

**A Meeting of the Stratford East Joint Committee
was held at Southam College, Southam on the 10
March 2009.**

Present:

Councillors

John Appleton (Chair)
David Booth
David Close
Simon Jackson
Susan Main
Beverley Mann
Christopher Mills (Vice – Chair)
Andrew Patrick
Nigel Rock
Bob Stevens
Chris Williams
David Wise
Susan Wixey
Roger Wright

1. Apologise for Absence

An apology was received from Councillors Alan Akeister.

2. Disclosures of Interests.

Councillor David Booth declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 – Community Grants as he had attended meetings of the Getting Kineton Growing group. He declared a prejudicial interest in the grant application by the Lighthorne Heath Partnership and indicated that he would leave the room when the application was being discussed. He also declared a personal interest in the Southam Town centre item to be considered as an urgent item view of certain financial interests he had in a major retailer.

Councillor Christopher Mills declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 – Community Grants as a Ward Member for one of the grant applications.

Councillor Nigel Rock declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 – Highways Maintenance Plan as he lived near to one of the roads mentioned in the Plan.

Councillor Bob Stevens declared a personal interest in any item affecting the Warwickshire PCT as an associate member of the Trust and a pecuniary interest in any matters arising from the minutes of the 21 January meeting as a Governor of Southam College.

Councillor Chris Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 – **Fenny Compton Parish Plan**, as he had been closely involved in the preparatory work for the Plan.

Councillor David Wise declared a personal interest - to be added

3. Minutes of the meetings held on the 9 December 2008 and 21 January 2009.

Following comments about the correct spelling of Gill Feenan's name in the minutes of the 21 January meeting, it was **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2008 be approved and the minutes of the 21 January meeting be approved as amended and both sets of minutes be signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

4. Public Question Time.

There were no questions.

5. Stratford District Sustainable Community Strategy

Dave Nash, Strategic Director and Trevor Russel, Project Officer for the Stratford District Sustainable Community Strategy, introduced the report which invited the Committee's comments on the Draft Strategy.

Members were advised that the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Warwickshire related to the whole county and each district/borough would prepare its own Sustainable Community Strategy. The LAA targets will be interpreted down to district level and officers were working together on overlapping areas.

Members discussed several aspects of the report. The following points were recorded during the discussion:

- Members noted the key challenges, and in particular acknowledged that
 - An ageing population will have significant service implications in the future.
 - Flooding issues would continue to be addressed.
 - The figure for deprivation average income would be included in the final version of the Strategy
 - Under Locality Profiles, in particular super output areas, some community grouping areas average out at a lower level e.g. Lighthorne and deprivation pockets could have an input into the consideration of community grants.

- Children and Young People - Members considered that activity for young people should be promoted more.
- Safer Communities:
 - Members were concerned that action should be taken to reduce the number of deaths amongst 17 year old drivers and also considered that life expectancy would be greatly improved by reducing accidents in rural areas.
 - The Strategy should refer to the difficulties created for communities by HGVs using rural roads and by vehicles “rat running” needed addressing.
- Our Economic Vision – all sectors of the local economy will be thriving throughout our district – “thriving” needs clarification.
- Under Climate Change and Environment - Reduction in the District’s carbon footprint - the District Council should shown as “leading” not just supporting and this section should also include air quality issues.

The Committee **Resolved:**

That the Stratford District Partnership be informed of the views of the Stratford-on-Avon East Joint Committee on the draft Stratford District Sustainable Community Strategy as detailed above.

6. Community Grants

Councillor David Booth left the room during the discussion and decision on the application by Lighthorne Heath Partnership.

Rebecca Goodman (Community Grants Officer) attended the meeting for this item and answered members questions raised on the report. She reported that the application by the Napton Youth Club had been withdrawn.

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the Funding Sub-Group for the award of Community Grants under the new Joint Community Grants Scheme.

On the invitation of the Chair, Julia Philips addressed the Committee in support of the application in respect of the Voluntary Community Transport Scheme.

The Committee then considered the Funding Sub-Group’s recommendations and **Resolved:**

- (1) That a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Getting Kineton Growing to engage the local community in growing, cooking and eating local, sustainable and ethical food.
- (2) That a grant of £4,500 be awarded to ILEAP to provide an opportunity for people with learning disabilities to meet their peers and take part in leisure activities.

- (3) That a grant of £2,000 be awarded to Lighthorne Village Hall to improve kitchen facilities in the Hall;
- (4) That a grant of £1,600 be awarded to Southam Christmas Lights towards the cost of Christmas lights for Southam.
- (5) That grants be not awarded to the George Povey Gardening Project, Age Concern South Warks, the Half Crown Petanque Club and the Asian Community Equality Centre for the reasons given by the Sub-Group.
- (6) That a grant of £12,000 be awarded to the Lighthorne Heath Partnership to develop closer partner collaboration and greater local community participation.
- (7) That a grant of £3,000 be awarded to the Voluntary Centre Transport Scheme for the provision of transport required by social services.
- (8) That the grants awarded to the following under officers delegated authority be noted:
 - a. Napton Parish Council for the Nosh and Natter Club; and
 - b. Ratley Youth Club for circus skills workshop.

The Committee then considered the options for the Remaining Budget Allocation.

Councillor Chris Williams, seconded by Councillor Simon Jackson, moved:

That the Committee surrender the balance of the budget to be offered as a cost saving.

Councillor David Booth moved and it was duly seconded:

- (9) That the balance of the budget be transferred for use by the South Joint Committee, subject to financial regulations permitting the transfer.

On being put to the vote three members voted for Councillor Williams's motion and ten for Councillor Booth's motion. Councillor Booth's motion (8) was therefore carried.

(1) Increase in the Admission Number of Barford St. Peter's C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School

The Joint Committee considered a report seeking views on the proposed increase in admission numbers at this school.

Janet Neale of the County Council's Children, Young People and Families Directorate presented the report.

Following a brief discussion it was **Resolved:**

That the Joint Committee support the proposal to increase the admission number of Barford St Peter's C of E primary School from 17 to 20 pupils per year.

8. Fenny Compton Parish Plan

The Committee considered a report proposing the adoption of the Plan.

The report was introduced by Karen Johnstone of the District Council and Michael Davis from the Plan Steering Group.

During the discussion Members expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken by the Plan Steering Group.

It was Resolved:

- (1) That the Parish Plan is adopted as a local information source to offer advice to the relevant services of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council.
- (2) That Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council seek to respond to the Parish Plan Action Plan in the ways suggested in Appendix C of this report.
- (3) That the Parish Plan is adopted by Stratford District Council as a material consideration in processing planning applications, in accordance with Policy COM.1 of the Local Plan Review.
- (4) That the Parish Plan steering group, Parish Council and the residents of Fenny Compton Parish be commended for preparing their Parish Plan and that they are encouraged to implement and review their Action Plan.

Following a discussion on the future of rails services at Fenny Compton, Members requested that the views of Graeme Fitton, Head of Transport and Highways at the County Council should be sought on the latest situation and, if possible, Chiltern Rail be invited to make a presentation on rail services in the area.

9. Southam/Feldon and Wellesbourne/Kineton Community Forums

The Committee considered the reports from these Forums.

Southam and Feldon Community Forum.

Following comments about progress with the provision of Aqua Sacks, the report was noted.

Wellesbourne and Kineton Forum

Councillor David Close reported that residents of Radway and the surrounding area were concerned about the level of winter gritting that was being

undertaken. It was suggested that the two councillors representing Radway should discuss the issues further and report back the Committee.

Members were informed it was the County Council's policy to grit all main traffic routes, A roads, most B roads and one or other two other strategic routes. In urban areas the accesses to hospitals and main industrial estates were gritted. Not all bus routes were gritted. In rural areas a single route into all villages was gritted and salt bins were provided which were filled by the Parish Council concerned.

The County Council reviewed the level of winter maintenance at the end of each winter.

It was agreed that the County Council should be asked to review the policy locally with the Committee in an attempt to address the concerns of local communities on winter maintenance. If possible a presentation should be made to a future meeting of the Committee.

With regard to the use of the Committee's community fund for the purchase of a portable speed camera, Members were advised that this was not possible under the agreed grants criteria.

The dates for future meetings of all community forums would be circulated.

10. Capital Programme for Transport 2009-10

The Committee considered a report relating to the proposed 2009-10 Delegated Budget Allocations.

The report was introduced by Jeff Welsby, Group Manager of Network Management, County Highways Policy at the County Council.

Resolved:

That the Joint Committee:-

- (1) Agree the £50,000 route treatment on the A422 (Alcester Road) – Arden Street to A46 be top sliced from the total budget of £440,000.
- (2) Agree to divide the remaining £390,000 between the three Stratford-on-Avon Joint Committees.
- (3) Support the 2009-10 Local Schemes (Minor Improvements) Programme for Stratford-on-Avon East given in Table 1.
- (4) Support the removal of the requests listed for Stratford-on-Avon East given in Table 2.
- (5) Support the 2009-10 Drainage Allocations for Stratford-on-Avon East given in Table 3.

- (6) Support the 2009-10 Delegated Budget CCTV/Survey/Mapping Investigations Allocation for Stratford-on-Avon East given in Table 4.

11. Highway Maintenance Plan 2009/10 and Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes

The Joint Committee considered a report which sought its views on the Plan and the Five Year List of Maintenance Schemes.

During his presentation of the report, Jeff Welsby of the County Council indicated that the views of the Committee would be incorporated into the report to the County Council's Cabinet in May.

Following comments about the works being undertaken when the resources were available and the need to examine the possible duplication of highways works in Harbury, it was **Resolved:**

- (1) That the Joint Committee endorse the Highway Maintenance Plan 2009/10 and the five Year List of Maintenance Schemes.
- (2) That approval be given to spending the Area Committees' Drainage Revenue Allocation on unblocking gullies and repairing damaged pipes.

12. Review of Joint Committee Working

Martin Gibbins, the County Council's Area Manager, circulated a briefing note to members indicating current progress on locality arrangements throughout the county and the action proposed relating to a review of the draft terms of reference. Matters would be reported to a meeting of the County Council's Cabinet shortly after the June Elections for a review to start no sooner than October with a view to being concluded by the end of January 2010.

13. Dates of Future Meetings 2009

The Committee noted that meetings would be held on the following dates:

14 July
15 September
8 December

14. Items for Future meetings

Members agreed to the following items being included on the agenda for future meetings

- o Winter Maintenance/Gritting policy issues including presentation of current practice and review of policy.
- o Rail Services - Presentation by Chiltern on the future of rail services in the area.
- o New police contact structure to include if possible a presentation by the Police.

- o Street Lighting – report to be submitted to the next meeting
- o HGVs on rural roads – a previously circulated briefing note would be re-issued and discussed at a future meeting.
- o Consideration would be given to discussing various parts of the District Partnership at each meeting.

It was also suggested that consideration should be given to making the Agendas and the venues for future meetings more appealing to the public.

15. Urgent Business

To consider any business which the Chair decides is urgent.

Heart of England Co-operative Society Limited

The Chair indicated that he had agreed to the matter being considered as an urgent item because of the need for the Committee's views to be submitted to the district Council's Cabinet before the committee's next meeting.

Dave Nash, Strategic Director, presented the report, which had been circulated at the meeting, relating to an announcement that the Co-operative Society were not intending to pursue redevelopment of their store in Southam, including the development of a Police Station and library (including a one stop shop). Members were advised that officer discussions were being held with another major retailer

Councillor David Booth declared a personal interest in view of certain financial interests he had in a major retailer.

Members expressed concerns at the implications of the Co-operative Society's decision and stressed the importance of continuing with the redevelopment project for the Town Centre incorporating the development of community facilities, a one stop shop, library etc.

The Committee rose at 8:06 p.m.

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Chair