



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILS' FORUM

TUESDAY, 5TH APRIL 2005
AT 6.30 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE

A G E N D A

Copies of the Parish Councils' Forum Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available on the Council's web-site at www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/PCF

Arrangements have been made for the Parish Councils' representatives to visit the Customer Service Centre, located adjacent to the Dolphin Centre in School Drive, Bromsgrove, prior to the Meeting. Roger Horton, Manager of the Customer Service Centre, will commence the tour at 6.00 p.m.

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last Meeting held on 16th December 2004 (Enclosure 1)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Local Strategic Partnership
5. Decriminalisation of parking infringements in the District (Enclosure 2)
(Item brought forward from the previous Meeting of the Forum, originally placed on the Agenda at the request of the Lickey Hills Joint Parishes - Barnt Green, Cofton Hackett and Lickey and Blackwell Parish Councils)
6. Parish Transport Survey - 2004 survey results (Enclosure 3)
(Item placed on the Agenda at the request of the Area Committee of CALC)
7. Allocation Criteria for Rural Housing - Consultation (Enclosure 4)
8. Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill (Enclosure 5)
9. Updates:
 - (i) Parish Charter
 - (ii) Customer Service Centre
 - (iii) Concurrent Functions
(Item placed on the Agenda at the request of the Area Committee of CALC)
 - (iv) Street Cleaning and Litter Collection
(Item placed on the Agenda at the request of the Area Committee of CALC)

10. Any other urgent business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Administrative Services prior to the commencement of the Meeting
11. Date of next Meeting - Reminder:- Tuesday, 21st June 2005
(As agreed at the last Meeting of the Forum, future Meetings have been arranged for 21st June 2005, 27th September 2005, 13th December 2005 and 11th April 2006)

S. NIXON
Chief Executive

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

23rd March 2005

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**PARISH COUNCILS' FORUM**

Thursday, 16th December 2004, at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors D. C. Norton (Chairman), Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor and N. Psirides

Parish	Representative(s)
Barnt Green	Mrs. E. M. Buckett (Chairman) Mrs. D. Warren (Clerk)
Belbroughton	Mr. C. R. Scurrell
Bentley Paucefoot	Mrs. S. Willetts (Clerk)
Beoley	Miss P. Harrison (Clerk)
Bournheath	Mrs. S. Willetts (Clerk) Mrs. S. Davies
Catshill and North Marlbrook	Mr. P. J. Baker (Chairman) Mrs. C. Russam (Clerk)
Clent	Mrs. P. Harris (Clerk)
Cofton Hackett	Mrs. P. Foxall (Clerk) Mr. B. Bridgewater Ms. J. E. Webb
Hagley	Mrs. C. Humphries (Clerk) Mr. A. G. Lewis
Hunnington	Mrs. L. Teese (Clerk)
Lickey and Blackwell	Mr. R. Brown (Chairman)
Romsley	Mr. I. A. Hodgetts (Chairman) Mrs. P. L. Taylor (Clerk)
Wythall	Mrs. S. J. Baxter (Chairman) Miss P. Harrison (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Representative(s)	Parish
Mr. J. Puckering (Chairman) Mrs. B. Osborne (Clerk)	Alvechurch
Mr. R. M. M. Boss (Chairman)	Bentley Paucefoot
Mr. R. E. Copley (Clerk)	Belbroughton
Mrs. J. D. Luck (Chairman) Mr. B. Somner	Beoley
Mr. S. Malek	Clent
Mrs. J. A. Casey (Clerk)	Lickey and Blackwell

2. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2004, AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Councils' Forum held on 28th September 2004 were submitted.

It was **AGREED** that the Minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising therefrom:

(1) **PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

In addition to the offers of support already made, Mr. V. Harrison stated that the Council would be able to provide an expanded Parish Council section within the "Democracy Handbook", giving details of Parish Councillors, dates of meetings, etc.

Copies of the "Democracy Handbook" were circulated by way of an example. Mr. Harrison added that any information received from the Parish Councils would be incorporated when the handbook was next updated.

(2) **PARISH CHARTER**

Mrs. S. Baxter questioned whether the Parish Charter document presented to the previous Meeting had been formally agreed to by the Parish Councils.

Mr. Harrison stated that the "agreement" to the document was merely by way of intermediate approval for it to progress through the Council's decision making process, prior to circulation to the Parish Councils.

It was noted that further exploration of the possibility of a Countywide Charter might be undertaken. Bromsgrove District Council had no objection to such a Charter in principle, but the details would need to be examined if one was forthcoming.

3. **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT HOUSING TRUST - PRESENTATION**

Mr. Tony Lowry introduced himself to the Meeting, stating that he was Director of Operations at the Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT).

He informed the Meeting about the work of BDHT, some of the challenges the faced by the Trust and how they may be overcome. Mr. Lowry also provided some background information about the formation of BDHT and the transfer of the Council's Housing Stock to the new company.

After responding to several questions from the Parish Councils' representatives, the Chairman thanked Mr. Lowry for attending the Forum and making his presentation.

4. **CORPORATE PLAN / PRIORITY OBJECTIVES**

Councillor Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor addressed the Meeting and referred to the Corporate Plan and Priority Objectives, as outlined in the Report attached to the Agenda for the Meeting. She also gave details relating to development of the Community Plan and explained how this was linked to the Local Strategic Partnership.

Councillor Mrs. Taylor stated that she would be reporting further on the development of the Local Strategic Partnership and on the progress it has made. This was noted.

5. **STREET CLEANING**

The Chairman stated that Mr. S. Bedford had been unable to attend the Meeting, having been unavoidably detained at the Council's Depot. Instead, Mr. Harrison referred to a Report, compiled by Mr. Bedford, to the Meeting of the Council on 23rd November 2004 which outlined the street sweeping processes, safety requirements and costs involved. An extract from the Report is attached at Appendix 1.

The Chairman responded to a number of questions and comments from the floor and assured the Meeting that the on-going review of street cleaning and sweeping would, ultimately, result in a much improved service.

This was noted.

6. **CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE ("ONE STOP SHOP") / WORCESTERSHIRE HUB**

Mr. K. Dicks, Corporate Director (Resources), informed the Meeting about the progress of the Customer Service Centre and the history which lead to its development via the Worcestershire Partnership.

Mr. Dicks stated that the Centre would need to be open before March 2005 in order to qualify for a Public Service Agreement Reward grant. It would be located in School Drive, Bromsgrove, in an extended part of the Dolphin Centre. As a result, this meant that it would be easier to provide the necessary telephone and network connections, together with cashier services, so that the Centre would be open during February 2005 providing a number of 'front-line' Council services.

Mr. Dicks also referred to the Worcestershire Hub, a longer-term initiative which will comprise a number of local service centre kiosks. However, he stressed that this was a longer-term vision which would also be dependent on the availability of financial and other resources.

The Chairman and Mr. Dicks then responded to a number of questions and comments from the floor in respect of the Worcestershire Hub initiative, access to the new Customer Service Centre and the resource implications both in terms of staffing and improved provision of services. In closing, the Chairman invited members of the Forum to a visit of the Customer Service Centre at a later date when it is operational.

This was noted.

7. **REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION**

Mr. Harrison gave brief historical details about the representation on Parish Councils within the District and referred to a table of Parish Council Electorates and Councillors distributed to the Meeting (copy attached at Appendix 2). He explained that, apart from the Parish Councils which were set up during the 1990's, there was no means to address questions concerning the numbers of Councillors on each Parish Council.

It was noted that some Parish Councils might wish to reduce the number of Parish Councillors, in order to make it easier for them to meet the electoral quota criteria of Quality Parish Council status. Mr. Harrison agreed to circulate further information to Parish Councils on the process which would be required in order to do this, but stressed the need for Parish Councils, which wished the number of their Councillors to be reviewed, to let the District Council know of any proposals as soon as possible, and certainly within the next six months.

After he had responded to questions and comments, the Forum thanked Mr. Harrison for the work he had carried out in connection with simplifying the issues relating to Parish Council representation.

8. **DECRIMINALISATION OF CAR-PARKING**

On behalf of the Parish Councils, Mrs. D. Warren asked what the Councils position was to the issue of decriminalisation of car-parking throughout the District following the approach taken by the City of Worcester and Wychavon District Council.

In response, Mr. Harrison stated that an approach should be made to the Council's Transportation Management Officer - Mr. S. Martin - outlining where the problems are and how they may be rectified. Mr. Dicks stated that Mr. Martin had arranged to attend a meeting in the near future concerning this matter and it was **AGREED** that a Report covering the Parish Councils and the car-parking problem be presented to the next Meeting of the Forum.

9. **REFUSE AND RECYCLABLES COLLECTION SCHEME**

In the absence of Mr. Bedford, Mr. Harrison reported that the completion of the roll-out programme for the new Refuse and Recyclables Collection Scheme was anticipated during March 2005 and that many of the problems faced when the scheme was first introduced had now been eliminated.

This was noted.

10. **PARISH CHARTER**

Mr. Harrison referred to the update Report which had been circulated with the Agenda for the Meeting and stated that he understood there was a new initiative for a three-tier (County, District and Parish) Countywide Charter to be discussed in the near future.

The Chairman added that he was eager to support the establishment of a Charter for the whole of Worcestershire from a managerial/leadership level but stressed that any agreed Countywide Charter would have to be acceptable to the District Council.

This was noted.

12. **DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETING(S)**

It was **AGREED** that the next Meetings of the Forum take place on the following dates:-

- Tuesday, 5th April 2005
- Tuesday, 21st June 2005
- Tuesday, 27th September 2005
- Tuesday, 13th December 2005
- Tuesday 11th April 2006

The Meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Chairman

COUNCIL MEETING

23RD NOVEMBER 2004

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE ACTING HEAD OF DEPOT SERVICES

LARGE SWEEPERS

The current position is that the Council has two large sweeping vehicles available for work (in recent weeks one of these vehicles has been off the road, but the repairs have now been completed). Both vehicles were acquired in 2003 and should not need replacing until 2008. Driving these vehicles is a task which requires specific training, because accidental misuse could result in expensive repairs having to be made, and the Council only has two drivers who have been specifically trained to use this kind of vehicle. An advertisement has recently been placed for class 2 drivers from which one will be selected and trained as back up for the two employees driving the large sweepers.

Routes are assigned to the individual sweepers in advance. However, it is considered that releasing these to Ward Councillors (who would in turn be able to relay the information to their constituents) could lead to problems. Variations to the planned programme of sweeping often have to be made at short notice, due to vehicle breakdowns or, more frequently to weather conditions (it is not possible to carry out sweeping in the rain). Therefore, while the planned programme would be an indication of the sweeping which should be completed, it would not possible to place complete reliance on the information in the programme and Ward Councillors might therefore be placed in the position of unintentionally misleading their constituents that a particular road or area would be swept on a particular date, whereas in the event this did not prove possible. For this reason, Members may consider that it would not be appropriate to circulate details of the planned programme to Ward Councillors.

PAVEMENT SWEEPERS

The Council has two small Schmidt sweepers which were acquired in 2000. Given their high usage, their expected life is nearly over and, subject to approval by the Executive Cabinet and Council, funding for their replacement will be provided in the 2005/2006 Capital Programme. As with the large sweepers, routes are assigned to the individual sweepers in advance, but they are subject to the same vagaries of breakdowns and weather conditions. The same comment about making the programme available to Ward Councillors therefore applies.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The financing of new sweepers would be a matter for consideration in the formulation of the Council's Capital Programme. A new road sweeper would cost in the region of £100,000 each and new pavement sweepers would cost in the region of £50,000 each, although these figures might vary according to market conditions at the time of acquisition and the results of the tendering process.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The new team at the Depot, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder is currently reviewing all actions relating to street cleaning and the frequency of work. Prioritisation of those areas which require the most frequent sweeping is one of the matters under consideration.

PARISH COUNCILS - ELECTORATES AND COUNCILLORS

PARISH	NO. OF ELECTORS	NO. OF COUNCILLORS	ELEC. / CLLRS.
Alvechurch	4298	12	358
Barnt Green	1425	8	178
Belbroughton	2011	14	144
Bentley Pauncefoot	285	7	41
Beoley	809	9	90
Bournheath	392	7	56
Catshill and North Marlbrook	4421	13	340
Clent	2035	9	226
Cofton Hackett	1461	9	162
Dodford with Grafton	622	7	89
Finstall	496	7	71
Frankley	98	5	20
Hagley	3461	15	231
Hunnington	478	7	68
Lickey and Blackwell	3283	11	298
Lickey End	2114	10	211
Romsley	1331	7	190
Stoke	3627	15	242
Tutnall and Cobley	624	7	89
Wythall	9413	15	628

- No Parish Council may have less than 5 Councillors
- Factors such as size of area, rural or urban nature will just be as important as size of electorate
- Reducing the number of Parish Councillors could increase the likelihood of an election and elections cost money
- Legislation relating to the review process still being checked, but the advice is that if a Parish wants to make an application, it should make it early!

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILS' FORUM

5TH APRIL 2005

DECriminalISATION OF PARKING INFRINGEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT OF BROMSGROVE

- 1.1 On-street parking enforcement is currently carried out by the police through the local beat manager and traffic wardens, and any concerns that Parish Council's have regarding on-street parking problems should be addressed to their local police beat manager.
- 1.2 Off-street enforcement is carried out by the Council on the car parks which are included in the Car Parking Order. At the moment, these are all located in Bromsgrove, but any car park in the District could possibly be included in the order, subject to the approval of the owners.
- 1.3 The adoption of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) by the Council would mean that the on-street and off-street operations would combine and be managed by the Council. The current level of resource available for on-street enforcement is such that drivers who commit offences in the District have a high chance of evading punishment. It is anticipated that any proposed adoption of DPE would have a significant effect on compliance and therefore improve traffic management throughout the District.
- 1.4 Before any decision can be made on whether it is feasible for the Council to adopt DPE, a feasibility study will need to be undertaken. Should this feasibility study show that DPE is feasible in Bromsgrove, and the Council decides on adoption, then DPE can be adopted. No decision has yet been taken on whether this feasibility study should be undertaken, although it is due for consideration shortly.
- 1.5 Any feasibility study would take at least 3 months to conduct and, should the Council decide on adoption, it will take a further 18 months for DPE to be fully implemented. Anticipating any delays and including the decision making process, the adoption of DPE is therefore probably at least 2 years away.
- 1.6 Any Parish Council experiencing specific problems relating to on-street enforcement should please write to Steve Martin, Transport Administration Officer, detailing the exact nature of the problems.

Contact: Steve Martin
Transport Administration Manager
Tel: 01527 881457
email: steve.martin@bromsgrove.gov.uk

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

23rd March 2005

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILS' FORUM

5TH APRIL 2005

PARISH TRANSPORT SURVEY - 2004 SURVEY RESULTS

- 1.1 The information has been entered on a database and is now being incorporated into reports for each Parish which received enough responses for a meaningful report to be prepared. Those parishes which did receive enough responses were Romsley, Hunnington, and Barnt Green. It is anticipated that the reports will be available by the summer.
- 1.2 The programme for the production of these reports has been affected by staff shortages both in the parking section and across Community Safety and Engineering as a whole, and we apologise for this.

Contact: Steve Martin
Transport Administration Manager
Tel: 01527 881457
email: steve.martin@bromsgrove.gov.uk

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23rd March 2005

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILS' FORUM

5TH APRIL 2005

DRAFT LOCAL ALLOCATION CRITERIA AND RURAL LETTINGS POLICY FOR USE WHERE RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEMES ARE DEVELOPED UNDER 'EXCEPTION SITE POLICY

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report sets out a proposed introduction of an allocation criteria and rural lettings policy specifically designed for the allocation of affordable housing that is developed in rural areas under 'exception site' policy.
- 1.2 With affordability being a major issue in many rural areas, the proposal has regard for an applicant's connection with the area in which the affordable housing is developed. The aim of the policy is to enable people to remain or return to a locality with which they have an association, relating to current or past residence, family connections or employment, in order to contribute to the development of sustainable communities in rural areas.
- 1.3 The report provides an opportunity to consult with Parish Council Members on the draft document that is set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Forum consider the document and put forward any suggested amendments.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Applicants who are registered on the Council's Housing Register (Waiting List) are allocated accommodation based on their level of need, as assessed by the points system encompassed within the Council's Allocations Policy. The allocation procedure is managed by Bromsgrove District Housing Trust and applies to all dwellings to which the Council has nomination rights, whether they are owned by BDHT or other partner Registered Social Landlords.
- 3.2 It is becoming necessary to develop a separate criteria and policy for the purposes of allocating any newly developed housing in rural areas that is allowed under special planning conditions.
- 3.3 Under Policy S16 of the Bromsgrove District Local Plan, proposals for affordable housing in rural areas, that meets local needs, may be granted as an exception to normal restrictions operating as a result of Green Belt constraints. Such affordable housing includes subsidised housing for rent, shared equity ownership or low cost market housing.
- 3.4 Schemes where housing for local rural communities is proposed will need to comply with a number of provisions, including being accompanied by a local needs survey which shows conclusively that there is a genuine local need for the type, mix and scale of the proposed dwellings. These sites are often referred to as Rural Exception Sites.
- 3.5 The Bromsgrove District Local Plan specifies that on Rural Exception Sites, it is necessary to ensure that adequate occupancy controls are in place to reserve the affordable housing for local needs in perpetuity through use of conditions or planning obligations. A cascade approach is required whereby residents in housing need in the same or adjacent parishes will firstly be eligible for consideration after which, if the housing remains unallocated, the occupancy criteria will widen in geographical area in order to safeguard an adequate stream

of revenue for those managing the development whilst ensuring that people in local housing need take priority.

- 3.6 Parish Members may be aware that the County Rural Housing Enabling Officer has been working in partnership with a number of Parish Councils undertaking local housing needs surveys across the District.
- 3.7 To ensure that the allocation of dwellings within any schemes that come forward for affordable housing on 'Exception Sites' are appropriately administered, a draft local allocation criteria and rural lettings policy has been developed.

The objectives of the Policy will be:-

- To enable applicants to move to/or remain in the locality because of family connections in order to give or receive support;
 - To enable applicants to move to/or remain the locality in order to sustain or take up employment opportunities.
- 3.8 The draft policy firstly sets out a criteria that identifies a local connection or a need to return to the parish within which the affordable housing is provided. Applicants qualifying under the criteria will then be financially assessed to establish that they are unable to afford open market housing in the parish and that, if they are applying to purchase into a shared ownership or equity share dwelling, they can afford to do so. The final prioritisation is carried out using the housing needs points awarded under the Council' s normal allocation policy and, where there are competing applications with the same award of points, dwellings will be allocated on the basis of length of residency in the parish.
- 3.9 This allocation policy is also intended to be incorporated into a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on 'Affordable Housing' which is one of the key documents that the Council has agreed to produce under the new planning policy system - the Local Development Framework.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with the development or implementation of the policy.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 In most instances, planning conditions relating to affordable housing developed upon 'exception sites' will be enforced under a Section 106 Agreement.

Contact: Andy Coel
Head of Strategic Housing (Planning)
Tel: 01527 881270
email: a.coel@bromsgrove.gov.uk

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

23rd March 2005

CRITERIA AND ALLOCATIONS POLICY FOR THE LETTING AND ALLOCATION OF RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPED UNDER 'EXCEPTION SITE' POLICY

The Registered Social Landlord (Housing Association) managing the affordable housing development will assess all applications made requesting the allocation of a dwelling on the scheme **in the following order:**

1. **All applicants wishing to be considered for Rented Housing within the proposed scheme must be registered on the Bromsgrove District Council Housing Register.** The Council will also nominate applicants registered on the Housing Register for consideration for Shared Ownership or Fixed Equity units where applicants have specified their wish to be considered when completing their application form.

2. **The following Local Connection Eligibility Criteria will be applied:**

(The first phase of eligibility will be considered initially, and only if insufficient applicants are eligible will the other phases be considered in order.)

The first phase of eligibility will be restricted to:

- (i) Local residents within the parish, with a minimum term of residence who want to remain in the locality but cannot afford to do so.
- (ii) Those who have previously resided in the parish for a number of years and who need to return to the parish but cannot afford to do so and who qualify as one or more of the following:
 - (a) Those who need to return to the parish to provide or receive support to / from a close family member living in the parish.
 - (b) Those who are employed within the parish.
 - (c) People with a confirmed offer of employment in the parish but who are deterred by the difficulty of finding and affording suitable accommodation.

A second phase of eligibility would include applicants who live outside of the parish but within an immediately adjoining parish who need to live in the parish but cannot afford to do so and who qualify as one or more of the following:

- (a) Those who need to return to the parish to provide or receive support to / from a close family member living in the parish.
- (b) Those who are employed within the parish.
- (c) People with a confirmed offer of employment in the parish but who are deterred by the difficulty of finding and affording suitable accommodation.

A third phase of eligibility would include applicants who live outside of the parish but within the District of Bromsgrove who need to live in the parish but cannot afford to do so and who qualify as one or more of the following:

- (a) Those who need to return to the parish to provide or receive support to / from a close family member living in the parish.
- (b) Those who are employed within the parish.
- (c) People with a confirmed offer of employment in the parish but who are deterred by the difficulty of finding and affording suitable accommodation.

A fourth phase of eligibility would include applicants who live outside of the parish and outside of the District of Bromsgrove who need to live in the parish but cannot afford to do so and who qualify as one or more of the following:

- (a) Those who need to return to the parish to provide or receive support to / from a close family member living in the parish.

- (b) Those who are employed within the parish.
- (c) People with a confirmed offer of employment in the parish but who are deterred by the difficulty of finding and affording suitable accommodation.

3. **Applicants who qualify under the Local Connection Eligibility Criteria (section 2. above) will then undergo an affordability assessment to establish that they are not in a position to afford an open market dwelling in the area. (The process will also establish an applicant's ability to afford shared ownership and fixed equity options).**

Completed forms will be assessed in accordance with:

- Current data on house prices and rents in the parish;
- Financial requirements of average mortgage lenders and their lending policies;
- The availability of appropriate properties to meet identified needs; for example, accommodation to meet disabilities or health issues and tenure required.

4. **Where applicants have both a relevant local connection (section 2. above) and fit the affordability criteria (Section 3. above), their housing need will be prioritised in accordance with the Council's Allocations Policy and Housing Register Points Scheme, with the exception of:**

- Any points awarded in the section headed Local Connection. These will be removed, as local connection will have already been assessed under Section 2. above.
- Any points which were awarded for needs which will not be met by the offer of a dwelling in the parish; for example, medical or welfare needs which would not be improved by living in the parish;

Offers will be made in descending points order and where applicants have the same number of points, those with the longest local connection will have priority. Where applicants are purchasing an equity share but are unable to complete within a reasonable timescale they will be given a reduced priority.

5. **Applications will be further prioritised in accordance with Bromsgrove District Council's policy on the allocation of property by family size to property type/size. (Section 5. of the Council's Allocation Policy and Housing Register document).**

In the event that no households can be identified from the above criteria within 3 weeks, allocations will be made to the most suitable applicants, having regard to their reasons for seeking a home in the parish.

Definitions

The parish	The parish within which the affordable housing is located.
Immediately adjoining parish	A parish with a common boundary and immediately next to the parish within which the affordable housing is located.
Minimum term of residence	Normally 5 years.
Number of years	Normally 5 out of the past 15.
Close family member	Means parents, siblings, grandparents and children and such relationships through adoption. In exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of Bromsgrove District Council, more distant relatives may fall within the definition if they give to the applicant a level of support normally associated with those listed above. ('In exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of Bromsgrove District Council, other parties may fall within the definition if they can provide evidence that they give the applicant a level of support normally associated with those listed above').
Want	A specific reason to reside in the Parish within which the affordable housing is located.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILS' FORUM

5TH APRIL 2005

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT BILL - OUTLINE OF MEASURES

The following background information has been taken from the DEFRA web-site at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/leqbill/index.htm>.

A computer-aided presentation will be made at the Meeting.

Crime and Disorder

- ensures that local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships will take anti-social behaviour affecting the local environment into account in developing crime and disorder reduction strategies.
- gives local authorities new, more effective powers to deal with alleyways affected by anti-social behaviour.

Fixed Penalty Notices (Fines)

- make greater use of fixed penalties as an alternative to prosecution, in most cases giving local authorities the flexibility to set their own rates;
- gives parish councils the power to issue fixed penalties for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences;

Nuisance and Abandoned Vehicles

- gives local authorities the power to remove abandoned cars from the streets immediately;
- creates two new offences to help local authorities deal with nuisance parking: offering for sale two or more vehicles, or repairing a vehicle, on the road as part of a business.

Litter

- makes it an offence to drop litter anywhere, including private land and rivers, ponds and lakes;
- gives local authorities new powers (litter clearing notices) to require businesses and individuals to clear litter from their land;
- strengthens existing powers for local authorities to require local businesses to help clear up litter they generate (street litter control notices);
- enables local authorities to restrict the distribution of flyers, hand-outs and pamphlets that can end up as litter;
- confirms that cigarette butts and discarded chewing gum are litter.

Graffiti and fly-posting

- extends graffiti removal notices (as introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003) to include fly-posting;
- improves local authorities powers to tackle the sale of spray paints to children;

Graffiti and fly-posting (cont'd)

- strengthens the legislation to make it harder for beneficiaries of fly posting to evade prosecution;
- enables local authorities to recover the costs of removing illegal posters.

Waste

- amends provisions for dealing with fly-tipping by:
 - removing the defence of acting under employer's instructions
 - increasing the penalties
 - enabling local authorities and the Environment Agency to recover their investigation and clear-up costs
 - extending provisions on clear up to the landowner in the absence of the occupier.
- gives local authorities and the Environment Agency the power to issue fixed penalty notices (and, in the case of local authorities, to keep the receipts from such penalties):
 - to businesses that fail to produce waste transfer notes
 - to waste carriers that fail to produce their registration details or evidence they do not need to be registered
 - for waste left out on the streets (local authority only)
- introduces a more effective system for stop, search and seizure of vehicles used in illegal waste disposal; and enabling courts to require forfeiture of such vehicles
- introduces a new provision covering the waste duty of care and the registration of waste carriers
- introduces a new requirement for site waste management plans for construction and demolition projects
- repeals the divestment provisions for waste disposal functions to provide greater flexibility for local authorities to deliver waste management services in the most sustainable way
- reforms the recycling credits scheme to provide increased local flexibility to incentivise more sustainable waste management.

Dogs

- replaces dog byelaws with a new, simplified system which will enable local authorities and parish councils to deal with fouling by dogs, ban dogs from designated areas, require dogs to be kept on a lead and restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person.
- gives local authorities, rather than police, sole responsibility for stray dogs.

Noise

- reduces nuisance caused by noise by giving local authorities to:
 - deal with burglar alarms
 - impose fixed penalty fines on licensed premises that ignore warnings to reduce excessive noise levels
- gives local authorities greater flexibility in dealing with noise nuisance.

Architecture and the Built Environment

- establishes the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) on a statutory basis.

Miscellaneous

- enables local authorities to recover the costs of dealing with abandoned shopping trolleys from their owners
- extends the list of statutory nuisances to include light pollution and nuisance for insects
- improves the contaminated land appeals process.

Contact: David Williams
Director of Environmental Services
Tel: 01527 881430
email: d.williams@bromsgrove.gov.uk

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

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