

**Minutes of a Meeting of the North Warwickshire Area Committee held on 24 January 2007 at Michael Drayton School, The Woodlands, Hartshill, Nuneaton.**

**Present: -**

**Members of the Committee**

**Councillors** Richard Grant (Vice Chair)(In the Chair)  
Peter Fowler  
Joan Lea  
Brian Moss  
Mick Stanley

**Officers** Julia Brook, Head of Rural and Management Services  
Chris Burrows, Minor Works Programme Manager.  
Jenny Butlin-Moran, Principal Operations Manager (North)  
Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager  
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator  
Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager  
Joanne Roberts, Administrative Officer, North Warwickshire  
Sian Stroud, Senior Solicitor  
Alison Williams, Area Manager  
Tim Willis, Adult Commissioning Unit, Adult, Health and  
Community Services

**Also in Attendance** Trevor Hopkins, Mancetter Parish Council  
Jean Marshall, Mancetter Parish Council  
Paul Reader, Arley Parish Council

**1. General**

**(1) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Forwood, Colin Hayfield and Ray Sweet (Chair).

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

Members declared personal interests as set out below:

- (1) by virtue of them serving as North Warwickshire Borough Councillors as follows:-  
  
Councillors Peter Fowler, Joan Lea, Brian Moss and Mick Stanley.
- (2) Councillor Peter Fowler declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 as Chair of the North Warwickshire Community and Environment Board and Portfolio Holder for Performance and Development, North Warwickshire Borough Council.

**(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 November 2007 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the North Warwickshire Area Committee meeting held on 29 November 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to –

- (1) in the list of officers present, the title of Joanne Roberts being amended to read “Administrative Officer.”
- (2) in respect of minute 1 (3) Matters Arising the name of “Joan Pritchard” being amended to read “Jane Pritchard”.

**Matters Arising**

**1. Page 2 - 2. Public Question Time**

Councillor Richard Grant reported that –

- (1) written replies had been sent to the Mr Paul Reader, questions 1 and 2, and to Debbie Horton, question 3.

- (2) a petition had been collected by the pupils of Queen Elizabeth School (question 3) in support of traffic calming/speed reduction on Witherley Road, Atherstone and this would be presented to the County Council meeting on 6 February 2007.

**2. Page 7 – 6 Arts Provision in North Warwickshire**

Alison Williams reported that a draft Social Inclusion and Arts Strategy had now been produced by North Warwickshire Borough Council and she had requested that Councillors be involved in the consultation on this document. She added that Councillors might wish initially to support the development of the Strategy and the associated Action Plan in order to take forward the arts agenda in North Warwickshire and to address area specific problems and issues.

Councillor Richard Grant suggested that the Area Committee comment on the draft Social Inclusion and Arts Strategy and revisit the need to commission a further report once the Strategy had been finalised.

**2. Public Question Time**

**Questions from Mr. Paul Reader, resident of New Arley and member of New Arley Parish Council.** (These questions were received after the deadline)

## Question 1

Following the publication of the Full Recommendations of the Coventry & Warwickshire Acute Services Review. Paragraph 9 on Page 3 of the Recommendations Document States:-

“The public in Warwickshire clearly supports the development of community hospitals, and wishes to see the use of these maximized. (If significant movement of services to the existing community hospitals in South Warwickshire occurs, this will obviously have implications for Warwick Hospital.) There is also a clear need for substantial, additional, investment in community based services in North Warwickshire which at present has no community hospital provision of the kind provided in the south of the county. The Review Board recommends that development is based on the South Warwickshire pilot. This scheme has a single point for admission and rehabilitation while intermediate care teams work closely and effectively with both health and social care agencies.”

The County Council has a role in the partnership of Health & Social Care Provision here in North Warwickshire. Can the Area Committee state what research has been undertaken to establish what facilities will actually be required in these “Community Based Facilities/Hospitals.” Where in North Warwickshire they are likely to be located. What level in financial terms is the “substantial, additional, investment” needed to provided these facilities. Where the funding to build such facilities will be obtained from in light of the current financial predicament of the NHS both locally and nationally. What is the likely Timescale prior to these becoming operational?

Will the Area Committee ensure that any implementation in reconfiguration either by the way of cuts in the number of beds or services at the George Eliot Hospital is strongly resisted until appropriate alternate means of provision of those beds and services is in place and would not be detrimental to the residents of North Warwickshire?

## Question 2

It was stated by the former Chief Executive of the North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust at the Public Meeting held in Arley to discuss the Acute Services Review that WCC were investigating with other partners to improve public transport provision to health services within the Local Area, due to the fact that Public Transport arrangements were either none existent or inappropriate

Paragraph 22 on Page 7 of the Recommendations Document States:-  
**Transport issues must be accepted as a responsibility of the NHS.**  
The consultation has highlighted the difficulties that Warwickshire residents currently face in accessing hospitals. (This has also been acknowledged by Warwickshire County Council in the work carried out for the Accessibility Strategy as part of the 2nd Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011). Transport implications must be addressed in the future by commissioners whenever services are commissioned, particularly where there are changes to the pattern and delivery of local services. **It is therefore recommended that NHS Warwickshire and Warwickshire**

**County Council jointly commission a scoping study.** The study should examine how existing health transport providers (in the health sector, county council, voluntary and community sectors) could set up a central call centre to coordinate their activities and deliver improved access to hospitals. Similar schemes elsewhere (e.g. Norfolk, Northumberland) have demonstrated the benefits of such a coordinated approach, which can make use of the 'down-time' in community, social services, and non-emergency ambulance transport. Greater sophistication can be achieved, including linking hospital booking systems to home addresses and transport provision so that appointments take account of transport arrival times.

Can I ask the Area Committee to encourage the County Council to undertake this Study A.S.A.P and ensure that the recommendations into transport improvements are implemented? I would also ask that any reconfiguration of services be opposed until such transport improvements are up and running.

*Councillor Richard Grant replied "that the recommendations of the Acute Services Review Board were considered by the Health and Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier today, the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007. We do not yet know the outcome of this meeting and it is not possible to comment on the points raised by Mr. Reader at this time. A written reply will therefore be sent to Mr. Reader in due course.*

*In the meantime, Mr. Reader is advised that comments on the Acute Services Review can also be made at the Acute Service Review Website [www.coventrywarksacr.nhs.uk](http://www.coventrywarksacr.nhs.uk)."*

### **3. Consultation on Local Area Scrutiny**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development, which sought the views of the Area Committee on any appropriate topics for a local area scrutiny exercise.

Jane Pollard reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group would be considering the topics suggested by all the Area Committees at its meeting on 20 March 2007 (not 7 March 2007 as stated in the report). She also reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group, at its meeting on 17 January 2007, had agreed the process for selecting topics for local scrutiny.

The Chair reminded Members of the e-mail sent to them earlier in the week asking for suitable topics for scrutiny and said he would take additional items at the meeting. The suggested topics would be measured against the criteria and assessed by the officers and considered at the Committee's meeting on 21 February 2007 when the Committee was considering the Local Capital Programme.

During discussion the following suggested topics were noted:

- (1) Youth Activities – To compare progress in the Borough against the County.

- (2) Educational Achievements in North Warwickshire being lower than the county - scrutinise Schools, Colleges and LSC and examine what could be done to enable and encourage improvement in achievement levels.
- (3) Arts Provision in North Warwickshire
- (4) Traveller site at Alvecote
- (5) Area Forums and Safer Neighbourhood PACT Meetings
- (6) Rural Transport and the demise of the Rural Transport Partnership

Resolved to note that the Area Committee's suggestions for topics for a local area scrutiny exercise as listed above, together with those forwarded separately by Members, be assessed by the Area Manager and the Overview and Scrutiny Manager and those that meet the appropriate criteria be considered further by the Area Committee at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006 (informal meeting to consider the Local Transport Programme).

#### **4. Warwickshire Looked After Children**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families, which provided a general overview of the profile of looked after children from North Warwickshire and outlined some of the services available to support them and the outcomes that they had achieved.

In reply to questions Jenny Butlin-Moran said that –

- (1) The County Council had responded to the Green Paper consultation document "Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children in Care".
- (2) Young people (between 18 and 24 years of age) could receive multi-agency support depending on their circumstances and entitlement.
- (3) The increase in the number of looked after children related mostly to the fact that more young people were staying in care longer (18 rather than 16 years of age).
- (4) The majority of looked after children came from economically deprived homes and had had experience of long-term exclusion from school.
- (5) She was not aware of any male looked after child/young person who had become a parent. However, if that situation did occur then that young person's needs would be assessed to enable support to be given that was appropriate.

Councillor Richard Grant said that this issue was one of major importance to him and to policy makers and asked for a further report to Committee on the implications of the "Government White Paper on Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children in Care", when it was received.

Resolved that the Committee –

- (1) Thanks Jenny Butlin-Moran for her report and answering questions.
- (2) Asks for a further report when the Government White Paper is received on the Green Paper “Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children in Care” and the implications for children in North Warwickshire.

**5. 2006-07 Capital Programme for Transport – Delegated Budget – Junction at B5000 Grendon Road and Common Lane, Polesworth**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy.

The report related to a request for a modification to the junction of the B5000 Grendon Road and Common Lane in Polesworth that had been made by Councillor Mick Stanley. This scheme could be funded from the £40,000 delegated budget allocated to the Area Committee for transport projects to address local priorities. In September 2006, the Area Committee requested that a consultation with local residents be undertaken prior to the scheme being included in the programme for 2006/07. Following the consultation, and in conjunction with Councillor Stanley, Option 1 had been identified as the preferred improvement scheme. It was considered that this option would have the least impact on local residents and greatly improved safety at the junction.

Councillor Mick Stanley spoke in support of Option 1 and circulated photographs of the junction and bridge.

During discussion, and in reply to questions, Chris Burrows confirmed that a scheme identified by Councillor Peter Fowler would be funded from the maintenance budget.

Resolved that the –

- (1) preferred scheme, Option1, to modify the junction of the B5000 Grendon Road/Common Lane, Polesworth be included in the 2006/07 Capital Programme for Transport, to be funded by allocating £25,000 from this Area Committee’s delegated budget.
- (2) Committee noted that any remaining balance from the 2006/07 Capital Programme for Transport Delegated Budget be carried over into the 2007/08 financial year.

**6. 2006-07 Capital Programme for Transport – Delegated Budget – Street Lighting, Marston**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, that a scheme to improve street lighting on Old Kingsbury Road, Marston be included in the 2006/7 Capital

Programme for Transport to be funded by allocating £6,000 from this Area Committee's delegated budget.

## **7. Review of North Warwickshire Area Business Plan 2005/06**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development, which outlined the County Council's performance and proposed actions on 'Promote the Health and Social Care of our Citizens in the North Warwickshire Area'.

In reply to questions relating to issues raised at the Committee's meeting on 26 July 2006, paragraph 2.2 of the report Tim Willis said that –

- (1) 1% of delayed transfers related to either patient choice or patient discharge
- (2) In Warwickshire 30 children were currently on placement and in North Warwickshire there was a target of 8 and was on track to being achieved.

Councillor Richard Grant said that he had heard encouraging news about the number of schools working towards a Warwickshire Health Promotion Schools Scheme accreditation. Alison Williams said that there no figures relating to the number of schools taking part in the scheme had been provided in advance of the meeting but she would query this with the Area Schools and Community Officer and report further to the next meeting.

Members then considered Appendix A of the report "End of Year Performance Report 'Promote the Health and Social Care of our Citizen's'" and Tim Willis reported on –

- (1) Page 2 Older People's Services – Promote Health and Independence Through Low Level Services (PHILLIS) Scheme. It was noted that this scheme was aimed at enabling people to access services appropriate to need. The target for North Warwickshire was to make the scheme available to 300 old people by April.
- (2) Page 3 Home Care and other Community Support. It was noted that the current service provider was being reviewed and the targets would be accelerated.

Resolved that the Area Committee notes –

- (1) the Performance Report for 2005-06 in respect of 'Promote the Health and Social Care of our Citizens'.
- (2) that the Area Manager will report to the next meeting on the number of schools participating in the Warwickshire Health Promotion Schools Accreditation Scheme.

## **8. North Warwickshire Well-Being Fund 2006/07**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development outlining details of a Well-Being Fund Commission, that the Area Committee:

1. note the end of project report for the funded project 'Cultural Diversity Event'.
2. approve the Well-Being Fund Commission for the 'Community Regeneration Project - £10,000' subject to -
  - (i) the involvement of the Area Committee in agreeing the hotspot locations selected for the project and subsequent community consultation, and
  - (ii) full involvement of the Community Partnership Officer in the development and delivery of the project.

## **9. Development off the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement (LAA)**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development

This report summarised recent progress made in relation to the development of the Warwickshire LAA following the submission of the 'near final' draft to the Government Office West Midlands on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The report informed the Area Committee of the likely outcomes to be included within the final LAA and requested the views of the Area Committee on its priorities for delivery.

Nick Gower-Johnson said that, whilst the Government Office West Midlands had expressed its support for the final draft of the Warwickshire LAA, consideration was being given to the production of a more user friendly and informal version for the benefit of partners and the public. The work on revising the document was being undertaken by Stratford College.

The Voluntary Sector had said that although they had experienced some difficulties with the timescales involved they were still actively engaged in the LAA process as this would strengthen their scope for an enhanced role in service deliver and give them improved links with a range of partners including the Police, LSC and local authorities.

Councillor Richard Grant said he was pleased that strategic partners were working together but said that some elected Members considered that they might not be as engaged as they might be in the process and that it would useful at the next meeting to consider ways in which Members might be engaged, e.g. was there a role for scrutiny, Area Committees



and Members in overseeing strategic partnerships, to ensure that Members' role was enhanced.

Alison Williams reported that a review of the Local Strategic Partnership was being carried out and asked for Member's views on how they would like to be involved in the Partnership. She undertook to e-mail Members with a request for their views.

In reply to a question Nick Gower-Johnson said that the LAAs should provide a platform for enhanced two-tier working.

Resolved that -

1. Committee notes the current position in relation to the development of the Warwickshire LAA
2. Committee's comments be noted on the near final draft LAA as submitted to Government Office West Midlands on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006.
3. That a further report is brought to the Area Committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 describing the progress made by the County Council and its partners in making arrangements for the local delivery of LAA outcomes.
4. consideration be given to the involvement of elected Members in progress monitoring and scrutiny of the LAAs

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

The Committee agreed the provisional items identified for future meetings.

## **11. Any Other Items**

There were no other items

## **Date and Venues for Area Committee meetings for the remainder of the year**

The Committee noted the dates and venues of future meetings as follows –

21 March 2007 – Coleshill Town Hall  
23 May 2007 – Fillongly Village Hall  
11 July 2007 – Newton Regis Village Hall  
3 October 2007 – Kingsbury Youth Centre  
21 November 2007 – Dordon Village Hall.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 8.50 p.m.