

The **NUNEATON & BEDWORTH AREA COMMITTEE** met in the **CONFERENCE ROOM, ELIOT PARK INNOVATION CENTRE, 4 BARLING WAY, NUNEATON** on 29 March 2006

**Present:**

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

**Officers:**

Martyn Davey, Director of CAMS  
Andrea Buckley, Performance and Development Directorate.  
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate.  
Helen Maclagan, Head of Museums Service.  
Nigel Mills, Chair ACLP.  
Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor, Performance and Development Directorate.  
Heather Shearer, Area Manager, Performance and Development Directorate.  
John Scouller, Environment and Economy Directorate.  
Pam Williams, Area Administrative Officer, Performance and Development Directorate.

Also present: Mr. Alan Breed, a member of the public.

**1. (1) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Chattaway, Alan Farnell and Martin Heatley.

**(2) Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were recorded as follows -

- (a) Councillor Mick Jones – Personal interests in item 1 (3) (d), matters arising, because he was a Governor of King Edward VI College.
- (b) Councillor Bob Hicks – Personal interest in item 1 (3) (d) because he was the Borough Council's representative on the King Edward VI College Foundation.
- (c) Councillors Pat Henry, Bob Hick and John Ross declared personal interests relating to any item on the agenda by virtue of them serving as Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Councillors.

### **(3) Minutes of the Meeting of 25 January 2006**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee held on 25 January 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

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

#### (a) Martyn Davey

The Chair said that this was the last meeting that Martyn Davey would attend and expressed regret that we was leaving the County Council. He added that Martyn would be greatly missed and wished him well in the future.

#### (b) Jane Pollard

The Chair said that this was the last meeting that Jane Pollard would attend before taking up her new role as Overview and Scrutiny Manager. The Chair thanked Jane for her work with the Committee, said that she would be missed and wished her well in the future.

#### (c) Safer Neighbourhoods

The Chair referred to the briefing note circulated to Members and the map displayed at the meeting showing proposed neighbourhood areas. He invited Members to comment on the proposals and these would be fed into the on-going discussions.

#### (d) Press Article – New Town Centre Site for Nuneaton's Colleges.

The Chair referred to a recent article that had appeared in the Heartland Evening News about "A new town centre site to house Nuneaton's two colleges". He expressed concern because he had not been aware of this proposal and the

impact that it would have on the Town Centre Master Plans that had only recently been agreed.

John Scouller undertook to investigate this issue and report his findings back to the Committee.

(e) George Eliot Hospital Medical Museum – Proposed Closure

The Chair expressed concern about the proposal to close the George Eliot Hospital Medical Museum. He invited Helen Maclagan, Head of the Museums Service to address the Committee on this issue.

Helen Maclagan expressed concerns relating to the need to ensure that the Hospital carried out the correct procedures to close the Museum and dispose of the collection. She also wanted to benefit from the Museum's good practice for engaging with the community.

Helen Maclagan reminded the Area Committee of the £14,000 that had been allocated to the Museum Service to carry out a feasibility study on the Medical Museum and asked that the terms of reference of the study be revised to incorporate an assessment of the future of the collection. In the interim, she hoped to persuade the Hospital to retain the Museum staff while the study was carried out.

The Area Committee expressed regret and concern about the proposed closure and agreed to the revision of the terms of reference of the feasibility study to enable the Museums Service staff to explore a future for the whole of part of the collection.

## **2. Public Question Time**

Mr. Alan Breed, referred to agenda item 3, Request for Bus Stop and Bus Lane, Nuneaton Railway Station, and the Committee's previous discussion of this issue. Mr. Breed then outlined his proposal to accommodate a bus-stopping place adjacent to the Railway Station without the creation of a lay-by. He reported that Stagecoach had said that they would be willing to provide a bus service between the Railway and Bus Stations, which he said would be of great benefit to elderly people and parents with young children who currently had to walk this distance.

Mr. Breed expressed concern that, despite the Area Committee's minute of 30 November 2005 supporting the integrated transport programme including links between the Bus Station and Railway Station, and an expectation that he would be contacted, nothing had been done.

The Chair expressed disappointment that Mr. Breed had not been contacted and asked John Scouller to take this up with the officer concerned.

**3. Request for provision of Bus Stop and Bus Lane adjacent to Nuneaton Railway Station**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy, that the proposed bus stop, bus lane and the associated additional bus services, not be progressed owing to the cost and potential limited use.

**4. Capital Programme for Integrated Transport 2006-07**

John Scouller presented the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy, which set out the draft 2006-07 capital programme for integrated transport for Nuneaton and Bedworth area.

Following a brief discussion about individual schemes it was –

Resolved that the Area Committee: -

- (1) Supports the Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for Nuneaton and Bedworth area given in Table 1.
- (2) Supports the schemes identified in Table 3 for the delegated budget.
- (3) Agrees to defer the decision regarding allocation of the additional capital funding for road maintenance until May Area Committee.

**5. Clarification of Resolution – Ribbonfields, Nuneaton – Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Restrictions**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, that the Area Committee confirms that its decision of 28 September 2005, Minute 3, with regard to proposed waiting restrictions at Ribbonfields, Nuneaton was to implement the restrictions as show on the plan in Appendix A of the report.

**6. Area Community Learning Partnership (ACLP) for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, Progress Report 2005/06 and Action Plan for 2006/07**

Nigel Mills presented the report of the Area Community Learning Partnership that summarised progress made on the ACLP during 2005/06 and gave an outline for proposed partnership activity for 2006/07.

During discussion Members suggested that consideration should be given to including the history of transport and canals in the schedule of activity/programmes. Nigel Mills undertook to refer these suggestions to Adrian Litvinoff for further consideration.

Resolved that -

- (1) the progress made in the development of the Community Learning Strategy and the multi-agency Community Learning Plan for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough is noted.
- (2) the detailed progress report against 2005/06 actions be endorsed.
- (3) the Area Committee commends the draft outline plan and actions for 2006/07.
- (4) a finalised Area Community Learning Plan for 2006/07 is submitted to the Area Committee for information in the summer.

## **7. Community Plan Update**

Heather Shearer presented the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which gave an update on successful progress to date undertaken by Warwickshire County Council in support of the delivery of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Plan.

The Chair said that the reported reflected the success of the Area Committee and the work carried out by the Area Team, which he congratulated and expressed thanks.

Resolved that the Area Committee:

- (1) Acknowledge the successful progress of Directorates in implementing the actions within the Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Plan.
- (2) Ask the Funding Sub-group to develop suggested priorities for any Well-being Fund Commissions 2006/07 under the current Community Plan Aims.

## **8. Nuneaton and Bedworth Well-being Fund Commission.**

The Area Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which detailed a Well-being Fund commission for a Youth Participation Project into Schools (£20,000) for consideration and decision.

Nigel Mills outlined the project potential for good work and asked for the Committee's support.

Resolved that the Area Committee approves the Funding Sub-Group's recommendation to fund Youth Participation Projects into Schools – Widening Participation (£20,000) from its Well-being Fund 2005/06.

**9. Future Agenda Items**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, to note the agenda items listed for future meetings and the possibility of a further item on Area Community Education Councils (ACECs).

**10. Any Other Business**

The Chair agreed to the consideration of the item set out in minute 1 (4) (e) above “George Eliot Hospital Medical Museum – Proposed Closure” and item 11 below, Meeting with Coventry City Council on the Coventry/Warwickshire Transport Corridor, being considered as urgent business because of the need for action to be taken without delay and before the next meeting of the Area Committee.

**11. Meeting with Coventry City Council – Coventry/Warwickshire Transport Corridor.**

Heather Shearer reported that a meeting had been arranged with Coventry City Council, to be held the following day, to discuss proposals for a Coventry/Warwickshire Transport Corridor. Concern was expressed that this meeting clashed with another Member meeting and that not all Members had received an invite to attend.

Followed a brief discussion it was –

Resolved that an informal meeting of the Area Committee be arranged, to be held in the Area Office, to enable all Members to be briefed on the outcome of the meeting with Coventry City Council.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 7:00 p.m.