

The **RUGBY AREA COMMITTEE** met at the **TOWN HALL, RUGBY** on the **8 March 2006**.

Present:-

Councillor John Vereker (Chair)
Heather Timms Vice (Chair)
“ Tom Cavanagh
“ Gordon Collett
“ Richard Dodd
“ Katherine King
“ Brian Levy
“ Philip Morris-Jones
“ Jerry Roodhouse
“ Ian Smith
“ John Wells

Officers:-

Roy Burton, Operations Manager, Waste Management, Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy Dept.
Hannah Cramp, Community Partnership Officer, Performance and Development Directorate
Nick Darwen, Area Manager, Performance and Development Directorate
Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor, Performance and Development Directorate
Jean Hardwick , Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate
David Johnson, Head of Engineering, Rugby BC
Roger Newham, Head of Warwickshire Engineering, Planning, Transport & Economic Strategy Dept.
Peter Thompson, Senior Area Education Officer

Also present : Mrs. S Hammond (NBCA)
Councillor J.W. Reading (Ansty PC)
Councillor P. Wyatt (Rugby BC)

2 members of the public.

1. General
(1) Apologies

None

(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Declarations of interest were recorded as follows –

- (1) Councillors Tom Cavanagh, Gordon Collett, Richard Dodd, Jerry Roodhouse and Heather Timms declared personal interests in any issue raised at the meeting affecting Rugby Borough Council of which they were Members.
- (2) Councillor Tom Cavanagh declared a personal interest in item 5 because he was a Governor of Bilton and Cawston High Schools.
- (3) Councillor Jerry Roodhouse declared a personal interest in item 5 because he was a Governor of Eastlands Primary School and agenda item 9 because he was a member of Age Concern.
- (4) Councillor John Wells declared a personal interest in item 5 because he was a Governor of Newbold Riverside Primary School.
- (5) Councillor Ian Smith declared a personal interest in item 5 because he was a Governor of Bilton High School and because he represented the County Council on the Rugby Overslade Community Centre.
- (6) The Chair, Councillor John Vereker declared a personal interest in item 9 because he represented the County Council on the Rugby Overslade Community Association Management Committee.

(3) Minutes of the Meetings held on the 10 and 30 January 2006 and Matters Arising

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Rugby Area Committee held on the:-

- (a) 10 January 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.
- (b) 30 January 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair subject to, in respect of minute 2 Rokeby Primary School, the inclusion of the following amendment -

“Councillor Morris-Jones spoke strongly in favour of Option 4 referred to in the report. He advocated this Option on the basis that retention of both School buildings would avoid significant and unnecessary expense on rebuilding and prevent the loss of yet more precious land to development in the area.”

Matters Arising

In respect of the minutes of the meeting of 30 January 2006, item 2, Rokeby Primary School, Peter Thomson reported that Cabinet, at its meeting on 23 February 2006 had agreed, in principle, to the amalgamation of Rokeby Infant and Junior Schools on the site of the existing infant school building. Cabinet

had, however, regarded this change to be significant and asked that further consultation should take place on this proposal. This issue would be included in the agenda for the Committee's May meeting.

2. Public Question Time

Question from Councillor Pat Wyatt, Rugby Borough Council

In view of the recent consultation survey results, regarding the Inspector's suggested closure of Bilton Lane, Long Lawford, I wish to ask whether this Rugby Area Committee will support the two thirds majority requesting that Bilton Lane remain a through road from A428 to A4071 and open to all users, keeping the 7.5 tonne weight restriction order.

Can I also be assured that the promised footpath from "Sheaf and Sickle" to the "Bear" pub will be constructed in accordance with the relevant 106 planning agreements.

Response from Roger Newham, Department of Planning, Transport & Economic Strategy.

Roger Newham pointed out that this issue was the first item on the agenda and it was being recommended that Bilton Lane would remain a through road. He was unaware of the weight restriction but confirmed that this would not prevent access for farm vehicles or school buses.

With regard to the proposed footpath from the "Sheaf and Sickle" to the "Bear" he confirmed that this would be completed once the land acquisition had taken place.

Question from Mrs Carter

Could you please tell us what is happening to the signs that Magna Park are paying for re. heavy lorries using the B roads. We are hoping that the footpath from the Wharf to Revel Prison College is down for being upgraded as we have been asking for sometime. We have never heard any more about the give way signs on the B4455 B4027 at that junction since November 2005. Is there any more information about this matter? This has also been going on a long time. Is Smeaton Lane being resurfaced this financial year from B4455 to the canal bridge?

As this question arrived late for the meeting Roger Newham, Department of Planning, Transport & Economic Strategy undertook to prepare a reply.

Question from Wendy Martin-Flaven, Clifton Parish Council

Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Parish Council would like to know what the plans are for the Lilbourne Road/Hillmorton Lane/Main St. junction which they understand has an improvement scheme proposal going before the WCC

Rugby Area Committee, and what does the Warwickshire County Council plan going to do about the parking problems being experienced in the North Road area of the village?

As this question arrived late for the meeting Roger Newham, Department of Planning, Transport & Economic Strategy undertook to prepare a reply.

Question from Shilton & Ansty Parish Council

It is now over two years since Ansty and Shilton school closed and the children were moved to Wolvey School. The residents of both villages are keen to see the school used as a pre-school facility and the longer the process takes the more the building is degenerating. Shilton Parish Council would, therefore, like to know what progress has been made in resolving the various ownership questions.

Councillor Philip Morris-Jones said he had condemned the closure and expressed concern that the planning application for use of the school as a pre-school facility had been unresolved for nearly two years. He urged that the LEA, the Diocesan and the Trustees work together to help resolved this issue.

Peter Thompson undertook to investigate the matter and to report back to the Committee.

3. Rugby Western Relief Road – Bilton Lane, Rugby

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy informing the Area Committee of the results of the consultation on the potential closure of Bilton Lane Rugby, that the Area Committee rejects the closure of Bilton Lane, Rugby.

4. Governance of the Rugby Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Nick Darwen presented the joint Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development and the Strategic Director of Community Protection.

This report summarised the current position regarding membership of the Rugby CDRP Board and asked for members' comments so these could be incorporated into a review of the governance structures of CDRPs.

Councillor John Wells reported that, at the recent meeting of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and from another body, concern had been expressed about the lack of County Councillor representation on the Rugby CDRP. Councillor Wells highlighted that Rugby CDRP was not performing well he questioned whether the Committee should have Member representation.

Discussion followed during which support was expressed for this proposal following which it was Resolved, unanimously -

That the Strategic Directors of Performance and Development and Community Safety be asked to make representation to the Rugby CDRP suggesting that it should give serious consideration to appointing three Members of the Area Committee (Councillors Richard Dodd, Katherine King and another Member (from the Conservative Group) to give improved democratic representation on the Rugby CDRP.

5. Change to Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families informing the Area Committee of the feedback received as a result of the consultation on proposals to change the Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby.

Resolved -

That the Area Committee ask that Cabinet be informed that it supports the proposal to change the Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby.

6. Area Community Learning Partnership (ACLP) for Rugby Borough, Progress Report 2005/06 and Action Plan for 2006/07

Peter Thompson presented the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families, which summarised progress made by the ACLP during 2005/06 and gave an outline for proposed partnership activity for 2006/07.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse raised an issue of concern, which was indirectly connected to the item being discussed, and related to Warwickshire College discontinuing courses, for example New Start, and the impact that would have on the areas skills base. Peter Thompson said that he had not been consulted on the reduction in courses but would investigate the position and report back.

The Chair expressed concern about the proposed discontinuation of Area Community Education Councils (ACECs) and asked that the Area Committee be consulted. Nick Darwin reported that Cabinet had asked that the Area Committee's be consulted on this proposal and a report would be scheduled for discussion at the Committee's next meeting.

Resolved -

- (1) That the progress made in the development of the Community Learning Strategy and the multi-agency Community Learning Plan for Rugby Borough is noted.

- (2) That the detailed progress report against 2005/06 actions be endorsed.
- (3) That the Area Committee notes the draft outline plan and actions for 2006/07.
- (4) That a finalised Area Community Learning Plan for 2006/07 is submitted to the Area Committee for information in the summer.
- (5) That Members' disquiet about not being consulted on the proposal to discontinue ACEC be noted and the issue be scheduled for discussion at the next Area Committee meeting.

7. Capital Programme for Transport 2006-07

Roger Newham presented the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy, which set out the draft 2006-7 capital programme for integrated transport for the Rugby area.

In connection with paragraph 2.1 Table 1 - the Casualty Reduction Scheme on the B44429 Barby Lane/Onley Lane/Ashlawn Road, Rugby Roger Newham answered questions and undertook to investigate Members concerns relating to their request that a high priority be given to this scheme.

Discussion followed on the proposal outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report during which Members said that they did not wish schemes, listed in the delegated budget and not selected for implementation for three years, being removed from future lists without Members agreement.

Resolved that the Area Committee -

- (1) Support the Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for Rugby area given in Table 1.
- (2) Support the schemes identified in Table 3 for the delegated budget.
- (3) Do not support the recommendation that schemes which remain on the list of delegated budget requests for three years being removed from future lists.
- (4) Support the allocation of the additional capital funding for road maintenance as set out in Paragraph 5.1.

8. Rugby Area Performance: Waste Management and Casualty Reduction

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

The report provided further information around area performance with regards to (a) waste management and (b) casualty reduction. The provision of this

information was in response to the request of the Committee to review performance in these areas in more detail following the end-of-year Rugby Area Performance Report 2004-2005.

In reply to a Members' request for further information Nick Darwen explained that the statistics on the number of people killed in the Rugby area was included in the end of year annual performance report.

Resolved that the Committee notes the report.

9. Use of the Well Being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund

Nick Darwen presented the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

Members were asked to approve a range of projects (as detailed in the report and its appendices) through the use of the Social Inclusion Fund and the Well Being Fund.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse expressed concern that, with regard to the Funding Sub Group meeting, Members' declarations of interest and their withdrawal from the meeting during discussion of particular applications had not been recorded in the report. Nick Darwen undertook to record these declarations of interests in future reports.

Resolved that the Area Committee -

(1) approve the use of the Social Inclusion Fund and Well Being Fund in accordance with the recommendations of the Funding Sub-Group as follows:

SOCIAL INCLUSION FUND	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Funds Available (or provisionally allocated)	50,200	50,000	50,000
Community Development In Targeted Communities	38,000	29,500	32,000
Rugby Borough Credit Union	10,000	0	0
Total	48,000	29,500	32,000

WELL BEING FUND	2005-06
Funds Available	104,000
Brownsover Community Information	20,000
Benefit Take-Up Project For Older People	13,095
Playing For Success	10,000
Domiciliary Care Agency: Staff Training	14,000
Total	*57,095

(* Administrative note – the total of £77,095 stated in the report is incorrect and the figure has been corrected to £57,095)

(2) note that approval of funding for all years beyond 2005-06 is dependent upon the availability of funding and the performance of projects.

(3) note that where projects require additional funding from other sources in order to go ahead, the grant award is conditional upon this funding being made available.

10. Achievement of Projects Funded Through Rugby Area Committee

Nick Darwen presented the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development and advised that the appendix to the report, which included the recommendations of the Rural Partnership Project commissioned by the Area Committee through the Well Being Fund, had been omitted from the agenda papers. In these circumstances he asked Members to defer consideration of the second recommendation in the report until the next meeting.

Resolved that –

(1) the Committee notes the report and approves the recommendations of the Funding Sub-Group as follows: -

- That all successfully completed projects should receive the thanks and congratulations of the Area Committee.
- That Rugby CVS should return any unspent funds with regard to the Trustees Forum project and that this should be added to the Community Development Fund for the Rugby Area 2006-07.
- That Warwickshire Rural Community Council should use any under spend with regard to the Rural Partnership Project to work with partners to further develop a rural partnership strategy and rural checklist, and to support rural community involvement in consultation around the new Rugby Sustainable Community Strategy.

(2) consideration of the recommendations of the Rural Partnership Project be deferred until the next meeting.

11. Update on Electoral Divisional Panels and Matters Arising from Parish Councils

Nick Darwen presented the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which provided an update on the issues discussed recently at Rugby Electoral Divisional Panels together with the minutes from December's joint meeting with the Association of Local Councils and the draft Wolston Parish Plan which the Committee was asked to support.

Nick Darwin proposed that, to enable a better understand of the range of issues associated with the work being carried out in the area, a workshop should be arranged to consider neighbourhood structures.

Resolved that–

- (1) the Area Committee endorse the Wolston Parish Plan which they considered to be an excellent document and asked that their view be conveyed to the Parish Council;
- (2) Nick Darwen shall arrange a workshop for Members of the Area Committee on neighbourhood structures.

12. Any Other Items

None

13. Future Business Items

Resolved to note the inclusion of the following items in the future work programme –

The future of GEC Alstom and Peugeot.

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Chair of Committee

The meeting closed at 7:30 pm