

The **NUNEATON & BEDWORTH AREA COMMITTEE** met in the **CONFERENCE ROOM, ELIOT PARK INNOVATION CENTRE, 4 BARLING WAY, NUNEATON** on 25 January 2006

Present:

Councillor Barry Longden (Chair)
“ Frank McCarney (Vice Chair)
“ Richard Chattaway
“ Alan Farnell
“ John Haynes
“ Martin Heatley
“ Pat Henry
“ Bob Hicks
“ Mick Jones
“ Kam Singh
“ Sid Tooth
“ June Tandy

Officers:

Roger Bennett, Traffic Projects,
Environment and Economy Directorate.
Andrea Buckley, Performance and
Development Directorate.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee
Administrator, Performance and
Development Directorate.
Stuart Ikeringill, Countryside Recreation,
Environment and Economy Directorate.
Jack Linstead, Communications and
Media, Performance and Development
Directorate.
Ade Mallaban Area Risk Manager,
Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service.
Alwin McGibbon, Health Scrutiny Officer,
Performance and Development
Directorate.
Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor,
Performance and Development
Directorate.
Heather Shearer, Area Manager,
Performance and Development
Directorate.
John Scouller, Environment and
Economy Directorate.
Howard Taylor, Car Park Manager,
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough
Council.

Ian Tonner, Deputy Area Risk Team
Member, Warwickshire Fire & Rescue
Service
Pam Williams, Area Administrative
Officer, Performance and Development
Directorate.
Oliver Winter, Head of Finance,
Resources Directorate.

Also present: 15 Members of the Public.

1. (1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Burton and John Ross.

(2) Declarations of interest

Declarations of interest were recorded as follows -

- (a) Councillors Richard Chattaway and Mick Jones – Personal interests in item 3, because they were Governors of King Edward VI College.
- (b) Councillor Bob Hicks – Personal interest in item 3 because he was the Borough Council's representative on the King Edward VI College Foundation.
- (c) Councillor Barry Longden – Personal, non-prejudicial, interest in item 8, Consultation & Appraisal of Proposed Reconfiguration of Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance NHS Trust.
- (d) Councillor Martin Heatley – Prejudicial interest in item 9, Improving Pedestrian and Cycle Access to Bermuda Park, Nuneaton, because he owned land adjacent to the Gypsy Lane junction and item 10, Draft Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Warwickshire, also as a land owner. Councillor Heatley left the meeting during discussion of these items.

2. 2006/07 Budget Prospects

Oliver Winters presented the budget prospects for 2006/07.

The Chair thanked Oliver Winters for his presentation.

3. (1) Minutes of the Meeting of 30 November 2006

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee held on 30 November 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

(2) Chair's correspondence and announcements

The Chair reported –

- (a) a letter received from Mr. Alan Breed about the Local Transport Plan which would be dealt with at a future meeting when the Committee considered the Local Transport Plan.
- (b) that a Capital Programme Seminar would be held for Committee Members in the Area Office on Wednesday 8 February 2006.

4. Public Question Time

None

5. Replacement of County Councillor Trustee on the King Edward VI College Foundation

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, that the Committee -

- (1) appoint Councillor Richard Chattaway to fill the vacancy on the King Edward VI Foundation which had resulted from the resignation of Councillor Sid Tooth;
- (2) confirm the continuation of Don Jacques as the County Council's second representative on the King Edward VI College Foundation, Nuneaton.

6. Presentation from the Heart of England Community Foundation

Kat Hall, Grant Officer advised Members of funding sources available for local voluntary and community groups. (A copy of the presentation material, which included contact details, was circulated to Members.)

7. Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy relating to the public consultation on proposals for resident parking schemes and pay and display parking. The report considered the responses to that consultation and recommended the way forward.

Resolved that -

- (1) In response to the recent consultation, proposals for new residents parking schemes and on-street pay and display in Nuneaton and Bedworth, the advertised scheme be withdrawn.

(2) The Strategic Director of Environment and Economy be asked to engage with residents and other stakeholder groups and review the proposals.

8. Consultation & Appraisal of Proposed Reconfiguration of Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance NHS Trust.

Alwin McGibbon presented the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which outlined the appraisal produced by Malcolm Hazel, Chief Executive of Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance NHS Trust on the proposed reconfiguration of the Ambulance Trust's in the West Midlands, which was going through public consultation.

During discussion Members commented as follows:

- That the appraisal only presented one side of the argument, did not give other options, or sufficient information to make a decision.
- That the appraisal, because it was presented by the current Chief Executive, gave a biased point of view.
- That information on the response to the London bombings by the London Ambulance Service would be valuable to gauge how well a larger organisation coped in a major emergency.

The Chair advised that the timetable for consultation on this issue was tight having started on the 14 December 2005 and expiring on 22 March 2006 and moved the following resolution, seconded by Councillor Alan Farnell, –

“That this Area Committee recognised that the proposed move to one Ambulance Authority could lead to National Operation Standards not being met and be detrimental to patient care and continuing improvements to the service. Therefore, this Area Committee prefers the retention of the Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance Service.”

Councillor June Tandy then moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor John Haynes, that –

“The Area Committee may wish, in time, to support the Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance Trust but would like to see an independent report on the consultation” and -

With 8 Members voting in favour, and 3 Members voting against, it was resolved -

That the Area Committee may wish, in time, to support the Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance Trust but would like to see an independent report on the consultation

9. Improving Pedestrian and Cycle Access to Bermuda Park, Nuneaton.

John Scouller presented the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy, which outlined the wider issues associated with improving pedestrian and cycle access to Bermuda Park in Nuneaton and recommended future action on the above.

A Member said that his main concern, which might not have been translated during previous discussions, related to the need for a safe pedestrian crossing over the Gypsy Lane junction to the leisure centre. Other Members, whilst supported this concern, and accepting that improvements to this junction could not be pursued at the present time, expressed the view that Gypsy Lane was a very dark and dangerous stretch of road and would be improved by the provision of streetlights.

In reply to concern expressed by the Chair about the future proposal for a bus lane John Scouller explained that this related to the southbound stretch of the A444 but earlier consideration by the Area Committee would be sought before the proposal pursued.

Resolved that the Area Committee agrees that: -

- (1) The proposed pedestrian and cycle facilities be incorporated into the redesign of Griff roundabout.
- (2) The provision of a footpath along the A444 from George Eliot Hospital to Bermuda Park is not pursued.
- (3) The provision of facilities for pedestrians and cyclists on Gipsy Lane are not pursued at this time but lighting be looked at in the short term.
- (4) That the redesign of Griff roundabout takes into account the longer term proposals for public transport in the North/South Corridor between Nuneaton, Bedworth and Coventry.

10. Draft Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Warwickshire

Stuart Ikeringill presented the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy following authorisation being given by Cabinet on 30th June 2005 for the then Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy to prepare and publish a Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan. This report advised Members on the responses

already received to the ongoing consultation exercise and how it was proposed to amend the Plan.

Resolved that the Area Committee note the Draft Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan; the results of the consultation exercise for the Plan' and, the proposed changes to the Plan.

11. Future Agenda Items

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which informed the Area Committee about proposed agenda items for future meetings.

Resolved that the Area Committee notes the agenda items listed for future meetings.

12. Any Other Business

None.

Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 7:05 p.m.