

The Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee met at the Town Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon on the 16th March, 2005.

Present:-

Councillors George Atkinson (Chair)
" Richard Hyde (Deputy Chair)
" Peter Barnes
" David Booth
" Ron Cockings
" Jill Dill-Russell
" Susan Juned
" Helen McCarthy
" Chris Saint
" Bob Stevens

Officers:-

Julie Crawshaw, Environmental Engineer, PTES.
Marion Davis, Director of Social Care and Health.
Sarah Duxbury, Principal Solicitor.
Don Foster, Head of Community Services, PTES.
Martin Gibbins, Area Manager.
Mark Gore, Assistant Education Officer (Strategy).
Chief Inspector Andy Johnson, Warwickshire Police.
Pete Keeley, Principal Committee Administrator.
Ruth Mounstephen, Crime and Disorder Strategy Co-ordinator.
Helene Toogood, Community Partnership Officer
Ian Tonner – Station Manager, Stratford Area Risk Team, Fire & Rescue Service .
Amanda Wilson Patterson – Area Administrative Officer

Seven members of the public attended.

1. General

(1) Apologies

were received from Councillors George Cowcher, Richard Hobbs and Bransby Thomas.

(2) Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January 2005 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee's 19th January, 2005 meeting be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters Arising

B439 Bidford on Avon to Stratford upon Avon

In response to comments from Councillor Peter Barnes regarding a speed limit on the whole length of the B439 between Bidford and Stratford, Don Foster indicated that it was normal practice to examine individual sections of road when there were known safety issues with that section.

(3) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Chris Saint declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 as a member of the District Council.

Councillor Richard Hyde declared prejudicial interests in Agenda Items 7 and 11 as a member of the AWM Board and Stratford Cricket Club respectively.

Councillor Ron Cockings declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 as a parent of a child who attended Stratford High School.

Councillor Jill Dill-Russell declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 as a Governor of Stratford High School.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 as a Governor of Kineton High School.

(4) Public Questions and Answers

(i) Question from Mr J. Everton, Broad Lane, Tanworth in Arden

Mr Everton referred to his comments about accidents in Broad Lane which he made to the Area Committee during September, 2004 and stated that there had been further accidents at the location since that time. He gave an outline of the type of accidents and the damage and risks to his property. He stressed that action should be taken by the Council to improve the highway at the location concerned and asked the Committee to agree a budget for the necessary works.

(ii) Question from the Occupier of Wood End Farm in Broad Lane.

The occupier endorsed Mr Everton's request and outlined further accidents that had occurred near to his Farm over a period of time, particularly when the road was wet. He feared for the safety of his family when using the garden to his property and urged members to introduce speed reduction measures.

Don Foster of the Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy Department indicated that the Department was aware of the situation and indicated the process that was being followed for addressing such cases throughout the County. He added that the delegated budget programme for integrated

transport (Agenda 8) included proposals for a junction improvement at Broad Lane/ The Common, Tanworth in Arden.

(iii) Question form Mr P. Simonds of Loxley Road, Stratford upon Avon.

Mr Simmonds spoke on behalf of the Loxley Road Residents Group and drew attention to the number of vehicles using the road. He urged the Committee to support funding for the extension of the Loxley Road Traffic Calming Scheme to the end of the residential area. This should include the provision of more speed humps and possibly a chicane at the start of the residential section of the road. Mr Foster commented that such a feature was included in the delegated budget programme (Agenda 8).

(iv) Mr Paul Knight of Warwick Road, Henley in Arden

Mr Knight drew attention to parking problems that existed for the occupiers of 206 to 220 Warwick Road. He indicated that the problems had increased since the introduction of decriminalisation. He requested the Committee to agree to the provision of a parking bay similar to that being provided for residents in a section of the Birmingham Road, Stratford upon Avon.

The Chair confirmed that Mr Knight's requested would be considered.

2. Amendment to Indicated Admission Number – Stratford High School.

Councillor Ron Cockings declared a prejudicial interest as his child attended the school and left the room during the debate.

The Area Committee considered the report of the County Education Officer which sought comments on a proposed change to the Indicated Admission Number of Stratford High School.

Following introductory comments from Mark Gore, Assistant Education Officer, members discussed several aspects of the proposal and raised several points including:-

- There was increasing pressure on the High School from residential development in Stratford on Avon and from places being allowed on appeal.
- The growth in demand could not be forecasted when the new school was being designed. The design allowed for expansion.
- Following a meeting with officers the High School Governors did not oppose the proposal.
- A review of the Priority Area should be undertaken.
- Although the School could accommodate 240 some work will be needed.

- An extension of the school building could lead to a further increase in admission numbers
- The School had not been included in original review of Indicated Admission Numbers for the area because the required digital plan was unavailable at that time.
- Consideration should be given to the policy suggested by the Head of Kineton High School and the application of the policy to other schools in rural areas

Mark Gore reported that there was evidence that appeals in Warwickshire were more successful than in some other counties and there was a need to demonstrate the affect of increased numbers resulting from the appeal process.

He confirmed that a report about secondary and primary provision in south Warwickshire would be submitted to the next meeting

It was then Resolved:-

That the Area Committee note the report and agree that the Cabinet be advised accordingly.

3. Crime and Disorder and Drugs Misuse Reduction Strategy 2005 – 2008 – Emerging Priorities

The Area Committee considered a report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive and received a presentation from Ruth Mounstephen, Crime and Disorder Strategy Coordinator.

Chief Inspector Andy Johnson also outlined the contributions made by the Police to the Strategy.

Following discussion several points were raised including:-

- The need to dovetail local and national priorities and targets
- An action plan was being prepared under the prolific offender scheme.
- There was a need to define various types of crime
- There has been a reduction in violent crime.
- The importance of the education system and the opportunities in youth policy towards reducing crime.
- The Partnership was concentrating on night time crime

4. Social Inclusion Fund 2005 – 2006

The Area Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive which detailed a project identified through the Area Committee Funding Sub Group and makes a recommendation for funding in 2005 – 06.

Resolved:-

That the Area Committee award a Social Inclusion Fund grant to Prevention of Accidents To Children Home Equipment Schemes subject to the conditions outlined in the report

5. Stratford on Avon Well Being Fund Commissions

The Area Committee considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive. which outlined two projects to be commissioned through the Well Being Fund.

Following a suggestion from Councillor David Booth that future consideration should be given to the acquisition of a speed indication device for use in the District, along similar lines to that acquired by the Warwick Area Committee, it was Resolved:-

That the Area Committee approves an allocation upto £24,750 to support the two projects referred to in the report.

6. Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement in Stratford on Avon District - Amendments to Traffic Regulation Order

The Area Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy.

At its meeting on 19th January 2005, the Committee approved the advertisement of changes to the Consolidated Traffic Regulation Order which sets the conditions for on-street parking in Stratford on Avon District.

The changes were: (1) to introduce parking permits for residents at registered guest houses in Stratford-upon-Avon; (2) to allow home carers employed by or on behalf of the County Council's Social Services Department the same exemptions from the parking time limits and charges as are already extended to certain medical professionals; (3) to introduce a new residents' parking zone on a short length of footway on Birmingham Road.

The changes were advertised from 10th February 2005 to 4 March 2005. The report detailed the variations advertised and the responses to the public advertisement.

During the discussion members were concerned that the forthcoming review of the decriminalisation scheme should address all of the issues raised since the introduction of the scheme, including:-

- The disparity between guesthouses and the impact of guesthouse parking on the availability of parking for residents living near to guesthouses.
- The capacity for additional guesthouse passes,

- The possibility of creating additional parking spaces by rationalising existing layout and zones.
- Simplification of charges and signage.
- The inclusion of Windsor Street and Arden Street Car Parks
- Need for adequate publicity for the decriminalisation scheme.
- As part of phase 2, to also consider whether a scheme similar to that being provided for residents in a section of Birmingham Road could be introduced to Warwick Road, Henley in Arden.

Members also felt that there was a need for an examination of parking for the proposed temporary RSC Theatre to be undertaken as soon as possible.

Members also noted that any residents parking which may be introduced for other parts of the District would have regard to the lessons learnt from the scheme at Stratford upon Avon.

It was then Resolved:-

That the following proposals be implemented as advertised:-

- (1) Introduce parking permits for temporary residents at registered guest houses in Stratford-upon-Avon.
- (2) Allow home carers employed by or on behalf of the County Council's Social Services Department the same exemptions from the parking time limits and charges for on-street parking in Stratford on Avon District as are already extended to certain medical professionals.
- (3) Create a new residents' parking zone on the footway fronting numbers 84 to 112 Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon.

7. Stratford Waterfront Masterplan, Transport Strategy and Vision for Stratford-upon-Avon - A Bid to Advantage West Midlands

Councillor Richard Hyde left the room for this item.

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy was considered.

Following discussions with Advantage West Midlands (AWM), Warwickshire County Council had been invited, in partnership with Stratford on Avon District Council, to bid for funding to meet the aspirations of the Waterfront Masterplan. During those discussions, it was felt by AWM that a more comprehensive bid was required, covering a wider geographical area, and bringing in additional strategic elements. The paper informed Members of the progress of the bid.

During the debate the following points were raised:-

- The relationship between AWM funding and the creation of jobs

- Member involvement in the process.
- The bid to AWM for Stratford upon Avon should not compromise potential funding from AWM for other towns.
- There was a close working relationship with the District Council.

Councillor Ron Cockings expressed concern that the views of several councillors relating to the proposed new bridge over the River Avon near to the Theatre did not appear to have been taken fully into account.

The Chair then moved and it was Resolved, with Councillor Ron Cockings abstaining:-

That the Area Committee endorse the submission of a bid to Advantage West Midlands for Stratford Waterfront covering a wider geographical area and bringing in additional strategic elements, as set out in the report.

8. Capital Programme for Integrated Transport

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy was considered after the public question section.

The report set out the draft Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for 2005-06 in the Stratford on Avon District Council Area. The programme was discussed at a seminar on 11th February and Area Committee was now invited to formally support the programme.

During his introduction of the item, Don Foster confirmed that the comments of both Mr Symmonds and Mr Knight presented earlier in the meeting would be taken in to account in the detailed proposals for the junction.

In response to comments from Councillor Susan Juned concerning the views of the Salford Priors Parish Council, the Chair indicated that the two items relating to the Parish, which were recommended for removal from the list, would be included in future considerations when funding was available.

In response to comments from Councillor Chris Saint, Don Foster indicated that he would ensure that his request for speed limit on the B4035 at Shipston on Stour would be taken into account in any broadening in scope of the B roads review.

Members were advised that the Best Value Review of Traffic would be reporting to the Environment and Rural Affairs Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the near future and it was likely that this would include a recommendation relating to the priority to be given to B road issues in small market towns.

Members were advised that funding for schemes not completed during the current financial year would be carried forward to the next year.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Area Committee:-

- (1) Support the Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for the Stratford on Avon District Council area given in Table 1 of the report;
- (2) Support the actions recommended in Table 3 for the delegated budget.

9. Options for Selective Education in Stratford upon Avon

Report of the County Education Officer

The report provided an update on the report considered by the Committee at its last meeting.

Resolved:-

That the Committee note the report.

10. Provisional Items for Future Meetings 22nd June 2005 meeting

- (1) Community Learning Plan 2005/06 and the Stratford Area Early Years Childcare and Service Development Plan 2005/06
- (2) Area Community Education Development Plans

Future Meeting

- (1) Speed Limits on non A roads
- (2) Affordable Housing – County Council's involvement

11. Any Other Business

Stratford Cricket Festival

The report of the Director of Planning, Transportation and Economic Strategy was circulated for consideration as an urgent item to enable the Committee's views to be forwarded to the Cabinet when it considers the matter.

Councillor Richard Hyde declared a prejudicial interest as a member of the Cricket Club and left the room during the debate.

During the discussion members raised issues relating to the support from county budgets and the risks that would be undertaken by the Cricket Club. Members agreed that the Cabinet be informed of their general support to the proposal.

12. Report Containing Exempt Information

Resolved:-

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of confidential and exempt information as defined in paragraph 10 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

13. Countywide Bus Shelter Advertising Agreement

Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy.

The Cabinet resolved on 13th January 2005 to authorise the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy to award a countywide contract for the maintenance supply and advertising use of bus shelters and street furniture subject to seeking comments from the Area Committees, District Councils and Parish Councils through Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC).

Resolved:-

That Area Committee note the proposed Countywide Bus Shelter Agreement.

The Committee rose at 6.35 p.m.

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Chair