

The **COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **7 JUNE 2005**

Present:

Councillor John Haynes (Chair)
" John Wells (Vice Chair)
" John Appleton
" David Booth
" Michael Doody
" Bryan Levy
" Barry Longden
" Anita Macaulay
" Mike Perry
" Dave Shilton
" Heather Timms

Also Present: Councillor Alan Farnell, Martin Heatley, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Richard Hobbs, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety.

Officers:

Trevor Brice, Deputy County Fire Officer
William Brown, County Fire Officer
Graham Fitton, Road Safety Unit, PTES
Peter Guillaume, Business Crime Unit Manager, Warwickshire Police.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Member Services.
Adrian Levett, Head of Trading Standards
Greta Needham, Deputy County Solicitor, Chief Executive's Dept.
Nicole North, Group Assistant, Chief Executive's Dept.
Andy Parker, Assistant Chief Constable, Warwickshire Police.
Stephen Rumble, Communications Manager, Warwickshire Casualty Reduction Partnership, PTES.
Mark Steventon, Police Sergeant, Warwickshire Police.
Gereint Stoneman, Corporate Review Team, Chief Executive's Dept.
Estyn Williams, Group Manager, Road Safety Unit, PTES.

1. General

(1) Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bernard Kirton.

(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

(3) (a) Minutes of the former Crime and Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 5 April 2005 and Matters Arising

Resolved –

That the minutes of the Crime and Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting held on 5 April 2005 be noted.

Matters Arising

Minute 5 Crime and Disorder Strategy

Councillor Dave Shilton referring to the comment recorded in the last bullet point of the third paragraph of item 5, suggested that anti-social behaviour should be classed as a criminal act when it involved damage to property.

ACC Andy Parker confirmed that any incident of criminal damage was a criminal act and should be reported and recorded as a crime and not reported as antisocial behaviour.

(b) Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2005 and Matters Arising

Resolved -

That the minutes of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting held on 17 May 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(4) Remit of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members noted the remit of the Committee which was to advise on the development of policies and to scrutinise performance in relation to community safety including fire and rescue, emergency planning, trading standards, crime and disorder reduction, partnerships with the police and criminal justice agencies.

3. Figures for the County on Crime on Business Premises – Presentation by Peter Guillaume, Business Premises Crime Unit Manager, Crime on Business Premises Unit, Warwickshire Police.

Peter Guillaume circulated a briefing note to Members detailing the figures for the County on Crime on Business Premises at the end of the current three-year period, March 2002 – March 2005. He outlined the current new activities and reported that the Police had recently arrested a major team of shop burglars. He explained that Business Crime was a specific theme in all the 5 districts and boroughs Crime and Disorder Strategies for the next 3 years.

During discussion and, in reply to questions, ACC Andy Parker explained that –

- The general trend over the previous 12 months was that crime levels were down except in a few places.
- 21% detection rates, whilst could be improved, were considered good as compared to the rest of the country.
- CCTV cameras were a vital tool in solving crime and deployment of resources.
- Crime hot spots needed to be identified and businesses encouraged to invest in simple preventative measures. The Police, working together with businesses, could see a big reduction in crime.
- Warwickshire Police staffing levels were up to quota but more officers would always be welcomed.

Discussion followed during which Members –

- Welcomed the general reduction in crime figures for the County.
- Commented that the statistics would have more relevance if the base figures were provided.
- Suggested that the statistics for each of the 5 districts and boroughs should be reported to the Area Committees for discussion.

Councillor Hobbs, speaking as the previous Chair of the Crime and Safety Committee, said that it would be appropriate for the Area Committees to look at the crime “hot spots” in each area.

The Committee –

- (1) Thanked ACC Andy Parker and Peter Guillaume for attending the meeting.
- (2) Asked that the crime statistics be presented to the Area Committees for consideration (in a revised format to include base figures).

4. Road Safety Casualty Reduction

Estyn Williams presented the joint report of the Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy and County Fire Officer which explained how the Council was combating death and injury on Warwickshire's roads. He highlighted the £700,000 budget allocated for casualty reduction (local safety) schemes which was available for improving 'hot spot' sites where there had been at least six injury accidents in the last three years.

During discussion Members –

- suggested that notices should be erected publicising the number of accidents that had occurred at each location and included on speeding fine notices;
- suggested speeding fine notices could include information about accident history at the site of the camera where the offence took place;
- expressed concern about the lack of maintenance of speed reduction humps/ramps
- questioned the effectiveness of speed cameras because some motorists increased speed between camera sites.
- Expressed varying views about the impact of vehicle activated speed signs on reducing speed.

In reply to questions –

- CFO Williams Brown referred Members to paragraph 7 of the report and to the joint working protocol that had been developed between Warwickshire Fire and Rescue and Road Safety Unit.
- Graham Fitton explained that the £700,000 budget for local safety schemes had been allocated following consultation with Area Committees. Additionally, the opportunity was taken to fund schemes through 106 Agreements where possible.
- Speed cameras were only placed at sites that met the Government's criteria in speed and accidents. The Road Safety Unit could provide details of the numbers of accidents that occurred at these sites before and after cameras were erected.

Resolved that the –

Committee endorses the Council's approach to reducing death and injury on Warwickshire's roads as outlined in the report.

5. Asset Management Plan

(a) Libraries Heritage and Trading Standards

Resolved, having considered the report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards, to endorse the Asset Management Plan for Trading Standards.

(b) Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Departmental Asset Management Plan.

Resolved, having considered the report of the County Fire Officer, to endorse the Fire and Rescue Service Asset Management Plan.

6. Future Work Programme

(a) Work Programme

Members considered the future workload of the Committee. The Chair invited Members to put forward items for future discussion following which it was –

Resolved that the following items should be included in the Committee's future work programme –

Motorbike access to public open spaces (Sept/Oct)
Warwickshire Crime and Disorder and Drug Strategies
Overview of Crime and Disorder – detection rates
West Midlands Regional Management Board
Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Year 3

(b) Forward Plan Items Relevant to this Committee

Members noted the Forward Plan items relevant to this Committee.

Cabinet – 16 June 2005

Warwickshire Provisional Local Transport Plan 2005 (PTES)

Cabinet – 8 September 2005

Fire and Rescue Services Action 2004

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

7. Items of Urgent Business

The Chair agreed to the discussion of the following items as urgent business to enable the Policy Panels to be reconvened without delay.

(a) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Policy Panel

Following discussion it was –

Resolved that the IRMP Policy Panel be reconvened to overview the shaping of the IRMP Year 3 Action Plan.

(b) Community Safety Policy Panel

Following discussion it was –

Resolved that this Policy Panel be reconvened

8. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

Resolved to exclude members of the public from the meeting for the agenda item mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in paragraph 11 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

9. Exempt minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2005

Members noted the Exempt minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2005.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 3:45 p.m.