

The Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee met at Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon on the 24th May 2006.

Present:-

Councillors George Atkinson (Chair)

“ Richard Hyde (Vice Chair)

“ John Appleton

“ Peter Barnes

“ David Booth

“ Jill Dill-Russell

“ Richard Hobbs

“ Nina Knapman

“ Mike Perry

“ Chris Saint

“ Izzi Seccombe

“ Bob Stevens

Officers:-

Environment and Economy Directorate

Graeme Fitton, Head of Warwickshire Engineering

Roger Newham, Chief Transport Planner.

Milan Tursner, Cycle Officer.

Performance and Development Directorate.

Peter Endall, Principal Solicitor.

Martin Gibbins, Stratford Area Manager.

Pete Keeley, Principal Committee Administrator.

Amanda Wilson-Patterson, Area Administrative Officer.

Helene Toogood, Community Partnership Officer.

7 members of the public attended.

David Miller, Consultant from Sustrans.

1. Election of Chair.

Councillor Mike Perry, seconded by Councillor Chris Saint moved and it was Resolved:-

That Councillor George Atkinson be elected as Chair of the Area Committee.

2. Election of Vice Chair.

Councillor Richard Hobbs, seconded by Councillor Izzi Seccombe, moved and it was Resolved:-

That Councillor Richard Hyde be elected as Vice Chair of the Area Committee.

At his point in the meeting members stood in silence as a mark of respect for the late Councillor Anita Macaulay.

Councillor Chris Saint then paid tribute to the work undertaken by the late councillor on behalf of the community and to the contribution she had made to society.

2. An Apology

was received from Councillor Helen McCarthy.

3. Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

(1) Joint Membership Declarations

The following members who were also members of the Stratford on Avon District Council and, where indicated, also members of the Warwickshire Police Authority, declared personal interests in any item on the agenda affecting the District Council or the Police Authority.

Councillors John Appleton, Peter Barnes, Richard Hobbs (also member of the Warwickshire Police Authority), Mike Perry, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe (also member of the Warwickshire Police Authority) and Bob Stevens.

2. Other Declarations

Councillor Nina Knapman declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 – Shared Use Foot/Cycleway at Kinwarton Farm Road, Alcester.

Councillor Jill Dill-Russell declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 Review of Area Community Education Councils, in view of her involvement with a voluntary organisation which had received funding from the Council.

Councillor Richard Hyde declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 - Shared Use Foot/Cycleway - Kinwarton Farm Road, Alcester, as a member of the Board of Advantage West Midlands.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th March 2006 and Matters Arising

(1) Minutes

Councillor Mike Perry referred to Minute 4(11) Parking in Brookvale Road, Stratford upon Avon and reported that Don Foster had stated that the matter would be treated with urgency and that the minute should be amended to reflect this. This was agreed.

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Stratford on Avon Area Committee's 24th May 2006 meeting be approved as amended.

(2) Matters Arising

i. Minute 4(6) - Traffic Calming in Loxley Road, Stratford upon Avon

In response to comments from Councillor Richard Hyde, Roger Newham reported that the works to implement the selected scheme would involve the closure of part of Loxley Road for one week.

ii. Minute 4(6) - Traffic Calming in Loxley Road, Stratford upon Avon.

In response to comments from Councillor John Appleton relating to Roger Newham reported that the Cabinet had agreed to the crossing at the recommended location which had been identified as a safe crossing point under government guidance.

6. Public Questions and Answers

(1) Question from Andrew Cooper on behalf of the Stratford Town Partnership.

Mr Cooper advised the Committee that one year ago at an Area Committee meeting, it was agreed that a joint Parking Leaflet would be a good way forward to combat against some of the negative PR surrounding parking in Stratford-upon-Avon. He was pleased that through working together this has come to fruition and he thanked the officers and councillors for their feedback and input.

As the changes occurred on Monday (15th), timescales were tight in getting this produced, (the initial leaflet was put on hold a year ago at the request of the District and County Councils following the announcement of new changes proposed) but he was grateful to those who have added to and changed the text provided. He felt that this was a more informative leaflet than anything that has gone before.

The leaflet now included in effect three leaflets and also mentioned Park and Ride. 50,000 will be printed. The leaflet would be available for web use if required.

(2) Question from Danielle Whittey relating to the On Street Waiting restrictions in Timothy's Bridge Road.

Danielle Whittey informed that Committee that she was the owner of the STOMPS children's play venue in Timothy's Bridge Road, Stratford upon Avon. The building had only 34 parking places and this often resulted in visitors parking on the road. The proposed week end waiting restrictions in the road would create problems for visitors to STOMPS. She advised the Committee of action being taken to encourage visitors to use the Park and Ride facility but this had not resolved the problem. She requested the waiting restrictions be imposed on one side of the road only.

Roger Newham, advised the Committee that parked vehicles created difficulties for emergency vehicles and Park and Ride buses using Timothy's Bridge Road at week ends. The proposed restrictions would overcome these difficulties.

Members felt that a meeting should be held between Danielle Whittey, local members and the officers to discuss the way forward and that all Area Committee Members should be advised of the meeting date should they wish to attend.

3. Other Questions

The Chair then indicated that he had not received notification of any other questions.

Martin Gibbins, the Area Manager, informed the Committee that he had met with Mr J. Oldfield of Alcester Road, Stratford upon Avon to discuss some questions Mr Oldfield had wanted to raise at the Committee meeting. Mr Oldfield had been advised that his questions were not in the remit of the Committee. As an exception, the Chair invited Mr. Oldfield to raise any relevant issue. This was declined but Mr Oldfield expressed an intention to send a letter to the Chair.

7. Highway Maintenance Plan 2006/2007 and Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy which provided information about highway maintenance work

proposed in 2006/07 and listed other sites where maintenance work would be required in the future. Included in the lists was the proposed programme of road maintenance schemes funded from the additional £300,000 capital sum (reported to the March Committee).

Following introductory comments from Peter Samwell members discussed several aspects of the report. The following points were made during the discussion:-

- Concern at the capacity of the Council's equipment to unblock gullies and drains bearing in mind that of the 90,000 gullies in the Stratford on Avon District, 7,000 were blocked.
- Action was taken to make the best possible use of the resources available for road maintenance. Peter Samwell indicated that regard was always had to previous works that had been undertaken to a particular highway when determining future maintenance. He agreed to re-examine the works proposed to the footpath off School Lane at Brailles and to the A44 at the Oilwell Garage at Kitesbrook to see if the money should be allocated to other priority maintenance schemes in the locality.
- A new road patching system (Rhino) was being trialled. This was a more effective way of undertaking pothole repairs and it was likely that the trial would be extended.
- Pothole repair is a national problem and the recent heavy rain had made problems worse.
- Maintenance levels were improving and comparative information would be circulated to the Committee as soon as possible.
- All roads were monitored and public satisfaction surveys undertaken.
- With regard to parking problems in rural villages consideration should be given to encouraging housing associations to provide off street parking for tenants.
- The replacement of footway slabs was generally an expensive option. In Stratford upon Avon broken slabs were replaced with slabs of a suitable type when funding was available.
- An audit of contractor works was undertaken.

Resolved:-

(1) That the Cabinet be informed of the Committee's views on the Highway Maintenance Plan 2006/2007 and the Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes,

(2) That the Committee approves the programme of road maintenance schemes funded from the additional £300,000 capital sum (reported to the March Committee).

8. Review of the Area Community Education Councils and future funding arrangements

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Family Services which sought the views of the Area Committee on the draft report to the Cabinet asking for approval to the future arrangements for the funds which ACECs allocated. This was related to the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy.

Following introductory comments from Martin Gibbins, the Area Manager, the following points were raised during the discussion:-

- Members agreed that the Area Committee would be the appropriate body to take decisions on future bids but not as part of the arrangements for the Community Development Fund.
- The proposed arrangements would make the best use of funds without following a bureaucratic process.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet be advised that the Area Committee consider that, whilst welcoming the ability to distribute the funds referred to in para. 2.4 of the draft Cabinet paper (£32,000), these should be dispersed through current arrangements rather than through the Community Development Fund process and that arrangements should be reviewed in 12 months time.

9. Adult Social Care Performance Report – Help to Live at Home and Associated Indicators

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services

The report showed performance for Stratford in relation to key performance areas for adult social care. Trend information and comparative performance was included on a variety of Department of Health indicators focussing in particular on older people helped to live at home. Action aimed at improving performance was discussed.

Following introductory comments from Martin Gibbins, the Area Manager the following points were raised:-

- Comparative statistics would be useful in future reports.
- Information required relating to levels of take up of direct payments.
- Members were concerned that the appropriate professional officers were not present at the meeting to answer questions on core information which would inform other issues.

Members agreed to defer further consideration of the report to the next meeting at which the appropriate officers be requested to attend.

10. Shared Use Foot/Cycleway - Kinwarton Farm Road, Alcester

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

It was proposed to convert the existing footway alongside Kinwarton Farm Road to shared use foot/cycleway, add a new dropped kerb crossing point of Kinwarton Farm Road and re-locate the proposed crossing point of Captains Hill further away from the mini roundabout.

With the Chair's permission Mrs Moore, Chair of Kinwarton parish Council, raised her question to the Committee at this point in the meeting.

Mrs Moore reported that her concerns about the proposed location of the eastern end of the proposed foot/cycleway which she had expressed at the last Committee meeting, still applied.

She expressed concern that her comments had been ignored and the latest proposal to move the terminal point one metre did not solve anything.

The amended cycle way crossing was still very near to the road junction where traffic would be accelerating

There would be a problem with lorries turning at the junction and she considered it would be safer if there was no crossing at this point.

Mr Cooper, Kinwarton Parish Council, indicated that the Kinwarton Parish Council urged the Committee not to agree with the proposal. He added that when the work on the previous report scheme had stopped, there were assurances that the council would be consulted. This had not happened. Moving the sign will make it difficult for use by lorries and buses. He suggested that the junction should be a T-junction.

Roger Newham explained the history of the proposal which had been prepared in response to comments from the community through Advantage Alcester.

The proposal had been safety audited and the cycleway would need to be close to the junction by its nature.

Councillor Chris Saint expressed concern at the allegation that the Parish had not been consulted particularly as there was a requirement to do so under the County Council's Local Council Charter.

David Miller, the consultant engaged by Sustrans, stated that the proposal had been commissioned by the District Council. A number of routes in the area had been considered and the scheme now before the Committee was the most appropriate scheme.

With regard to consultations, Mr Miller indicated that details had been considered by Advantage Alcester and the Town and Parish Councils had been sent copies of proposal in January 2005. Also meetings had been held with Mrs Moore and representatives of the Parish Council to discuss the proposal. Details of the proposal were also delivered by hand to local residents seeking comments but it had not been until the work on site had commenced that any objections came to light

Resolved:-

That the Area Committee approves:-

- (1) The conversion of the existing footway alongside Kinwarton Farm Road, Alcester into a shared use foot/cycleway facility.
- (2) The new proposed crossing point of Kinwarton Farm Road.
- (3) The new location for the crossing of Captain's Hill.

11. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

1. Affordable Housing - to include the County Councils responsibility for regional strategy. Members noted that with regard to affordable housing in Bidford on Avon, the District Council had not taken up the opportunity to provide such housing.
2. Speed Limits on non A roads
3. Education – pupil numbers
4. Diversion of Footpath AL 4 Salford Priors
5. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act implications for the County Council
6. Local Area Agreements and the Committee's targets

12. Any Other Business

none

The Committee rose at 6.10 p.m.

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Chair