

A Meeting of the Stratford East Joint Committee was held at the Kineton High School, Banbury Road, Kineton on the 9 December 2008.

Present:

Councillors

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

Officers

Warwickshire County Council

Sorrelle Clements, Library Networks &
Access Manager
Paul Cowley, Area Manager for County
Highways
Louise Denton, Scrutiny Officer
Martin Gibbins, Area Manager
Pete Keeley, Member Services
Amanda Wilson-Patterson, Localities and
Communities Officer

Stratford on Avon District Council

Trevor Askew, Strategic Director
Katherine Geddes, Project Officer
Rebecca Goodman, Community Grants
Officer

1. Apologise for Absence

were received from Councillors Alan Akeister, David Close, Richard Hobbs and Christopher Mills.

2. Disclosures of Interests.

Councillor Sue Main declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 - **Framework for the Future: Library Service Transformation**, as a member of the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Bob Stevens declared a personal interest in any item affecting the Warwickshire PCT as an associate member of the Trust.

Councillor David Wise declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 3 - **Vision for Southam Project Funding** in view of his involvement with the Southam Youth Group.

Councillor Roger Wright declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 – **Grant Application by the Stratford & District Citizens Advice Bureau** and indicated that he would leave the room when the matter was being discussed.

3. Minutes

(1) Minutes

Councillor Nigel Rock indicated that his apologies for non attendance at the last meeting had not been recorded in the minutes.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2008 be approved as amended and be signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters Arising

(i) Minute 3 Public Question from Bob Barker – Access to Leamington Railway Station

Martin Gibbins, Area Manager for the County Council, indicated that the written response made to Mr Barker had now been circulated to all Members of the Committee.

(ii) Minute 9 B4451/07 Harbury Station Bridge

In response to comments from Councillor Nigel Rock, Martin Gibbins indicated that he would ensure that the councillor's concerns about the impact of the weight of loaded and unloaded busses using the bridge and the additional distance and time that the proposal would involve, be brought to the attention of the officers concerned.

New Arrangements for Highways Matters

At this point in the meeting members were introduced to Paul Cowley, Area Manager for County Highways. Paul advised members of the new arrangements for dealing with highway related matters and indicated that

all of the highway matters in the Feldon and Southam Electoral Division would now be dealt with from the Dunchurch Highways Depot.

4. Public Question Time.

(1) Pedestrian Safety in Southam

Len Gale of the Southam Civic Ideas Forum advised the Committee that the Forum had been looking at pedestrian safety in Southam Town Centre and had made the following suggestions:

- Create double yellow lines in School Street (south side) at junctions with Daventry Road and Pendicke Street. Currently cars park too close to the junctions and, at Pendicke Street junction, obstruct dropped kerbs.
- Install pedestrian refuge in Warwick Street at the junction with Market Hill. Currently, when crossing from footway outside Southam Wear towards Market Hill it is impossible to know if any traffic is approaching from Warwick Street.
- Narrow carriageway and widen footway (by approximately one metre) outside Post Office, Coventry Street. Currently the footway outside the Post Office becomes very congested.
- Widen footway in Wood Street from Post Office to Public Car Park. This may necessitate imposing a weight/width limit on Wood Street so that only cars and light vans use the road. This should not cause a problem to drivers of heavier vehicles as they are already prohibited from using Wood Street Car Park and there is an alternative route via High Street and Daventry Street. Our long term hope is still the pedestrianisation of the top end of Wood Street, a proposal supported by the Town Council when it was first mooted.

He asked the Committee to support the Forum's requests.

The Chair indicated that these matters should be included in the list of proposals to be considered at the transport seminar arranged for Members in January.

It was suggested that there could be other schemes that should be included in the list to form a more holistic approach to pedestrian safety.

(2) Welsh Road East – pedestrian crossing and traffic calming.

Councillor Carol Pratt of the Southam Town Council, advised the Committee that Southam residents, whilst supporting the requests for controlled safe crossings at local schools, have been asking for a crossing and or traffic calming measures on Welsh Road East for nearly 7 years. She asked the Committee to take action to urgently progress the matter before one of the several reported near misses of children

crossing the road becomes a fatality. She also indicated that the Town Council had some funds available for traffic calming which could be used for this crossing.

In response, Members were advised that following earlier representations, the Town Council had been advised as follows:

The installation of a pedestrian crossing in Welsh Road East was investigated in 2004 as part of the Vision 4 Southam project. At that time the evaluation concluded that the cost of providing a crossing was disproportionate to the number of pedestrians and an alternative scheme of improving the existing pedestrian refuge was proposed. In the event, this was not progressed for financial reasons. The officers would revisit the site to determine the need for a crossing in accordance with the County Council's policy and also that it meets the required safety standards.

Site investigations had subsequently been undertaken and the County Council was currently awaiting the results of vehicle and pedestrian surveys to determine whether the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Welsh Road East could be justified.

The Town Council would be notified once the results of the surveys have been received and analysed.

During a short discussion it was suggested that consideration should be given to less costly ways of introducing traffic calming in the area.

The Committee asked that they be kept informed of the outcome of the analysis referred to.

5. Vision for Southam Project Funding

Katherine Geddes, Project Officer at the District Council, introduced the report which provided updated information on the progress of the Vision for Southam projects and suggested funding allocations for the remaining 08/09 budget of the 2020 Vision Action Plan.

The Committee then considered the two applications contained in the report, as follows.

(1) Application 836 Community Technology Bank

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- ICT Classes were held during the week
- Consideration should be given to promoting the project outside the town of Southam and possible including on village websites.
- The existing laptops were in regular use by 4 local groups and job centre plus activities.

Resolved:

That the Committee approved a grant of £2400.

(2) Application 863 Park Lane Youth Shelter

Councillor Wise declared a personal interest in view of his involvement with the Southam Youth Group.

The following points were noted during the discussion:

- The Town Council would be responsible for maintenance of a shelter, including the removal of graffiti.
- Some members felt that the proposed siting of the shelter would be too far away from where youths congregated currently. The Committee was advised that if required the shelter would be resited.
- The shelter in use in Farnborough was located in a position that made use of an electricity supply for lighting and this was considered to be an encouragement to youths to use the shelter. If possible the proposed shelter should have lighting.
- The shelter would be an improved facility for youths and was likely to result in less litter and graffiti elsewhere.

Resolved:

That the Committee approve a grant of £4,000.

6. Community Grants

Rebecca Goodman introduced the report which related to the proposals made by the East Funding Sub Group for Community Grant awards.

Members noted that the Funding Sub Group consisted of Councillors David Booth, Bob Stevens, Chris Williams and Roger Wright.

(1) Radway Playground Trust

Project: To replace worn out swings and improve safety of play area in Radway.

Grant Requested: £3,320.50

Grant Recommended: £3,321

Resolved: That a grant of £3,321 be awarded

(2) Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire Branch

Project: Restoring habitats across sites in the East Area of Stratford District to enable the rare blue butterfly to return.
Recruit and train large numbers of local volunteers, including school children, in conservation management
Raise public awareness on conservation and local environment

Grant Requested: £11,154

Grant Recommended: £11,154

Resolved: That the Committee award a grant of £11,154

(3) Fenny Compton Parish Council

Project: The installation of new play equipment specifically for under 8s in the village of Fenny Compton.

Grant Requested: £15,000

Grant Recommended: £15,000

Discussion:

The following points were noted:

- Mike Davies representing the Parish Council addressed the Committee on the application. He indicated that the proposal had been included in the Parish Plan and the shelter would be sited on Parish Council land.
- The Parish Council would be responsible for maintenance of the shelter.
- £15,000 was being sourced from other organisations.
- Members were advised that the grant criteria included DDA requirements.

Resolved:

That the Committee award a grant of £15,000

(4) Shotteswell Parish Council

Project: Additional children's play equipment (zip wire) and adult fitness equipment on Shotteswell Village Playing Field.

Grant Requested: £10,800

Grant Recommended: £6,000

Discussion: Val Ingram addressed the Committee about the proposal and drew attention to the difficulties of accessing outside facilities. The additional grant had been requested to enable a more ambitious project than an earlier project and would benefit the more senior residents. A greater level of grant would enable a more ambitious proposal. Contributions were being sought from the Housing Association and certain charities. Shotteswell had no village shop or pub for people to meet

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- An award that was less than requested would restrict the project.
- The Committee had the power to award a grant that was higher than that recommended by the Members Working Party.
- There were sufficient funds available to award the requested grant.

Resolved: The Committee agreed to award a grant of £10,000

(5) Applicant – Southam@play

Project: To install a Youth Shelter on the recreation ground at Southam.

Grant Requested: £1,000

Grant Recommended: £1,000

The Committee was addressed by Andy Crump on behalf of the organisation

Resolved: That the Committee award a grant of £1,000

(6) CVS

Project: The provision of web based sports and recreation information

Grant Requested: £14,750 (£4,425 for East Joint Committee)

Grant Recommended: None

Resolved: That no grant be awarded.

(7) Stratford Community Radio.

Project: Start up costs for a new community radio station.

Grant Requested: £6,270 (£1,568 from the East Joint Committee)

Grant Recommended: None

Resolved: That no grant be awarded.

(8) Southam Christmas Lights

Project: The erection of Christmas lights in Southam

Grant Requested: £1,283

Grant Recommended: None

Resolved: Decision: That no grant be awarded

(9) Mezzo Mums

Project: To pay for travel and costs for 35 disadvantaged children to attend national championships in Ireland.

Grant Requested: £8,006 (£1,601 from the East Joint Committee)

Grant Recommended: None

Resolved: That no grant be awarded.

(10) St. Mary's School PTA

Project: To improve sports facilities in St Mary's School grounds.

Grant

Requested: £11,800

Grant

Recommended: None

Resolved: That no grant be awarded.

(11) Applicant – Stratford & District Citizens Advice Bureau (deferred from the last meeting)

Project: To move the entire CAB operation to a different premises at which will provide easier access to clients and provide the opportunity to extend the range of services being offered. Application deferred from previous meeting.

Grant

Requested: £2,250 (30% of the £7,500 requested)

Discussion:

Councillor Roger Wright having declared a personal interest in Agenda Item prejudicial interest in the item left the room whilst it was being considered.

The following items were noted during the debate:

- The CAB should be encouraged to serve the East Joint Committee's area better.
- There were transport difficulties from certain villages
- The CAB has registered interest in using facilities at One Stop Shops.

Resolved: That the Committee do not award a grant but the CAB be advised that the matter will be reconsidered if the CAB redevelop a presence in this area.

7. Coventry Street, Southam - Proposed Puffin Crossing

The Committee considered a report about a proposal to install a puffin crossing on Coventry Street, Southam to assist parents and children walking to school.

Resolved:

That approval be given to the proposed puffin crossing on Coventry Street, Southam as detailed in the report.

8. Framework for the Future: Library Service Transformation

The Committee considered a report outlining the key principles underpinning the transformation of Library Services to Warwickshire residents and community. The Committee had been consulted and any views would be submitted back to the County Council's Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 February 2009.

Following introductory comments from Sorrelle Clements, Library Networks & Access Manager, Members discussed various aspect of the report. The following points were noted during the discussion:

- The review would include benchmarking of the performance of various councils.
- Consultations should include parish and town councils and Members of the Youth Parliament.
- The District Council was well equipped to consult with local communities.
- The East Joint Committee's area was perhaps the most rural of the areas and regard must be had to the limited facilities available for many village communities.
- Regard should also be had to the benefits to rural areas of extending the mobile library service and the community centre aspects of library premises.
- There would be benefits in promoting increased use of libraries and incorporating library services into one stop shops.
- A pilot service at Studley industrial site was suggested as being more than a pilot and Kenilworth.
- Consideration should be given to the benefits of making provision for book swapping which would allow people to donate their own read books to the libraries

9. Adoption of Parish Plans

The Committee considered a report which set out a proposed process for the Joint Committee to endorse a Parish Plan on behalf of both County and District Council.

During the debate the following points were noted:

- Paragraph 1.4 should become part of the new process and included as paragraph 1.3 (c).

- Martin Gibbins would examine the procedure for adoption by the County Council and the extent of officer input having regard to the current highways consultations and footpath requirements.
- It was suggested that an officer should be nominated by the County Council to assist parishes in the preparation of plans.

Resolved:

That the East Joint Committee approves the revised arrangement for adopting Parish Plans in its delegated powers as set out below:

“To adopt, in the following circumstances, Parish Plans and Village Design Statements which, in the opinion of the Chief Executives of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council do not conflict with District Council or County Council policy;

- a) as a local information source
- b) as a material consideration in dealing with planning applications in accordance with provisions in the District Local Plan
- c) where a Parish Plan contains issues or proposals that relate directly to County Council or District Council services, the appropriate Directorate/Service should be asked to comment on those matters in the report to the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee should then take a view on those issues or proposals, where appropriate referring matters to Directorates/Service for possible action or alternatively, referring matters to the County and District Cabinets.”

10. South/ Feldon and Wellesbourne/Kineton Community Forums

The Committee considered the reports from the Southam/Feldon and Wellesbourne/Kineton Community Forums which had been circulated before the meeting.

The following points were noted:

- Discussion should be held about the interface between the Community Forums and PACTs
- Discussion had been focussing on youth issues and consideration should be given to ways in which forums could be made more friendlier.
- Highways issues should be included in items for discussion.

The reports were noted.

11. Items for Future meetings

The following items were noted for future meetings:

- (1) Update on flooding issues.
- (2) HGVs on rural roads.
- (3) Public Lighting

In response to comments from Councillor Nigel Rock, the Committee agreed that a report should be prepared about public lighting focussing on the prospects of reducing energy consumption, costs and light pollution in the east area of the Stratford on Avon District.

Members requested that this report should also include information about:

- the possibility of encouraging commercial businesses to turn off lighting.
 - The County Council's decision on street lighting including any views of the County Council's climate change champion.
 - Responsibilities of Parishes including responsibilities for the costs of changes to the specification of light bulbs.
- (4) Warwickshire PCT should continue to be lobbied to send a representative to meetings.

Members noted that a transport seminar was being arranged for January. The date would be confirmed with Members.

12. Urgent Business

There were no urgent items.

The Committee rose at 8:11 p.m.

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Chair