

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

Present:

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

Officers:

Andrea Buckley, Community Partnership Officer, Performance and Development Directorate.

David Carter, Strategic Director for Performance and Development.

Nick Gower-Johnson, Performance and Development Directorate.

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

Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate

Peter Hunter, Warwick Area Manager, Performance and Development Directorate.

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

John Scouller, Head of Skills, Tourism and Economy, Environment and Economy Directorate.

Philipa Young, Safety Engineer, Environment and Economy Directorate.

Also present: Councillor Peter Fowler and Fire Officer for Nuneaton ?.

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Martin Heatley, Pat Henry and June Tandy

(2) Declarations of interest

Councillor John Haynes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 5, Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Development Fund 2007/08 as the Chair of the Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Equestrian Centre.

(3) Minutes of the Meetings of 26 September and 7 November 2007 and Matters Arising

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee held on 26 September and 7 November 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

(4) Chair's correspondence and announcements

(1) Fire-Fighters Fund

The Chair asked the Committee to approve a donation of £2,000 to the Warwickshire Families Fire Fighters Fund, split £1,500 for the Fire Fighters Families and £500 for the Memorial Fund. He added that the payment had been sanctioned as an "exceptional payment".

Resolved that the Area Committee approves the donation of £2,000 to the Fire Fighters fund as set out above.

(2) Review of Secondary Education in Nuneaton and Bedworth

The Chair referred to the letter from Mark Gore, Head of Service-Education Partnership and School Development, about the consultation on the review of secondary education in Nuneaton and Bedworth, which was taking place during December. He expressed concern that the letter was the first indication that a review was taking place. Mark Gore had offered to attend an informal meeting of the Committee to report on the results of the consultation.

Members supported the Chair's comments and concerns. The general consensus was that the Area Committee would want to be consulted on the Consultant's report on the review and that the issue should be brought to the Area Committee's January 2007 meeting.

Resolved that the Area Committee's views be conveyed to Mark Gore for action.

(3) County Council's Representation on the Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Centres Partnership Board (The Board).

The Chair reported that he had not been able to meet with the Town Centre Manager to discuss the Board's decision to reduce the number of County Council representatives on the Board. He had been informed, however, that the Board would be considered the issue at its

meeting on 4 December 2007 and he would report the outcome to the Area Committee's January 2008 meeting.

2. Highway Maintenance and Safety Budget 2008-9 – Outline Capital Allocations

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy outlining the Council Council's decision to approve a £2 million 2008-9 allocation to Highway Maintenance and Safety; £400,000 for each of the County's five areas. The funding was to be allocated to local schemes in consultation with Area Committees. The report made proposals for outline capital allocations within the £400,000 for Nuneaton and Bedworth area.

Philippa Young said that, subject to the Area Committee agreeing the outline allocations, a programme of capital schemes would be prepared for discussion at the Transport Seminar, which would be held on 13 January 2008 (venue still to be decided).

Resolved that -

- (1) The outline capital allocations for the Nuneaton and Bedworth Highway Maintenance and Safety Budget 2008-9 given in Table 1 be approved.
- (2) A detailed programme of capital projects based on the allocations in Table 1 be prepared for discussion at the Seminar on 13 January 2008.

3. Speed Limit Review of A and B Roads

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, that the proposed procedures for taking into account community concerns in carrying out the review of A and B road speed limits be approved.

4. Localities Proposals for Warwickshire

David Carter, Strategic Director for Performance and Development, presented his report, which set out the latest position relating to the development of the locality proposals for the area following the report to Cabinet of 18 October 2007.

With the aid of a diagram he outlined the proposal that he considered would be acceptable to the Area Committee for the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area. He suggested that the scenario for locality working in Nuneaton and Bedworth would need to be based around the existing Government promoted initiatives, i.e. the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Police Action and Communities Together (PACTS) (PACTS plus). The experience and success of these groups could be built on to bring about locality working in the area. With regard to the proposed 5 PACT areas Christine Kerr had asked that if not all of them, that some areas could be piloted.

During discussion the following comments were noted –

Issues of Concern

- (1) The Chair raised his concern about several areas -
 - that when the Area Committee considered this issue at its July meeting it had agreed option 1, which retained the Area Committee and 9 Area whereas what was reported to Cabinet was that, it had agreed 5 Areas and this was incorrect.
 - that the Government proposals were discretionary not mandatory and that the Area Committee was already working with the district council and PACTs and that whatever action wanted to be done was carried out satisfactorily by the Area Office staff. The PACTs plus proposal would not add value to what was already happening in the area.
- (2) A Member commented on the initial success of Bedworth PACT (East) and its gradual decline in terms of the number of people attending reducing from 70/80 to a few which he considered related to raising expectations that could not be met.
- (3) PACT areas of 20,000 plus residents were considered to be too large and 9 areas would create areas that were too small.
- (4) That the proposals should only be introduced in agreement with, and not imposed on, the Borough Council.

Comments in Support

- (5) That this was a Government initiative that would have to be adopted be in some form and this should be achieved alongside retention of the Area Committee and creating Advisory Panels (based on PACTs).
- (6) That this was an opportunity for the local council and to enhance partnership working.
- (7) Those areas where PACT and Neighborhood Watch meeting existed and were successful these should be used to pilot locality working (building on the success of existing collaborative/partnership meetings, which brought in the community).
- (8) That PACT plus (involving the Police and officer support from the district and county councils) would be of benefit to Members and the community.

In reply to questions and comments David Carter said that –

- (1) Christine Kerr had been consulted on the proposals but that the meeting originally scheduled with her for July had been cancelled and would now be held the following day.

- (2) That where there were PACTs, or similar community meetings, that were established and working well, these could be built and the areas piloted for locality working.
- (3) That proposed 5 areas could accommodate 8 or 9 community panels and there were examples elsewhere in the county where this had happened.
- (4) Should the Area Committee agree to trial certain areas, Peter Hunter could use his expertise, which had been successful in Warwick, to achieve this.

Resolved that the Area Committee -

- a) Re-affirms its support for the retention of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee.
- b) Emphasises that the development of locality working must proceed in agreement with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- c) Notes that the Area Manager will approach individual members to take forward locality working on a phased basis.
- d) Agrees that a further report should be brought to the March 2008 meeting of the Area Committee describing the progress made in Nuneaton and Bedworth and other areas.

5. Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Development Fund 2007/08

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development, which made recommendations for decision by the Area Committee for utilisation of the Community Development Fund 2007/08.

Resolved that the Area Committee agrees to fund all eligible applications to the recommended levels as set out in Appendix A.

6. Nuneaton and Bedworth Social Inclusion Funding 2007/08

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development, that the Area Committee approves £5,000 from the remainder of the 2007/08 Social Inclusion Fund, to support The Voluntary Sector Consortium Project

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 7:35 p.m.