

Minutes of the meeting of the **RUGBY AREA COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL, RUGBY** on the **22 March 2007**

Present: -

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

Officers:

Phil Astle, Education Officer-School Organisation
Phyllis Collins, Extended Services Development Officer
Hannah Cramp, Community Partnership Officer
Grace Elford, Community Partnership Officer
Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor
Mark Gore, Head of Service - Education Partnerships & School Development Division
Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager
Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator
Roger Newham, Head of Transport Planner
Jane Pollard, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Peter Samwell - Policy Manager, E&E
Peter Thompson - Senior Area Schools & Communities Officer
Julie Toal - Area Manager-Development Service

Also Attended:-

5 Members of the public (approx).

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jeremy Wright MP and Councillors Richard Dodd and Brian Levy.

(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 Tom Cavanagh declared a personal interest as a Governor at Bilton School and Cawston Grange Primary School.
- (3) Councillor Katherine King declared a personal interest as a Governor of Bishop Wulstan Catholic School and The Avon Valley School and as a Director of the Ruby Business Improvement District for a better Rugby.
- (4) Councillor John Vereker declared a personal interest as a Governor of Bilton Junior School and as a Director of the Ruby Business Improvement District for a better Rugby.
- (5) Councillor John Wells declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a Governor of Brownsover Community School.

(3) Minutes of the Meetings held on the 25 January 2007 and 7 March 2007 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 January 2007

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Rugby Area Committee held on the 25 January 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters Arising

Page 3 – 3. Temporary Arrangements for Public Recycling Facilities in Rugby – Winter 2007/08

In response to a query from Councillor Gordon Collett, Roger Newham reported that Jo Ingle had e-mailed Members giving feedback on the issues raised. It was agreed that a formal report would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

Page 3 – 4. The Future of the A4071 Bilton Bypass and A426 Newbold Road Dualling Schemes

Members reported that one date for completion of the Western Relief Road had been reported to the County Council at their meeting on 20 March and a different date had been published in a local newspaper during that week. There was general concern by Members across the Chamber at the constant change of date for completion with no clear reasons given and it was agreed that this was an important issue for

Rugby and a further report would be brought to the next Area Committee meeting.

Page 5 – 6. Consultation on Local Area Scrutiny

Jane Pollard reported that in respect to the suggestions made for local scrutiny, that it had been agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group that as there was work being undertaken at a County level on both topics (The provision of services for and issues relating to (non-British) EU Nationals in Rugby and The provision of services for and issues related to travelling families), that these would not be appropriate for a local area scrutiny at this time. Further options were:

- (a) To review the impact of existing major sources of travel movements within the borough, and the plans being made to address the impact of known future developments on the Borough's transport infrastructure (suggestion for a joint review put forward by Rugby Borough Council),

and/or

- (b) Participation in the Rugby Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel to look at the performance of the Rugby Crime and Disorder Partnership and specific related topics within that.

The Area Committee agreed to undertake a scrutiny exercise on both topics with the following membership:

- (a) Councillors Gordon Collett, Katherine King and Jerry Roodhouse
- (b) Councillors John Wells and Jerry Roodhouse and a further nomination to be confirmed to Jane Pollard.

(ii) Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 March 2007

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Rugby Area Committee held on the 7 March 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

3. Proposed Variations to Waiting Restrictions – Various Streets, Rugby

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy outlining proposals for various changes to the Parking Consolidation Order for Rugby Borough as advertised on 14 December 2006.

During the discussion the following points were made:

1. Members supported the recommendations and the work undertaken to date, noting the need to take careful note of the objections received and to ensure a balanced scheme across the board.
2. There was some discussion around the results of the consultation undertaken by Robin Richter looking at issues such as meter charging and increased parking times and it was agreed that a report would be brought to the next Area Committee meeting setting out what is proposed and giving the evidence that shows support for the proposal.
3. It was noted that the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement across the county had resulted in a loss of informal parking places for disabled drivers. A review of being carried out to look at how best to deal with this.

Resolved:

- (1) That the proposed variation to the Warwickshire County Council (Borough of Rugby) (Permitted Parking Area and Specialised Parking Area) (Waiting Restrictions, On-Street Parking Places and Residents Parking) (Consolidation) Order 2006, be implemented as advertised.
- (2) That the proposals shown on the plans in Appendix E to the report be advertised.

4. Highway Maintenance Plan 2007/08 and Five year list of Structural Maintenance Schemes

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy providing information about highway maintenance work proposed in 2007/08 and listing other sites where maintenance work would be required in the future.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

1. Members requested a report on street lighting and how best to approach a planned, rolling programme. It was felt that the Police would support lighting improvements.
2. In response to questions, Members were informed that Green energy (used for street lighting) did not attract a Climate Change Levy and that the Council paid just under a total of 2% more for the Green energy.
3. Drainage had been recognised as a problem and the service were looking at more effective ways of using resources to clean pipes as well as gullies. It was added that it was expected to take 18-24 months to deal with the

- backlog.
4. Members noted their concern at the damage done by large vehicles on B roads and while it was acknowledged that B roads were expected to carry a certain level of heavy traffic, it was suggested that there was a need for signage at access points.
 5. There was a feeling that widening rural roads led to increasing vehicular speeds and that an alternative was edge lining to demarcate the edges more clearly.
 6. There was concern that the County Council, Borough Council and Highways Agency all cut down trees with no firm policy in place to replace trees.

Resolved:

That Area Committee is invited to make comments on the Highway Maintenance Plan 2007/2008 and the Five Year List of Maintenance Schemes, so that Cabinet can be informed of Members views.

5. Capital Programme for Transport 2007-08

The report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy setting out the draft 2007-08 Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for the Rugby area.

Resolved:

That Members:-

1. Support the Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for Rugby Area given in Table 1.
2. Agree that schemes listed in Table 3 be removed from the list of delegated budget requests.
3. Agree that schemes which remain on the list of delegated budget requests for three years are removed from future lists.

6. Speed Management Strategy

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy following the request by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee that all Area Committees consider the draft report and Speed Management Strategy.

The Committee made the following comments:

1. That 60 miles per hour on rural and often unsuitable roads was too high.
2. Even with signs and painted warnings there was an acute speeding problem in most villages and there was a need for more electronic aids

such as flashing activators and cameras, education or physical changes to roads.

3. An important area to be considered was safer routes to school and it was suggested there should be a 20 miles per hour speed limits outside all schools.
4. The Committee were fully supportive of the important work being undertaken and were conscious of the resource limits, but felt that the resources that were available needed to be spent on routes with the highest priority.

Resolved:-

That the comments made by the Rugby Area Committee on the draft Speed Management Strategy be submitted to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. Changes to primary school priority areas in North Rugby

The report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families was considered seeking approval to change the priority areas of four primary schools in north Rugby.

Resolved:

That the Area Committee considers the feedback to the consultation and agrees to change the priority areas of Brownsover Community Infant School, Boughton Leigh Infant School, Boughton Leigh Junior School and Clifton-on-Dunsmore C of E Primary School as proposed.

8. Extended Services update report

The report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families was considered summarising developments in the extended services strategy for Warwickshire and a specific update upon activity in the Rugby Area.

Phyllis Collins made the following points:

- i. Extended Services was a large agenda bringing services and capabilities together to offer the five elements of the core offer of services within easy access for parents and communities.
- ii. There were a number of schools that were already core compliant and schools were being encouraged to work in clusters and to appoint cluster co-ordinators to move the agenda forward.
- iii. Training was being offered to schools and potential partners in the form of three-day blocks covering how to meet the terms of the offer, signposting and joining services up.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

1. Members requested a future report giving more local detail on Extended Services and giving comparisons of progress in the East to the rest of the County.
2. All services that were signposted to would be inspected by Ofsted, have valid CRB checks and be registered with the Service. It was noted that while Headteachers would not be responsible for services delivered by partners, they would want to be sure services signposted by them offered a quality service.
3. The scheme was still in early stages, but to date there had been no local issues in terms of staffing and unions.
4. To date there were 17 schools in the Rugby area that were core compliant.
5. Children's Centres and Neighbourhood Plans ran hand-in-hand with Extended Services.

Resolved:

That the Area Committee notes the progress to date of the Extended Services strategy in the Rugby area.

9. Implications of the Childcare Act 2006 and development of Children's Centres

The report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families was considered outlining the duties imposed on Local Authorities by the Childcare Act 2006 and giving information on the developments within Rugby to meet them. Members gave their full support to this programme and looked forward to the implementation of Phase 3.

Resolved:

That the Area Committee acknowledges the duties imposed on Warwickshire County Council by the Childcare Act 2006 and notes the work in progress to meet them.

10. Update on Electoral Divisional Panels and Parish Council matters

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development providing a timetable for Electoral Divisional Panel meetings in 2007, and clarifying the current approach in the light of developments such as Safer Neighbourhoods Policing.

Members made the following comments:

1. Members noted their concern that the Police were still working around their own agendas and Hannah Cramp reported that they were working with the Police to change that, as highlighted in the Police's commitment

- to identifying three priorities, not excluding Police priorities.
2. It was agreed that there needed to be discussions between the Police and Councillor Heather Timms regarding the boundaries of her Division.
 3. Members noted their appreciation for the effort put in by the Area Team into the Electoral Divisional Panels and asked if the Team could be more pro-active on planning and advertising meetings in advance. Hannah Cramp added that the Area Team were keen to promote the Panels and would work on putting together programmes.

Resolved:

That Members endorse, with thanks, the interim arrangements as described in the report, and agree the programme of Panel meetings as set out in the appendix to the report.

11. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items

12. Future Business Items

The Committee noted the future business items and the additional items requested above.

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Chair of Committee.

The Committee rose at 7.55 p.m.