

Minutes of a Meeting of the North Warwickshire Area Committee held on 26 July 2006 at the Magistrate's Court Building, Sheepy Road, Atherstone

Present: -

Members of the Committee

Councillors Ray Sweet (Chair)
Richard Grant (Vice Chair)
Anne Forwood
Peter Fowler
Colin Hayfield
Joan Lea
Brian Moss
Mick Stanley

Officers Julia Brook, Organisation Development Manager
Ian Marriott, Community & Environmental Legal Services Manager
Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator
Alistair Rigby, Community Partnership Officer North Warwickshire
Joanne Roberts, Administrative Assistant North Warwickshire
Margaret Smith, Transport Planner
Alison Williams, Area Manager North Warwickshire

Also in Attendance 3 Members of the Public attended.

1. General

(1) Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Sarah Bannister (North Warwickshire PCT), Dave Clarke, CI Mike Naughton and Jane Pollard.

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(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared personal interests as set out below:

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(1) by virtue of them serving as North Warwickshire Borough Councillors as follows:-

Councillors Peter Fowler, Colin Hayfield, Joan Lea, Brian Moss, Mick Stanley and Ray Sweet.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 31 May 2006 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the North Warwickshire Area Committee meeting held on 31 May 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Page 2 – 4(1) Public Question Time

Alison Williams noted that a written response had been sent to Mr Reader.

Page 4 – 5.3 North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Plan

Alison Williams noted that a joint report with the Borough Council on Arts in North Warwickshire would be brought to the September Committee meeting.

Page 8 – 9. 2006-07 Capital Programme for Transport – Delegated Budget

Julia Brook reported that the development in Hartshill where the hump on Laurel Drive/Beech Close was situated had been approved and adopted in 2002 and it had therefore not been deemed appropriate to approach them four years later to make any changes. She added that the hump met the Council's technical specifications and was a recognised standard design used in a number of residential housing estates.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

- a. When considering this type of issue, no precedents should be set and each case needed to be judged on its own merit.
- b. Mr Askill had been pursuing a resolution to the problem consistently over a long period of time.

Having recognised that the item should have been dealt with through the consideration of a formal report, the Committee voted in favour of the use of £6,000 from the 2006/07 Capital Programme for Transport – Delegated Budget to modify the hump on Laurel Drive/Beech Close, Hartshill.

2. Public Question Time

(1) Question from Mr Paul Reader, resident of New Arley and member of New Arley Parish Council

“Will the Area Committee ask the relevant parties whom are involved in the proposed relocation of Spring Hill Medical Centre in Arley to begin meaningful consultation with the local community

and the patients registered at the Centre, and ensure all potential sites within the local community are judged equally on their merits for a proposed new medical facility?"

The Area Committee would like to be kept informed of progress of the proposed relocation of Spring Hill Medical Centre in Arley, however it is not the role of the Area Committee to activate such discussions. The Area Committee advises that any concerns surrounding the provision or relocation of health facilities should be directed to North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust and on planning issues to North Warwickshire Borough Council.

(2) Question from Mr Paul Reader, resident of New Arley and member of New Arley Parish Council

“Does the Area Committee agree that a deprived community such as New Arley benefits by the loss of community facilities and becomes more sustainable by the provision of further Affordable Housing Schemes in isolation, considering the current levels of deprivation what plans does WCC have and intend to implement in New Arley to alleviate such deprivation?”

The Area Committee notes both the importance of local community facilities and the provision of affordable housing within the borough, as outlined in the North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Plan. Warwickshire County Council is working with key partners, including North Warwickshire Borough Council which leads on housing strategy and more specifically affordable housing, to undertake actions identified within the Community Plan to contribute to delivering the 2020 North Warwickshire Vision:

“Rural North Warwickshire; a community of communities. A place where people want to live, work and visit, now and in the future, which meets the diverse needs of existing and future residents, is sensitive to the local environment, and contributes to a high quality of life. A place which is safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offers equality of opportunity and good services for all”.

For example, the work of the Children Young People and their families Theme Group in 2006/07 includes developing Arley, Dordon and Piccadilly as “action zones” for concentrating resources in areas of known need.

3. A summary of the Coventry & Warwickshire Acute Services Review Consultation Proposals

The Committee were informed that they would not be receiving the report on the Coventry & Warwickshire Acute Services Review Consultation Proposals as Sarah Bannister of the North Warwickshire PCT had been

taken ill and could not find a replacement at short notice. Members noted their disappointment particularly in light of the concerns and difficulties surrounding the proposals and agreed that while Margaret Smith, Transport Planner from Environment and Economy could answer questions on transport, any other discussion should be postponed until a further meeting with the PCT could be scheduled.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

1. The following three dates had been organised by the North Warwickshire PCT as part of the consultation:
3 August Atherstone Memorial Hall
7 September Polesworth (venue to be determined)
14 September Arley Working Men's Club.
2. Members of the public could also attend a two-day event being held by the Warwickshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Manor Hall, Leamington Spa on 30 August and 1 September starting at 9.30 am. Those not able to attend in person could post questions to Alwin McGibbon, Health Scrutiny Officer, Shire Hall, P O Box 9, Warwick, CV34 4RR, E-mail alwinmcgibbon@warwickshire.gov.uk.
3. A letter would be send to the PCT recording the Committee's concern that there had not been a PCT representative at the meeting.
4. Margaret Smith, Transport Planner, Environment & Economy Directorate, noted that the report from the Transport Planning Team had been prepared on the Directorate's interpretation of what the review would entail.
5. Assurances had been given by the PCTs that high volume services would be dealt with locally and therefore access to these services should be improved. People needing to travel to Coventry were those needing specialist treatment and the numbers were small.
6. The maps supplied gave data PCT sites, origins of journeys and actual transport bus data and showed that access by bus was impossible from many areas. This raised the question that if there was no public transport available was there sufficient parking available and at what cost? Margaret Smith added that the Health Authority (HA) had found transport difficult to address but that it was definitely on the Council agenda and the Council were keen to have discussions with the HA to make progress in this area.
7. Members acknowledged the difficulties the Review would bring to people living in North Warwickshire and noted their concern that the interests of the patient would lose out to the interest of the HA balance sheets.

The Chair thanked Margaret Smith for her input and for the useful report and maps that had been produced.

4. Safer Neighbourhood Policing Areas

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development noting the recommendations to Cabinet regarding Warwickshire Police proposals for operational deployment of their resources on a neighbourhood area basis.

Alison Williams noted that the Area Committee were asked to note the proposals considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 13 July and that further information and a further report would be brought to the Area Committee in the future.

During the discussion the following points were highlighted:

1. As part of the process Police would be looking at different types of community engagement. This item would be built into Area Forum work in the future where concerns for safer communities could be identified.
2. The idea behind the strategy was that policing teams would work locally and the public would always have a police officer they knew and who knew the area. This would improve the relationship between the police and the public.
3. There was broad Member support for the strategy and for improved dialogue and Members needed to make it clear to the public that there were a lot of partners involved in community safety, each with a role to play. There was a responsibility for Members to lead on this and encourage partnership working with the police and partners.
4. All neighbourhood teams would be rolled out by the end of November and Members requested a progress report on March 2007.

Resolved:

That the Area Committee:

1. Supports the proposals put forward by Warwickshire Police for operational deployment of their resources on a neighbourhood area basis.
2. Notes the resolution of Cabinet that whilst these are not appropriate structures for locality working for the County Council, we will continue dialogue with the Police and the Police Authority as to how we can make our locality approaches effective together.
3. Makes such comments as it thinks appropriate on the contents of this report.
4. Notes that a further report will be brought to the Committee in due course to ensure its active engagement regarding the definition of the Council's structures for locality working.

5. North Warwickshire Area Business Plan 2005/06 Year-end Report

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Policy and Development summarising the County Council's performance in the

North Warwickshire area in 2005/06 and introduces the new Area Business Plan for 2006/07.

Members made the following comments on the report:

2005/06

1. Alison Williams agreed to revert to Members on the Target 05/06 on School Improvement Strategy for 16-19 year-olds – Average points score per student entered (page 1).
2. Where areas were “completed”, Members requested additional information, where available, on their progress (page 4).
3. Members requested a visit be arranged to the newly completed Woodlands School (page 8).
4. It would be useful for schools or the Education service to look at increasing and retaining the numbers of young readers to determine what the issues to improve life options (page 9).
5. Alison Williams agreed to find out if more than 2 schools in North Warwickshire had signed up to Talking Shop. Members also agreed to ask schools they visited if they were signed up (page 11).
6. Alison Williams agreed to get clarification on the enhanced system for monitoring reimbursable delayed transfers of care at the George Elliot Hospital (page 13).

2006/07

- a. Alison Williams agreed to revert with dates and targets for the three Key Local Actions under “Deliver the County Youth Offer and promote uptake of opportunities” (page 2).
- b. Ryogens was a national project sponsored by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which involved a web-based multi-agency application and toolkit, which enabled all the agencies that work with children to share concerns about them. Chris Hallett (WCC) and Angela Coates (NWBC) would be invited to present a report to the Committee on Looked After Children in North Warwickshire and what could be done to support those who were no longer in care and living independently (page 4).
- c. While more people per head smoked in North Warwickshire than any other area, this was a key priority for the North Warwickshire Community Partnership’s Health and Wellbeing Group and there were a lot of agencies involved in smoking cessation (page 10).
- d. Members noted their concern that given the lack of skills locally, that a strategy for upskilling North Warwickshire residents was not in place (page 15).
- e. A report on Local Area Agreements would be brought to the Committee in September 2006 and January 2007 (page 20).
- f. Members asked to look at the business plans for 05/06 and 06/07 on a section by section basis, inviting relevant officers to attend future meetings of the Area Committee to explain the performance and proposed actions.

Resolved:

That the North Warwickshire Area Committee:

1. Note the progress made against milestone targets and key performance indicators contained in the 2005/06 Area Business Plan.
2. approves the North Warwickshire Area Business Plan for 2006/07.

6. North Warwickshire Well-being Fund 2006/07

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Policy and Development outlining priorities for the Well-being Fund in 2006/07.

The Chair thanked Members and officers for the work carried out in the Funding Working Group.

Alistair Rigby reported that there were 11 projects totalling £57,973, brief outlines of which were detailed in the report. He added that these projects would be invited to work up bids for formal approval by the Committee. Members agreed that any queries on the bids would be sorted out with the Chair and Councillor Hayfield.

Resolved:

That the North Warwickshire Area Committee agrees the 11 projects in principle for formal approval at September meeting of the Area Committee.

7. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

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

13 September 2006

Arts in North Warwickshire
Well-being Fund 2006/07
Local Area Agreements
Looked After Children in North Warwickshire

8. 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 13 September 2006 in Atherstone.

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Chair of Committee

| The Committee rose at 7.10 p.m.▼

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