue the ability to have informed experiences included within the three-way discussion is of vital importance in order that the Hospital raises its standards of patient care.

Suggestion 7

It would be useful to get some data on what is anecdotal evidence that over the years the general drift towards managerialism in schools has had a negative impact on learning and staff, with apparently no accountability for Heads. What would be a good idea is to undertake a formal review and survey of all primary and secondary teaching and non staffing staff, focus groups with parents, views from the unions and see what the issues are, collate data about long term sickness etc. and get a true picture of what exactly is happening within our schools.

Suggestion 8

Planning enforcement