

Minutes of a Meeting of the North Warwickshire Area Committee held on 10 October 2007 at the Magistrates Court Building, Sheepy Road, Atherstone

Present: -

Members of the Committee

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

Officers Bill Basra, Area Manager
Chris Burrows, Minor Works Programme Manager
Ann Mawdsley, Principal Committee Administrator
Alistair Rigby, Localities and Communities Officer North Warwickshire
Sian Stroud, Senior Solicitor
Lee White, Project Manager-Major Public Transport Schemes

Invited Guests Lucy Noon, Head of Corporate Services, Warwickshire PCT

1. General

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that Lee White would be leaving Warwickshire County Council on 12 October 2007 and, together with the other Members of the Committee, thanked Lee for his hard work, particularly his part in bringing the Coleshill Parkway Transport Scheme to fruition. Everyone wished Lee and his family all the best for the future.

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Anne Forwood and Mick Stanley.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Colin Hayfield declared a personal interest in Item 3 as a Non Executive Director of Warwickshire PCT.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2007 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the North Warwickshire Area Committee meeting held on 11 July 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Page 5 – 5. C7/01 Station Road Rail Bridge, Polesworth – Road Over Rail Safety Scheme

Bill Basra reported that a further report on this issue would be brought to the 21 November meeting of the Area Committee, before being considered by the Cabinet.

2. Public Question Time

(1) Question from Raymond Payne – Water Orton Ward

“I am concerned why kerb drains are only cleaned once a year, I believe the Policy should be reviewed. I have discussed the problem with Bryn Patefield, Area Manager, Highways Coleshill. He told me that due to cut backs at the time, the Policy was reduced to once a year. We should now assess the problems that it does cause (1) Continual breakdown of road and footways surfaces (2) Due to increase in vehicle ownership most residents have now removed their front lawns, which was a way of absorbing rainwater. They have now been replaced with block paving or tarmac drives. So all the rainwater runs down to kerb side drains, which cannot cope with the volume when blocked up, and the result causes as item (1). I ask you to reconsider the policy.”

The following response from Bryn Patefield, Area Manager County Highways was given -

“The importance placed on highway drainage is embraced within our maintenance policies.

All gullies are emptied once yearly on pre-scheduled routes.

However over the past two years we have started to identify gullies requiring higher or lower cleansing frequencies than yearly and incorporate them within additional programmes. Therefore any problematic areas would be dealt with at a higher frequency.

We take all reasonable steps to prevent flooding and standing water on the highway and we ask you highlight any gullies that are causing flooding problems on the highway network to County Highways on 01926 412515.”

Following a detailed discussion, Members requested a report be brought back to the Committee, to include:

- minimizing the flood risk in North Warwickshire
- clearing of ditches, drains and gullies, including jetting
- the procedures and timing of the programme, and whether there was any flexibility in the process

- the responsibilities of different agencies such as Severn Trent and the Environment Agency
- the issue of drainage matters in terms of the 106 agreements.

3. PCT changes and their implications for North Warwickshire

Lucy Noon, Head of Corporate Services, Warwickshire Primary Care Trust gave a presentation on the changes within the PCT and the implications for North Warwickshire. She noted the following points:

1. The PCT were trying to achieve health equality and consistency through the provision of high quality services.
2. There was a long way to go in terms of equality and one of the areas being targeted in North Warwickshire was childhood obesity.
3. The PCT was working closely with its partners (Local Government, Voluntary Organisations, GPs, Dentists etc) to put across clear messages and ensure that people were aware of how to get advice and access services.
4. The QOF (Quality Outcome Framework) was used to measure the quality of GP services and would be used in the long term to target areas of poor service provision for assistance with issues such as attracting GPs and health technicians to certain areas.
5. A lot of work had been done to promote health with staff through more flexible working conditions and making them proud to work for the PCT.
6. The PCT Board would consider a five-year commissioning strategy for approval on 7 November, before going out to consultation with partners. This would give partners an opportunity to make comments and influence the future direction of the service.
7. There was a need to ensure that the public and partners were engaged in the vision of the PCT to change the current culture of how health was viewed and move towards people managing their own health.
8. The current Project Manager for practice-based commissioning was leaving and Lucy Noon requested that until the replacement Project Manager was in place, any queries should be directed to her.

During the ensuing discussion the following was noted:

- i. In response to a query about the north/south health divide and low life expectancy of North Warwickshire, it was acknowledged that health should not be looked at in isolation and it was not necessarily about resources, but also ensuring that resources spent had a positive benefit for individuals through careful monitoring. The joint appointment of a Director of Public Health would help, and the newly formed Joint Executive Team's two main priorities were childhood obesity and health inequalities between the north and south.
- ii. It was important, particularly in areas of deprivation, to tailor information and messages to local people.
- iii. Some GP practices had installed 0845 phone numbers, which generated income for the practices. Lucy Noon noted that the PCT

- were aware this tactic had been introduced outside the county and any cases locally should be reported to her.
- iv. The new PCT had inherited a number of applications put to the three former PCTs, these would be considered in light of the broadened strategy and move towards one site offering services from all partners including health, social care, voluntary organisations etc. It was envisaged that in the future people would only have to travel to hospitals for important events, but most services would be offered through local “polyclinics”.
 - v. The prescriptive rules the PCT had to work within and the limited resources available meant that through measures such as the introduction of peer reviews of practice based commissioning, areas where primary care provision was poor would be targeted.
 - vi. There would be public consultations before any major changes were made to the service.
 - vii. It was agreed that the County Council had good experience in terms of consulting the public and it would be useful to explore the best way to use each other strengths to carry out consultations. The Acute Service Review had demonstrated the need for partnership working on these issues.
 - viii. In looking at how to provide quality and flexible primary care, the PCT currently had a team looking at improving dental services. This would be followed by a review of GP services.
 - ix. Warwickshire PCT was doing joint work with the County Council on transport issue. It was agreed that a full picture of how people accessed services was required in order to influence transport providers. Lee White agreed to liaise with the officers carrying out the work and revert to Members with an update.
 - x. Members agreed that it would be useful if people could phone the Contact Centre with details of their appointments and find out what transport options were available to them.
 - xi. Members agreed that publications such as the Warwickshire View and North Talk were excellent mechanisms to publish PCT information. It was agreed that the contact details for these publications would be sent to Lucy Noon. The One Stop Shops were also expected to provide links with the Police and PCTs.

Lucy Noon agreed to attend future meetings of the Area Committee and Forum in order to address health issues that were of interest in North Warwickshire.

4. 2007-08 Capital Programme for Transport – Delegated Budget

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy outlining the request put forward by Councillor Richard Grant for additional street lighting to be provided in Church Walk, Atherstone at a cost of £6,000.

Resolved:

That Area Committee approves the implementation of an additional street lighting scheme in Church Walk, Atherstone from the 2007-08 Capital

Programme for Transport, to be funded from the Area Committee's delegated budget of £40,000.

5. Proposed Extension to Traffic Calming, Church Road, Hartshill

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy proposing to extend the existing traffic calming along Church Road to include the area surrounding Michael Drayton School, incorporating three sets of speed cushions and two sections of bollards on the footway.

That approval be given to the introduction of an additional three sets of speed cushions along Church Road, Hartshill in the location shown on Appendix A of the report.

6. Report of the Funding Sub-Group

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development seeking to inform the Area Committee of key decisions made by the Funding Sub-Group in relation to new applications and reports relating to previous allocations of grants.

In response to a query about the necessity for the amount of paperwork involved, Bill Basra reported that a review of the process was being undertaken, including this issue.

Bill Basra agreed to consult the Supporting People team about the possibility of match funding for the Doorway North Warwickshire project.

Resolved:

1. That the CDF Summary End of Year Project reports be noted.
2. That in relation to the Social Inclusion Fund, the Area Committee notes the End of Year Project report for the Nuisance Co-ordinator
3. That in relation to the Well Being Fund, the Area Committee approves commissions relating to Royal Meadow Drive Play Area and Doorway North Warwickshire and the way forward proposed in relation to the Community Regeneration Project.
4. That in relation to the Well Being Fund, end of project reports for the Community Activity Audit and Community Mural be noted.

7. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

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

21 November 2007

Budget Presentation from Dave Clarke

Warwickshire Police presentation moved to 16 January 2008.

8. Any Other Items

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items.

9. Report Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

Resolved:-

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the item mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

10. Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2007

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Date of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 21 November 2007 at the Dordon Village Hall, Browns Hall, Dordon.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 7.25 p.m.