

**Minutes of a Meeting of the North Warwickshire Area Committee held on 14 September 2005 at the Magistrate's Court Building, Sheepy Road, Atherstone**

**Present: -**

**Members of the Committee**

**Councillors**

Richard Grant (Vice Chair) (in the Chair)  
Anne Forwood  
Peter Fowler  
Joan Lea  
Brian Moss  
Mick Stanley

**Officers**

Steve Cooper, Principal Estates Surveyor, Property Services  
Susan Gooding, Area Manager, Chief Executive's  
Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's  
Dave Potter, Area Education Officer, Education  
Joanne Roberts, Administrative Assistant North Warwickshire, Chief Executive's  
Martin Stott, Deputy Director, PTES  
Catherine Witham, Senior Solicitor, Chief Executive's

**Also in Attendance**      2 Members of the Public attended.

**1. General**

Cllr Grant opened the meeting in the Chair and welcomed everyone.

**(1) Apologies**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Hayfield, Cllr Sweet, Dave Clarke and Peter Ridley.

**(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Councillor Peter Fowler declared a personal interest as a member of the North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Joan Lea declared a personal interest as a member of the North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Brian Moss declared a personal interest as a member of the North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Mick Stanley declared a personal interest as a member of the North Warwickshire Borough Council.

**(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20 July 2005 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the North Warwickshire Area Committee meeting held on 20 July 2005 were agreed as a correct record with the following correction:

**Page 6 – 11. Provisional Items for Future Meetings**

The heading “14 September 2005” to be replaced with the words “Area Committee Seminar”.

**Matters Arising**

**Page 2 – Page 2-2. Public Question Time, paragraph 1**

Martin Stott reported that as there had only been 6 personal accidents reported in the past 3 years at the Warton crossroads the location did not meet the criteria set for increased safety measures and could not be justified in term of budgetary restrictions.

**Page 2 – Page 2-2. Public Question Time, paragraph 3**

Councillor Peter Fowler reported that a number of alternative sites away from Coleshill town had been suggested to O2 who were looking at the feasibility of the sites before holding a further meeting. The outcomes would be reported to the Committee.

**Page 3 – 4. Appointment of Councillors to External Organisations**

The Chair reported that the Groups, through Cllrs Sweet and Hayfield needed to sort out the appointments to external organisations.

**Page 4 – 7. North Warwickshire Area Performance 2004-05**

Susan Gooding noted that following had been arranged:

1. A Member seminar on lifelong learning in January
2. A presentation from Social Services at the next Area Committee
3. PTES seminar on Traffic Schemes within villages in December.

She noted that this programme linked into the elements of the Business Plan selected by Members.

## **Page 5 – 9. North Warwickshire Area Committee’s Social Inclusion Fund – ‘Insight into Each Other’s Worlds Art Project’**

Susan Gooding confirmed that there had been wide consultation with young people regarding involvement in the project.

The Chair noted the work done and success of the Polesworth High link to a school in Pampawie L.A.J.SS. Ghana.

## **Page 6 – 11. Provisional Items for Future Meetings**

Martin Stott reported that following discussions by lead officers in PTES it had been agreed that the seminar on Traffic Schemes in Villages needed senior representation from the Department to tackle the subject properly, looking at issues, aspirations and planning aspects. This would be arranged for a date in December.

### **2. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

### **3. Atherstone Bus Station Improvements**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy detailing the proposed improvements to the Atherstone Bus Station.

Martin Stott highlighted the following points:

- i. The maintenance of the bus waiting room and associated shelter would be undertaken by the contractor who secured the Countywide bus shelter maintenance contract.
- ii. The toilets would be improved by the District Council in line with County Council standards.
- iii. The Cabinet would be asked to make a recommendation to the Regulatory Committee supporting the proposal.

During the ensuing discussion the following issues were raised:

1. Members gave their support to the plans, in an area needing improvement and noted that it was important that the Bus Station be maintained in the future.
2. The enclosed shelter would provide protection from the weather for the public, especially older people.
3. The Town Council would be consulted once the plans were submitted during the normal consultation procedure.
4. The programme of works and the management of traffic including dropping off of passengers, needed careful planning to avoid problems.
5. Members agreed it would be good to have CCTC coverage in an area known for the targeting and contacting of young people. Martin Stott agreed to revert with details on who would be responsible for the costs associated to the CCTV.

Resolved

That the Area Committee welcome and support the details of the scheme in this report.

**4. Area Community Learning Partnership – potential commissions against the Well-being fund**

The Committee considered the update report of the Area Community Learning Partnership summarising the work undertaken by the Area Community Learning Partnership in the development of new ways of working to meet priorities highlighted in the North Warwickshire Community Learning Plan.

Dave Potter thanked the Area Committee for making lifelong learning a priority in their Business Plan noting that this had been useful in moving forward the agenda of lifelong learning.

During the discussion the following points were highlighted:

1. There were a number of organisations on the Area Community Learning Partnership (ACLP) and there was a need to ensure all groups complemented each other and provided additional services with no overlaps.
2. Links were made with groups involved with adult learning that were not members of the ACLP.
3. There was an early indication of Member support for the scheme, which needed to link costs and learning partners and give value for money.

Resolved

That the Area Committee note the contents of the report and gives an indication of whether it feels able to support the further development of commissions against the Well-being fund focused on:

- (1) developing pilot activities with localities
- (2) developing work with the three identified 'hard to reach' groups, i.e.
  - (a) older young people (25+ age group)
  - (b) low skilled or low paid workers
  - (c) men aged 45-54 with low levels of skills.

**5. North Warwickshire Well-being Fund – update reports and new commission**

The Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive detailing progress on the Community Safety theme group (Remedial works for visual audits) commission, a reallocation of funding for the Transport theme group (Improved access to health information) commission, an update on the Warwickshire Rural Community Council

(The wider effects of housing upon social inclusion) commission as well as detailing a new commission for approval:

Health & Wellbeing theme group:  
'PATCHES (Prevention of Accidents To Children Home Equipment Scheme)'

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised on each commission:

Remedial works for visual aids

This project was being taken forward through the Community Safety Theme Group and Susan Gooding undertook to inform the Group that the project needed more publicity.

The wider effects of housing upon social inclusion

Susan Gooding reported that this was a final report on the project, which was commissioned in 2002. She noted that at an earlier meeting of the North Warwickshire Community Partnership, the group had agreed to set up a Housing Theme Group.

PATCHES (Prevention of Accidents to Children Home Equipment Scheme)

Susan Gooding reported that if successful, the commission would provide free home safety equipment to low-income families across North Warwickshire to reduce accidents in the home.

Susan Gooding agreed to e-mail to Members data on accidents in North Warwickshire by category.

Members noted the contribution of Age Concern to the project and noted the need to ensure that this work did not cause additional pressure to older people.

Members noted their support for the project and requested that data on whether the project reduced the number of accidents be included in the next progress report.

Resolved

That members:

- 1) Note the six-month progress report (Well-being commission 2004/05) from the Safer Communities Theme Group on the project 'Remedial works for Visual Audits'.
- 2) Agree to reallocate unspent funding (Well-being commission 2004/05) for 'Improved Access to Health Information' from printing costs to supporting Beeline. This service provides transportation to medical centres for North Warwickshire residents.
- 3) Note the final report (Well-being bid 2001/02) by Warwickshire Rural Community Council on 'The wider effects of housing upon social inclusion'.

- 4) Approve a new commission to the Well-being Fund (2005/06) from Health & Well-being Theme group of the North Warwickshire Community Partnership for 'PATCHES' project.

## **6. Provisional Items for Future Meetings**

The Committee agreed the provisional items identified for future meetings with the following inclusions:

16 November 2005

Results of County Youth Panel Elections – Kate Wilding  
Presentation from Social Services

## **7. Any Other Items**

The Chair welcomed Catherine Witham to her first meeting as solicitor to the Committee.

Susan Gooding, on behalf of the Committee and officers, thanked Tom Sprag, one of Warwickshire's representatives on the Youth Parliament, for his work and wished him well at university in Wales.

The Chair noted that this would be Susan Gooding's last meeting and thanked her on behalf of the Committee for her help and support to Members individually and communally and wished her the best for her new job.

## **8. Reports containing exempt information**

The Committee agreed that members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the agenda item mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972".

Members of the Public left the meeting.

## **9. Coleshill Fire Station, Police Station and Leisure Centre**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Property Services considering future action regarding the relocation of Coleshill Fire Station.

### **Date of next meeting**

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 16 November 2005 in Atherstone.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 7.05 p.m.