

The **NUNEATON & BEDWORTH AREA COMMITTEE** met in the **CONFERENCE ROOM, ELIOT PARK INNOVATION CENTRE, 4 BARLING WAY, NUNEATON** on 15 June 2005

**Present:**

Councillor Barry Longden (Chair)  
“ Frank McCarney (Vice Chair)  
“ Alan Farnell  
“ John Haynes  
“ Martin Heatley  
“ Pat Henry  
“ Bob Hicks  
“ John Ross  
“ Kam Singh  
“ June Tandy

**Officers:**

Martyn Davey, Director, Contract & Management Services  
John Deegan, Director PTES  
Max McDonagh, Highways Design Services, PTES  
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Dept.  
Jack Linstead, Communications Dept., Chief Executive's Dept.  
Nigel Mills, Area Education Officer  
Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor, Chief Executive's Dept.  
Kathy Robinson, Area Community Safety, Chief Executive's Dept., PTES.  
Heather Shearer, Area Manager, Chief Executive's Department.  
Barbara Wallace, Early Years Development Officer, Education Dept.  
Pam Williams, Area Administrative Officer, Area Office

Also present: 1 Member of the public.

**1. (1) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Burton, Mick Jones and Sid Tooth.

**(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest**

Councillors Pat Henry, Bob Hicks and John Ross, declared an interest in Minute 1 (4) (b) as Members of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

**(3) (i) Minutes of the Meeting of 23 March and 17 May 2005**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee held on 23 March and 17 May 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**(ii) Matters Arising from the minutes of 23 March 2005**

**(a) Request for New Bus Stop outside the Railway Station – Minute 1 (3) (ii).**

The Chair reported a letter received from the Director of PTES in response to the request from Alan Breed for a new bus stop on the ring round near the Railway Station. The Director of PTES had said that the proposal would cost approximately £40,000 and that there was little justification for a bus stop in that location.

Alan Breed said that his suggestion for a bus stop outside the Railway Station was to help those people who were unable to afford taxi fares and who might have difficulty walking to the Bus Station, including parents with children in pushchairs and wheelchair users. He asked Members to consider the needs of rail passengers and pointed out that Nuneaton Railway Station was the only Station in the country that did not have a bus stop outside the Station. He suggested that an alternative location for the bus stop be investigated.

Discussion followed during which a Member pointed out that the Stagecoach bus company currently ran a service from Coventry to the Railway Station without any problems. Other Members suggested that an investigation should be made into whether a shuttle bus service could be introduced running between the Railway Station and the Bus Station or re-routing some bus services.

Resolved that the Director of PTES be asked to report to a future meeting on the suggestions minuted above.

**(b) Capital Programme for Integrated Transport – Minute 4 (3) 1<sup>st</sup> Bullet Point**

In reply to a question John Deegan said that there were merits in the proposal to improve access for pedestrian along the A444 but this would involve signaling and widening the George Eliot Hospital roundabout at a cost of £650,000 and additional costs of providing a footpath. He would need to commission some preliminary work before including the scheme in the capital programme. Councillor June Tandy suggested that these improvements might also form part of a much wider scheme involving the provision of a pedestrian access along Gypsy Lane, discussed at the previous meeting. Members noted that this scheme, whilst desirable, would have major funding consequences.

**(4) Chair's correspondence and announcements**

**(a) Nuneaton and Bedworth Car Parking Charges**

The Chair reported that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council had intended reporting to this Committee on car parking charge increases. However, as the charges had already been brought in before the Committee meeting date he had considered it appropriate to bring the report before Members for discussion.

**(b) Ropewalk Car Park**

The Chair said that a report would be presented to the Committee's next meeting asking for agreement to amend the Nuneaton and Bedworth Off-Street Parking Order to include the Ropewalk Car Park. During discussion the Chair explained that the timing of the report might delay the official opening of the Car Park. Members expressed concern about this potential delay and enquired whether it might be possible to allow the car park to operate, free of charge, until the Order was amended.

Resolved that a letter be sent to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council asking that Ropewalk Car Park be made available to the public, in the interim, prior to the Order coming into force.

**2. Public Question Time**

None

**3. Bedworth to Keresley Quality Bus Corridor**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy, that the detailed

scheme proposals for the Bedworth to Keresley Quality Bus Corridor scheme be approved.

#### **4. Hilary Road Footbridge Replacement**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy, that the Area Committee approves the arrangements for the replacement of Hilary Road Footbridge with a new steel truss bridge structure.

#### **5. Area Community Learning Plan End of Year Progress Report 2004/05 and the Area Community Learning Plan 2005/08**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Area Community Learning Partnership, that the –

- (1) progress made in the development of the Community Learning Strategy and the multi-agency Community Learning Plan for Nuneaton and Bedworth be noted.
- (2) Area Committee endorses the multi-agency Community Learning Plan for Nuneaton and Bedworth 2005/08.

#### **6. Introducing the new role of Area Community Safety Manager and the functions of the Crime and Disorder Partnership.**

Kathy Robinson, Community Safety Manager, outlined the purpose of the new role and the function of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and circulated copies of her power point presentation material. During her presentation she

- Introduced the Nuneaton and Bedworth Crime and Disorder and Drugs Misuse Strategy for 2005-06 and explained her role as the new Area Community Safety Manager;
- Explained the new crime reduction targets;
- Highlighted the issues, Strategy priorities, delivery mechanisms and the next steps.

Members welcomed the new role of the Area Safety Manager and the functions of the Crime and Disorder Partnership. Concern was expressed, however, about the Partnership and the effectiveness of the joint working. Members highlighted the need for all partners to share the same targets and for a greater involvement by the Primary

Care Trust (PCT). The “Fear of Crime”, and anti-social behaviour, were highlighted as the main areas of concern for Warwickshire residents.

In reply to questions Kathy Robinson said that –

- The Crime and Disorder Strategy was a shared Strategy between the Police, County Council and PCT, who would be held jointly accountable for its success. Members’ role, at a later stage, would be about the allocation of resources and to encourage and influence their partners to do the same.
- She had not yet met with the Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Centre Partnership Managers but would be contacting them shortly;
- She had attended meetings with the Police and had contributed with regard to town centre issues. Part of the Strategy was to reduce the sale of alcohol to young people and encourage more responsible attitudes by owners of licensed premises.
- The Police were committed to reducing crime in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area by 17.5% in accordance with Government targets.
- Engagement with the PCT was an issue to be addressed particularly in relation Accident and Emergency Department incidents.

Further discussion followed during which Members commented on the frequency of reports they should receive on the progress of the Strategy and also of the need for attendance and future meetings, as appropriate, by representatives of the Police and the PCT. Members noted that the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee had asked for crime “hot spot” statistics to be reported to each Area Committee for consideration. The Chair undertook to consider the frequency of future reports on the Strategy to this Committee acknowledging that the first annual report on the three-year strategy could be presented to Committee in April/May of next year.

Resolved that the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee –

1. Welcomes the new role as an important step towards developing strategies to deal with Crime and Disorder problems.
2. Identify as the most important issues of concern for specific priorities for 2005/6 as being fear of crime, anti-social behaviour.

**7. First Annual Review of Area Working in Nuneaton and Bedworth.**

The Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive highlighting some of the key achievements of area working during 2004/05.

The Chair commended the Area Team on its work and its successes and range of activities.

Resolved -

That the Area Committee recognises, and appreciates, the commitment of the Area Office staff in producing such a high level of achievement, and thanks them for establishing such a firm ground base from which the Area Committee can deliver its policies.

**8. Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Performance 2004/05 and Area Business Plan Milestones 2005/06.**

The Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive outlining the performance against actions proposed in the 2004/05 Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Business Plan and introduces the milestones actions contained in the new Plan for 2005/06.

Discussion followed during which Members, whilst commending the report, expressed concern about the Nuneaton and Bedworth area not achieving the same results in education as the rest of the County. In response Nigel Mills acknowledged that the results were disappointing but pointed out that progress was being made explained that a range of support had been put in place to redress the imbalance. The results in the report were for the academic year 2003/4 and he would be happy to report the current years results to the Committee in the autumn, which would hopefully show progress.

Resolved -

That the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee:

1. Asks for a further report from the County Education Officer on progress on targets in the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area and with details of the current year's examination results.
2. Endorses the actions and milestones contained in the new 2005/06 Area Business Plan.

## **9. Future Agenda Items**

Resolved to note the programme of agenda items as outlining in the report of County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive subject to the addition of the following items –

- Amendment to the Nuneaton and Bedworth Off-Street Parking Order.
- Appointment to Outside Bodies.

## **10. Any Other Business**

None.

## **11. Reports Containing Exempt Information**

Resolved 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 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

## **12. Exempt minute of the meeting held on 23 March 2005 and matters arising**

The exempt minutes of the meeting of Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee held on 26 January 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 8:05 p.m.