

**A Meeting of the Stratford East Joint
Committee was held at the Southam College,
Southam on the 17 June, 2008.**

Present

Councillors

John Appleton (Chair)
Christopher Mills (Vice Chair)
Alan Akeister
David Booth
David Close
Richard Hobbs
Simon Jackson
Beverley Mann
Nigel Rock
Andrew Patrick
Susan Wixey
Roger Wright
Bob Stevens

Officers

Warwickshire County Council

William Browne, Strategic Director of
Community Protection and County Fire
Officer,
Geoff King, Head of Service – Commissioning,
Planning & Partnerships Division,
Martin Gibbins, Area Manager,
Pete Keeley, Member Services,
Elizabeth Price, Area Administrative Officer,
Amanda Wilson-Patterson, Localities and
Communities Officer.

Stratford on Avon District Council

Paul Lankaster, Chief Executive,
Dave Nash, Strategic Director,
Steve Haresnape, Environmental Protection
Officer,
Richard Hood, Head of Member Services,
Karen Johnstone, Planner,
Rebecca Goodman, Community Funding
Officer,
Robert Walsh, Head of Community Services,
Chris Wood, Community Leadership Manager.

1. Appointment of Chair

Councillor Bob Stevens, seconded by Councillor Nigel Rock, moved and it was **Resolved**, with no Member voting against:

That Councillor John Appleton be elected as Chair of the Stratford East Joint Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair.

Councillor Andrew Patrick, seconded by Councillor David Booth, moved:

That Councillor David Close be elected as Vice Chair.

Councillor Susan Wixey, seconded by Councillor Richard Hobbs moved:

That Councillor Christopher Mills be elected as Vice Chair.

On being put to the vote 6 Members voted for Councillor Close and seven voted for Councillor Mills.

Councillor Mills was declared Vice Chair.

3. Apologise for Absence

were received from Councillors Susan Main, Chris Williams and David Wise.

4. Disclosures of Interests.

Councillor David Booth declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 - Grant Application – Stockton News and Stockton Village Hall.

Councillor David Close declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 10 – Grant Application – Play Equipment at Wellesbourne as a member of the Wellesbourne Parish Council.

Councillor Richard Hobbs declared a personal interest as a member of the Warwickshire Police Authority.

Councillor Simon Jackson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 –Grant Application – Ratley Village Hall, in view of his involvement with the Ratley Village Hall project.

Councillor Beverley Mann declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12 – Bishop’s Itchington Parish Plan as a member of the Bishops Itchington Parish Council.

Councillor Bob Stevens declared a personal interests in any items affecting the Warwickshire PCT and the Southam College as an associate member of the Trust and a Governor of Southam College, respectively.

Councillor Roger Wright declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 10 Grant Application – Play Equipment at Wellesbourne as a member of the Wellesbourne Parish Council and indicated that he would leave the room when the matter was discussed.

5. Terms of Reference and Standing Orders.

The joint report by the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, Warwickshire County Council and the Monitoring Officer and Solicitor to the Council, Stratford on Avon District Council was considered.

During the discussion concern was expressed that a meeting of the Joint Committee would be inquorate if more than two of the four County Council representatives were absent. The Committee noted that any changes to the Standing Orders would need to be agreed by both Councils and requested that its concerns be raised with the Monitoring Officers of both Councils.

Resolved:

That the Joint Committee notes the Standing Orders that have been adopted by both Councils for this Joint Committee and for the other two Joint Committees established in the Stratford on Avon Area.

6. Name of the Joint Committee

It was agreed that consideration of the name of the joint committee should be deferred until the next meeting and that until then the committee should continue to be known as the Stratford on Avon East Joint Committee.

The Chair suggested that any Member of the Joint Committee or the Public who had a suggestion for a name for the Joint Committee should contact Martin Gibbins.

7. Public Question Time.

The Joint Committee was addressed by Bransby Thomas about concerns over the arrangements being made for the new refuse and recycling service due to start in August 2008.

In response to Mr Thomas's comments, Members were advised that the new private composting facility, which will serve the county, would

not be available at the start of the new collection contract and, to ensure that food waste remains on a weekly collection, temporary arrangements were being introduced. Both Councils had worked together to minimise the costs of the temporary arrangements.

A letter was to be distributed to all residents setting out the arrangements.

8. State of the District

The Committee considered a report from Councillor Les Topham, Leader of the District Council, which summarised the events of the past year along with an outline of proposals for the coming year.

The Committee received a presentation from Paul Lancaster, Chief Executive of the District Council, relating to data presented at a ward level based on three themes – Society, Environment and Economy. A set of the presentation slides is attached to these minutes.

During the discussion the following points were noted.

- With regard to data relating to Snitterfield Ward, only a third of the Ward was in the area of the East Joint Committee.
- Arrangements were being made for future statements to the Joint Committee to include data on further issues such as overall attainment for education for all ages.
- The Warwickshire Observatory were collating certain data for the County and District Councils and it was intended that this would be submitted to the Joint Committee's September meeting.
- The Observatory had a considerable amount of data available for use by all Councils in the county to enable resources to be targeted to areas of need.
- The data used from different sources could sometimes show different trends particularly relating to deprivation.
- More detailed work would be undertaken in each ward/division.
- Members noted that in much data was reliant on the National Census and that the next Census was in 2011.
- Some parts of the district had deprivation levels lower than the average deprivation in other parts of the county such as Nuneaton and Bedworth.

9. Community Grants

Robert Walsh, Head of Community Services, introduced the report and requested the Committee's views on the differences between the two grant schemes that had been operated by both councils.

Members discussed several aspects of the matter. The following points were noted during the discussion:

Bearing in mind the need for speed in agreeing a combined scheme and the complexities of matters such as funding for revenue and capital schemes, Members agreed that there were many benefits in the issues being considered by a smaller group of members who would submit recommendations to the Joint Committee for consideration.

It was suggested that consideration should be given to the implications of any changes to the grant criteria for those organisations who had some reliance on such funding.

Resolved:

That the Chair, Vice Chair and a Member from the Liberal Democrat group, represent the Joint Committee on a working party to progress the arrangements for a combined grants scheme.

10. Community Grants

The Committee had before it a report setting out grant budgets available together with details of applications which had been received for revenue and capital grants.

At the invitation of the Chair, representatives of the applicant organisations addressed the Committee in support of the applications shown and answered Members questions raised on the applications.

The grants were awarded as follows:

Applicant: Allocate to Summer Activity Voucher Scheme

Project: This annual scheme provides free activity vouchers to young people living in Stratford on Avon District whose families are in receipt of means-tested benefits. This enables them to take part in summer activity schemes from which they may otherwise be excluded.

Total Cost: £20,000

Grant

Requested: £1,500 (30% of the total £5,000 requested. The project is District wide and the application will also be considered by the South and West Joint Committees).

Resolved: That a grant of £1,500 be approved.

Reason for

Decision: The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme and the Corporate Strategy and was considered to be a high priority.

Applicant: Stockton News – ref 840

Project: Start up costs for village magazine.

Total Cost: £2,100

Grant

Requested £600

Resolved: That a grant of £500 be approved.

Reason for

Decision: The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme and the Corporate Strategy and was considered to be a medium priority.

Applicant: St James Church, Southam - ref 833

Project: Celebr8 – Fun in the Sun – Family Fun Day

Total Cost: 4,114

Grant

Requested: £1,000

Resolved: That a grant of £1,000 be approved.

Reason for

Decision: The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme and the Corporate Strategy and was considered to be a high priority.

Applicant: Young Enterprise South Warwickshire – ref 782

Project: Provide educational programmes in primary and secondary schools to help young people understand and give them personal experiences of how business works

Total Cost: £21,250

Grant

Requested: £1,200 (30% of the £4,000 requested. The project is District wide and the application will also be considered by the South and West Joint Committees).

Resolved: The Committee deferred consideration of this application to enable further information to be obtained relating to other funding issues and links to the Education Business Partnership.

Applicant: ILEAP – ref 843

Project: A comprehensive programme of leisure activities for disabled and non-disabled people during the summer months.

Total Cost: £6,945

Grant

Requested: £750

Resolved:

- (1) That members of the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the background information to this application on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members then discussed available resources and requested that full information be included with all applications.

The meeting then continued in public.

Resolved:

- (2) That a grant of £750 be approved.

Reason for

Decision: The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme and the Corporate Strategy and was considered to be a high priority.

Applicant: Orchestra of the Swan – ref 828

Project: Enable a series of workshops and performances in community venues

Total Cost: £7,128

Grant

Requested: £1,650

Resolved:

That a grant of £1,650 be approved, subject to an additional condition requiring the workshops and performances to be given to a wider range of venues in the community.

(Note: The project is District wide and the application will also be considered by the South and West Joint Committees).

Reason for

Decision: The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme and the Corporate Strategy and was considered to be a high priority.

Applicant: Trustees of Ratley Village Hall – ref 821

Project: Major refurbishment of Ratley Village Hall.

Total Cost: £331,139

Grant

Requested: £15,000

Resolved: That a grant of £15,000 be approved

Reason for

Decision: The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme and the Corporate Strategy and was considered to be a medium priority.

Applicant: Stockton Parochial Church Council – ref 827

Project: Re-ordering and extension of the Church building to make it a useable facility for the whole community including facilities for public internet use and rural cinema, meeting rooms, childrens play area/crèche, baby changing facilities and disabled access.

Total Cost: £265,000

Grant

Requested: £10,000

Resolved: That a grant of £10,000 be approved.

Reason for

Decision: The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme and the Corporate Strategy and was considered to be a medium priority.

Applicant: Wellesbourne Parish Council – ref 826

Councillor Roger Wright left the room during consideration of this applicant and Councillor David Close took no part in the decision.

Project: Replacement of worn out and non compliant play equipment.

Total Cost: £16,084

Grant

Requested: £8,042

Resolved: That a grant of £8,042 be approved.

Reason for

Decision: The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme and the Corporate Strategy and was considered to be a high priority.

11. Proposal to Declare a Dog Control Order for the District

The Joint Committee considered a report from Robert Weeks, Head of Environment at the District Council, which related to a proposal to introduce a dog control order under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, to replace the existing powers and to provide improved powers for enforcements against dog fouling across the whole of the Stratford on Avon District.

Following discussion it was **Resolved:**

That the Joint Committee approves the adoption of a Stratford District wide Dog Control Order, as described in the submitted report.

12. Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan

The Joint Committee considered a report from Pat Reid, Head of Planning at the District Council, relating to the assessment of the Bishop's Itchington Parish Plan. Bishop's Itchington Parish Council had adopted the Plan on the 3 March 2008.

During the debate the following points were noted:

- The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Parish Council for preparing the Parish Plan.
- The use of certain roads in the area by HGVs and issues about weight restrictions, in particular on the B4451, was of concern to residents but was not supported by the County Council as Highway Authority.
- A report should be submitted to a future meeting dealing with weight restrictions on rural roads.
- Councils could assist in the implementation of the Plan through the Public Service Board to achieve the aims of all Parish Plans for which some resources had been allocated.
- The Warwickshire Observatory took information from Parish Plans that was used in the formulation of policy.

It was then **Resolved:**

- (1) That the Joint Committee adopt the Parish Plan as a local information sources to offer advice to the relevant departments of the Stratford on Avon District Council.
- (2) That the Parish Plan be adopted as a material consideration in processing planning applications, in accordance with Policy COM.1 of the Local Plan Review.
- (3) That the Parish Plan Steering Group, Parish Council and the residents of Bishop's Itchington be commended for preparing their Parish Plan and that they are encouraged to implement and review their action plan.

13 Standing Order 13 – Duration of Meetings

Resolved, with Councillor Akeister voting against:

That the meeting continues beyond the three hours as provided for under Standing Order 13.

14. Venue, date and Start Times

(1) Venue

Following discussion about the appropriateness and suitability of alternative venues, Members were undecided as to whether meetings should continue to be held at Southam College or whether alternate meetings should be held at the HR Centre at Wellesbourne.

It was agreed that, if available, the HR Centre at Wellesbourne should be the sought as the venue for the next meeting but, if unavailable, the meeting be held at Southam College. The issue of future venues would be considered at the next meeting.

The following dates were agreed with all future meetings to start at 6.00 p.m.

- 15 July 2008
- 16 September 2008
- 9 December 2008
- 10 March 2009.

15. Urgent Item - Car parking Charges in Wood Street Car Park

Members were advised that the Dassett Area Committee had made representations on this matter.

It was understood that these representations should be submitted for consideration by the District Council's Executive when other responses to the consultation were being considered.

Councillor Stevens suggested that, following the District Council's decision on delegated powers to the Joint Committee, the Joint Committee must endorse such proposals before they are considered by the Executive.

It was agreed that the District Council's Monitoring Officer should be asked for his view on the matter.

.....
Chair

The meeting rose at 9.10 p.m.