

The **NUNEATON & BEDWORTH AREA COMMITTEE** met  
in the **ROOM 7, HATTERS SPACE, UPPER ABBEY STREET,**  
**NUNEATON** on 30 January 2008

**Present:**

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

**Officers:**

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

Colin Ball, Neighbourhoods Initiatives, Environment and Economy.

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

Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate

Peter Hunter, Area Manager, Performance and Development Directorate.

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

Chris Simpson, Regeneration Engineer, Environment and Economy Directorate

Pam Williams, Area Team, Performance and Development Directorate.

Nick Williams, Education Officer, Children, Young People and Families Directorate.

**Also present:** Alan Breed, Councillor Des O'Brien (Bulkington), and Claire Harrison (HEN).

**1. General**

**(1) Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sid Tooth.

**(2) Declarations of interest**

- (1) Councillor June Tandy declared a personal interest in Agenda item 4, as a member of the Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods Board.
- (2) Councillor Alan Farnell declared a personal interest in Agenda item 4, as a Member of the Pubic Service Board.

**(3) (a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 November 2007 and Matters Arising**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee held on 28 November 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**(b) Matters Arising**

**Item 1 (3) (b) Footbridge off Celandine Way**

In reply to a question John Scouller undertook to arrange for a report on this issue to be brought to the next meeting.

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

(1) Speed Review Workshop

The Chair reported that the Workshop would be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

(2) Locality Meeting

The Chair reported that a joint meeting with the Borough Council had been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 5.30 p.m (refreshments), formal meeting at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Councillor Tandy asked that parking spaces being made available for Area Committee Members in the Borough Council car park.

(3) Ratification of Funding Sub-Group Recommendations

The Chair asked for Committee approval of the Sub-Group's recommendations as follows –

The Polish Booklet - £1,500

Dance4Health - £10,000

The Committee endorsed the Funding Sub-Group's recommendations as set out above.

(4) Secondary School Review

The Chair reported that Mark Gore would be arranging a meeting of the Committee shortly to present the findings of the Secondary Schools review.

(5) Traffic Warden Funding

The Chair reported that the Borough Council had match funded the Traffic Warden post. Members recorded their concerns about the failure to reach agreement with the Police about the allocation of Traffic Wardens around the Bedworth area. The Chair asked to be notified if agreement could not be reached and he would arrange for a meeting with the Police to be held to discuss this issue further.

(6) Allocation of Community Fund

The Chair thanked the volunteer members of the public who had assessed all the bids and allocated the available funds.

The Committee commended Andrea Buckley, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council officers and the CVS Officer for arranging and conducting the meeting, and for an excellent job well done.

(7) Area Chairs' meeting

The Chair reported on the following issues that had been raised at the Area Chairs' meeting –

(a) Value for Money Review of Area Committee funding – it was being proposed that the Community Development Fund (CDF), Well Being Fund (WBF) and the Social Inclusion Fund (SIF) should be combined and grants allocated from one budget. It also contained a requirement that funds should be ring fenced for Localities use. The whole suggestion had been badly thought out and the Area Chairs were not happy with it and had asked for another report.

(b) Position of Localities and Area Committees –

- Stratford on Avon would shortly be deciding to move to three locality areas and no WCC Area Committee.
- Leamington wanted its own Locality area.
- Rugby had agreed 4 locality areas and 6 Rural Community Engagement Panels.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth – The Chief Executives of Nuneaton and Bedworth BC (NBBC) and Warwickshire County Council, and the two Council Leaders had had meetings, but as yet there had been no involvement of NBBC elected members, and this was an essential requirement before any progress could be

made. In all the Locality reports reference continually was being made to Nuneaton and Bedworth agreeing to 5 Locality Areas, but this was challenged every time because the Area Committee had not agreed to this number. The failure to correct this error was very annoying.

- North Warwickshire could become operational from 1<sup>st</sup> April but would retain the Area Committee.

#### (8) PACT meeting – Kingswood/Barpool

The Chair reported on a major area of concern, which was the problem caused by large groups of young people (50-60) congregating in the Kingswood/Barpool area and the consumption of alcohol. He said that this behaviour was common throughout the Borough and that, in an endeavour to tackle the problem, the Committee host an informal meeting inviting representatives from the Drug Action Team, the County Council, the Licensing Authority (the Borough Council), the Police and Magistrates to attend and to consider a way forward.

Members supported this proposal and commented with concern on-

- The need for supermarkets nationally to take responsibility for advertising and selling alcohol cheaply.
- The impact of the Government's liberalisation of the licensing regulations.
- The need to raise this issue with the MPs and Government Ministers.

Councillor Kam Singh highlighted the work carried out by the Children, Young People and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this issue and undertook to circulate details to Members.

The Committee agreed that a special meeting be held as proposed above and that the Area Manager be asked to make the necessary arrangements.

#### (5) **Public Question Time**

##### **Question: from Councillor Des O'Brien (Bulkington) – Speed Limit Review**

Councillor Des O'Brien asked the Committee to agree to two main roads, Bulkington Road and Coventry Road, being included in the Speed Limit Review to reduce the speed along the roads to 30 mph. The Chair said he could not pre-empt the outcome of the consultation but noted that a 300-signature petition had been received highlighting residents' concerns. He said that there would be a further opportunity to make representation at the formal meeting of the Committee when the review proposals were being considered.

## **2. Changes to Primary Schools Priority Areas in North Nuneaton and parts of North Warwickshire**

The Committee, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children Young People and Families, approved the proposals to change the priority areas of Nathaniel Newton Infant School, Galley Common Primary School, Camp Hill Primary School and Michael Drayton Junior School

## **3. Warwickshire Local Area Agreement Priority – “Narrowing the Gap”**

Councillor Richard Chattaway introduced this item and said that the aim was to tackle issues that would positively help narrow the gap which still existed between the affluent areas in the south of the county and the areas of deprivation in the north. The Public Service Board (PSB) had invited the local Strategic Partnership to draw up an action plan to “narrow the gap”. He said that, unless the investment in the less affluent areas was increased and disinvestment in the affluent areas was supported by the PSB the gap would become wider in the future.

Peter Hunter explained that the plan was to bring forward an action plan for the county to narrow the gap and that this had to be done within a tight timeframe as the bid needed to be prepared by the end of February in time for the new Local Area Agreement. The County Council together with other stakeholders, which included the Police and Youth Service (Hugh Disley), were working hard to encourage participation by PCT to put forward a case to the PSB.

Colin Ball, with aid of presentation material, outlined the issues that needed to be addressed in the area which included long term health issues, poor health, overcrowding, low income families, single parent families and low educational attainment in GCSEs.

He outlined the initiatives that had been undertaken in Camp Hill and the success achieved through Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods, which was launched in July 2003. He hoped that similar initiatives could be replicated throughout the borough by means of the action plan that was being produced for presentation to the PSB on 13 February 2008. If the action plan succeeded a 10-year improvement plan would be drawn up drawing on a range of funding sources, which included the PSB, EU, AWM and Nuneaton and Bedworth LSP.

During discussion the need for a major investment in health care was highlighted, in particular, reference was made to the significant growth in dementia care for which there was no funding. Reference was also made to the information provided by the Warwickshire Observatory on the greater levels of deprivation in a number of Nuneaton and Bedworth ‘super output’ areas. It was suggested that it would be beneficial if this information was circulated to members.

The Chair referred to his concern about –

- There being no mention in the presentation of the Stockingford area, which he said was the second most deprived area, after Camp Hill.
- Lack of Member involvement in the LAA initiative and the feeling of exclusion by some Member because the targets had been set nationally and the priorities set by the PSB. Whilst the LSP might be the answer only one Member was currently involved.
- The lack of engagement of the Health Authority.
- The disproportionate amount of money spent by the PCT in Nuneaton and Bedworth as compared to that spent in Coventry and the rest of Warwickshire.

Colin Ball acknowledged the Chair's concern and reported on the work currently being undertaken by Dr. Tim Davis on addressing teenage pregnancies and other officers in the PCT who were promoting better support for Nuneaton.

Councillor Alan Farnell concurred with many of the concerns and comments expressed and said that the PSB had had to work to a tight timescale and referred to the recent negotiations that had taken place in preparation for the new LAA, which had to be in place by June 2008.

This recent initiative had, however, reflected a positive reaction to "narrowing the gap" by Members of the PSB.

The Chair, in conclusion, expressed support for the project, which hoped, would make a difference.

#### **4. Future Agenda items**

The Committee noted the agenda items for future meetings subject to the inclusion of –

- (1) a report to the next meeting on Celandine Bridge.
- (2) a report to the May meeting on the CDRP.
- (3) a special informal meeting, date to be arranged, on Anti Social Behaviour.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

##### Highways Maintenance Expenditure

Councillor June Tandy, referring to the Highways Maintenance discussions prior to the meeting asked for Members to be provided with details of how much had been spent on street lighting over the previous three years and how this had been allocated across the borough.

John Scouller undertook to arrange for this information to be provided to Members.

#### **6. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information**

Resolved to exclude the public from the meeting for item 7 below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of confidential or exempt

information as defined in paragraph 5 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972'.

## **7. Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Management Partnership**

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Strategic Director of Environment and Economy and considered the next steps concerning the Council's representatives on the Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Management Partnership Board.

Following discussion it was -

Resolved that the Area Committee agrees to reduce the County Council representation on the Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Management Partnership Board to 3 (1 Labour Member to represent Bedworth Town Centre and 1 Labour and 1 Conservative to represent Nuneaton Town Centre).

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Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 7:45 p.m.