

WEST JOINT COMMITTEE

12 March 2009

MINUTES

Held at Alcester High School and Technology College, Gerard Road, Alcester, B49 6QQ

Meeting commenced : 6.00 pm Meeting ended: 8.20 pm

Present: Councillor Sir William Lawrence Bt (Chair); Councillors S Adams, P Barnes, P Beaman, L Bowring, V Hobbs, R Hobbs, J Horner, K James, S Juned, N Knapman, L Marshall, H McCarthy, E Payne, D Pemberton, S Thirlwell, L Topham and M Weddell

Apologies: Councillors G Atkinson, T Dixon, B Slaughter and H Wright

Officers in attendance: **Representing Warwickshire County Council**
Steve Smith (Head of Property)
Martin Gibbins (Area Manager – Stratford)

Representing Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Trevor Askew (Strategic Director)

NOTE: Other officers were also in attendance to present reports, details of which are given under the respective Minutes.

55. Disclosure of Interests

The following disclosures of interest were made under this heading:

- Councillor Adams – Minute 60 insofar as it related to the grant application for funding in Alcester and the Council for Voluntary Services;
- Councillor Bowring – Minute 60 insofar as it related to Vision for Alcester;
- Councillor Knapman - Minute 60 insofar as it related to Vision for Alcester;
- Councillor Payne - Minute 60 insofar as it related to Vision for Alcester; and
- Councillor Pemberton – Minute 63 Henley-in-Arden High School.

56. Minutes

Subject to the inclusion of the name of Councillor Juned in the list of members in attendance, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2008 were confirmed and signed.

57. Public Participation (30 Minutes)

The following persons had registered to speak at the meeting:

- Julia Phillips – Council for Voluntary Services;
- Councillor L Goodman – Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Parish Council; and
- Jenny Theobald – Arden Area Co-ordinator;

As all of the above had requested to speak in support of applications for grant aid, the Chair reported that he would invite all of them to address the Committee when the grant applications were considered (Minute 60 refers).

58. Youth Presentations

(1) Alcester Youth

The Committee received a presentation from Alcester Youth on the need for a Youth Club building that would provide:

- a place with activities and equipment for the youth of the area to call their own with youth workers and other agencies working together;
- somewhere for the youth of the area to go to where they could learn new things, develop their skills and talents with the assistance of others;
- a place for the whole community to use and be proud of which meets the needs of all users; and
- a place where the youth of the area would feel safe, where they could meet new friends with someone prepared to listen.

In closing their presentation, the youths in attendance answered members questions raised and expressed a wish that something should be done and they hoped action would be taken by adults that listened.

Having listened to the presentation, Councillor Adams reported that Alcester Town Council was fully committed to the project and would provide whatever assistance it could.

It was agreed that a Joint Report from the County and District Councils be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

(2) Wilmcote Youth

The Chairman reported that the representatives of Wilmcote were unable to attend the meeting.

59. Stratford-on-Avon District Sustainable Community Strategy

Trevor Russel, Project Officer for the Stratford District Sustainable Community Strategy, attended the meeting for this item.

Consideration was given to the consultation draft of the District Sustainable Community Strategy developed by the Stratford District Partnership to set out a shared long term vision for the District that had regard to local economic, social and environmental objectives.

The Committee was invited to submit comments on the draft document prior to its formal adoption by the District Council at its meeting scheduled to be held on 20 April 2009.

Once adopted, the Strategy SMART targets and appropriate financial resources would be translated into business plans that would be monitored by the various Groups established by the Local Strategic Partnership.

In receiving the Strategy, the Committee supported the general concepts and requested that consideration be given to amending the Safer Communities Section by including provision to protect people from harm.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Stratford District Partnership be informed that, subject to the expansion of the Safer Communities section to include provision to protect people from harm, the Stratford-on-Avon West Joint Committee has no additional representations to make on the draft Stratford District Sustainable Community Strategy.

60. Community Grants

Lucy Workman (Community Grants Officer) attended the meeting for this item and answered members questions raised on the report. In presenting the report, Lucy informed the Committee that as the Environment Agency had undertaken and financed the flood alleviation works at Snitterfield, the grant awarded by the Committee under Minute 49 (5) of its last meeting was not now required, Accordingly, the Committee now had a balance of £60,827 available for applications before the Committee.

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

On the invitation of the Chair, the following people addressed the committee:

- a) Parish Councillor Len Goodman, in respect of the application for grant aid towards Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Christmas lights;
- b) Julie Phillips from Council for Voluntary Services, in respect of the Voluntary Community Transport application; and
- c) Jenny Theobald (Arden Area Co-ordinator) in respect of the Community Centre Play area application.

The Committee then considered the Funding Sub-Groups recommendations in the light of the additional funding now available and

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a grant of £15,000 be awarded to Temple Grafton Cricket Club towards the cost of a new building to incorporate toilet and shower facilities;
- (2) That a grant of £5,100 be awarded to ILEAP towards the cost of the inclusive leisure project for Stratford District;
- (3) That a grant of £1,367 be awarded to Coughton Parish Plan Committee towards the cost of producing a Parish Plan;

- (4) That a grant of £4,958 be awarded to Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council towards the cost of preserving the 15th Century Market Cross;
- (5) That a grant of £1,649 be awarded to the George Povey Gardening Project towards the garden project for autistic children;
- (6) That a grant of £1,500 be awarded to Welford-on-Avon Parish Council towards the cost of upgrading the play ground with additional equipment;
- (7) That a grant of £4,420 be awarded to Age Concern South Warwickshire towards the cost of helping older people to stay healthy, happy and at home;
- (8) That a grant of £2,500 be awarded to Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden Christmas Lights towards the cost of replacing lights with low energy lights;
- (9) That a grant of £840 be awarded to Claverdon Badminton Club towards that cost of coaching sessions;
- (10) That a grant of £16,000 be awarded to the Community Centre Play Area towards the cost of the provision of a new all weather surface with the play/sports area to be available 24 hours per day;
- (11) That a grant of £4,828 be awarded towards the cost of providing the Voluntary Community Transport project; and
- (12) That the outstanding balance of £2,665 from the Committee's Community Grants budget be awarded to Alcester Youth Club for their new facilities project as detailed within their presentation. This award is subject to a suitable project proposal being drawn up.

61. School Admission Numbers

Janet Neal (School Project Officer) attended the meeting for this item and answered members questions raised on the report.

Consideration was given to proposals to

- (1) increase the admission number of Claverdon Primary School from 28 to 30 places per year and the responses to the consultation received from stakeholders; and
- (2) reduce the admission number of St. Nicholas C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Alcester, from 60 to 50 places per year and the responses to the consultation received from stakeholders.

The Committee was asked to consider both proposals that would take effect from September 2010 and to submit any comments it wished to make to the County Council's Cabinet.

In considering the proposals the Committee noted that consultation with stakeholders on both cases had not revealed any negative responses and that the limited responses received had indicated support. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED:

That the County Council Cabinet be informed that the Stratford-on-Avon West Joint Committee support the proposals to increase the admission numbers of Claverdon Primary School and to reduce the admission numbers of St Nicholas C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Alcester.

62. Henley-in-Arden Community Primary School

Janet Neal (School Project Officer) attended the meeting for this item and answered members questions raised on the report.

Details were reported of proposals to change the category of Henley-in-Arden Community Primary School to Voluntary Aided with a religious character with effect from September 2010.

The report was presented to the Committee for information only at this stage as a further report would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee when the results of the formal consultation would be known.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

63. Henley-in-Arden High School

Dave Potter (Assistant Head of Service – Governance) and Paul Wright (Head Teacher of Henley-in-Arden High School) attended the meeting for this item and answered Members questions raised.

Consideration was given to proposals by the governing body of Henley-in-Arden High School to become a Trust School from September 2009.

Following the detailed introduction by Paul Wright, the Head Teacher of the School, the Committee noted that the move to Trust status was designed to:

- develop a coherent approach to personalised learning, starting the process at primary school and developing initiatives in the secondary sector;
- engage in research to identify effective strategies to support learning and to further the idea of a learning community in Henley-in-Arden and sharing this good practice and developing this across all partners through a cross-phase coaching partnership;
- develop a Specialist Arts status at Henley-in-Arden High School by linking with our partner schools to engage in community arts projects in dance, drama and music;
- support the social and emotional needs of the students with a fast referral link with Warwick Hospitals NHS Trust;

- engage with River House School in order to support behaviour management issues within the learning community;
- improve progression to post-16 and Higher Education within the community; and
- develop the use of new technologies for learning.

In supporting the general principles behind the move to Trust Status, the Committee expressed concern over the potential flaws in the consultation exercise undertaken by the School as part of its proposals in that no consultation had specifically been undertaken with the District and Parish Councils.

Subject to the above concerns, it was

RESOLVED:

That, subject to concerns expressed over the potential flaws in the consultation exercise undertaken, the County Council's Cabinet be informed that the Stratford-on-Avon West Joint Committee have no adverse comments to make on the proposals by the governing body of Henley-in-Arden High School for the School to become a Trust School from September 2009.

64. Provision of Primary School Places in Stratford-upon-Avon

Janet Neal (School Project Officer) attended the meeting for this item and answered members questions raised on the report.

Consideration was given to proposals to

- a) increase the capacity of Welford-on-Avon Primary School from 28 to 30 pupils per year with effect from September 2010; and
- b) change the Bridge Town Primary School priority area by transferring the parish of Clifford Chambers to the priority area of Welford-on-Avon Primary School with effect from September 2010 admissions.

In receiving the report, the Committee noted that there would be transitional arrangements put in place to cater for those families affected by the priority area changes who already had children attending the Bridge Town Primary School.

In considering the proposals, the Committee accepted that

- it was clear that there was a need to provide additional primary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon town to meet an increased demand for places due to the impact of rising new births as well as new housing;
- there was broad support for the proposals; and
- there was concern that there would need to be further steps taken to provide some surplus capacity across the town to widen parental choice and in particular address the pressure for school places in the Bridge Town area.

In view of the above, it was

RESOLVED:

That the County Council Cabinet be informed that the Stratford-on-Avon West Joint Committee support the proposals to increase the capacity of Welford-on-Avon Primary School and change the Bridge Town Primary School priority area.

65. Highway Maintenance Plan 2009/10 and five year list of Structural Maintenance Schemes

Jeff Welsby (Interim Group Manager, Environment & Economy, Warwickshire County Council) attended the meeting for this item and answered members questions raised on the report.

The Committee was invited to comment on the Highway Maintenance Plan 2009/10 and the Five Year List of Maintenance Schemes.

In considering the paper, the Committee noted that it was intended to use the available Revenue and Capital funding;

- 1) to continue last years increases in patching and major patching to minimise potholes and uneven pavements;
- 2) to continue levels of carriageway surface dressing and footway slurry sealing which provided cost effective methods of prolonging the life of roads and pavements and which reduced the likelihood of potholes and uneven pavements;
- 3) to continue the footway resurfacing programme to minimise uneven pavements;
- 4) to maintain the amount of carriageway micro asphalt to extend the life of roads which were not suitable for surface dressing;
- 5) to set the street lighting budget at a level which would allow for all necessary column repairs;
- 6) drainage repair and improvement work to increase as a result of an increase in Area Committees' drainage budget; and
- 7) to review the level of other maintenance work and particularly winter maintenance to ensure the level of activity was appropriate.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to proposed works that would be undertaken to offset known flooding areas, particularly in Alcester, during which it was agreed that representatives of the Highway Authority and Severn Trent be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to discuss this aspect.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Highway Maintenance Plan 2009/10 and the Five Year List of Maintenance Schemes, as submitted, be supported; and

- (2) That spending the Area Committees' Drainage Revenue Allocation be used on unblocking gullies and repairing damaged pipes.

66. Delegated Transport Budget for Safety, Maintenance and Minor Works 2009/10

Jeff Welsby (Interim Group Manager, Environment & Economy, Warwickshire County Council) attended the meeting for this item and answered members questions raised on the report.

Following the Members seminar held on 23 January 2009, details were reported of the proposed 2009/10 delegated budget allocations for the Area Committee, as discussed at that seminar.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Committees 2009/10 Delegated Budget be allocated as follows:

- (1) £50,000 route treatment on the A422 (Alcester Road) – Arden Street to A46 be top sliced from the total budget of £440,000;
- (2) the remaining £390,000 to be divided between the three Stratford on Avon Joint Committees;
- (3) to support the Local Schemes (Minor Improvements) Programme for Stratford-on-Avon West Committee as outlined in the report;
- (4) to support the Large Drainage Allocations for Stratford-on-Avon West Committee as outlined in the report;
- (5) to support the CCTV/Survey/Mapping Investigation Allocations for Stratford-on-Avon West Committee as outlined in the report; and
- (6) to support the Drainage Gang Allocations for Stratford-on-Avon West Committee as outlined in the report.

67. Shakespeare Rail Line Upgrade

Tom Pierpoint (Transport Planner) attended the meeting for this item and answered members questions raised on the report.

Details were reported on proposals to improve rail provision in the Stratford-on-Avon district by upgrading of the Shakespeare Rail Line.

In receiving the report, the Committee expressed the view that further improvements to the line should include:

- DDA requirements for the island platforms;
- reviewing platform heights;
- provision of late night services between Stratford-upon-Avon and Birmingham; and

- setting of car park changes at Stratford Parkway Station to encourage greater use of the rail network.

Having regard to the above, it was

RESOLVED:

That County Council Cabinet be informed that the Stratford-on-Avon West Joint Committee welcome the proposals to improve rail provision in Stratford-on-Avon District.

68. Alcester & Bidford Forum

On the presentation of the report from the meeting of the Alcester & Bidford Community Forum held at the Crawford Memorial Hall, Bidford-on-Avon on 10 February 2009:

(a) Flooding

A representative of Severn Trent had indicated that he would be available to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

69. Henley & Studley Forum

On the presentation of the report from the meeting of the Henley and Studley Community Forum held at Studley High School on 18 February 2009:

(a) Studley Library

Councillor McCarthy requested the support of the Committee to a request she had made to the County Council for a business case to be prepared for locating the library at Studley in the Village Hall.

Councillor Beaman now disclosed a Personal Interest in this matter as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

The Committee supported Councillor McCarthy's request and hoped that the business case would also include additional opening hours for the Library.

70. Items for Future meetings

The following items were identified for the next meeting:

- Alcester Youth – Joint report from County and District Councils
- Flooding – attendance by officers of County Highways and Severn Trent
- Air Quality Management Areas – update on progress.

In addition to the above, and in response to Minute 53 of the last meeting, Trevor Askew said that he would arrange for further information on off-street car parking to be given to the Committee.

CHAIRMAN