

Minutes of the meeting of the **RUGBY AREA COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL, RUGBY** on the **23 November 2006**.

Present: -

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

Officers:-

Nick Darwen, Area Manager, Performance and Development Directorate.
Kushal Birla, Head of Customer Services and Access.
Roy Burton, Waste Management, Environment and Economy Directorate.
Dave Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources.
Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor, Performance and Development Directorate.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate.
Jo Ingle, Project Manager, Waste Management, Environment and Economy Directorate.
Claire Lloyd, Area Administration Officer, Performance and Development Directorate.
Ian McLean, Area Community Education Officer, Adult, Health and Community Services.
Roger Newham, Chief Transport Planner, Environment and Economy Directorate.
Nigel Whyte, Transport Planning Group, Environment and Economy Directorate.
Phillipa Young, Road Safety Unit, Environment and Economy Directorate.

Also Attended:-

12 Members of the public (approx) and 1 member of the Press attended.

1. General

(1) Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Philip Morris-Jones.

(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared personal interests as follows –

- (1) Councillors Tom Cavanagh, Gordon Collett, Richard Dodd, Jerry Roodhouse and Heather Timms - by virtue of them serving as Rugby Borough Councillors.
- (2) Councillor Katherine King declared a personal interest in matters arising from the minute 4 of the meeting held on 21 September 2006 as a Governor at Bishop Wulstan Catholic School.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21 September 2006 and Matters Arising

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Rugby Area Committee held on the 21 September 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Minute 4 Bishop Wulston Catholic School.

The Chair reported that Cabinet, earlier that day, had agreed to support the submission of a proposal to the DfES to establish a federation of Catholic Schools in Rugby.

Order of agenda items

The Chair proposed that the order of the agenda should be changed to accommodate the members of public who had attended for agenda item 9 Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement, and that this item be taken directly after the public questions. Members supported this proposal.

The minutes of this meeting are set out in accordance with the order of the agenda.

2. Public Question Time

Question 1 – Clifford Dark, Stonechat Road, Rugby

As a resident of Stonechat Road, we are experiencing an unacceptable amount of large lorries using our road as direct access to the David Wilson Homes site at the Oaklands' Coton Meadows.

I have previously spoken, many times, to David Wilson Homes personnel with a view to resolving this issue but nothing conclusive has transpired yet. The numbers of lorries have been reduced but even the current levels are unacceptable.

Pavements are beginning to show signs of sinking and other wear and tear as a result of the 44ton vehicles running over them.

I would be grateful if my concerns could be discussed as appropriate

Response from Roger Newham, Environment and Economy Directorate

Stonechat Road has not yet been put forward for adoption by the developer of the housing site and it is not expected to be adopted for at least 18 months. The County Council therefore has no power to implement any restrictions on the road. Some parts of the development that are still under construction can only be accessed via Stonechat Road so it is inevitable that construction traffic will need to continue to use the road.

If there is any damage to footways, this would have to be made good by the developer before the roads are adopted. Rugby Borough Council is responsible for overseeing the development and the adoption of the roads. If you consider the footways are in an unsafe condition please contact Dave Hanger at Rugby Borough Council on 533784 who will take the matter up with the developer.

Question 2a and 2b – Anthony Gillias – Coventry Road, Pailton and Richard Gunstone, Brinklow Parish Council

(a) Anthony Gillias

When are we going to see, in the rural areas, a proper maintenance strategy put in place to deal with overhanging hedges and trees covering signs and reducing the width of road, the continual issue of blocked or part blocked gullies and drainage systems and grips and the appalling quality of weed clearance and road sweeping on interconnecting roads? Whatever the strategy is it must be effective and long term to avoid serious flooding issues and the inevitable fatalities.

(b) Richard Gunstone

The Brinklow Parish Council shares the concern of Councillor Gillias about the flooding on our roads after heavy rain due to inadequate drainage. This in turn seems to be due to insufficient drain clearance. This is particularly marked in Brinklow at the junction of Broad Street and the Crescent. Some of the blockage might be due to litter, removal of which is the Borough Council's responsibility while the County is responsible for the drainage problems. Can the Area Committee promise improvement in these services?

Response from Paul Cowley, Environment and Economy Directorate

Road Gullies/Drainage

Road gullies are emptied on a schedule across the County once per annum. Of 95,000 gullies in the County it has been ascertained that there are

approximately 7,000 gullies blocked that the gully emptier cannot clear, with a number of these in the Rugby Borough Area. Across the county a programme has commenced to clear these gullies with specialist jetting equipment and there are resources available for 1400 gullies to be unblocked this year. 270 of these gullies will be in the Rugby Area and will commence locally on 30th November with those blocked gullies on main traffic routes and in the proximity of Rugby Town Centre. It is hoped that resources are available to continue with this programme in future years.

There has also commenced across the County a grip-cutting programme which will improve drainage on unkerbed roads. This is a process where grips are cut on highway verges by specialist machinery from the road edges to adjacent ditches. At present this is taking place in the Stratford Area and will commence in the Rugby Area 15th January 2007 for 4 weeks. There is a programme of work drawn up but if Councillor Gillias has any particular roads that concern him then they could be added to the programme if not already included.

At this time of year, fallen leaves cover over gully grids but the gully pot itself may well be clear. Sweeping of the kerb channels, which would clear the leaves, is a Borough Council function.

Weed Clearance/Road Sweeping

Road sweeping on kerbed roads is the responsibility of Rugby Borough Council. Weed spraying on the public highway is now carried out by the County Council and this year there has only been one weedspray treatment in Rugby Town and the villages. This has not included interconnecting roads and there is a problem with weeds and excess detritus. The County Council will supplement the road sweeping on some of the worse affected roads which include (A423 Ryton to Princethorpe, C213 Newton to Clifton, B4065 Ansty to Wolvey, B4109 Wolvey to Axe & Compass, C207 Wolston to Ryton) to improve present conditions.

The present weed spraying regime is not sufficient to halt weed growth and there will need to be a debate to see if more resources can be made available prior to the next weed growing season.

Trees/Hedges covering signs and reducing road widths.

Most hedges and trees adjacent the highways are private landowners responsibility and the County Council. As Highway Authority the County Council have powers to ensure private landowners cut back overhanging trees/hedges where the highway is affected. On wide verges where trees, which are growing there, have been ascertained to be in County Council's ownership and affecting road widths and signs, then extensive cutting back work has taken place (i.e. C206 Coalpit Lane and B4455 Fosse Way Monks Kirby). If there are particular locations that concern Councillor Gillias then these can be assessed and appropriate action taken.

Question 3 – Richard Gunstone – Brinklow Parish Council

Extension of 30 mph speed limit from Rugby Road, Brinklow to Bretford Road (B 4455, Fosse Way)

How is it that, County Councillors having agreed in 2005 to such an extension, the work has not been carried out, even though, I was told, it was planned for the financial year ended April 2006? Our Parish Clerk has been told that this matter will be the subject of a report to the Area Committee in January 2007.

Response from Roger Newham, Environment and Economy Directorate

The Parish Council has been kept fully informed about progress with this scheme and is aware of the reasons for the time taken to progress it.

The delay has been mostly caused by the difficulty of identifying a scheme that was satisfactory to both the police and the Parish Council. An element of the delay is due to a severe lack of staff resources for this type of work.

In consultation with the local County Councillor it has now been decided to proceed with a scheme that the police will object to and a speed limit order for this scheme was advertised on 2nd November. The objection period will close on 24th November. The scheme will be reported to January Area Committee when Area Committee will need to decide whether to confirm the order taking into account the police objection.

Questions on parking Matters -

Question 4 – David Monk – Clifton Road, Rugby

1) Can Area Committee consider the introduction of Residents Footway Parking for Clifton Road residents - the footpaths along Clifton Road are much wider than average and footway parking will not obstruct pedestrians, pushchairs or utilities. Certain portions of Clifton Road west of St Peter's Road already have footway parking on a concrete cobbled surface, why can't this be extended to the busiest section?

2) What new safety evidence is there to support the case for lengthening of Double Yellow Lines into Paradise Street at its junction with Clifton Road that was not the case before the scheme was implemented? - Clifton Road residents feel quite aggrieved by the parking bays introduced there, as they are adjacent to the sides of Clifton Road properties! We have noticed no change in traffic flow patterns around the junction and, rather than easing traffic flow from Clifton Road into Paradise Street, the scheme has made Clifton Road and its traffic more congested than before.

Response from Roger Newham, Environment and Economy Directorate.

1. It is intended that a policy position on footway parking will be established through the Cabinet of Warwickshire County Council. Requests for footway parking including this one will be considered once this policy is in place.

2. The length of double yellow lines in Paradise Street is the appropriate length for a junction with a relatively busy road such as Clifton Road. By keeping sufficient length of road adjacent to the junction free of parked cars movement to and from the main road is kept unrestricted thus reducing the risk that conflicting movements will occur in the vicinity of the junction. As a result of public concern, the length of double yellow lines at this and many other junctions in the area is being reviewed to see if some reduction in length is possible.

Councillor Katherine King re-assured Mr. Monk that the issues raised would be noted by officers and taken into account during the discussion of agenda item 9 “Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement”, to ensure that residents would benefit from the scheme.

Question 5 – Craig Colclasure (Rugby Town Centre Residents Association)

Re: Elsee Road - Residents Parking

Further to the RTCRA question put forward to the Area Committee in September, we are anxious to hear the results of the investigations into the possible solutions to the proposed change in parking regulation on Elsee Road.

With or without allowing footpath parking on one side of Elsee Road (which is our preferred option) we feel there is still sufficient kerb to kerb dimension along Elsee Road to allow parking on both sides and maintain emergency vehicle clearance. We have measured the width of both our road and that of Kimberley Road and find that they are both 22 feet wide give or take an inch!

Kimberley Road is a one way road with residents parking on both sides of the road (and not on the footpath) along the full length of the street – it runs from Manor Road down to Wood St. The RTCRA believes this reinforces the argument that the proposal to park on both sides of the road at the Moultrie Road end of the street could be applied along the full length of Elsee Road – and equally if Highways do agree to the partial on footpath approach it does not need to encroach too far on to the footpath to maintain the status quo.

As a pro-active Residents Association we have also taken steps to ensure that residents are sympathetic to disabled users of the footpaths along Elsee and Moultrie Roads, and have stressed the importance of keeping the footpath clear of obstructions at all times.

Response from Roger Bennett, Environment and Economy Directorate

We have reviewed the situation in Elsee Road and are continuing to look for the most appropriate solution to the issues identified. However, we have concluded that the creation of additional spaces along the entire length of the north side is not a practical proposition.

However, arrangements are in hand for proposals to be advertised for some additional 'residents-only' parking spaces where we consider that these can be accommodated. There will be a full consultation on this, and any objections received will be reported to Rugby Area Committee in due course. We will investigate Mr Colclasure's comments further and include the results in the report.

In reply to a request for residents to meet with officers on site to discuss the concerns further Roger Newham advised that a report on footway parking would be presented to the January 2007 meeting of the County Council's Cabinet. Once a Policy was established steps could then be taken to find an appropriate solution to the issues raised.

Question 6 Mr. P Kelleher – Church St., Rugby

The recent introduction of decriminalisation of parking has highlighted some problems especially with owners of flats above shops within the town centre. Is it possible to look in to the feasibility of allowing a group permit scheme with designated parking areas for an annual charge?

Response from Roger Bennett, Environment and Economy Directorate:

We will consider this suggestion of allowing a 'group permit scheme' as part of the overall review of the scheme

Question 7 – Neil Fisher, Murray Road, Rugby (on behalf of Murray Road Residents' Association).

The initial consultation process and changes made.

Through dialogue with Murray Road residents we are able to state that the consultation process prior to the imposition of double yellow lines was totally inadequate with some 89% of respondents being unaware of the changes before their implementation:

1. Why has RBC decided to impose double yellow lines along the majority of the west side of Murray Road without satisfactory consultation with the residents?
2. Can the Murray Road Residents be included in the consultation process through the Residents Association for all projects that are likely to affect us as Residents, including the current one and future ones such as the Cattle market and North Street projects?

Councillor Katherine King expressed support for the residents' concerns and advised that the issues raised would be taken into account during discussion of agenda item 9 "Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement".

Zone breaks - looking at how the zones have been set currently.

There is indisputably insufficient kerb-side parking to meet the needs of Murray Road Residents; before the decriminalisation many residents used Wells Street, Tom Brown Street and in some cases Bath Street as an overspill, these have now been re-zoned effectively precluding their use:

1. Can Wells Street (west) Tom Brown Street (west) and Bath Street be re-zoned to accommodate both R2 and R3 permit holders?

Chicane issues / traffic calming measures.

It is the belief of Murray Road Residents that the current traffic calming system is ineffective, this is currently under investigation by the Police:

1. Is there documented evidence to substantiate that the current traffic calming measures slow traffic down?
2. Can the existing chicanes and islands be replaced by an effective system, which would have the added benefit of extending existing kerb side parking?

Long term plans.

1. Can consideration be given to a more permanent resolution to the problems within Murray Road including a one-way system and electronic traffic calming measures involving the Residents Association to the effect that changes maximise kerb-side parking and minimise traffic speed and volume, preferably with Murray Road being viewed as a residential street and not as Rugby's main north south traffic route?

Response from Roger Bennett, Environment and Economy Directorate:

We will investigate Mr. Fisher's requests fully and report the results to the Area Committee in due course.

We are sorry if some residents were unaware of the consultations. The proposals were advertised in the local press together with a 4 page wrap in the Rugby Observer and there were exhibitions in the town centre. There was a considerable response from members of the public and the business community and, as a result, some significant amendments to the scheme were agreed. Unfortunately we were not at the time aware of the existence of the Residents' Association.

The changes that were introduced in Murray Road were the conversion of the previous daytime waiting restriction to 'no waiting at any time' and a revision of the zone boundary. Murray Road is an important and busy traffic route in the town and it was felt that the daytime restriction was inappropriate. The zone boundaries were changed because it was felt that this would offer the best opportunities for meeting the demand.

3. 2007/2008 Budget Prospects

Dave Clarke presented the 2007/08 budget prospects (presentation material attached) and highlighted the following points:

- The total County Council's budget for 2006/07 was £672m.
- Of that sum Children, Young People and Families Directorate accounted for £398m (59%) and Adult, Health and Community Directorate £152m (23%).
- Income was received from a range of sources – Business Rates £62m, Specific grants £348, revenue support grants £12m, Charges and Services £57m and Council Tax £193m (this sum represented less than a third of the Council's income).
- Issues facing the Council – Internal: Modernisation, Customer focus, joining with stakeholders (Local Area Agreements), departmental restructure (reducing the number of departments from nine to six), and there being no overall political control.
- Issues facing the Council – External: The Government White Paper, The Lyons Report, which was looking at local authority funding, and capping (5%).
- 2007/08 + Budget Drivers: Inflation, demographics, loss of grant funding, service improvement and legislative requirements.
- Government Funding – The Dedicated Schools Grant was likely to rise by 5.6% and the Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates were likely to rise by 1.9%, which was an overall increase of 4.7%.
- The medium term financial planning strategy.

The Chair thanked Dave Clarke for his presentation.

4. Customer Access Strategy – Local Developments

Kushal Birla briefed the Committee on the County Council's Access Strategy. She circulated details of a multi-site pilot of interactive kiosks that were proposed to be introduced in Rugby and invited comments on their locations.

During discussion Kushal Birla:

- (1) undertook to investigate further the proposed location for a kiosk outside Shipley's Amusements, North Street bearing in mind concern expressed about the narrowness of the footpath at that location.
- (2) undertook to provide Members with the details of the costs of providing and running the kiosks.

(3) explained that she had been advised by the supplier of the kiosks that permission for locating kiosks outside supermarket entrances was a lengthy and time-consuming process.

(4) explained that the pilot sites were concentrated in the town centre and Brownsover areas to test their effectiveness. Rural sites would be considered in the future if the pilots were successful.

The Chair thanks Kushal Birla for her presentation.

5. Youth and Community Service – Rugby Area Annual Report – November 2006

Ian McLean presented the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families, which updated the Committee on the work of the Rugby Area Youth and Community Service that included the Area Community Education Council (ACEC), the Youth Service and the Community Development Project at Brownsover.

In reply to questions Ian McLean highlighted his concerns that the Youth and Community Service would not be able to deal with all the “hotspots” in the county other than by multi-agency work and by an overspend on the budget.

Resolved that the Rugby Area Committee:

- (1) endorse the progress report of the Youth & Community Service in the Rugby Borough
- (2) commend the Youth and Community Service on its work.

6. Black Path Footbridge – Provision of Improved Facilities for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, that the Area Committee –

- (1) Notes the positive results of the consultation undertaken on an improvement to the southern access to the Black Path footbridge.
- (2) Gives endorsement to further work to be undertaken in order to develop an improvement scheme for the footbridge, with a view to it being included in the proposed outline Transport Capital Programme for 2007/08.

7. The Refurbishment of Hunters Lane House Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station.

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, which detailed the proposed redevelopment of the Hunters Lane

Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station, including the proposed layout.

During discussion Members commented on the need for:

- (1) alternative facilities to be provided during the refurbishment period.
- (2) close working with Rugby Borough Council to locate the waste transfer facility elsewhere.

Resolved that Members support the proposals for the refurbishment of the Hunters Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station in Rugby.

8. Urban Quality Bus Corridor: Lower Hillmorton – Rugby Town Centre

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, that the Rugby Area Committee supports the undertaking of a public consultation on the proposed minor remedial works to the traffic calming measures on Lower Hillmorton Road and alterations to the High Street at the junction with Deerings Road, the results of which will be brought before the next Area Committee meeting for further consideration.

9. Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy. The report updated Members on the present situation and the actions proposed following the introduction of decriminalisation of parking enforcement in Rugby and provided further background to the rationale adopted in developing the parking restrictions across the Borough.

The report also outlined a number of issues that had been raised, some of which could not wait until the formal review of the scheme in 12 months time.

Members' noted the comments and concerns raised during the public question session of the meeting following which -

Councillor Katherine King, seconded by Councillor Ian Smith, proposed the following motion –

“That the Rugby Area Committee note -

- (1) A high level of concern has been raised by residents, following the introduction of line markings in preparation for the Decriminalised Parking Scheme, which was introduced on 2nd October 2006. In particular Murray Road, King Edward Road, Bath Street, Manor Road, Grosvenor Road, Elsee Road, Lower Hillmorton Road, Paradise Street, Clifton Road and Claremont Road. Whilst many residents support an enforced parking scheme in principle, it has now become clear that there are concerns that the new road markings have significantly reduced residents parking.

- (2) Residents feel that the consultation on the proposals was inadequate, and lessons must be learned from this.
- (3) That Members of the Rugby Area Committee agreed to the introduction of the Decriminalised Parking Scheme, at their meeting of 10th May 2006, on the condition that it be of a benefit to residents and that they would not suffer detrimentally.

The Rugby Area Committee therefore resolves:

(1) That, in the short term, Warwickshire County Council support the decision of Rugby Borough Council to apply a pragmatic, and sympathetic approach towards enforcement of those residents vehicles with valid parking permits, pending the introduction of medium and long term solutions to residents concerns.

(2) That in the medium term (following a review of the appropriateness of existing double yellow lines) the County Council aims to remove and/or reduce double yellow lines in residents' parking zones where this is consistent with maintaining safety.

That Cabinet be advised that the County Council's parking policy should include provision for on-kerb parking facilities where this is necessary to enable residents to park near their homes, and where this does not infringe the existing pavements any more than the infringements already caused by trees, signposts and litter bins.

(3) That, in the long term, Warwickshire County Officers working closely with Rugby Borough Council Officers, local Councillors and residents, urgently seek a consensus of opinion to solutions to these parking concerns, and explore all possible options including the following;

(i) Consult with residents on removing the chicanes, which are considered in many roads as ineffective and dangerous by residents, and occupy valuable spaces that could be used for parking bays, and implementing more effective and up to date traffic calming measures throughout the area.

(ii) Consult with residents on the possibility of a one-way system on Murray Road to allow for parking bays on both sides of the highway, this must be in conjunction with up to date traffic calming measures.

(iii) Consult with residents and explore the options of a one way system operating in Manor Road and Wood Street, and the possibility of any appropriate weight restrictions operating in this area. Effective traffic calming measures need to be utilised, along with sensible traffic management to protect the environmental and air quality impact of vehicles.

(iv) Consult with residents on the widening of the upper half of King Edward Road, after the initial narrowed entrance, to allow parking on both sides of the road, as is the case in the lower half of the Road.

(v) Maximise parking throughout the parking scheme by removing excessive road markings, particularly around junctions, and also look at building out junctions to increase parking.

(vi) Increase the waiting time in the vicinity of Rugby Parents Centre from one hour to two hours.

(vii) Investigate all possible options for disabled residents who are adversely affected by the removal of designated parking boxes.

(vii) That officers investigate overlapping zone's 2 & 3 or a merging of the zones to allow parking in the Wells Road and Tom Brown Street areas by residents from both areas.

Following which –

(1) The motion was accordingly agreed.

(2) The Officers were thanked for their work with the community with regard to introducing decriminalisation of parking enforcement in Rugby.

10. Report of the Funding Sub-Group

Nick Darwen presented the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development, which detailed the recommendations of the Funding Sub-Group with regards to the use of Area Committee's delegated funds. Since writing the report, the application from Stretton under Fosse Parish Plan Steering Group had been withdrawn and he proposed that the re-allocation of these funds should be referred to the Funding Sub-Group for consideration.

Resolved that the Area Committee:

(1) approves the recommendations of its Funding Sub-Group as detailed in paragraph 3.2 and 5.1 of the main report.

(2) approves the payment of the following awards (totalling £24,496) through the Community Development Fund 2006-07:

(a) £4,000 for St. Andrews Benn Millennium Green Trust 'Spreading the World in Benn Ward'.

(b) £3,838 for Mayday Trust 'In the Frame'.

(c) £4,844 for Manor Road Area Residents Association 'Manor Road Area Residents Association', with the condition that a clear project schedule is agreed with the Area Office prior to the start of the project.

(d) £1,8814 for Rugby West Indian Day Care 'The Benn Mosaic'.

- (e) £5,000 for Warwickshire Association for the Blind 'Expansion and Improvement to Rugby Eye Site'.
 - (g) £5,000 for Pailton Parish Council 'Reinstatement of Pailton Parish Council 'Reinstatement of Pailton Playing Field'.
- (3) delegate authority to the Area Manager, in consultation with the Funding Sub-Group to re-allocate the remaining £4,643 in this year's Community Development Fund.
- (4) awards £16,600 through the Well-Being fund 2006-07 to the Benn Partnership Centre, to cover two months' running costs. That this should include £8,300 to be released immediately, with a further £8,300 to be released following a report from the County Council's Business Consultancy Unit on the Centre's viability, and the Strategic Director of Performance and Development's satisfaction with this report.

11. Rugby Area Performance 2006-07 (Half Year Report)

Resolved, having considered the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development, that the Area Committee notes the County Council's performance in the Rugby Area for the first six months of 2006-07 (half-year report).

12. Update on Electoral Divisional Panels

Resolved to note the report of the Strategic Director for Performance and Development, which provided an update on the issues discussed recently at Rugby Electoral Divisional Panels.

13. Road Safety – A45 Dunchurch to County Boundary (Northamptonshire)

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, which outlined an investigation carried out into the number of road traffic collisions occurring along the A45 between Dunchurch and the county boundary.

At the County Council meeting on 31st October 2006, following a Notice of Motion from Councillor G Collett and Councillor Mrs H. Timms regarding road safety on the A45 between Dunchurch and the county boundary with Northamptonshire, a decision was made to refer this issue to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 November 2006. Following discussion by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee the matter was referred to the Area Committee for further consideration.

Discussion following during which support was expressed for allocating the Committee's 2007-08 delegated budget to improve the A45 between Dunchurch and the county boundary with Northamptonshire on the grounds of road safety.

In reply to questions:

(1) Roger Newham gave an assurance that funding the A45 scheme would not compromise progression of the Ashlawn Road scheme.

(2) Phillipa Young explained that a road safety scheme for the A45 had already been designed. In the event that Members might wish to progress this scheme, subject to the statutory consultation process being undertaken, it could be implemented in 2007/8.

Resolved, unanimously, that the Area Committee allocate its delegated budget for 2007-08 to fund an improvement on the A45 between Dunchurch and the county boundary with Northamptonshire.

14. Any Other Items

There were no items of urgent business.

15. Future Business Items

The Committee noted the Forward Plan items for future meetings.

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Chair of Committee

The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.