

The Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee met at Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon on the 19 September 2007.

Present:-

Councillors George Atkinson (Chair)
“ Richard Hyde (Vice Chair)
“ John Appleton
“ Peter Barnes
“ Jill Dill Russell
“ David Booth
“ Richard Hobbs
“ Nina Knapman
“ Sue Main
“ Mike Perry
“ Chris Saint
“ Izzi Seccombe
“ Bob Stevens

Officers:-

Environment and Economy Directorate

Chris Burrows, Minor Works Programme Manager.
Graeme Fitton, Head of Transport & Highways.
Simon Emson, Rights of Way Officer – Legal Orders.

Community Protection Directorate

Glen Ranger, Deputy County Fire Officer.
Andy Thompson, Watch Manager B.

Children, Young People & Families Directorate

Nigel Mills, Area Schools and Communities Officer

Performance and Development Directorate

Lisa Arbern, Solicitor, Community and Environment Legal Services.
Martin Gibbins, Stratford Area Manager.
Pete Keeley, Member Services.
Amanda Wilson-Patterson – Area Administrative Officer.

4 members of the public attended.

1. General

(1) An apology

was received from Councillor Helen McCarthy.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 18 July 2007 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the 18 July 2007 meeting be approved.

(ii) Matters Arising

(a) Minute 2 (2) – Question from Dr John Page re. Accidents at Valley Road/Umberslade Road/The Common, Earlswood.

The Chair advised Members that Dr Page had now received a written response to his concerns.

(b) Minute 2(4) – Question from Mr David re Snitterfield Sports Club.

In response to comments from Councillor Richard Hobbs, Martin Gibbins, Area Manager, reported that he was still endeavouring to contact Mr Prior about the issues he had raised.

(c) Minute 10 (3) - Future report about the Provision of a cycle park in Bridge Street, Stratford upon Avon.

Councillor Peter Barnes advised the Committee of the action that was being taken to provide a portable cycle rack in the Town. He added that there would be no need for a further report to the Committee.

2. Public Questions and Answers

(1) Question from The Reverend Michael Gorrick about parking at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford upon Avon.

The Reverend Michael Gorrick reminded the Committee of parking restrictions that had been imposed in the vicinity of Holy Trinity Church. He considered the time allowed for parking was inadequate. He requested the Committee to agree to the provision of an allocated space with dropped kerbs to be used specifically by taxis/vehicles dropping off/picking up people attending the Church and for bridle vehicles.

Graeme Fitton reported that this was a matter for the District Council to consider and that he would pursue the matter with them.

(2) Question from Mr John Moore of Deppers Bridge relating to the Harbury Station Bridge.

Mr Moore requested the Committee to make an exemption to the proposed weight restriction so as to permit any farm vehicle to use the bridge not just combine harvesters as recommended by the officers. He stressed the dangers of farm vehicles using the alternative route and the possible impact the weight restriction could have on his farming business.

The chair indicated that the Committee would consider the report relating to the weight restriction as the next item.

5. B4451/07 Harbury Station Bridge - Temporary Weight Restriction

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy which informed Committee of the results of investigations into possible exemptions to the proposed temporary weight restriction.

Following introductory comments from Graeme Fitton, members discussed several aspects of the proposal.

Councillor Bob Stevens advised Members that he had some sympathy with the request by farmers and, seconded by Councillor Peter Barnes, moved:-

(1) That the Committee notes the results of the investigation into possible exemptions to the temporary weight restriction and notes that the Council can make such exceptions as it considers necessary.

(2) That the Committee supports an exemption for farm vehicles essential to the local businesses during the temporary period.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- The weight of some agricultural vehicles could cause damage to the bridge parapet.
- Officers should find some method of accommodating the request from the local farmer
- The proposition would be contrary to the advice of the council's officers.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried by 5 votes to 4.

3. Part Diversion of Public Footpath SM19 Long Itchington

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

A Public Path Diversion Order made to divert part of Public Footpath SM19

attracted two objections and so cannot be confirmed by the County Council but may instead be submitted to the Secretary of State for determination. The Committee recommended that the Order be submitted to the Secretary of State with a request that it be confirmed with a minor modification.

Simon Emson, Rights of Way Officer, introduced the main points of the report.

Councillor John Appleton advised the Committee that the Southam Town Council objected to the proposal on the grounds that the views from the proposed new route would be less pleasing and that at times the ground became very muddy.

Following discussion it was Resolved:

That the Warwickshire County Council (Part of Footpath SM19 Long Itchington) Public Path Diversion Order 2006 be submitted to the Secretary of State with a request that it be confirmed with a minor modification.

4. 2007-8 Capital Programme for Transport - Delegated Budget

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy.

At the meeting of the Area Committee on 21 March 2007, Members agreed to the implementation of four minor works schemes costing a total of £26,000. More detailed cost estimates subsequently provided by County Highways reduced this figure to £24,647 which left a further £15,353 remaining from the £40,000 delegated budget to be spent during the current financial year. In the absence of any appropriate outstanding proposals or new requests for minor works schemes, it was recommended that the £15,353 be carried over and added to the 2008-9 Minor Works delegated budget to be discussed at the January 2008 Capital Transport Seminar.

Following introductory comments from Chris Burrows, Minor Works Programme Manager, the Committee discussed several aspects of the report.

Councillor Peter Barnes advised the Committee that, although the works at Waterloo Road, Bidford on Avon had not yet completed, part of the route was being used by the public including people in wheelchairs. He thanked the Committee for agreeing to the works which was appreciated by local people..

The following points were noted during the discussion:

- A programme for dropped kerbs was being prepared from a specific budget for dropped kerb budget.
- Requests for individual works to kerbs should be sent direct to the Divisional Surveyor.
- Issues surrounding works considered necessary following the recent flooding would be discussed at a members seminar to be held later.
- With regard to the use of the delegated budget it was suggested that

Resolved:

- (1) That the Area Committee carries over the remaining £15,353 from the 2007-8 Minor Works delegated budget and, in the absence of any appropriate outstanding proposals or new requests for minor works schemes, it is added to the 2008-9 Minor Works delegated budget to be discussed at the January 2008 Transport Capital Seminar.
- (2) That a Members Group be established consisting of the Chair and Councillors John Appleton, Peter Barnes and Sue Main, to consider request from Members for the use of the £15,353.

6. Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies

(1) Cotswolds Conservation Board

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development relating to the appointment of a councillor to serve on the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Councillor Bob Stevens, seconded by Councillor Sue Main, moved and it was Resolved:-

That the Area Committee appoint Councillor Chris Saint as the Council's representative on the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

(2) Nomination of Member Representative to the Merged South Warwickshire CDRP

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

It was proposed that a new Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership be formed from the merger of the present Warwick and Stratford CDRPS. The governance document for the merged group gave the Stratford and Warwick Area Committees one nomination each for a member representative. The report requested the Stratford Area Committee to agree their nominee.

Councillor Nina Knapman, seconded by Councillor David Booth, moved and it was Resolved:

That the Area Committee appoint Councillor Jill Dill-Russell as a representative to attend the merged South Warwickshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

7. Responsive Services and Empowered Communities –the development of a locality approach

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which provided an update on progress being made on the development of localities within Stratford District.

Following introductory comments from Martin Gibbins, Area Manager, Members discussed several aspects of the report. The following points were noted during the discussion:

- The powers delegated by both the County and District Councils needed to be structured properly.
- There would be integration between the community and local policing issues.
- Governance arrangements were being discussed, including the arrangements for voting by councillors who were members of both councils.
- It was important at meetings of the Joint Committee that representatives of the Police knew the locality concerned.
- Consideration should be given to all county and district councillors being updated on the proposed working relationships between the county and district councils and the Police, through a seminar if considered necessary.
- There would be a review of the arrangements in 12 months.
- There was some concern about the possibility of the issues considered by the Stratford and Shipston Joint Committee to favour Stratford upon Avon Town and consideration should be given to introducing a degree of balance particularly relating to financial issues.
- The arrangements should encourage a high level of input from local businesses and commercial interests.
- There could be increased pressure on councillors at Joint Committee meetings from lobbying groups who did not have any voting powers. Guidance for councillors was suggested.

Resolved:

That Members endorse the outline proposals for locality arrangements for Stratford on Avon.

8. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The following items were noted for the 14 November meeting.

- (1) World Class Stratford, proposed pedestrian bridge and improvements to Waterside & Southern Lane**
- (2) The possibility of a Gating Order being made for Childs Close Stratford upon Avon**
- (2) Speed Limit proposal at Wilmcote**
- (3) Update on the fire at the Ufton Landfill site.**

11. Any Other Items

None.

The Committee rose at 5.25 p.m.

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Chair