

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Rugby Area Committee

Date of Committee 25 January 2007

Report Title Update on Electoral Divisional Panels and Parish Council matters

Summary This report provides an update on the issues discussed recently at Rugby Electoral Divisional Panels and the recent joint meeting between the Area Committees of the County Council and the Association of Local Councils.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Cllr John Vereker, Chair - Rugby Area Committee
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal Peter Endall, Solicitor
- Finance
- Strategic Directors David Carter
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Rugby Area Committee – 25 January 2007

Update on Electoral Divisional Panels and Parish Council matters

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development

Recommendation

That members comment on this report as they consider appropriate.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report updates Rugby Area Committee on issues which have been discussed at recent Electoral Divisional Panel meetings.

1.2 The draft minutes of the recent meeting between the Rugby Area Committees of the County Council and the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils are attached as an appendix to this report.

2.0 Electoral Divisional Panel Meetings

Since the last Area Committee report, Panels have met in Brownsover (Benn, Newbold & Brownsover Community Forums), Fosse, Eastlands & Hillmorton & Dunchurch. Full minutes of all these meetings are available from the Rugby Area Office. Summaries are detailed below:

2.1 Brownsover Electoral Division

Cllrs Wells and King have agreed to run three Community Forums (for Benn, Brownsover and Newbold). The 'Electoral Divisional Panel' meets following each 'cluster' of Community Forums, bringing together the issues and priorities.

2.1.1 Benn Community Forum, 27 November, Rugby Parents' Centre

Attendance: 45 residents

The first draft of the Benn Action Plan was agreed, including the following action points for the Police:

- Support the development of new Neighbourhood Watch schemes and the Residents Association.
- Reactive Police teams to continue to target hot locations and hot offenders
- Implement Graffiti project to cleanse graffiti across the area
- Take positive action with regards to nuisance motorbikes
- Investigate and deal with ongoing anti-social behaviour in Grosvenor Road

2.1.2 Brownsover Community Forum at Boughton Leigh Infant School

Attendance: 15 residents

Discussion included

- Proposed development of the Shopping Precinct Area
- Proposals for new facilities including new Children's Centre and proposals around Health/Community Centre
- Policing Issues – particularly graffiti and mini-motorbikes

2.1.3 Newbold Community Forum, 14 December 2006 at John Lees Hall, Rugby

Attendance: 4 residents

Discussion was mainly focussed on parking issues, particularly residents' concerns around Lancaster Road.

2.1.4 Brownsover Electoral Divisional Panel, 14 December 2006 at John Lees Hall Rugby (immediately after Newbold Community Forum)

Attendance: 9 residents

It was agreed to further develop multi-agency 'Action Plans' for Benn, Brownsover and Newbold.

2.2 Fosse, 28 November 2006 at Pailton Village Hall

Attendance: 16

Issues discussed included:

- HGV Vehicles in villages
- Road Safety and Casualty Reduction
- Youth Issues
- School parking
- Drains

2.3 Eastlands & Hillmorton, 11 December at Abbots Farm Infant School

Attendance: 22 residents

Actions agreed:

- WCC to provide further information on the full rationale behind the recently erected speed camera on Hillmorton Road
- The Police agreed to fully investigate and address anti-social behaviour around Abbots Way in Hillmorton.

2.4 Dunchurch Electoral Divisional Panel, 14 December 2006 at Princethorpe College

Attendance: 24

The panel agreed to encourage more members of the community to attend Parish Council meetings to help feed discussions around 3 or 4 main issues to be put forward to the Police at the EDP around the Safer Neighbourhoods Theme.

2.5 Forthcoming Electoral Divisional Panel meetings:

Date	Time	Division	Venue	Agenda Items
11 th January 2007	7.30pm	Earl Craven	Binley Woods Village hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing • Youth Provision in the Earl Craven Division
March 2007 (Date to be confirmed)	7.30pm	Dunchurch	Draycote Water Visitors Centre (To be confirmed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing • Future of Rural Post Offices • CEMEX – Drivers Routes update • Sustrans Progress Report

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of
Performance and
Development

Shire Hall
Warwick

APPENDIX:

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of The Rugby Area Committee of Warwickshire County Council & The Rugby Area Committee of Warwickshire Association of Local Councils

Thursday 30th November 2006

Council Chamber, Town Hall , Rugby

Present:

Area Committee Members:

Cllr John Vereker (Chair), Cllr Timms, Cllr Philip Morris-Jones,
Cllr Gordon Collett

Parish Councils:

Binley Woods, Clifton-Upon-Dunsmore, Long Lawford, Marton, Ryton, ,Shilton, Stretton
Under Fosse and Wolston,

Officers:

Nick Darwen, WCC, Area Manager
Nick Williams, WCC Asst Head of Service, Education, Partnerships & School
Development Division
Steve Hussey, WCC, Area Community Safety Manager
CI Martin Samuel – Rugby Police
Bob Bailey – Manor Road Residents Association
Sarah Butter – WCC (minutes)

Apologies:

Cllr Smith (WCC), Cllr Cavanagh (WCC), Cllr Roodhouse (WCC), Cllr King (WCC)

1. GENERAL

a) Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Vereker welcomed everyone to the meeting

b) Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Were agreed as a true and correct record.

Matters arising.

Cllr Morris-Jones referred to Item 2 c) HGV routes. He suggested signage should be compulsory and asked that his comments be passed on to the relevant WCC officer.

Action: S Butter to pass on to Environment & Economy Dept

Pat Wyatt referred to Item 2 a) regarding the removal of a street light and asked how much it cost to remove a street light.

Action: S Butter to speak to P Samwell, Environment & Economy Dept

Doug Hodkinson queried the progress made regarding Item 2 a) drains.

Action: L Palmer to speak/write to P Samwell, Environment & Economy Dept

2. EDUCATION SERVICES – Nick Williams

Admissions

NW explained that the admissions closing date for primary and secondary schools has now passed. The 11+ papers have been marked, the results of which will determine which children will be offered a place at the Grammar Schools.

The offer letters to the Primary schools will go out in February 2007 and to the Secondary schools in March 2007.

Rural Transport of Pupils

NW explained that Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is legally bound to provide transport for pupils from home to the nearest school. There is a network of arrangements which is co-ordinated by the Environment & Economy Directorate. New legislation will be coming into force regarding admissions and rural transport which will strengthen the position for low income families, ensuring that free transport is provided within a 6 mile radius. Consultation on this is expected at any time.

The following question and answer session took place:

- Pat Wyatt – asked how many pupils came from outside Warwickshire to the grammar schools in Rugby.

NW – a significant number (20-25%) come from outside Warwickshire but WCC do not pay for this transport. Anyone can apply for a place at Rugby's Grammar Schools, irrespective of where they live, and it is not within WCC's power to place any restrictions on this.

- Doug Hodkinson – explained that it is difficult for siblings to get a place at Binley Woods Primary School as places are being taken up by children living outside the village. He asked why this is so.

NW explained that in the current round of admissions everyone has been able to get a place at their local primary school. There would only be an issue if people move into the area and have a child who has been attending primary school elsewhere.

This is because if a school is over-subscribed then WCC cannot hold back places, and has to offer all the available places. This means there may not be places available to people who apply at a later date.

- Lynda Palmer – asked if the sibling rule was likely to change in the future.

NW – there are no proposals to change the rule. The new admissions code of practice is out to consultation at the moment but this will not impact on the primary schools.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW)– Steve Hussey, Martin Samuel & Bob Bailey

Steve Hussey introduced himself as the Area Community Safety Manager for WCC and explained that part of his role is to co-ordinate the resources to support the NHW in Rugby.

CI Martin Samuel informed the committee that it is the job of the police to detect and reduce crime and that an effective NHW is essential in contributing to this. Its members and co-ordinators watch out for suspicious incidents and report back.

Bob Bailey introduced himself as co-ordinator for the Manor Road NHW group which evolved out of the Manor Road Residents Association – a group of local residents getting together to try and combat the crime they had experienced in their road and surrounding area. Bob explained that the group, in partnership with the Police, WCC and Rugby Borough Council (RBC), has been extremely effective in eradicating the groups of youths who, 6 months' ago, were terrorising local residents.

He thanked CI Samuel for all the hard work he and his team have put in to help make the Manor Road NHW very successful. Bob finished by saying the he hopes that other NHW groups can be as successful.

The following Question & Answer session took place.

- Pat Wyatt – asked if the Police have recorded a shift of the nuisance behaviour from Manor Road to elsewhere.

CI MS – Some youths have moved on and some arrests have been made. The problems are not being replicated in other Town Centre areas. There are similar problems in Bilton but the Police have no evidence to link them with Manor Road.

- Cllr Morris-Jones – asked if there are regular meetings between the Police and the NHW co-ordinators.

BB – explained that they did and that he knew all the Officers and PCSOs by name
CI MS – reiterated this by saying that, with the launch of the Safer Neighbourhoods there are now dedicated teams for each area, which will ensure that Police staff are visible in all the wards in the help towards crime prevention.

- Vaughan Owen – explained that there had been no police attendance in Wolston regarding a gang of 15 youths who were threatening residents. As a result one family has moved out of the village.

CI MS – is aware of the situation and it is a terrible shame this has happened. The Rural Teams Sergeant is working very hard on these problems but unfortunately, nothing as worked. A Dispersal Order has been issued and eventually the youths could be arrested if they do not move on.

- Vaughan Owen – asked how the PCSOs get to the rural areas.

CI MS – this is a key issue and the police are working to ensure they can utilise vehicles and bikes to get to their beat areas. Working together with RBC, the PCSOs can use the Community Warden vans. There is also a mobile police unit which helps to get the PCSOs out into the rural areas to meet members of the community. A timetable for this is available on the website.

- Doug Hodgkinson – raised concern that there was no central NHW co-ordination in place and asked where the funding for this would come from.

SH – explained that WCC role was one of public reassurance building on stronger communities. Possibility of funding towards PCSO to co-ordinate NHW but need to ensure a proper process is followed to get information to the Police and that WCC money is wisely spent.

Doug responded to say that WCC input into this would be very welcome.

Cllr Timms added that the PCSOs were actively recruiting NHW members in the rural areas.

- Parish Councillor Bell raised concern that the membership of the Ryton NHW members has diminished from 45 to 2 due to lack of support from the Police. He explained that a Police officer is never visible in the village.

CI MS – explained that Safer Neighbourhoods Policing will increase the visibility of Police officers and PCSOs.

Action: CI MS to check out the situation

BB added that the Rugby Area NHW had recently re-elected an Executive Committee to move forward in the New Year to work in line with Safer Neighbourhoods.

4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURE - New Ways of Working – Nick Darwen

ND referred to the handouts that had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting (copy attached).

He gave an overview of the recent restructure that took place within WCC in April 2006. He explained that big changes had been made – some locally driven, some imposed by Central Government. There has been a move within Public Services to join up the “back room” administrative tasks to free up resources for frontline services.

The County Council is aiming to ‘plan and deliver’ far more locally and not just within Shire Hall.

There has also been restructuring with the PCT, Police, Rugby Borough Council and Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

ND then referred to the presentation hand outs and explained each bullet point in a little more detail.

The following question was asked.

- Cllr Morris-Jones – Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) both have very similar objectives. He asked why this was.

ND – explained that the Rugby LSP's Sustainable Community Strategy is essentially the 'local version' of the LAA which provides targets for Warwickshire as a whole. This is deliberate as it makes sense for our priorities in Rugby to dovetail with our priorities for the County as a whole, and helps to ensure that the Rugby area benefits from County-wide strategies.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Doug Hodgkinson asked if the minutes could be circulated within 2 months of the meeting so as to keep on top of any action points before the next meeting in November 2007.

ACTION: S Butter to circulate within this timescale

Pat Wyatt asked why the Rugby Area Office number was prefixed by 01926 and not 01788. ND explained that this was only a temporary number and that the Rugby Area Office would advise as soon as a 01788 number had been installed .

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS

Lynda Palmer to liaise with Sarah Butter but would probably be end November 2007. Agenda items to be forwarded nearer the time.

Lynda Palmer and Cllr Vereker thanked all the officers for coming to the meeting and also those WCC staff who had planned and organised it.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20.40