

The **RUGBY AREA COMMITTEE** met at the **TOWN HALL, RUGBY** on the **10 May 2006**.

**Present:-**

Councillor John Vereker (in the Chair following election)

- “ Heather Timms (Vice-Chair following election)
- “ Gordon Collett
- “ Richard Dodd
- “ Katherine King
- “ Brian Levy
- “ Jerry Roodhouse
- “ Ian Smith
- “ John Wells

**Officers:-**

Walter Bailey, Traffic Projects, Environment and Economy Directorate.

Roger Bennett, Traffic Projects, Environment and Economy Directorate.

Nick Darwen, Area Manager, Performance and Development Directorate

Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor, Performance and Development Directorate

Mark Gore, Head of Service, Education Partnership and Schools Development.

Jean Hardwick , Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate

Roger Newham, Chief Transport Planner, Engineering, Environment and Economy Directorate.

Jon Reading, Assistant Service Manager, Directorate of Adult, Health and Community Service.

Peter Samwell, Policy Manager, Environment and Economy Directorate

Howard Taylor, Project Manager, Environment and Economy Directorate.

Also present: Councillor C. Holman (RBC)

Councillor J. Burton (Portfolio holder for Schools)

Members of the public present:

20 (approx. (Rokeby Junior and Infant Schools)

10 (approx.) (Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement)

## **1. General**

### **(1) Election of Chair**

Resolved that Councillor John Vereker be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

### **(2) Election of Vice Chair**

Resolved that Councillor Heather Timms be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

### **(3) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Cavanagh and Philip Morris-Jones.

#### Councillor Philip Morris-Jones

The Chair asked that a letter of best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to Councillor Philip Morris-Jones following his recent accident. Nick Darwen undertook to write a letter on behalf of the Committee.

### **(4) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Declarations of interest were recorded as follows –

- (1) Councillors Gordon Collett, Richard Dodd, Jerry Roodhouse and Heather Timms declared personal interests as Members of Rugby Borough Council of which they were Members.
- (2) Councillor Heather Timms declared a personal interest in agenda item 10, Funding Sub-Group because of her involvement with Warwickshire Rural Community Council.
- (3) Councillor Jerry Roodhouse declared a personal interest in item 11, Adult Social Care Performance Report as a Member of Age Concern.
- (4) Councillor John Wells declared a personal interest because he was a Governor of Riverside Primary School.
- (5) Councillor John Vereker declared a personal interest as a Governor of Bilton Junior School Management Committee and as a Director of Rugby Town Centre Company.
- (6) Councillor Richard Dodd declared an interest in item 6, Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement, because he worked for the Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance Service.

- (7) Councillor Katherine King declared a personal interest as the Vice Chair of the County Council's Children, Families and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**(5) Minutes of the Meetings held on the 6 and 8 March 2006 and Matters Arising**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings of the Rugby Area Committee held on the 6 and 8 March 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

**2. Public Question Time**

**Question 1 - from Susan Carter**

**Give Way Signs B4455/B4027:**

Regarding the answers to my questions tabled at March's Area Committee - There needs to be a 'stop' sign at the bottom, and extra signage warning drivers that there is a crossroads ahead.

On 4th May, a driver and passenger failed to anticipate the crossroads and drove straight over the B4027, ending up in a field.

This clearly could have been a far more serious accident had anyone been walking, waiting for a bus, or driving the other way on the B4027. Following this incident the police will be asking for extra signage.

What is the Council going to do to improve signage at this crossroads, and when?

**Footpath from the Wharf to Revel Prison College:**

Local residents are disappointed with the response given to the question tabled at March's Area Committee.

The patching work done last summer has already started to crumble away.

We first raised this matter over two years ago, and if we wait til 2007 for the footway to be resurfaced it does not appear that we are getting value for money.

**Response from Roger Newham, Directorate of Environment and Economy.**

One of Road Safety Engineers (Lee Williams) has assessed the site and investigated the accident record. Chris Fossey from Road Safety has also spoken to Mrs Carter to obtain further information. Mrs Carter would like additional warning signage along the B4455 as it approaches the B4027 junction and would also like the 'Give Way' sign changed to a 'Stop' sign.

As you will be well aware our Road Safety Unit prioritises engineering intervention on casualty reduction. There has only been one slight injury collision at the junction in the last 3 years. This accident was due to a vehicle travelling at excess speed along the B4027 and another vehicle pulling out in front of them performing a right turn.

Mrs Carter is aware that there has recently been a high visibility yellow backed advance 'give way sign' erected well before the approach to the junction and the bend in the road. Our Engineer considers the fact that there is a bend in the road also helps to slow vehicles down and should help to avoid overshoots. There has never been an overshoot personal injury accident at this junction ever on our records which date back to 1992. However, we do not doubt that Mrs Carter may well have experienced first hand a number of 'damage only' collisions.

The giveaway sign at the junction is the maximum size permitted to meet the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002. Our Road Safety Engineer has been on site and feels that the visibility at the junction is sufficient and any overshoots are due to driver error. Given the volume of traffic using this stretch of the B4455 Fosse Way, and that it is 60mph derestricted road the safety record at this location is very good, therefore unfortunately we cannot prioritise the junction for any additional safety engineering work, especially when there are so many other locations with a significant history of personal injury collisions.

## **Question 2 - from Derek Carroll**

I attended the Rugby Area Committee on the 05 May 2004 and brought along numerous photographs of the condition of the roads in Draycote Village. The roads have since been resurfaced but that was only cosmetic and they are still a disgrace. What is the County Council going to do to improve the condition of these roads? Please can you also explain why there is no reference to my questions in the published minutes of the meeting of 5th May 2004?

Despite on-going correspondence with County Council officers and others, very little progress appears to have been made with respect to the continuing drainage and sewage problems in Draycote. When will this be sorted out and how? I request a meeting on site with Mr. John Deegan himself to discuss this.

## **Response from Roger Newham, Directorate of Environment and Economy**

The roads in and around Draycote Village were surface dressed in the summer of 2005 and the main benefits of this treatment are to seal the surface against water penetration, to arrest disintegration of the existing road surface and improve the surface texture and resistance to skidding. This has been achieved although there are some very small areas of minor

deterioration and in places the carriageway is in need of sweeping to remove areas of loose chippings which needs to be addressed. However, for narrow D class roads of their type, the roads around Draycote are in a perfectly acceptable condition.

There have been a number of different works carried out by Rugby Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council and Severn Trent Water in improving the surface water and highway drainage in Draycote Village. The brook courses have been cleared, drainage systems jetted out and CCTV surveyed and required repairs to highway drainage pipework carried out. This work has significantly improved the clean water drainage in Draycote although I cannot comment on sewage problems as this is a matter for Severn Trent Water.

John Deegan is fully aware of this matter, and there is no need for him to visit the site.

We apologise that due to an administrative oversight, Mr. Carroll's question in May 2004 was not recorded in the published minutes of the meeting.

Councillor Gordon Collett pointed out that the roads in question were "D" class roads and that the County Council needed to allocate its budgets to maintain its priority A, B & C roads.

### **Question 3 - from Richard Gunstone**

At the meeting of the Rugby Area Committee held on 24 January 2005 the minutes record that the committee did support the request from Brinklow Parish Council to move the 30 mph signs south onto the straight part of the B4455. We were subsequently told that the work would be done in the financial year 2005 to 06 . Can you explain the delay and tell me when the work will be done?"

### **Response from Roger Newham, Directorate of Environment and Economy**

The formal process of advertising orders to move the speed limit sign will commence shortly with implementation expected by the end of the summer if there are no objections.

The delay in implementation is due to the time taken to reach agreement on exactly what scheme should be implemented and a lack of staff resources."

### **Question 4 – from Keith Daffern, Shilton Parish Council**

Could the Rugby Area Committee please advise when the Road Traffic Orders will be revised for the B4065 between Ansty and Shilton?

**Roger Newham, Directorate of Environment and Economy undertook to prepare a reply.**

## **Question 5 – from Robert Saunders**

The panel may be aware that a number of residents from the south end of Bath Street picked up on the proposals for changes to the scheme, but apparently quite late in the consultation period, some residents' objections were received after the official consultation period. I assert that most residents (certainly all I have spoken with) are unaware that there was a consultation period, or that the residents parking scheme is changing, and many residents probably still are unaware, the Rugby Observer advertising was largely blurred and not comprehensible.

Having considered the proposals in detail, Bath Street residents at the south of the road (Clifton Road end) believe that the proposals as they stand will be seriously detrimental to parking for residents. We have subsequently met with Councillors and County Officers, and we have provided detailed amendments that we believe are required to ensure that parking situation is not worsened. We assert that under current proposals the situation will be untenable for residents. **NOW** is the appropriate time to address the residents' objections and not after the order takes effect in October.

Can you therefore please advise residents of Bath Street whether its concerns will be addressed NOW; we assert that: -

1. Once enforcement commences, the present lack of allocated parking spaces at the top of Bath street will result in the fury of residents and we will be fighting over a space, this will cause anxiety and friction; We as residents have provided the Council with a plan showing how up to 27 more spaces could be achieved at the south end of the street with no detriment to highway safety; and
2. There is a need for consistency in approach to the top of Bath Street, in particular, in common with the proposals for William Street, Charlotte Street, Spring Street and Arnold Street, which see the introduction of pay and display meters on the street for non-residents. Residents of Bath Street insist that there needs to be consistency of approach in these streets, otherwise Bath Street will suffer as vehicles will choose to park for free in the street for an hour.
3. Without the allocation of more spaces, the enforcement of the scheme until 8pm at night would cause an unnecessary stress period for residents all seeking to park in the limited number of spaces (even with new allocations) between their return from work and 8pm at night.

## **Reply from Roger Newham, Environment and Economy Directorate**

The Committee is aware of the concerns of Bath Street residents and will deal with matter under agenda item 10.

**Question 6 – Vanessa Tyler (Secretary of Rugby Town Centre Residents Association).**

**Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement**

The Committee will be aware that a number of people have objected to aspects of these proposals. Please be aware that a number of people have objected to aspects of these proposals. Please can you explain why the County Council has not invited objectors to tonight's meeting, as would be usual practice in other consultations.

**Reponse from Roger Newham, Environment and Economy Directorate.**

Whilst it is often our practice to reply to objectors to inform them of the process through which their objection will be considered and the date of the area committee that was not possible with this consultation due to the volume of responses received. However, all objectors can be assured that Area Committee have been made aware of the substance of all objections we have received even though (due to the number) all individual objections have not been listed in the report to area committee.

**Question 7 – from Sheena Hammond, New Bilton Community Association**

I have been given to understand that electoral boundaries are likely to change in the near future. How will this affect the seven neighbourhood boundaries as proposed in the 'Developing and Integrated Approach to Neighbourhoods in Rugby' paper.

**Response from Nick Darwin, Directorate of Performance and Development.**

If and when electoral boundaries change, it is likely that partners might wish to review the neighbourhood boundaries.

### **3. Rugby Rokeby Junior and Infant Schools**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families, which sought the Area Committee's views for reporting to Cabinet on a revised proposal to site the proposed amalgamated Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School on the site of the Infant School.

Mark Gore highlighted the high level of public interest in this issue, which included receiving two large petitions from both factions and expressed concern about the division that this had created in the community. He proposed that the Area Committee allow time to take stock of the differing views and to give the new Head, and Governors, an opportunity to establish the new school and re-assess the situation. He referred to the possibility of additional Government capital funding becoming available in 2008, which might

assist in achieving a better outcome for the community than could be currently achieved.

Councillor Chris Holman, Chair of Rokeby Infant School Governors, whilst accepting that Members might wish to accede to the proposal outlined by Mark Gore, put forward the case for the proposal to site the amalgamated primary school on the site of the existing Infant School.

Chris Smart, Chair of Rokeby Junior School Governors, spoke in support of siting the new primary school on the site of the existing Junior School.

Kerry Laurie, a parent of children attending both the Infant and Junior Schools, which she considered were both good schools, spoke in support of siting the amalgamated primary school on the site of the Infant School.

Michelle Lines said she was strongly of the view that the new school should be sited on the Junior School site and outlined her reasons.

The Chair thanked everyone for their presentations and opened the debate by re-iterating the main points put forward by Mark Gore, in light of discussions taking place to extend the school use for the benefit of the community and for County Council use, and the likelihood of Government funding becoming available in 2008.

During discussion Members commented –

- On the need to take a holistic view of the situation taking in the needs of the community and its partners, including the Police, Youth, Health and Pharmacy Services.
- On the way the way consultation had developed and had been driven by the Cabinet's decision on a 7% threshold of falling school numbers and which was considered would impact elsewhere in the county.
- Expressing support for the setting up of a new primary school but awaiting the appointment of new Governors and Head before a recommendation on the siting.
- The need to keep the situation under review to ensure that decisions were made in a timely manner.

Resolved that the Area Committee:

- (1) Recommends to Cabinet that the proposal to establish a single primary school be confirmed.
- (2) Recommends that the new school initially be accommodated in both current school buildings.



- (3) Asks Cabinet to give further consideration to alternative funding options, such as the possibility of central government support so as to reduce or eliminate the reliance on self-funding of the proposal.
- (4) Asks for more investigation into local community needs, which might involve the use of surplus accommodation on the site.
- (5) Believes that a recommendation on more permanent siting and accommodation for the new school should be sought from the new Governors and Head teacher after the results of these two investigations are known.
- (6) Asks that the situation is reviewed in 12 months time.

#### **4. Review of the Area Community Education Councils and Future Funding Arrangements**

The Committee considered the joint report of the Strategic Directors of Children, Young People and Families and Performance and Development. The views of the Area Committee were sought on the attached draft report seeking Cabinet approval for the future arrangements for the funds, which ACECs allocated. This was related to the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy.

Nick Darwen reported that the Area Committee's Funding Sub-group had discussed this matter and recommended that the "Area Committee strongly recommends to Cabinet that the County Council retains an appropriate local mechanism to enable small voluntary groups to access grants of £500 or less with the minimum of bureaucracy". During discussion on this proposal Members commented –

- In support of continued availability of small grants, which they considered was vital for the future viability of many small groups.
- On the need for clear processes to enable these small groups easy access to such grants.

Resolved that the Area Committee -

- (1) strongly recommends to Cabinet that the County Council retain an appropriate local mechanism to enable small voluntary groups to access grants of £500 or less with the minimum of bureaucracy.
- (2) recommends to Cabinet that the funds referred to in para. 2.4 of the attached draft Cabinet paper (£32,000) be dispersed and promoted through the Community Development Fund with effect from April 2007, the resource to be allocated across the Area Committees using the formula of the Community Development Fund.

## **5. Highway Maintenance Plan 2006/07 and Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes**

Peter Samwell presented the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy. The report provided information about highway maintenance work proposed in 2006/07 and listed other sites where maintenance work would be required in the future. Included in the lists was the proposed programme of road maintenance schemes funded from the additional £300,000 capital sum (reported to the Committee's March 2006 meeting)

In reply to a question Peter Samwell confirmed that worked carried out by contractors was managed and assessed.

The Chair thanked Peter Samwell for his report, which he said had been very easy to understand.

Resolved that the Area Committee:

- (1) supports the Highway Maintenance Plan 2006/07 and the Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes and asks that Cabinet be informed of Members' views.
- (2) approves the programme of road maintenance schemes funded from the additional £300,000 capital sum (reported to March's Committee).

## **6. Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy.

In March 2006 public consultation was carried out in connection with a proposed Traffic Regulation Order for extension of resident parking schemes and introduction of on-street Pay and Display parking in Rugby. The proposals were in conjunction with the introduction of decriminalised parking enforcement in the Borough. The report considered the responses to the consultation and recommended that the Traffic Regulation Order be implemented with the omission of a number of streets and also with the inclusion of a half-hour parking tariff in the Pay and Display streets.

Councillor Gordon Collett, Portfolio holder for Economic Development, Rugby Borough Council expressed support for the scheme provided that it was –

- Self-financing
- Reasonably priced (the same as Stratford-on-Avon)

He did not support the suggested free half hour as this was not feasible and would affect the viability of the scheme and had been tried in Stratford and abandoned. He considered that the 20p charge would not divert trade

elsewhere. The Borough Council had given its commitment to the scheme and, provided that the Borough and County Councils continued to work closely together, using the experience of their staff and the support of Members, he hoped that the scheme could be progressed for implementation by October of this year.

During discussion some Members expressed the following concerns –

- That the Stratford scheme had not initially been a success.
- On the benefit of allowing free parking on Bank Holidays.
- Considered that Rugby was not big enough to sustain a scheme and would impact on traders and retailers businesses.
- About the projected financial viability of the scheme.
- That a free parking period would have some support.
- On the need for the scheme to be reviewed periodically.

Councillor Ian Smith welcomed retaining the existing arrangement for Elsee Road but asked for assurances that yellow lines would not be introduced in front of the entrance to garages and gardens and that current parking restriction would be reviewed to allow more space for parking vehicles.

In reply to questions Roger Newham explained that –

- amendments to the current waiting restrictions in Elsee Road were not part of the current proposals but he noted the Member's comments and would investigate whether the waiting restrictions could be reviewed.
- It was not part of the current proposals to allow free parking on Bank Holidays but this could be reviewed in the future.

Councillor Katherine King circulated a motion that proposed revised recommendations together with an additional recommendation requesting that the officers undertake to review the scheme and to report back regularly to the Area Committee.

Councillor John Wells asked that the motion be amended to omit Woodside Park from the Scheme.

Following further discussion the motion, together with the two amendments were agreed and, a majority of Members voting in favour, it was –

Resolved that the Warwickshire County Council (Various Streets, Rugby) (Residents Parking Places, On-Street Parking Places and Waiting Restrictions) Order 2006 be made as advertised.

- (1) With the exception of the following omissions from the resident parking and Pay and Display proposals:
  - (i) Zone R1: Part Wood Street, Lancaster Road and all of Sycamore, Acacia, Maple and Poplar Grove.
  - (ii) Zone R2: Elsee Road, (existing 'residents only' arrangement for Elsee Road to remain in force. Officers also endeavour to remove unnecessary road markings and maximise parking in Elsee Road) as part of a review in accordance with resolution 4 below.
  - (iii) Zone R3: Bridge Street, Windsor Street, Sun Street and Sunbeam Close together with Oxford Street and Cambridge Street south of Cross Street.

As shown hatched red on the plan in Appendix C

and with the omission of the proposed 30 minute 'Limited Waiting', 8am - 8pm restriction in Bath Street (existing restrictions in this section of Bath Street to remain in force).

- (iv) Also, omit Woodside Park from the scheme.
- (2). With the addition of a charge of 20p for the first 30 minutes in the proposed Pay and Display streets.
- (3) and that a further investigation of the parking arrangements in Bath Street be carried out with a view to consideration of maximising the parking capacity and the introduction of on-street charges as part of a review in accordance with resolution 4 below..

Note : The above additions to the Recommendation would increase the evening and overnight capacity available for residential parking and commit to further investigation of the situation as a whole.

- (4) That officers undertake regular reviews of the decriminalised scheme following implementation in October 2006 and bring regular reports back to the Rugby Area Committee.

## **7. Daventry Road, Dunchurch – Proposed Prohibition of Waiting**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

Rugby Borough Council, the planning authority for the Dunchurch area, included in a planning consent a requirement for extensive double yellow lines on Daventry Road, Dunchurch, to aid visibility from a new vehicular access to a development of 36 properties. The County Council was the highway authority

for the road and responsible for making traffic regulation orders introducing on-street waiting restrictions.

Consultations carried out by the County Council showed that there was widespread local opposition to the yellow line suggestion. A revised suggestion for a much shorter length of yellow line was subsequently proposed. This proposal would not compromise safety. Also included was a formal parking place partly on the footway and partly on the carriageway on the side opposite to the yellow line location. This would regularise the long-standing parking habits of existing residents.

Two objections were received when the raised proposals were advertised. The report details the events leading to the advertised proposal and recommends that the on-street waiting restrictions were implemented as advertised.

Resolved that the proposal to introduce double yellow lines and partial footway/carriageway parking on Daventry Road, Dunchurch is implemented as advertised.

**8. Variation to the Off-Street Parking Order in Rugby Borough – Amendment to Minimum Period in Short Stay Car Parks**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, that the changes to the minimum period in short stay car parks in Rugby Borough be noted.

**9. Adult Social Care Performance Report – Help to Live at Home and Associated Indicators**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services.

The report showed performance for Rugby in relation to key performance areas for adult social care. Trend information and comparative performance was included on a variety of Department of Health indicators focussing in particular on older people helped to live at home. Action aimed at improving performance is discussed.

In reply to Members' concerns about the quality of care in Warwickshire Jon Reading said that there had been a vast improvement shown in recent figures for the service and he would be happy to report these to a future meeting.

The Rugby Area Committee -

(1) Thanked Jon Reading for presenting the report on Social Services (Adult) performance in respect of Older People Helped to Live at Home and associated indicators.

(2) Endorse any proposed remedial actions.

- (3) Ask that a further report be brought to a future meeting of the Committee showing the improvements to the service.

## **10. The Report of the Funding Sub-Group**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development. Nick Darwin reported that Councillor Heather Timms, although present at the Sub-Group meeting, had not participated in the Group's decision over the Earl Craven – Rural Path finder project because of a conflict of interest.

This report outlined a funding proposal to support the rural communities in the Earl Craven electoral division in accessing and planning services. The project promotes a new model for service delivery and offers targeted support to these rural communities in the development of Parish Plans.

The report also included the recommendations of the Rural Partnership Project commissioned by Area Committee through the Well Being Fund.

Resolved that the Committee -

- (4) approves the use of the Well-being Fund in accordance with the recommendations of the Funding Subgroup.
- (5) endorses the recommendations of the Rural Partnership Project, which are attached as an Appendix to this report

## **11. Developing an Integrated Approach to Neighbourhoods in Rugby**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development outlining the proposed establishment of seven 'neighbourhoods' as set out in the appendix to the report.

Nick Darwen proposed an alternative recommendation, which was to ask the Committee to endorse the approach outlined in the report and request to be kept informed of progress.

Resolved that the Area Committee -

- (1) agrees to the proposed establishment of seven neighbourhoods.
- (2) requests that the working group continues to develop this approach and gives further consideration to the structures and resources required to successfully deliver the neighbourhood agenda in Rugby.

## **12. Update on Electoral Divisional Panels**

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, that the Committee notes the update on the issues discussed recently at Rugby Electoral Divisional Panels.

**13. Any Other Items**

None

**14. Future Business Items**

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

The future of GEC Alstom and Peugeot.  
Rugby Area Business Plan 2005/06 – End of Year Report

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Chair of Committee

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm