

Minutes of the Meeting of the North Warwickshire Area Committee held on 20 July 2005 at the Magistrates Court Building, Sheepy Road, Atherstone

Present: -

Members of the Committee

Councillors

Ray Sweet (Chair)
Anne Forwood
Peter Fowler
Richard Grant (Vice Chair)
Colin Hayfield
Brian Moss

Officers

David Curle, Buildings and Transport Manager,
Department of Social Care and Health
Susan Gooding, Area Manager, Chief Executive's
Department
Neil Gulliver, Principal Committee Administrator, Chief
Executive's Department
Adrian Litvinoff, Area Manager, LHTS
Martin Jones, Head of Resources Management,
Department of Social Care and Health
Ian Marriott, Principal Solicitor, Chief Executive's
Department
Clive Phillips, Head of Property Services, Warwickshire
Police
Peter Ridley, Director of Property Services
Alistair Rigby, Community Partnership Officer, Chief
Executive's Department
Joanne Roberts, Administrative Assistant North
Warwickshire, Chief Executive's Department
Peter Samwell, Highways Network Manager, PTES
Martin Stott, Deputy Director, PTES

Also in Attendance 5 Members of the Public attended.

1. General

(1) Apologies

were submitted from Joan Lea and Mick Stanley.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Richard Grant declared a personal interest as a Director on Warwickshire Careers Service Board.

Peter Fowler, Colin Hayfield, Brian Moss and Ray Sweet declared personal interests as members of North Warwickshire Borough Council.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8 June 2005 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the North Warwickshire Area Committee meeting held on 8 June 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

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With regard to the safety issues at the Warton crossroads, the Chair reported that he had met with local residents and representatives from PTES but so far had been unsuccessful in obtaining additional safety measures at this site. He added that he would continue to pursue the matter.

Several members expressed their concern about traffic management in villages and it was agreed that a seminar should be held for the Committee on this matter. It was also agreed that Councillors Ken Browne and Martin Heatley should be invited to the seminar.

With regard to the siting of the mobile phone mast near St Edwards School, Coleshill, Peter Fowler reported that a meeting had taken place with O2 who were now looking at potential sites for relocating the mast. A further meeting was expected to take place the following week.

2. Public Question Time

Mrs Judy Vero put the following question to the Committee:-

"As the Committee knows, there is very strong local support for the proposal by Atherstone Town Council to acquire this former Magistrates' Court for its offices and a community centre. Since achieving Quality Status, the Town Council is seeking to increase its activities and needs a larger premises than the old Mortuary. Furthermore, Atherstone has a number of community groups which are in urgent need of a place to meet. The heritage centre and the dramatic society are also in need of a permanent home. The Magistrates' Court would satisfy these needs and would also offer ad hoc meeting rooms and some office space for other bodies. Above all such a project would meet the aims of the Community Partnership and demonstrate that it is operating effectively and for the good of all the community. Similar centres have been set up elsewhere in Warwickshire.

I would like to ask County Council Officers if they would be prepared to either sell or lease the building to Atherstone Town Council, and if not, I would be grateful for their reasons."

In response, Peter Ridley explained that the capital receipt which would be generated by the sale of the Magistrates' Court had already been

earmarked towards the cost of the Northern Justice Centre. Clive Phillips added that it was intended that there would continue to be a sector station in Atherstone. He added that the Town Council or any community group would have the opportunity to purchase the building when it was offered for sale on the open market but would have to insure obtained best value for site.

3. Parish Appraisals and Parish Appeals

The Committee considered a report by the County Solicitor & Assistant Chief Executive on proposed guidelines for the engagement of County Councillors and County Council departments in the production of appraisals and plans.

Resolved

That Members endorse the proposed guidelines for the County Council responding to Parish Plans and Appraisals as set out in the County Solicitor's report.

4. Appointment of Councillors to External Organisations

The Committee considered a report by the County Solicitor & Assistant Chief Executive on the appointment of County Council representatives to external organisations in the North Warwickshire area.

Councillor Hayfield asked that the current membership of the following organisations be clarified:-

Coleshill Grammar School Endowment
Coleshill Simon Digby Educational Foundation
Fillongley Educational Foundation

Resolved

That the appointment of County Council representatives to external organisations in North Warwickshire be dealt with by the Chair and Councillor Colin Hayfield.

5. Asset Management Plan for Social Services

The Committee considered the report by the Director of Social Care and Health on the Asset Management Plan which sets out the Social Services property asset requirements for 2005/06.

Martin Jones and David Curle gave a short presentation on the background to the Plan and summarised the current situation with regard to those premises in the North Warwickshire area. It was then agreed to welcome the report and acknowledge the excellent services provided by the Department.

6. Highway Maintenance Plan 2005/06 and Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Development on the highway maintenance work proposed in 2005/06. Peter Samwell took the Committee through the report highlighting a number of issues and answered a range of questions from Members on the schemes included in the Plan for 2005/06.

7. North Warwickshire Area Performance 2004-05

The Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Chief Executive presenting the 2004/05 data for North Warwickshire.

Susan Gooding took the Committee through Appendix A and Members highlighted the following areas for further investigation:-

Lifelong Learning and Personal Development

- Continue to closely monitor school performance in general.
- Educational Access and Inclusion – non-attendance at primary and secondary level
- The outcomes for young people who have been involved with the Youth Offending Team particularly with regard to their future employment opportunities.

Promote the Health and Social Care of our Citizens

- Older people helped to live at home

Reduce Crime and Improve the Safety of the Community

- Reduction in serious road accident casualties
- Driver education as part of the need to reduce road accident levels

Resolved

That Members note the 2004/05 area performance data and requests reports on the issues listed above to be considered at future meetings

8. North Warwickshire Well-being Fund – Mid Term Report and New Commission

The Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive detailing progress after six months of a Well-being commission agreed in November 2004.

Resolved

That Members

- note the six months progress of the Well-being commission 'Improved Access to Health Information' which received Well-being funding in 2004/05
- approve a new commission to the Well-being Fund from Local Economy Theme Group of the North Warwickshire Community Partnership for 'PEP – project'
- agree to hold a funding sub-group on the 11 October at 2pm to review investments and commissions for the Community Development, Well-being and Social Inclusion Funds

9. North Warwickshire Area Committee's Social Inclusion Fund

The Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive in respect of a possible suitable project for Polesworth to be funded from the 2004/05 reserve and requesting support for a project to be located at Kingsbury Water Park.

'Insight into Each Other's Worlds' Art Project

Alistair Rigby briefly explained the aims of the project and responded to questions from Members particularly with reference to whether the young people in Polesworth had been consulted on whether they wished to be involved in the project. Alistair Rigby confirmed that the Head of Polesworth School had been involved in the project but he would check on the level of consultation with young people in the area.

Resolved by majority

That the Area Committee supports the allocation of Social Inclusion Funding 2004/05 of £2,500 for the Polesworth Electoral Division towards the 'Insight into Each Other's Worlds' art project.

Echills Wood Railway

Alistair Rigby again briefly explained the aims of the project which would bring opportunities for young people and families to get involved in this new venue at Kingsbury Water Park. He added that the organisers were confident that they could get the 50 volunteers they require to help maintain the railway.

Resolved by 4 votes to 1:-

That the Area Committee supports the use of Social Inclusion Funding 2005/06 of £2,500 to enable the County Council to be the 10% third party funder for SITA Trust to support Echills Wood Railway in relocating to Kingsbury Water Park.

10. First Annual Review of Area Working in the North Warwickshire Area

The Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive highlighting some of the key achievements of area working in North Warwickshire during 2004-05.

After several members had commented on the successful way the Committee had worked with the officers for the benefit of the local communities in North Warwickshire, the officers were asked to look at the possibilities for promoting the work of the Committee within those communities through the local media. It was then agreed to note the report.

11. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Committee agreed the following provisional items identified for future meetings.

Area Committee Seminar
Traffic Schemes within Villages

Dates Not Yet Set
Review of Health and how the PCTs are liaising with Local Authorities
Relocation of the ICT Learning Suite
Presentation from Social Services

12. Any Other Items

There were no other items.

Date of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 14 September 2005 at Fillongley.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 8.35 p.m.