

The **RUGBY AREA COMMITTEE** met at the **TOWN HALL, RUGBY** on the **28th JULY 2005**.

Present:-

Councillor John Vereker (Chair)

“ Heather Timms (Vice Chair)

“ Tom Cavanagh

“ Richard Dodd

“ Katherine King

“ Brian Levy

“ Philip Morris-Jones

“ Ian Smith

“ John Wells

Officers:-

David Curle, Buildings and Transport Manager, Social Services

Nick Darwen, Area Manager

Victoria Gould, Principal Solicitor

Neil Gulliver, Principal Committee Administrator

Tom Hook, Community Partnership Officer

Martin Jones, Head of Resources Management, Social Services

David Lynn, Head of Warwickshire Engineering

Peter Samwell, Policy Manager, Warwickshire Engineering

Claire Wildsmith, Area Administrative Officer

6 members of the public.

1. General

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillors Gordon Collett and Jerry Roodhouse.

2. Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillors Tom Cavanagh, Richard Dodd and Heather Timms declared personal interests in any issue raised at the meeting affecting Rugby Borough Council of which they were Members.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th June 2005 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Rugby Area Committee held on the 16th June 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

2. Public Question Time

1. Question from Brian Yeates, Princethorpe Parish Council

I would like to propose the introduction of a one-way system along Sheep Dip Lane in the village of Princethorpe. I suggest that this should lead from the Fosse Way to the A423 Oxford Road. High volumes of traffic currently experienced at Sheep Dip Lane's junction with the A423 during peak times present what we feel to be a hazardous situation.

The One-Way system would prevent vehicles from accessing Sheep Dip Lane from the A423, a movement which currently causes tailbacks on the main road in both directions.

I would therefore like to ask the Committee to consider this proposal as a possible solution to the problems highlighted.

Answer provided by David Lynn, Department of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy

It is agreed that there has been additional traffic using Princethorpe to avoid the A45/A445 road works at Ryton on Dunsmore. The works were due to finish on the 28 July although this was now likely to be slightly delayed and we would like to see how the traffic patterns settle down after then. We will be in a better position to assess the request for a one-way system later in the year.

2. Question from Richard Gunstone

According to the Rugby Advertiser of July 14 the Warwick District Council planning committee have changed their mind about the temporary building at Coventry Airport and are now recommending that the terminal be allowed to remain.

What is the County Council view on this matter?

Do they favour the continued expansion of building, car parks, road and air traffic to and from Coventry Airport? Brinklow residents have noticed increasing noise from air traffic over the last few weeks. My own view is that the increase in noise, unpleasant though it is, is a minor problem compared to the environmental and in due course climate damage that results from expansion of air traffic anywhere in the world.

Answer provided by David Lynn, Department of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy

The County Council is not involved in the enforcement action against Coventry Airport which led to a public inquiry because this was a matter for Warwick District Council. The County Council, in its role as Highway Authority, has been involved in negotiations with the District Council and Airport owners on green travel plan issues.

3. Question from Mrs Carter, Stretton-Under-Fosse Parish Council

Please can I ask the Area Committee to give consideration to the following questions relating to the Smeaton Lane area of Stretton-Under-Fosse:

A: ROAD AND FOOTPATH CONDITIONS

The road surface of Smeaton Lane leading from the railway bridge to the junction with the B4455 is in a terrible state having many pot holes and the side disintegrated.

There is also a flood on Smeaton Lane near to the junction with the B4455 due to blocked drains which are blocked by overgrown tree roots.

We feel that this road needs looking at urgently and ask what the County Council's intentions are to address the issues raised?

Also the footpath from Wharf to the Revel Prison Training College is disintegrating, can you advise what the County Council intend to do to address this problem?

Several members expressed their concern about the safety of this road and its junction with the Fosse Way and asked the officers to look into the matter with a view to a report being submitted to the Committee's next meeting.

Answer provided by David Lynn, Department of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy

Smeaton Lane, between the B4029 and the canal bridge, is included in the current 5 year plan for resurfacing. The timing of this work will depend on future condition assessments and prioritisation within the Road Maintenance budget. Assuming current funding levels and the present condition of the road, I would anticipate the work being in the annual programme in 2 or 3 year's time.

In the meantime the local area maintenance teams are monitoring the site and are turning to any safety concerns such as pot holes as and when they arise or are notified.

The flooding problem needs to be investigated. Paul Cowley (Rugby Area Manager for County Highways) has agreed to arrange for the investigatory work to be carried out in the near future when the drainage gang is next in the area.

With regard to the Wharf footpath Paul Cowley has recently responded to Mrs Carter on this subject by letter, agreeing to arrange for the vegetation either side of the footway to be cut back to give extra width. When this has been done he has agreed to look again at the overall condition of the footway.

B. SPEEDING AND SIGNAGE

In July 2004, we asked if Area Committee could investigate installing road signs at the Fosse Way (B4455) Junction with the B4027. Given that speeding on the Fosse Way (B4455) toward the B4027 is still a big problem can you please advise what progress if any has been made with this?

Answer provided by David Lynn, Department of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy

I have nothing to add to the response given in July 2004, as follows:

"Our accident records show just two injury accidents in the last three years in the locality of this junction. This is not sufficient for us to prioritise any safety engineering scheme."

C. ROBBERIES

There have been 3 robberies in Stretton recently and the Police have not attended any of them. Can you advise what may be done to improve this situation?

The Chair asked for further details of the 3 robberies so that he take the matter further with the Police.

Answer provided by Andrew Lawrence, Head of Community Support, Chief Executive's Department

This is a matter for the police, however I have asked Steve Hussey, who is the new Community Safety Manager in Rugby, to pass this comment on to the Rugby police.

The following question was submitted too late for a detailed response to be made available at the meeting. A response was provided at a later date and is set out in the appendix to these minutes.

4. Question from Sheela Hammond, New Bilton Community Association

The draft Warwickshire Strategic Partnership Plan (2005-2008) covers the following themes:

- Health and Wellbeing,
- Community Safety,
- Environment,
- Job, Skill and Learning
- Housing Affordability.

The underpinning principles are to:

- ensure education and lifelong learning,
- provide equality of opportunity,
- achieve fastest improvement for the most deprived,
- ensure activities are sustainable,
- encourage cohesive communities.

I am concerned by the conspicuous absence of a theme or underpinning principle about Community Engagement/Participation. Upon enquiry, I am told that is considered a matter for local implementation. If the WCC does not lead the way by good example of making the theme explicit, there may be little incentive for councils or local strategic partnerships to consider it a priority. Given July 7th and subsequent and continuing events, surely active communities, civil renewal and community cohesion are of utmost importance and need to be planned for strategically at this stage to put in place preventative strategies rather than responding reactively.

I should like to know what the thinking is behind the omission of the theme of Community Engagement and to press for reconsideration of its inclusion in the draft plan.

3. Parish Appraisals and Parish Plans

The report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive was considered.

Resolved:-

That the proposed guidelines for the County Council responding to Parish Plans and Appraisals as set out in the County Solicitor's report be endorsed.

4. Appointment of Councillors to External Organisations

The Committee considered the appendix to the report by the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive and agreed the appointment of Councillors to the outside organisations as listed in the appendix to these minutes.

5. Asset Management Plan for Social Services

Martin Jones presented the report by the Director of Social Care and Health setting out the Asset Management Plan for Social Services. David Curle then took the Committee through the various a further paper circulated at the meeting highlighting the services provided by the 11 sites in the Rugby district. In noting the report and the presentation, the Committee asked for a further report to a future meeting on how the Department would be responding to the demands of the Childrens Care Services Act 2005.

6. Highway Maintenance Plan 2005/2006 and Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy was considered.

In considering a number of issues relating to highway maintenance in the Rugby district, the Committee expressed their particular concern about the standard of grass cutting which appeared to be of poor quality in certain parts of the district. They strongly supported the need for the budget for grass cutting to be increased to permit additional cuts each summer and that the Cabinet be made aware of that request.

7. Rugby Area Performance 2004-05 and Targets for 2005-06

In considering the report by the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, the Committee agreed that crime should be treated as a high priority for further consideration. Nick Darwen pointed out that they would be considering a report on the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership which would provide the starting point for this proposed work. It was agreed that the District Commander, Chief Inspector Diane Vickery should be invited to that meeting.

It was then Resolved:-

That the 2004/05 Area Performance Data and Targets for 2005/06 be noted and that the following issues be put forward for further consideration:-

- Crime
- Road Casualties
- Community based services for older people
- Household waste

8. Funding Sub-Group

The report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive was considered.

Resolved:-

That

1. approval be given to the process for the Community Development Fund for 2005/06

2. approval be given to the priorities for the Wellbeing Fund for 2005/06
3. agreement in principle to the use of the Social Inclusion Fund for 2005/06

9. Electoral Divisional Panels

The report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive was noted.

10. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items to be considered.

11. Future Business Items

were noted.

12. Reports Containing Exempt Information

It was noted that the report to be considered under Agenda item 13 no longer met the rules relating to exempt information and could be dealt with in the open part of the meeting.

13. Warwickshire and Rugby Business Improvement District Pilot

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy was considered.

Resolved:-

That the report to Cabinet attached as Appendix A to the Director's report, the general progress with the BID in Rugby and its wider implications for Warwickshire be noted and the Cabinet decisions endorsed.

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Chair of Committee

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Appointment of Councillors to External Organisations

Organisation	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Area Community Education Council (3)	Cllr Vereker	Cllr Wells	Cllr Dodd
Dunchurch and Thurlaston Educational Foundation – (1)	Mr P Newsome (non-cllr)		
Fosterd's Bridge Charity (1)	TBC		
Monks Kirby Exhibition Foundation (2)	Mr J R Moss (non cllr) 2 nd vacancy to remain unfilled for time being		
Leamington Hastings Educational School Trust (1)	Cllr Collett		
Rugby BC Members working party for the rail station and surrounding area (1)		Cllr Wells	
Rugby Cement Community Liaison Meeting (1)	Cllr Vereker (as Chair of Area Cttee)		
Rugby Citizens Advice Bureau (1)		Cllr Cavanagh	
Rugby Council for Voluntary service (1)			Cllr Roodhouse
Rugby Homestart – Management Committee		Cllr Wells	
Rugby MIND trustees (1)		Cllr Wells	
Rugby Minority Ethnic communities Consultation Meeting(1)		Cllr King	
Rugby Overslade Community Association Management Cttee(1)	Cllr Vereker		
Rugby Policing Scrutiny and Accountability Panel (3)	Cllr Timms	Cllr Wells	Cllr Roodhouse
Rugby Racial Equality Council (2)		Cllr King	Cllr Dodd
Rugby Town Centre	Cllr Vereker (as		

Partnership Board of Directors(1)	Chair of Area Cttee)		
Sir Frank Whittle joint Rugby BC and WCC working group (3)	Cllr Collett	Cllr Wells	Cllr Roodhouse
Willoughby Educational Foundation (1)	Mr R Heckford (non-cllr)		

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