

Minutes of the meeting of the **RUGBY AREA COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL, RUGBY** on the **4th October 2007**

Present: -

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

Officers:

Phil Astle, Assistant Head of Service – Service Planning
Dan Green, Rugby Area Manager
Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor
Nick Gower Johnson, County Partnership Manager
Roger Newham, Head of Transport Planning
John G Smith, Committee Services

Also Attended: -

Councillor Tony Gillias, Councillor Robin Hazelton and 5 Members of the public (approx).

1. General

1. Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared personal/prejudicial interests as follows –

Councillors Richard Dodd, Jerry Roodhouse and Heather Timms declared personal interests by virtue of them serving as Rugby Borough Councillors.

2. Minutes of the Meetings held on the 12th July 2007 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Rugby Area Committee held on the 12th July 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters Arising

Arising from Minute No 3 (Public recycling Facilities, Rugby) and in response to a query from Councillor Robin Hazelton, the Committee was informed that, despite adequate facilities, there was a problem with fly-tipping. Members were advised that officers were aware of the situation, would monitor the situation with District Council colleagues and would seek a solution to the problem.

Members were assured that, through a combination of County Council and private provisions, there were appropriate facilities to accept all types of commercial and domestic waste. It was suggested that additional publicity for the facilities might be appropriate.

2. Public Question Time

Daventry Road, Dunchurch – Road Safety

Mr J Waller from Dunchurch highlighted the excessive speeding by vehicles up and down the Daventry Road. His house was the only one having a driveway on this stretch of road and exiting became dangerous when cars parked either side of his driveway totally obscure the view of oncoming traffic in both directions. Motorists travelling within the speed limit had a chance to slow down when observing his car bonnet edging out but a speeding motorist puts lives in danger. Due to parked cars on both sides of the road all traffic proceeds along the centre of the road. There was a very near accident last Thursday 19th August when a speeding car missed his bonnet by a foot or so.

He informed members that traffic calming measures had been rejected because of cost. Also speed humps were ruled out because this road is a relief road used when motorways become blocked. He asked for this to be confirmed.

Considering that his safety was at risk, he asked whether it was within the law for him to place a caution sign in the road for a minute or so whilst exiting my drive in safety?

In responding to this question, Jo Edwards – Senior Road Safety Engineer, Safety Engineering, Road Safety Unit – informed the Committee that Daventry Road, Dunchurch would be reviewed as part of the “Speed Limit Review”. As part of this review, every “A” and “B” road would be investigated to determine the most appropriate speed limit. This included analysing speed data, recorded injury accidents, and also the nature and environment of the road will be considered. Any conclusions / recommendations made will be based upon guidance issued from the Department for Transport.

With regard to speed humps, on Daventry Road there could be many reasons why these are not appropriate i.e. the number of injury accidents, the existing speed limit and physical restraints. The fact that this road is used as a relief road for motorways could also be a factor.

Mr Waller could not place a caution sign on the highway, either temporarily or permanently. Every sign used on the highway has to be an approved sign. There are no prescribed signs to warn of this hazard and this is basically due to the fact that there would be a plethora of this type of sign and therefore they would have no impact. The Highway Authority regulates signs on the highway and no unauthorised sign is permitted.

King Edward Road – Parking and Access Issues

David Foster – Chair, Rugby Disability Forum – raised problems regarding parking on pavements in King Edward Road. He highlighted that the ‘Road Book’ indicates that a wheelchair needs 0.9m, so on a ‘normal’ pavement two wheelchairs, scooters or pushchairs can pass each other. In King Edward Road, when Wheelie Bins/ Garden Bins/ Recycling Boxes are out, they have to jiggle past each other with a smile.

However, when parked vehicles are added to the equation, we then have the position where if, on an ordinary day, two wheelchairs/ scooters/ pushchairs meet, one has to reverse back to the end of the road. Put Wheelie Bins etc. in and wheelchairs/scooters/pushchairs can’t get through.

And all this supposes that vehicles don’t over park the white line, if they do the situation is untameable.

So by helping motorists with their parking, pedestrians are disenfranchised. He asked if this was fair and, more to the point, was it legal under the Disability Discrimination Act, 2005 ?

With the consent of Mr Foster, the Chairman deferred consideration of this issue until later in the meeting when a report on various parking issues was to be presented.

Murray Road – Parking

Mr Reeve of Murray Road reminded the Committee that at its meeting held on the 23rd of November 2006 it had agreed several short, medium & long-term measures with regard to the implementation of Decriminalisation of Parking Legislation. The Murray Road Residents would like to know:

- a] What is the time frame by which these matters (short, medium & long-term measures) are to have been addressed?
- b] When & how does the RAC intend to start the consultation process regarding:
 - i. Implementation of more effective traffic calming measures and possible chicane removal in Murray Road.
 - ii. Possibility of a one-way system in Murray Road.

What progress has been made with regard to:

- a] Maximising parking by the removal of excessive roads marking, particularly around junctions.
- b] Reinstatement of disabled residents parking boxes.
- c] Overlapping of zones 2 & 3 or merging of the zones to allow parking in Wells Street & Tom Brown Street by residents from both areas.

Roger Newham (Environment and Economy Directorate) informed members that :

- (a) The short-term measure related to Rugby Area Committee's support for the decision of Rugby Borough Council to apply pragmatic and sympathetic enforcement. This is continuing in some areas but will need to be reviewed in due course to ensure an equitable approach across the Borough.

The medium term measure was to review the appropriateness of double yellow lines in residents parking zones. This has been carried out. See (c) (i) below.

The long term measure(s) include those in (b) below. They also include parking on both sides of the road in the upper half of King Edward Road (included in the report being presented to the Committee tonight); build-outs at junctions to increase parking (no action has been possible to date); increasing the waiting time in the vicinity of Rugby Parents Centre from 1 hour to 2 hours (implemented); Residential Disabled Persons Parking Places (see (c) (ii) below) and the possible merger of Zones 2 and 3 (see (c) (iii) below).

- (b) The County Council is in the process of reviewing the Transport Strategy for Rugby. The measures referred to in Murray Road are being considered as part of this review together with other requests for consideration of one-way traffic flow and other measures in Manor Road and Wood Street. It is intended that a scoping report on the review will be presented to Rugby Area Committee at its meeting in December.
- (c) (i) Proposals have been advertised for a reduction in the length of double yellow lines at the following junctions:-

Alexandra Road/Manor Road, Arnold Street/Bath Street, Earl Street/Lower Hillmorton Road, Hill Street/Newbold Road, Holbrook Avenue/Manor Road, King Edward Road/Wood Street, Lodge Road/Manor Road, Paradise Street/Clifton Road, Paradise Street/Lower Hillmorton Road, Queen Victoria Street/Lower Hillmorton Road and Spring Street/Bath Street.

No objections have been received and arrangements are being made for the changes to be introduced in November.

- (ii) The County Council's Cabinet has adopted a revised policy in relation to the provision of Disabled Persons Parking Places in residential areas where there are Traffic Regulation Orders in force relating to parking. Arrangements are being made to promote proposals for formal Disabled Persons Parking Places to replace those informal spaces, which were removed when residents parking schemes were introduced in the Borough.
- (iii) There has not been an opportunity to investigate this in detail. It is one of a number of a number of outstanding parking matters in the Borough waiting to be dealt with when staff resources allow.

Magna Park Distribution Centre – Road Signage

Cllr Tony Gillias (Rugby Borough Council) highlighted a recent question asked on signage to and from Magna Park (largest distribution centre in Europe) and the

positioning of these signs to direct heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) from the motorway network safely along the main trunk roads and away from the Fosse villages. What is the current progress in this important matter, given that there is currently an increasing and unnecessary volume of HGVs on our unsuitable 'B' roads?

Mark Porter - Environment & Economy – indicated that he had contacted the Highways Agency on a number of occasions about the Motorway signing. Warwickshire County Council had plans to organise manual traffic counts around the Magna Park site in order to establish the origin and destination of vehicles in the area. Once this has been done the results will give an accurate record of the roads which are being used. This can then be used to decide what possible course of action can be taken on Warwickshire's roads and can be passed to the Highways Agency for possible action.

B4029 between Ansty and Shilton – Speed Enforcement

Keith Daffern – Shilton Parish Council – indicated that it was anticipated that traffic would double in volume, especially HGVs, and all other measures to control traffic speed had failed. He asked if, as part of the development of the former Ansty Rolls Royce site, the County Council could budget for speed cameras on the B4029 between Ansty and Shilton.

Roger Newham - Environment & Economy Directorate – indicated that the impact this development would have on traffic volume and speed on local roads would be monitored.

3. Rugby Local Strategic Partnership : Restructure

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development outlining proposals for the restructuring and relaunch of the Rugby Local Strategic Partnership – 'Rugby Forward'.

Nick Gower Johnson, the County Partnership Manager, presented the key features of the report and arising therefrom the following key points were made by members, the:

- a] Membership of the Public Service Board and the Public Service Advisory Board seemed, broadly, to be the same and gave the impression that the members would be advising themselves via in their membership of the respective Boards.
- b] Area Committee had a vital role in scrutinising the work etc of the Partnership.
- c] Long-term impact the Partnership would have on Rugby would largely depend on its member agencies committing appropriate resources to its work. It was also suggested that a person nominated to represent a member agency should be able to commit it to a course of action.
- d] Board's Chairman should be 'independent'.
- e] Success of the current Theme Groups should be used as a foundation for future work.
- f] The Partnership's decision-making processes should be simpler than those currently in use and that it should possess 'teeth' to ensure its decisions are acted upon.

The Committee's Chairman assured members that he would convey their points to the County Council's Cabinet and invited other members to join him in doing this.

Resolved that

- a] the Committee's comments, summarised above, relating to the proposals regarding the restructuring and operation of the Rugby Local Strategic Partnership be forwarded to the County Council's Cabinet.
- b] the consideration of a nomination for a County Council representative to the new Rugby Local Strategic Partnership's Management Board be deferred until the role, work etc of the partnership has been further clarified.
- c] the draft Sustainable Community Strategy be endorsed as a basis for further consultation and development
- d] a further progress report be submitted to the Committee meeting scheduled to be held on 6 December 2007 and that this should expand on the role of the Area Committee in scrutinising the work of the Partnership.

4. Paddox Primary School, Rugby - Proposal to consolidate onto one site

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families outlining feedback received as a result of the consultation on proposals to consolidate Paddox Primary School, Rugby, onto one site.

Resolved that the County Council's Cabinet be advised that this Committee:

- a] Supports the proposal to consolidate Paddox Primary School, Rugby onto one site.
- b] Urges that any resultant Capital Receipts be used to improve community facilities in the vicinity of the School.

5. Rugby Borough Consolidated Traffic Regulation Order 2006, Proposed Variation Number Three

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy outlining proposals for various changes to the parking Consolidation Order for Rugby Borough advertised on 24 August 2007 and summarised objections received and recommended

The Committee considered representations made David Foster, on behalf of the Rugby Disability Forum, on the impact the proposals for King Edward Road would have wheelchair users. Without the bins, wheelchairs could use the pavement one at a time but could not pass another if it was encountered. However, the presence of bins made the pavement impassable to even a single wheelchair. It was reported that the Borough Council was considering the possibility of collecting bins and refuse from gardens in this street, which would remove the obstructions they caused on the pavements. He also queried whether the introduction of such proposals might be contrary to the Disability Discrimination Act, 2005

Members were informed that an additional objection had been made on behalf of traders in Regent Place in respect of the carriageway from the Baptist Church North to the 'T' junction.

- a] Resolved that the proposed variation to 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, with the exception of those in respect of Acqua Place, King Edward Road and Regent Place.
- b] Resolved that consideration of the proposal in respect of Aqua Place be deferred until the opinions of local residents were available.
- c] Resolved that consideration of parking restrictions in Regent Place from the Baptist Church North to the 'T' junction be deferred to allow the results of the planned review to be taken into account.
- d] Resolved that consideration of the proposals in respect of King Edward Road be deferred to allow a report to be submitted on the:
 - 1] response from Rugby Borough Council on its proposals to refuse collection and wheelie bins in this Road; and
 - 2] any legal implications, arising from the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act, 2005, of the proposals.

6. A428 Crick Road, Hillmorton, Rugby - Proposed 40 mph and 30 mph Speed Limits

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy on the proposed 40 mph and 30 mph speed limits on A428 Crick Road, Hillmorton, Rugby, including associated engineering measures include the provision of vehicle activated signs including interactive chevrons and red surfacing, and the objection that had been received from the Police.

- a] Resolved that the 40 mph and 30 mph speed limits should be implemented on A428 Crick Road, Hillmorton, Rugby as advertised.
- b] Resolved that Warwickshire Police be requested to monitor the new speed limits with mobile enforcement cameras.

7. Proposed School Safety Zone, Bulkington Road, Wolvey

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy on the proposal to introduce a School Safety Zone along Bulkington Road, Wolvey which would incorporate three sets of speed cushions, a gateway feature and associated signage and road markings.

Resolved that approval be given to the introduction of three sets of speed cushions along Bulkington Road, Wolvey, in the location shown on Appendix A to the report.

8. Report of the Funding Sub-Group

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development on the proposed use of the remaining Rugby Area Committee delegated funds.

- a] Resolved that the project briefs for the use of the remaining Area Committee funds to be worked into detailed project proposals be noted.

b] That the following expenditure on Area Maintenance and Safety Schemes totalling £170,000 be approved :

Project	£	Outline
Street Lighting Upgrading	£80,000	Works in Caldecote, Brownsover and Eastlands and Hillmorton Wards
Dropped Crossings	£20,000	Area Wide including the following sites:- Townsend Lane, Lawford, dropped crossing by Co-op and A423 Birdingbury Road, Marton
A428 Coventry Road / Lawford Road – Safety Improvements	£50,000	To cover the specific work identified in the Route Study Report excluding the carriageway resurfacing which was not approved due to the concern by Members that the new surfacing might be damaged during the construction of the By pass
A426 Leicester Road / Newbold Road – Safety Improvements	£20,000	To cover the specific work identified in the Route Study Report excluding the carriageway resurfacing which was not approved due to the concern by Members that the new surfacing might be damaged during the construction of the By-pass

9. Locality Panels/Electoral Divisional Panels

The Committee consider a report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development summarising actions agreed at recent Panel Meetings and detailing the timetable of future meetings.

Resolved that the report now submitted be noted.

10. Future Business Items

The Committee noted future business items.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 7.35 p.m.