

The **NUNEATON & BEDWORTH AREA COMMITTEE** met in the **CONFERENCE ROOM, ELIOT PARK INNOVATION CENTRE, 4 BARLING WAY, NUNEATON** on 28 September 2005

Present:

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

Officers:

Andrea Buckley, Chief Executive's Dept.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Dept.
Jackie Hart, Regeneration Project Officer, PTES.
Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor, Chief Executive's Dept.
Peter Ridley, Director of Property Services.
Kathy Robinson, Area Community Safety, Chief Executive's Dept., PTES.
Heather Shearer, Area Manager, Chief Executive's Department.
David Pemberton, Area Risk Manager, WFRS.
John Scouller, Head of Social and Economic Regeneration, PTES
Pam Williams, Area Administrative Officer, Chief Executive's Dept.

Also present : Nick Robinson, BSN.

1. (1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor June Tandy and Martyn Davey, Director of CAMS.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting of 27 July 2005

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee held on 27 July 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

(4) Chair's correspondence and announcements

(a) Capital Programme 2006 – Local Transport Plan

The Chair reminded Members that bids for capital programme schemes should be submitted to PTES Department by the 7 November 2005.

(b) Local Democracy Week 17th – 21st October 2005

The Chair invited Members to participate in the "Business Breakfast" which was being held on 19th October 2005, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at the Eliot Park Innovation Centre, as part of Local Democracy Week,

(c) Community Development Fund

The Chair invited Members to attend a meeting in the Area Office on 12th October 2005 to discuss allocation of the Community Development Fund.

(d) Area Education Performance

The Chair invited Members to attend a meeting in the Area Office on 9th November 2005 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss Area Education Performance.

(e) 1st Anniversary of Stockingford Library

The Chair reported a photo opportunity for Members at Stockingford Library on Monday 3rd October 2005 between 2-4 p.m. to celebrate the 1st Anniversary of Stockingford Library.

(f) St Peters Church, Galley Common.

The Chair reported a letter of thanks received from St Peters Church for the £10,000 grant from the County Council towards their Community Project.

(g) (i) Meeting with County Council Officer and the Police – Parking Issues – 21st September 2005

The Chair reported on the outcome of the meeting with the Police about the problem of motorists parking on double-yellow lines. He said that the problem would not be resolved until decriminalization of parking enforcement was introduced. He explained that it was likely that some of the double line (no parking) areas would be changed to no loading areas.

(ii) Police Attendance at Area Committees

Discussion took place on the desirability of a Police Officer attending meetings of the Committee. Members supported this proposal and a Member suggested that Members of the Youth Parliament should also be invited to attend. Heather Shearer undertook to invite the Police and Members of the Youth Parliament to attend future meetings of the Committee.

(h) Capital Transport Programme – Commitment of £20,000 from budget.

The Chair reported a proposal to spend £20,000 of the Area Committee's uncommitted LTP allocation money on priority tree lopping and replacement of white lines. He advised that capital money could be re-directed for that purpose if the Committee agreed to that course of action. Members supported this proposal.

John Scouller undertook that PTES would progress the proposal in consultation with the Area Office and report back on actions to a future meeting.

2. Public Question Time

None

3. Ribbonsfields, Nuneaton – Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Restrictions.

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy.

Objections to proposals for waiting restrictions in Ribbonfields had been considered by this Committee at its meetings in November 2004 and March 2005. At the meeting in March it was agreed that further consultations should be carried out. The report outlined the comments,

which had been received following the consultations and recommended how they should be dealt with.

Following discussion it was –

Resolved that prohibition of waiting at any time be introduced, as shown in Appendix B of the report as follows: -

- (i) The whole length of the north side of Ribbonfields access road.
- (ii) The west side of the cul-de-sac fronting No's 31-33 and
- (iii) The south side of Ribbonfields access road from a point 62 metres west of its junction with Attleborough Road west for 31 metres and from a point 131 meters west of its junction with Attleborough Road west to the end of the cul-de-sac.

4. Coventry and Nuneaton Regeneration Zone: Key Project Updates.

John Scouller presented the report of the Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy.

The report dealt with three projects in the Nuneaton and Bedworth part of the Coventry and Nuneaton Regeneration Zone. The report was split into three sections covering each project as follows -

- (i) The Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods programme.
- (ii) Neighbourhood Business Support.
- (iii) The Voluntary Sector Consortium.

Resolved that the Committee -

- (1) Note the achievements of the Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods (BSN) programme in 2004/05, give their continued support for the project and for the development of a succession strategy, to enable continuation beyond March 2007 when current funding runs out.
- (2) Support the proposed business support programme for eight pilot neighbourhood areas and note the longer term intentions for a programme of environmental works, subject to approval of capital funding.
- (3) Reaffirm their support for the Voluntary Sector Consortium (VSC) project and to continuing to explore ways in which Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and other partners can contribute to help make the resource centre happen in the next 12 months

5. Crime Statistics and Crime Hot Spots in Nuneaton and Bedworth

Kathy Robinson presented the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, which provided the Committee with an overview of crime statistics in Nuneaton and Bedworth and performance information for 2004/05. Table 1 of the report was highlighted and Members noted that approximately a third of all recorded crime across the county occurred in Nuneaton and Bedworth but that, correspondingly, resources were not allocated to reflect these statistics.

During the following discussion Members highlighted –

- The inequality in the deployment of Police resources across the county;
- The need for Police resources to be proportionally allocated across the county to address the high level of crime in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area;
- Current policing policies in the Nuneaton and Bedworth Areas;
- The need for better liaison between Police Stations (beat areas);
- The need for further information to explain the increase in crime in Manor and Town Centre beat areas;
- The benefit of Police attendance at Area Committee meetings;
- Whether there was correlation between Neighbourhood Watch Areas and reductions in crime in those areas.

Kathy Robinson in response to Members' advised that –

- The general principal of future Neighbourhood Policing was that there would be a dedicated and named officer;
- With regard to the statistics she would investigate the top two most improved beat areas and compare them with the worst two beats;
- The Pipers Road Beat Team, Ridge Lane, were looking to relocate closer to the areas where they were most needed;
- She would produce a summary of Members discussion for reporting to the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved that the Committee notes the report and asks that Members comments be reported back to the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Ratification of Funding Recommendations

Resolved, having considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, to ratify funding recommendations made to the Area Committee at its meeting on 27 July 2005 as follows:

- 1) Provide £5,000 from the 2005/06 Social Inclusion Fund for 'Set Up Costs' for new and emerging Community and Voluntary Groups.
- 2) Provide £20,000 from the 2005/06 Well Being Fund as match funding with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council for Community Plan Projects.

7. Future Agenda Items

The Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive which set out proposed agenda items for future meetings.

The Chair suggested that there were too many items scheduled for the 30 November 2005 meeting and undertook to investigate whether any could be deferred.

Resolved that the Area Committee –

- (1) Notes the report;
- (2) Asks Chair to investigate whether any of the items scheduled for the November 2005 meeting can be deferred;
- (3) Notes additional items for future meetings as follows –

Countryside Access and Improvement Plan (PTES)
Transport Capital Programme (PTES)

8. Any Other Business

There were no items of urgent business.

9. 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”.

10. Kings House Bedworth – Corporate Property Strategy

Peter Ridley, Director of Property Services, presented his report and updated Members on progress and plans for the relocation of WCC staff to Kings House, Bedworth.

Members expressed support and welcomed the proposal.

Resolved -

- (1) That progress with plans for the forthcoming relocation of County Council staff to Kings House, Bedworth be noted;
- (2) To note that a booklet is to be produced providing information on Kings House which will also include key contacts.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 7:40 p.m.