

<p style="text-align: center;">West Joint Committee – 11 December 2008</p>
<p>Report of the Alcester and Bidford on Avon Forum</p>
<p>The Alcester and Bidford on Avon Forum met on 18 November 2008 at the Greig Hall, Alcester and this is the report of their meeting.</p>
<p>Matters Discussed (for information only)</p>
<p>The following items were discussed:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Councillor Kim James was confirmed as the Chairman for the remainder of the year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sgt Wild provided a presentation on community policing issues relating to the area. This included an update on previous matters raised at the previous meeting of the Forum.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nancy Singleton (SDC Officer) provided a presentation on Health Inequalities and this included a discussion about healthy eating and eating five fruit and vegetable portions a day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ John Hodges (from Act.Com) provided an update on the activities of this community group which included the recent "Tea in the Big Tent 2" event held at St Nicholas School.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jenny Theobald (SDC Officer) provided an update on the "Vision for Alcester" project and spoke about current projects. Suggestions for future projects should be forwarded to Jenny.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 'Have Your Say' session raised a number of issues concerning local residents. This included a presentation from local youth representatives who addressed the meeting about the lack of recreational facilities available to young persons in the town. This would be looked into. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(note: the full list of matters raised at the meeting is provided in the notes of the meeting)</i></p>

Matters Referred to the Joint Committee for attention (for discussion)

The Forum asked that the following items be raised at the meeting of the Joint Committee:

Issue	Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The provision of Youth Services in Alcester, Bidford, Wilmcote & Surrounding Villages.	The Forum would like to see more done for the young people in the area, specifically in relation to recreational facilities
In respect of the above item John Bunting submitted a question and a copy of the question, together with the response given at the Community Forum meeting is attached for the Committee's information.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Redditch - Stratford No:26 Bus Service non conformance with time-table, irregular service.	The Forum was concerned at the service being provided to residents in out-lying areas and the inconvenience caused when a scheduled bus service does not operate
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The temporary / permanent closure of Birch Abbey Alcester, County Highways to confirm that the proper statutory notices were displayed advising residents of the closure.	Residents addressing the Forum stressed the problems/inconvenience that this was causing and asked for the action to reviewed in consultation with residents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Haselor Public Path	The Forum asked for their concern over the condition of the footpath between Haselor and Alcester to be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee.
In respect of the above item John Bunting submitted a question and a copy of the question, together with the response from Mr Mervyn Hancox (Area Manager County Highways).	

For further information on anything contained within this report, please contact
Richard Hood (Tel: 01789 260218)

20 November 2008
ABC Report 181108

STRATFORD-ON-AVON WEST JOINT COMMITTEE
11 December 2008

Agenda Item 4 – Public Question Time

The Following has been received from Mr John Bunting:

Disused School, Moorfield Road, Alcester

Warwickshire County Council want to sell the property but all sales are not possible now so they intend to board up or todemolish. Both expensive options.

With the review we are doing, especially under the Districts Alcester Vision group, we have identified a large number of deficiencies which are having a devastating affect on our town;

1. Conway estate area is most deprived in SDC;
2. We have no youth club building! As a result WCC does not allocate any funds for Alcester and we come under the Studley Youth worker. A temporary class room on this school site has been used but it is now in need of extensive repairs so is closed until funds are found; and
3. The pavilion on the Conway estate is the home of Alcester Opportunities and runs many activities for the disabled and other groups. Jenny Theobald from Mike Woods's department at SDC is very involved and can give you all the information. This group could do much more but does not have the room. Expensive building is needed to expand the site.

Vision group went to Southam to see their Vision projects and found that they operate with lots of other organisations in a disused school built about the same time, 1970-80 and have a great set up funded by WCC.

The old school site in Moorfield Road is big and butts on to land owned by SDC. These two pieces could be combined as the school side is surplus this forms an area for houses or social houses.

There is also plenty of room both for parking for users and to provide an all day parking for about 50 cars. The answer to Alcester's parking problem so relevant at the moment.

An ideal solution would be for a purpose built youth hut to be built at the Pavilion site and all Alcester Opportunities activities transferred to the old school.

A site visit would confirm this project.

If WCC could be persuaded that the disused school could provide most of the deficiencies that exist in our community it would be a very cost effective remedy and much cheaper than leaving the site derelict and trying to get funds to provide missing facility buildings.

The following response was given at the Alcester/Bidford Community Forum 18 November 2008

A suggestion was raised that the old school in Moorfield Road could be used as a temporary Youth Club. Steve Smith, Warwickshire County Council Head of

Property Services advised that the site and building were considered to be under offer of sale. It was further reported that the temporary classroom that had been used had been closed due to Health and Safety issues and it was not cost efficient to consider it or the main building in the short term.

A presentation was made by Youths from Alcester supported by local Youth Leaders, with two youths acting as spokesmen. They stated they need somewhere to go, particularly in winter and they were criticised by older people for being noisy at their Youth Shelter, which had been placed too near houses.

Following discussion it was agreed that something should be done for the youth and ways this could be done were being looked at.

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Agenda Item 4 – Public Question Time

The Following has been received from Mr John Bunting:

C203 Stratford Rd, Oversley Green footway from Hoo Mill to Alcester

This path is one of most used out of Alcester. It is on the Sustrans cycle route. The road narrows on the peak of a blind hill, this is on a fast part of the route.

The path will not take wheelchairs, prams or push chairs for most of the route because of no or little maintenance for years. At the narrow part all have to go into the road.

The land owner at the narrow part has indicated he would allow the path to go his side of the hedge. I think I could raise about £1000 to obtain the land or rights to use the land and go towards costs.

Haselor School wish to encourage walking and cycling to school but do not want this main route from Alcester to be used.

Sir William Lawrence in his wheelchair is the talk and concern of the Town as he uses this route.

Suggest members of committees try walking, cycling or using wheelchairs here to see the problem.

Cherry Trees old people home try to use the path, to go to both Alcester and Hoo Mill. Suggest they might make a contribution!.

I am told this path is in the 5 year County plans for improvement. Mrs Knapman, our County Councillor, tells me it is in the pipe line and she will check. Suggest it is not one of her priorities but pressure will help.

Support also from Haselor Parish and Alcester Town Council. Hope you will be able to get this on your agenda and we can get something done before some terrible accident.

The following response has been received from Mr Mervyn Hancox (Area Manager County Highways)

You asked what the situation was regarding possible works to the C203 Stratford Rd, Oversley Green footway from Hoo Mill to town. It is a narrow footway which is suffering from general deterioration and is beyond treating by any localised patching repairs or surface treatment such as slurry sealing which means that it needs a new tarmac surface.

The section from the Nursing Home to the town is in the 5 year plan and all the footway sites in the plan have just been assessed by our Network Management Group to see what will be done in the new financial year. Unfortunately this one does not rate highly enough to be included next year but is considered a likely candidate for the following year.

Just to put this in perspective, the annual budget for footway resurfacing normally allows 5 or 6 sites across the whole Stratford Area to be resurfaced.