

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

Present:

Councillor	Barry Longden (Chair)
“	Alan Farnell
“	John Haynes
“	Martin Heatley
“	Mick Jones
“	Frank McCarney
“	John Ross
“	June Tandy
“	Sid Tooth

Officers:

Andrea Buckley, Community Partnership Officer,
Performance and Development Directorate.
Kushal Birla, Head of Customer Service and Access,
Performance and Development Directorate.
Stephen Bell, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Area Youth and
Community Officer, Children, Young People and Families
Directorate.
Hugh Disley, Head of Division, Young Peoples' Services.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator,
Performance and Development Directorate.
Alison Hallworth, Adult and Community Team Leader,
Performance and Development Directorate.
Adrian Litvinof, Area Manager North, Warwickshire Library
and Information Service.
Heather Shearer, Area Manager, Performance and
Development Directorate.
John Scouller, Head of Skills, Tourism and Economy,
Environment and Economy Directorate.
Pam Williams, Area Administrative Officer, Performance and
Development Directorate.
Oliver Winters, Head of Finance, Resources Directorate.

Also in attendance: Approximately 6 members of the public.

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Burton,
Richard Chattaway, Pat Henry, Bob Hicks and Kam Singh (Vice Chair).

(2) Declarations of interest

Declarations of interest were recorded as follows -

- (a) Councillor June Tandy – Personal interest in item 7, Succession Proposal for the Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods Team as Chair of the Board.
- (b) Councillor John Ross declared a personal interest relating to any item on the agenda by virtue of him serving as Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough councillor.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting of 20 September 2006 and Matters Arising

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee meeting held on 20 September 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Matters Arising

None

(4) Chair's correspondence and announcements

- (a) Welcome to Hugh Disley, Head of Division, Young Peoples' Services with responsibility for the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area.

The Chair welcomed Hugh Disley to his first meeting of the Committee.

- (b) Area Committee's Specified Projects budget.

The Chair invited bids from Members for individual schemes to be funded from the Specified Projects Budget and that they be submitted to the Environment and Economy Directorate by Monday of the following week.

Discussion followed during which Members expressed support for continuing allocating this budget, as had been done previously i.e. £20k road maintenance and £20k street lighting. This was agreed.

- (c) Nuneaton Town Centre – Parking Complaints.

The Chair reported that a large number of complaints had been received about parking in the town centre. He invited comments from Members on a proposal by Environment and Economy Directorate to consult on a revision to the parking restrictions in the town centre, which would remove the double yellow lines and replace them with a loading ban.

Members expressed support for this proposal and reference was made to individual streets and the Abbey Green area where particular problems existed. Concern was expressed about the need to consider delivery access to the two public houses in the town centre. John Scouller undertook to include these comments in the report that would be presented to the Committee's January 2007 meeting outlining the proposals in detail.

(d) Kathy Robinson, Area Community Safety Manager - Secondment

The Chair reported that Kathy Robinson had been seconded to the Home Office and that Martin Pool would be returning to cover the secondment vacancy (part-time up until February 2007 and then full-time afterwards). In the interim Heather Shearer was covering the vacancy. He asked that the Committee's best wishes be conveyed to Kathy Robinson on her secondment and thanks to Heather Shearer for providing help during the interim period.

(e) Gypsy Lane - Road Improvement Scheme

The Chair reported details of a proposal to install street lighting and traffic calming along Gypsy Lane, at a cost of £165k, and invited comments from Members.

Members expressed support for the proposal. One Member, however, whilst expressing support for the scheme considered that there was no need for a footpath along this length of road.

(f) Funding of Local Groups

The Chair referred to the note circulated to Members listing the groups that had benefited from grants distributed through the Area Office, which totalled £1m.

The Committee congratulated the Area Team on their good work.

(g) Highways Maintenance Team – relocation to Coleshill.

The Chair expressed concern that the Nuneaton and Bedworth Highways Maintenance Team had been temporary relocated to Coleshill to be near the Carillion team. He had conveyed his concerns to Graeme Fitton that the Team was better located nearer to the town centre. He added that, if the matter remained unresolved, a report would be brought to the Committee's January meeting.

(h) George Eliot Hospital Museum – Progress Report.

The Chair said he was pleased to report that the whole of the hospital museum collection had been saved but that a home had still to be found.

(i) Riversley Park Memorial Statue – Stolen.

The Chair reported that the Borough Council had started a fund to raise money to replace the memorial statue that was stolen on Remembrance Sunday from Riversley Park gardens. He added that the Veterans Association was also collecting to raise money to replace the statue and he proposed that the Area Committee should donate £2,000 from the Well-being Fund to start the fund off.

Resolved that the Area Committee –

(1) agrees to donate £2,000 to the fund to replace the Memorial Statue.

(2) Asks that the Veterans Association be informed that they should not hesitate to apply for a further amount if there is a shortfall in contributions.

(j) Capital Transport Seminar 5:30 p.m. Area Office, Albion Court, Nuneaton

The Chair reminded Members that their attendance was required at the above Seminar.

2. Public Question Time

None

PART A Non-Executive Functions

3. WCC Representation on the Board of Nuneaton Signs

Resolved that the Area Committee appoints Councillor John Burton as the County Council's representative on the Nuneaton Signs Board of Management.

PART B Executive Functions

4. 2007/2008 Budget Proposals

Oliver Winters presented the 2007/2008 Budget prospects for the County Council (presentation material attached). He added that the Government settlement, which was announced the previous day, was 2.7% for Warwickshire. He explained that the County Council's grant had only increased by 2.7% compared to national trends of 3.8%, after allowing for adjustments to the 2006/07 Formula Grant.

The Chair thanked Oliver Winters for his presentation.

5. Customer Access Strategy – Local Developments

Kushal Birla outlined the Customer Service and Access Strategy for the County Council (briefing note circulated). She highlighted –

- (1) The successful partnership with Warwick District Council of the One-Stop Shop pilot in Kenilworth.
- (2) The opening on 24 November 2006 of the One Stop Shop based at Kings House, Bedworth that would provide residents with direct access to County Council services in the heart of Bedworth town centre.
- (3) On-going discussions with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to look at the possibility of Borough Council services being offered at Kings House.
- (4) On-going discussions were also taking place with the Borough Council on a joint One Stop Shop at Nuneaton Town Hall.
- (5) The outcome of discussions with the Extended Schools Team and the proposal to develop a One Stop Shop at Stockingford Early Years Centre and Library.

In reply to questions Kushal Birla undertook to investigate what other facilities could be provided at Extended School locations that do not have similar resources to Stockingford e.g. mobile library, IT support.

The Chair thanked Kushal for her presentation.

6. Youth and Community Service – Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Annual Report – November 2006

Stephen Bell presented the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families, which outlined progress of the work of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Youth and Community Service that included the Area Community Education Council (ACEC), the Youth Service and the Community Development Projects from across the area.

The Chair expressed support for the continuation of distribution of the ACEC grants through Area Chairs, which he said, provided valuable help to a large number of small groups.

Following discussion it was resolved that the Area Committee:

- (1) endorse the progress report of the Youth and Community Service in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.
- (2) (Councillor Farnell abstaining) ask Cabinet to resist any moves to centralise the ACEC funding and retain the current method of local distribution.

7. Succession Proposal for the Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods Team

John Scouller presented the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, which outlined the succession proposals for the Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods team. The Committee were asked to refer the proposals for the continuation of this initiative beyond March 2006 for consideration by Cabinet. The proposal outlined a widening of both the geographical and functional areas in which the team currently operated within the Borough. The project would continue to operate, through its Partnership Board, comprising representatives from Warwickshire County Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Primary Care Trust, Warwickshire police, Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership and the voluntary sector.

Resolved that the Committee refers the proposed succession proposals for the Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods initiatives for consideration by Cabinet.

8. Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Business Plan 2006/07 – Half-Year report.

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which outlined the performance of County Council services in Nuneaton and Bedworth. The performance was measured by the progress against milestone targets and actions.

Heather Shearer asked Members to note the positive progress made in many areas of the report. Excellent feedback was reported relating to the raising of standards in local schools concerning recent Educational Attainment results, moving schools out of special measures and other improvements. Also many good examples of partnership work related to school improvements, development of Children's Centres and extended services. Other excellent partnership work was centred on the local work being undertaken around library services, the Fire and Rescue Service and by the Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator. Members' comments were invited on the progress outlined above.

Following discussion the Area Committee resolved to -

- (1) notes the Area Business Plan 2006/07 – half-year report.
- (2) record best wishes for the future to Adrian Litvinoff as this would be the last meeting he would attend before leaving the County Council and to thank him for his hard work and endeavours in respect of partnership work.

9. Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Development Fund 2006/07

Andrea Buckley presented the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which made recommendations for decision by the Area Committee for utilisation of the Community Development Fund 2006/07. She added that the Nuneaton Wood-turners

had withdrawn their application because that had received funding from elsewhere and asked for approval for this sum to be placed in the “New and Emerging Groups” fund.

Resolved that the Area Committee agrees to fund all eligible applications to the recommended levels as set out in Appendix A., subject to the £3,000 allocated to the Nuneaton Wood-turners being re-allocated to the New and Emerging Groups fund

10. Nuneaton and Bedworth Well-being Fund Commissions

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development and was asked to make decisions on the Well-being Fund Commissions outlined in the report.

The Chair reported that the Working Lives Project was now complete. With regard to the Dome Hawk Cameras the Chair proposed that, because there was no contingency funding for maintenance that the sum be given to the Police for them to purchase and locate the cameras and any surplus money used to extend the scheme.

Resolved that the Area Committee -

(1) accepts the recommendations of the Funding Sub-Group to Commission the following:

- Working Lives - £47,475
- Social Participation – Spreading the Word - £10,000

(2) agrees that the Police be granted £44,200 to purchase mobile CCTV equipment.

11. Future Agenda Items

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, that the Area Committee agrees the schedule of reports at future meeting as indicated.

12. Any Other Business

There were no items of urgent business.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 7:40 p.m.