

The **NUNEATON & BEDWORTH AREA COMMITTEE** met in the **CONFERENCE ROOM, ELIOT PARK INNOVATION CENTRE, 4 BARLING WAY, NUNEATON** on 30 November 2005

Present:

Councillor Frank McCarney (Vice Chair)

“ John Burton
“ Richard Chattway
“ Alan Farnell
“ Martin Heatley
“ Pat Henry
“ Bob Hicks
“ John Ross
“ Kam Singh
“ Sid Tooth
“ June Tandy

Officers:

Philip Astle, Education Officer – School Organisation

Stephen Bell, Area Community Education Officer

Andrea Buckley, Chief Executive's Dept.

David Curle, Social Services Dept,

John Deegan, Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy.

Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Dept.

Martin Jones, Head of Resources Management, Social Services Dept.

Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor, Chief Executive's Dept.

Heather Shearer, Area Manager, Chief Executive's Department.

Mandy Walker, Regeneration Projects, PTES.

Pam Williams, Area Administrative Officer, Chief Executive's Dept.

Also present: 5 Members of the Public and Mr. Johnson, Chair of Governors of Whitestone Infants School, Nuneaton.

1. (1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Haynes, Mick Jones and Barry Longden (Chair, who was unable to be present because of illness).

The Vice Chair reported on his visit to Councillor Longden in hospital and said that his health appeared to be much improved.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

Declarations of interest were recorded as follows –

- (1) Councillor Bob Hicks declared a personal interest in item 8 because reference was made in the report to his place of work;
- (2) Councillor Martin Heatley, declared a personal interest in item 8 because he owned land adjacent to the Gypsy Lane junction;
- (3) Councillor John Ross declared a personal interest in item 9, because his daughter was a pupil at Whitestone Infant School;
- (4) Councillor June Tandy, declared a prejudicial interest in item 13, because she was a Member of the AWM Regeneration Zone Board, and left the room during discussion of that item.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting of 28 September 2005

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee held on 28 September 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

(4) Chair's correspondence and announcements

None

2. Public Question Time

None

3. Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement

The Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy reported that the consultation period on the proposed decriminalisation of parking enforcement had expired on the 17 November 2005. The response to this consultation had, however, been so great, and strong opinions expressed, that further time was required to analyse the comments and suggestions.

Resolved that the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy be asked to report to the January 2006 meeting of this Committee on the results of the consultation on the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement.

4. Traffic Management – Old Hinckley Road, Nuneaton.

Roger Newham presented the report of the Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy, which outlined the findings of a study into amending traffic management in the Old Hinckley Road area of Nuneaton.

Mr Don Everitt, Old Hinckley Road Resident's Association, expressed regret that the Association's petition had been rejected and that he had not received a written response outlining this decision. The Association had asked him to put forward the suggestion for speed cameras along Old Hinckley Road as a means of reducing speed and increasing safety.

Councillor John Burton also expressed regret that the scheme had been rejected and expressed support for the proposal for speed reduction cameras.

Resolved that –

- (1) That no traffic management changes be made to the Old Hinckley Road gyratory in Nuneaton;
- (2) Roger Newham to arrange for a written response to be sent to the Old Hinckley Road Residents' Association.

5. Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Development Fund 2005/06

Resolved, having considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, that the Area Committee agrees to fund all eligible applications to the recommended levels, as set out in Appendix A.

6. Nuneaton and Bedworth Well-being Fund Commissions.

Resolved, having considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, to approve Well-Being Fund Commissions for:

- (1) Community Group/Project Funding as a lever for Landfill Tax Funds - £40,000;
- (2) Building Citizenship and Capacity in the Community - £12,000

7. Social Inclusion Funding 2005/06

Resolved, having considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, that the Area Committee approves the

identified projects from the Social Inclusion Fund at the suggested levels.

8. Warwickshire Provisional Local Transport Plan 2005

Roger Newham presented the report of the Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy, which detailed the County Council's statutory responsibility to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP). The LTP set out the County's Transport Strategy, and provided the framework for how transport and accessibility would be improved across Warwickshire over the next five years.

The Area Committee was invited to comment on the proposals contained in the Plan for the North/South Corridor and the Nuneaton and Bedworth Urban Area, and the provisional allocation of resources set out in the LTP Delivery Strategy.

During discussion Members commented on –

- The need to urge the Highways Agency to improve the A444/A5 Red Gate junction which was considered to be a major traffic hazard and safety issue;
- The need for improvements to the A444/Griff island junction (particularly when motorists detoured from the M6 Junction 3 when accidents occurred) and also improvements to the feeder Gypsy Lane junction;
- Whether there was adequate funding to complete the LTP and the prospect of obtaining further funding;
- The lack of public transport from Nuneaton Town Centre to the A444 Leisure complex.

In reply to the above and other questions Roger Newham said that –

- The LTP programme was the longer term vision, not all of the schemes were capable of being delivered in the current programme;
- A costs analysis of the Bus Bridge, Bond Gate, Phase 3 had shown the savings that would be generated and also the need for the integrated transport programme to include links to the railway station;
- He aware of the problems of the Gypsy Lane junction and this was an issue that was being considered alongside the other problems associated with the Bermuda/Griff junction;
- Transport between Nuneaton Town Centre and the Leisure Complex on the A444 was an issue that would not be resolved in the near future unless a rapid transit system was introduced. Some bus services did exist in the daytime mostly for the benefit of employees in the Leisure Complex.

Resolved that the Area Committee's comments be noted on: -

- (1) The North/South Corridor and Nuneaton and Bedworth Urban Area Chapters of the Provisional Local Transport Plan (LTP) for inclusion in the Final LTP submission, as reproduced in Appendix A;
- (2) The Provisional allocation of resources set out in the LTP Delivery Strategy, as reproduce in Appendix B.

9. Change to the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School

Phil Astle presented the report of the County Education Officer.

The Area Committee was asked to consider any comments it wished to make to Cabinet concerning the proposal to reduce the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School.

Mr. Johnson said that Whitestone Infant School was a very successful and popular school but said he had no alternative but to support the proposed changes.

Councillor Martin Heatley supported the Chairman's comments and Councillor Mrs. June Tandy said that she also supported the proposals and that it would have no repercussions for Wembrook Infant School.

Resolved that the Area Committee ask that Cabinet be informed that it supports the proposal to reduce the Indicated Admission Numbers of Whitestone Infant School in Nuneaton.

10. Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Community Education Annual Report – October 2005

Resolved, having considered the report of the County Education Officer, that the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee endorse the progress report of Youth and Community Learning Services in the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.

11. Draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10

Resolved, having considered the report of the County Education Officer to convey to Cabinet the Area Committee's support for the draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10;

12. Asset Management Plan – Social Services Department

Martin Jones presented the report of the Director of Social Care and Health, which outlined the Asset Management Plan for Social Services.

David Curle gave an update on the current position of Social Services properties in the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area.

John Deegan said that his officers and those of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council were currently looking at the Master Plan for the Town Centres and the key priority section was the south/east quadrant of Nuneaton, which embraced the former Police and Magistrates' Court site. Martin Jones gave re-assurance that delivery of office accommodation was carried out corporately and officer discussions had taken place regarding the proposals. Additionally he had discussed the proposals with the Health Trusts.

Resolved that the Area Committee –

- (1) note the contents of the Social Services Asset Management Plan;
- (2) ask for a report back on discussions held with the Health Trusts.

13. Voluntary Sector Consortium (VSC) Resource Building.

(Councillor Mrs. June Tandy, declared a prejudicial interest in this item, because she was a AWM Regeneration Zone Board, and left the room during the discussion thereof.)

Mandy Walker presented the joint report of the Director of Planning Transport and Economic Transport and Director of Property Services.

Members were asked to support the principle of offering a loan to the Voluntary Sector Consortium (VSC) subject to suitable terms and safeguards, and to ask Cabinet and Council to approve such a loan.

During discussion Members, unanimously, expressed support for the loan, following which it was -

Resolved that the Area Committee supports the principle of offering a loan to the Voluntary and Community Sector Consortium (VSC), in respect of the proposed Resource Building, subject to suitable terms and safeguards, and ask Cabinet and Council to approve such a loan.

14. Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Business Plan 2005/06 Half-year Report.

Resolved, having considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive outlining the performance of County Council services in Nuneaton and Bedworth, that the Area Committee notes the report.

15. Future Agenda Items

Resolved, having considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, to note the proposed agenda items for future meetings.

16. Any Other Business

None.

17. 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 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

18. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 September 2005 and matters arising.

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2005 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 7:30 p.m.