

Minutes of a Meeting of the North Warwickshire Area Committee held on 22 March 2006 at the Magistrate's Court Building, Sheepy Road, Atherstone

Present: -

Members of the Committee

Councillors Anne Forwood
Peter Fowler
Colin Hayfield
Joan Lea
Ray Sweet (Chair)

Officers Jeremy Lee, Manager-Emergency Planning Unit
Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator
Liz Milne, Transport Engineer
Jane Pollard, Acting Head of Legal Services
Dave Potter, Area Education Officer
Jo Roberts, Area Administrative Officer
Martin Stott, Deputy Director
Catherine Twigg, Area Administrative Assistant
Alison Williams, Area Manager North Warwickshire
Kalen Wood, Projects Manager

Also in Attendance Jackie Aucott, North Warwickshire CVS
Davina Key, North Warwickshire CVS
7 Members of the Public attended.

1. General

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted from William Brown, Dave Clarke, Councillor Grant, Councillor Moss and Councillor Stanley.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Anne Forwood declared a personal interest in Item 4 and 6 as a member of the CVS.

Councillor Peter Fowler declared a personal interest as a North Warwickshire Borough Councillor.

Councillor Colin Hayfield declared a personal interest in Item 5 as a Non-Executive Director of North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust and for the whole agenda as a North Warwickshire Borough Councillor.

Councillor Joan Lea declared a personal interest as a North Warwickshire Borough Councillor.

Councillor Ray Sweet declared a personal interest as a North Warwickshire Borough Councillor.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1 February 2006

The minutes of the North Warwickshire Area Committee meeting held on 1 February 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Page 3 - 2(2) Questions raised at the Area Forum South

Councillor Colin Hayfield reported that discussions had taken place with the traffic officers and members of the Astley Parish Council and it had been requested that a site visit would be arranged during peak traffic periods. It was agreed that Councillor Ray Sweet and Councillor Colin Hayfield would attend.

Page 7 - 6. Pooley Country Park and Heritage Centre

The Chair reported that a number of Area Committee members had visited the Pooley Country Park and Heritage Centre and were pleased to note that there had been a number of visitors with many young children making use of the Centre and the new play area. Members agreed that the Centre was a good example of what could be achieved through partnership working.

2. Public Question Time

(1) Question from Kirstie Loe

"There are few young people's services in Warwickshire that offer support, information and advice to young people. Fusion here in Atherstone helped me out by sorting my personal, education and housing needs.

My question to you is

Why did you consider the service to not be important enough to continue their funding next year when nowhere else could help me with everything I needed?"

A written response to the question from Peter Hatcher, County Youth & Community Officer, was read out. Members agreed that there was a large area of work undertaken with young people not dealt with by Connexions and it was important this work was not neglected. Councillor Peter Fowler added that the County Council services for young people were in a state of transition at the moment as the Directorate responded to "Every Child Matters" but that they were fully aware of the work of Fusion in providing advice and guidance and once the new Head of Service for Youth Services was in place work in this area would continue. It

was agreed that a report on the key issues and work done by Fusion would be sent to all Area Committee Members.

Part A Non-Executive Functions

None.

Part B Executive Functions

3. North Warwickshire Well-being Fund Commissions

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development detailing Well-being Fund Commissions.

Alison Williams noted that the three project proposals fell within the remit of the Health and Well-being Local Strategic Partnership. She added that the equipment that would be purchased under the Healthy Lifestyles Pilot Project would be available for use by other projects in the Borough for the life of the project and beyond.

Members commended the projects and agreed that healthy eating, cleanliness and physical activities were good habits for children to learn at an early age.

Resolved

That the Area Committee approve the Well-being Fund Commissions from the Health and Well-being Theme Group of the North Warwickshire Community Partnership:

1. Healthy Life Styles Pilot Project - £2,128
2. PSHE Project - £1,440
3. Young People's Health Event - £434.

4. Community Development Worker – Social Inclusion Funding

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which provided further information on the Social Inclusion Fund proposal.

Alison Williams noted that this report followed on from a report considered by the Area Committee in February, giving more detail on the delivery of services, management arrangements and funding. She added that the direction given by the Area Committee was largely through the Service Level Agreement between Warwickshire County Council and North Warwickshire CVS, and that there was a Steering Group in place to monitor work and provide direction, with regular reports being brought to the Area Committee.

During the ensuing discussion Members made the following comments:

1. There was an outstanding amount of £1,800 carried forward from the original funding available for use on small -scale projects by the Community Development Worker.
2. Members noted the excellent work carried out by the CVS on behalf of the County and the public.
3. Members requested short summary reports on progress, including financial details, be provided on a six monthly basis, with exception reporting where necessary.
4. Members thanked Davina Key for the invaluable work she had done and agreed to revisit the situation at the end of the year to ensure that external funding was available and the post was not threatened.

Davina Key thanked the members of the Area Committee and Alison Williams for all the time and effort she had put in to ensure she could continue her work.

Resolved

That the Area Committee approves the Community Development Worker (North Warwickshire) post for Social Inclusion funding in 2006/07 to 2008/09 subject to Social Inclusion Funding continuing at the current level by supporting full costs up to £41,678 to ensure full operation of the project in Year 1, with a reduction to £30,000 in Year 2 and £20,000 in Year 3 to provide the project with the opportunity to attract a proportion of the funding from other sources.

5. Emergency Planning update - North Warwickshire

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer summarising the progress towards implementation of the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and an update on initiatives of specific relevance to North Warwickshire.

Jeremy Lee added that the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 had become law from 1 April 2005 and provided a single framework to address modern challenges.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

1. Warwickshire County Council was a Category 1 Responder with a clear range of duties.
2. There were a number of partnership initiatives in North Warwickshire, including a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the North Warwickshire Borough Council and a Local Resilience Forum with a range of other working groups.
3. 26 out of the 30 Parish Councils had Emergency Plans in place provided comprehensive and updated plans with the assistance of the Emergency Planning Unit. These had been used to great effect during the Easter 1998 floods and in other emergency situations.

4. Following the explosion at the Buncefield Oil Complex a meeting had been arranged between the Emergency Planning Unit, Fire and Rescue Service and the site managers at Kingsbury Oil Complex with local Parish Councillors to address concerns. An exercise had also been planned for the Kingsbury Oil Complex to be carried out over the next 12 months. This would take place in three stages:
 - with Warwickshire agencies
 - a more regional based exercise
 - major exercise involving the significant use of available resources.
 Members of the Area Committee would be invited to observe parts of the exercise.
5. Following the modernisation of the County Council a review of all major County Council emergency plans was being undertaken. This would be done at a functional level and members would be updated as the review progressed.
6. The Emergency Planning Unit worked with a number of partners locally, regionally and nationally on an ongoing basis to be in a position to respond to any emergency which may affect the County.
7. One of the key issues many organisations could face in the event of a flu pandemic would be the expectation of up to 50% of staff being away from work at one time. Work was underway to identify essential services and staff and to ensure that backup for these were also identified.
8. One of the duties of Category 1 Respondents was communication with the public and it was agreed that Members had a role to highlight the work of the Department with the public and in Borough and Parish Councils. The important role of the community in pre-planning and responding to an emergency was highlighted.
9. Part of the Government initiatives was to build up community resilience and it was felt that Parish Councils had a strong role to play in this area.
10. Members noted the importance that they had good access to and contacts with key players.

Resolved

That the Committee welcomes the report on the implementation of the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and emergency planning initiatives in North Warwickshire and that the report be presented to all the Area Forums in North Warwickshire.

6. Area Community Learning Partnership (ACLP) for North Warwickshire Borough, Progress Report 2005/06 and Action Plan for 2006/07

The Committee considered the report of the Area Community Learning Partnership summarising progress made by the ACLP during 2005/06, which was partly funded by the Area Committee, and giving an outline for proposed partnership activity for 2006/07.

Dave Potter noted that this was a draft report and that the final plan would be brought to the Area Committee for approval in the summer.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

1. the impact of the cut in funding from the LSC was not yet known.
2. an effort had been made to identify hard to reach groups and the ACLP were currently looking at innovative ways of advertising to reach those who would not respond to normal advertising methods.
3. The SCLP would look into whether there was a long term tracking data available but it was noted that one of the benefits of the partnership was the sharing of information and they were acutely aware of the need to make the best use of the information available to them.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress made in the development of the Community Learning Strategy and the multi-agency Community Learning Plan for North Warwickshire Borough is noted.
- (2) That the detailed progress report against 2005/06 actions be endorsed.
- (3) That the Area Committee note the draft outline plan and actions for 2006/07.
- (4) That a finalised Area Community Learning Plan for 2006/07 be received by the Area Committee for information in the summer.

7. Capital Programme for Transport 2006/07

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy setting out the draft Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for 2006/07 in the North Warwickshire Area.

Liz Milne noted that the report formalised the discussions that took place at the seminar for the Area Committee members held in February. She confirmed that of the delegated budget of £40,000 for transport projects, £10,000 had been allocated and the remaining £30,000 would be delegated by the Committee during the remainder of the year.

Martin Stott reported that PTES had identified their 50% of the cost towards a Village Traffic Officer and that the Department would take the lead in terms of advertising for and managing the post, which would be based in North Warwickshire. Alison Williams reported she was in discussion with the Strategic Director of Resources to identify the funding to come from the Area Committee. It was agreed that once the funding had been secured, a special meeting of the Committee would take place to approve the details so that PTES could begin the process of recruitment.

Resolved

That Members:

1. Support the Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for North Warwickshire Area given in Table 1.
2. Support the scheme identified in Table 3 for the delegated budget and agree to defer the decision regarding allocation of the remainder of the delegated budget until further schemes have been identified.
3. Agree to the recommendation that schemes which remain on the list of delegated budget requests for three years are removed from future lists.
4. Agree to defer the decision regarding allocation of the additional capital funding for road maintenance until May Area Committee where proposals be made on the basis of equal apportionments.
5. Request that the Cabinet approve the use of the delegated budget of £300,000 for capital funded road maintenance schemes be changed to include improvements.

8. Proposed Redevelopment of Grendon Household Waste Recycling Centre

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director Environment and Economy proposing the submission of a planning application to redevelop the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Grendon using land made available from the Sparrowdale School Site.

Kalen Wood noted the following:

- i. A number of different sites had been looked at in North Warwickshire but none had been viable.
- ii. The redeveloped site would allow the county to reach their target of 60% as well as meeting government targets and was expected to alleviate the current traffic problems.
- iii. The new site would include a recycling shop which would be run by a local charity. Similar shops in Stratford and Leamington Spa had proved to be very successful.
- iv. A pre-application public consultation was planned for 21/22 April 2006.
- v. Discussions had been held with officers from Staffordshire County Council who had earmarked a site in Staffordshire to develop their own recycling facility.

Following some considerable debate, Members were all in agreement that while the new management at Grendon were very good and the design for the redevelopment was good, the site at Grendon was in the wrong place, local residents would not be happy with the planned redevelopment and that there was a need to look at a more sustainable location.

Resolved

That the North Warwickshire Area Committee did not support the planning application being made for the proposed redevelopment of Grendon Household Waste Recycling Centre and requested the County Council to look elsewhere and felt that Birch Coppice or Orchard would be appropriate alternative locations.

9. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Committee agreed the provisional items identified for future meetings.

10. Any Other Items

The Chair noted that this would be the last North Warwickshire Area Committee meeting for Martin Stott as he would be attending the Warwick Area Committee in the future. He thanked Martin for the work that he had done for the Area Committee.

Martin Stott said that he was disappointed to be changing as he had enjoyed working with the Committee and the Area staff.

The Chair welcomed Catherine Twigg to her first Area Committee meeting following her appointment as Administrative Assistant in the Area Office and hoped that she would enjoy a long stay at the Area office.

Date of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 31 May 2006 at a venue to be confirmed.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 19.55 p.m.