

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

TUESDAY, 9TH JUNE 2009 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors A. N. Blagg, Mrs. M. Bunker, S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, Mrs. R. L. Dent, B. Lewis F.CMI, D. L. Pardoe, Mrs. C. J. Spencer, C. B. Taylor, C. J. Tidmarsh and L. J. Turner

Invitees: Sarah Campkin

Observers: Councillor P. M. McDonald

Officers: Mrs. C. Felton, Mrs. S. Sellers and Ms. P. Ross

1/09 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor S. R. Colella be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing municipal year.

2/09 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor D. L. Pardoe be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing municipal year.

3/09 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths.

4/09 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest or whipping arrangements were received.

5/09 **PETITION ON HOT FOOD TAKE AWAYS**

Members were asked to receive and consider a petition received from residents and shopkeepers within the Rubery area. The petition highlighted issues around late night opening of hot food take away establishments, including an increase in litter, crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.

The Chairman welcomed Sarah Campkin, a shop owner in Rubery High Street to the meeting. Ms. Campkin informed the Board that the petition continued to be signed by residents with a further 1,000 signatures added. Ms. Campkin explained that residents and shopkeepers had expressed concerns that currently 14 out of 83 shops on the High Street were hot food takeaways with planning applications for 4 more hot food takeaways to be submitted to Bromsgrove District Council. Residents and shop owners were concerned that the late night opening of hot food takeaways was encouraging a night

time culture in a village environment. The Police had been made aware of concerns and issues such as windows being smashed and shopkeepers having to clean up debris and sanitise the area outside their shop premises. Ms Campkin also expressed concern that letters and a petition she had personally handed in to Bromsgrove District Council had been lost. The Monitoring Officer informed Ms. Campkin that she would receive a full explanation as to what had happened to the petition after the Council had received it. Ms. Campkin also invited Members to consider whether Bromsgrove District Council could adopt a moratorium on opening any more hot food takeaways. She stated that other Local Councils had done so for example with only 1 in 20 premises or a total of 6% of retail outlets being used as hot food takeaway establishments.

The Monitoring Officer briefly informed Ms. Campkin of the role of the Board. In summary, the Board could not scrutinise regulatory committees or regulations; it's role was to scrutinise and investigate the available options for future direction in policy review and development and make any relevant recommendations to the specific service areas.

At the Chairman's discretion, Councillor P. M. McDonald, Ward Member for Waseley, spoke in favour of the petition and raised concerns about recent planning applications and planning processes. He also expressed concern about a lack of enforcement resources to tackle hot food takeaways who were in breach of their licence by opening until 2:00am.

Following further discussion and questions from Members, the Senior Solicitor informed the Chairman that concerns and issues around hot food takeaways had been discussed during a recent meeting of the Scrutiny Board. Councillor C. B. Taylor informed the meeting that officers had been tasked to scope and provide further information on other authorities' policy guidelines on hot food takeaway stores. The Chairman invited Ms. Campkin to attend the next meeting of the Scrutiny Board at which officers would provide updates.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that, at the next meeting of the Scrutiny Board, the Board considers the following issues on hot food takeaways, as discussed by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board, namely: Litter, Enforcement and Crime and Disorder; and
- (b) that the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development be invited to attend the next meeting of the Scrutiny Board with regards to encouraging a wider range of retail shops in Rubery and throughout the District.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

Chairman