

The **NUNEATON & BEDWORTH AREA COMMITTEE** met
the **CONFERENCE ROOM, ELIOT PARK INNOVATION
CENTRE, 4 BARLING WAY, NUNEATON** on 28 March 2007

Present:

Councillor	Barry Longden (Chair)
“	John Burton
“	Richard Chattaway
“	Alan Farnell
“	Bob Hicks
“	Mick Jones
“	Frank McCarney
“	John Ross
“	Kam Singh (Vice Chair)
“	June Tandy
“	Sid Tooth

Officers:

Andrea Buckley, Community Partnership Officer, Performance and Development Directorate

Daniel Caldecote, Transport Planner, Environment and Economy Directorate

Alison Hallworth, Adult and Community Team Leader, Performance and Development Directorate

Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate

Max McDonogh, Group Engineer, Environment and Economy Directorate

Peter Samwell, County Highways Project Manager, Environment and Economy Directorate

John Scouler, Head of Skills, Tourism and Economy, Environment and Economy Directorate

Heather Shearer, Area Manager, Performance and Development Directorate

Simon Skinner, Highways Design Services, Environment and Economy Directorate

Barbara Wallace, Area Manager for Early Years and Childcare, Children, Young People and Families Directorate

Pam Williams, Area Administrative Officer, Performance and Development Directorate

Phillipa Young, Team Leader Safety Engineering, Environment and Economy Directorate

Also in Attendance Chief Inspector Peter Blackburn
Press 4 members of the public and 1 press representative from the
Heartland Evening News

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Haynes, Martin Heatley and Pat Henry

(2) Declarations of interest

Declarations of interest were recorded as follows –

Councillor John Ross declared a personal interest relating to any item on the agenda by virtue of them serving as Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough councillor.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting of 31 January 2007 and Matters Arising

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee meeting held on 31 January 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Matters Arising

None

(4) Chair's correspondence and announcements

1. The Chair reported that in respect to the suggestions made for local scrutiny, that it had been agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group that the two options for selection by the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee were:

- (1) The Skills agenda including educational attainment. We have a low skills base in this area

or

- (2) Quality of Life Indicators and Inequalities in Warwickshire

The Area Committee agreed to undertake a scrutiny exercise on (1) above with the following membership:

Councillors Bob Hicks, John Ross, June Tandy and Sid Tooth

2. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to an e-mail Members had been sent regarding the replacement of ACECs. It was agreed that the following Councillors would take part in the Member Panel:

Councillors Richard Chattaway, Mick Jones and John Ross.

3. The Chair noted that following a local newspaper report on dangerous driving through school crossings, he had taken a site visit with Heather Shearer and it was agreed that in an effort to ensure the safety of children and to protect staff, that the following initiatives should be undertaken:
 - i. In partnership with the Safer Routes to Schools Team to consider engineering solutions
 - ii. To discuss with the Police their stand on the issue and how they responded to reports of incidents
 - iii. To purchase two “robocams” at a cost of approximately £900 each through the Well-Being Fund to be available for use throughout the area in conjunction with the PCSOs and as evidence to put the message across to Governors and parents.

It was agreed that the Area Committee would evaluate the success of the two “robocams” before consideration was given to purchasing more.

2. Public Question Time

No public questions had been received but Mr Alan Breed commented on the Nuneaton Development Project, noting his pleasure that pavements were to be used by pedestrians and cyclists and that the roundabouts had been retained.

PART A Non-Executive Functions

None

PART B Executive Functions

3. Nuneaton Development Project, Phase 3

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, requesting that the Area Committee recommends to Cabinet that the Phase 3 scheme proposals as shown on drawing 9-2-A444-35/05 be approved and including details of the funding and proposed works.

Simon Skinner noted that Phases 1 and 2 of the Project had been completed in June 2004, but as a result of inflation and extra costs for utilities, there were incomplete monies to complete Phase 3. An application had been made to the DfT who had agreed to contribute an additional £710,000 on condition the County Council provided match funding of £237,000. This money was now in place but was still not sufficient to fund the original Phase 3 so Members were presented with a reduced scheme, which provided value for money and maximised benefit for users.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

1. Members welcomed the emphasis of cycling facilities

2. Following some debate, concern was expressed about the introduction of a bus gate at the end of Abbey Street, the need for enforceable no stopping zones and the impact to traffic if buses were not able to turn into Abbey Street. It was agreed these issues would be looked at in more detail at an informal meeting to be arranged.
3. Members agreed the proposals for the Roanne Ringway.

Resolved that the Area Committee recommends to the Cabinet that the Phase 3 scheme proposals are agreed in principle as shown on drawing 9-2-A444-35/05 appended to the report (together with any subsequent minor modifications made by the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy) be approved and that construction be commenced in Autumn 2007.

4. Highway Maintenance Plan 2007/08 and Five year list of Structural Maintenance Schemes

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy providing information about highway maintenance work proposed in 2007/08 and list other sites where maintenance work will be required in the future.

Peter Samwell agreed to e-mail an updated version of the 2007/08 Nuneaton & Bedworth Area Maintenance Schemes to Members.

Resolved that the Area Committee:

- (1) Note the Highway Maintenance Plan 2007/08 and the Five-Year List of Maintenance Schemes.
- (2) Identify a local contractor with whom they can arrange a call down contract for painting temporary road markings where they have worn away and present a danger to the public. This contract to include urgent temporary reinstatement of lines after road work has been carried out, if in the opinion of the Officers a hazard may occur, or a member of the public is likely to endure hardship in the period between the road work being done, and full reinstatement taking place.”

5. Capital Programme for Transport 2007/08

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, setting out the draft 2007/08 Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for the Nuneaton and Bedworth area.

In response to a question raised at the last Area Committee meeting regarding arrangements for proposed improvements to Nuneaton Rail Station in 2007/2008 financial year, the Chair read out the response that had been e-mailed to all Members. Members noted their agreement to progress the scheme and no further questions were asked.

Resolved –

That Members:-

- (1) Support the Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for Nuneaton and Bedworth Area given in Table 1 to the report.
- (2) Agreed that the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy should decide the use of the £40,000 delegated budget on the basis that it be split equally between minor road maintenance schemes and road lighting schemes.

6. Speed Management Strategy

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy following the request by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee that Area Committees view be sought on the draft report and Speed Management Strategy and related views.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

1. The Strategy would standardise speed management but would not solve the problems caused by speeding.
2. The DoT had called for mandatory reviews of all A and B roads to be carried out, which would include but not be led by casualty reduction. A report on the outcome of this would be brought to the Area Committee early in 2008.
3. Information packs would be put together for PACTs, including speed limits, speed management measures and a conduit for Members to feed issues to.

Resolved that the comments made by the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee on the draft Speed Management Strategy be submitted to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Plan

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development presenting the new Community Plan for 2007/21.

The following points were noted:

1. Councillor Richard Chattaway, as the Committee representative on the Local Strategic Partnership, commended the work done by the Borough Council in developing the plan.
2. It was agreed that there would need to be genuine partnership between the County Council, the Borough Council and other agencies to deliver the Plan and the Local Area Agreements, which were linked.
3. The ambitious timetable for the Plan which had resulted in the Area Committee being asked to endorse the final Plan and Heather Shearer

noted that discussions had already taken place to ensure that in the future these reports would be timetabled more as a partnership consideration.

Resolved that the Area Committee notes and reserves its position on the Sustainable Community Plan 2007/21 and approves the County Council's commitments within it.

8. Development Children's Centres in Nuneaton and Bedworth

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families providing an update on the development of Children's Centres within Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Members welcomed the report and thanked staff for the efforts they had made to ensure the successful programme.

Resolved that the Area Committee acknowledges the duties imposed on Warwickshire County Council by the Childcare Act 2006 and comments on the work in progress to meet them.

9. Social Inclusion Funding 2006/07

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development asking Members to consider funding the Nuneaton and Bedworth CAB Money management Volunteering Training Project from the Social Inclusion Fund and notes that a further 2 projects will be further considered by the Funding Sub-group.

Resolved that the Area Committee:

1. approves funding the Nuneaton and Bedworth Citizens Advice Bureau – Money Management Volunteering Training Project to the value of £11,006 from the Social Inclusion Fund.
2. notes that a further 2 projects, which would account for the remaining balance in the Social Inclusion Fund are subject to further consideration by the Funding Sub-Group.

10. Nuneaton and Bedworth Well-being Fund

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development outlining a proposed commission to support a project to reduce the fear of crime in town centres related to traffic offences and to match fund this proposal with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Warwickshire Police.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

1. This was a potential partnership project with the Area Committee contributing £11,945.62, the Borough Council £12,500 and the Police recruitment, management, uniform and equipment for the post, which

would fill a vacuum before a decision was made concerning decriminalisation of parking.

2. Chief Inspector Peter Blackburn agreed to confirm with Heather Shearer that income generated from parking went into Central Government funding. The Police felt this was an area where political lobbying could be applied in an attempt to claw back some of the money to the partnership for local road safety usage.
3. It was important to get someone into post as soon as possible and it was acknowledged that one person would not be in a position to deal with all areas, but would act as a deterrent.
4. It was noted that a posting was an unusual allocation for the Well-Being Fund and that this was a one-off for this financial year only and was not linked in any way to decriminalisations of parking.
5. Chief Inspector Peter Blackburn and Heather Shearer would finalise arrangements.

Resolved that the Area Committee agrees to match fund Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Warwickshire Police to provide an Enforcement Officer for a period of approximately one year, prior to the introduction of Decriminalisation of Parking, by contributing the remainder of its Well-being Fund 2006/07 (£11,945.62) to this project.

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 report for future meetings as indicated subject to the inclusion of a report from the Strategic Director of Community Safety on Perception Data which had been considered by the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee and referred to the Area Committee for consideration.

It was agreed that an informal meeting would be held at the EPIC Centre on 18 April 2007 at 5.00 pm for the Area Committee to consider the allocation of the addition £400,000 and the further clarification requested under Item 3 above.

12. Any Other Business

There were no items of urgent business.

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 7:30 p.m.