

The Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee met at the Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon on the 14 November 2007.

Present:-

Councillors George Atkinson (Chair)

“ Richard Hyde (Vice Chair)

“ John Appleton

“ Peter Barnes

“ Jill Dill Russell

“ David Booth

“ Richard Hobbs

“ Nina Knapman

“ Helen McCarthy

“ Sue Main

“ Mike Perry

“ Chris Saint

“ Izzi Seccombe

“ Bob Stevens

Officers:-

Environment and Economy Directorate

Graeme Fitton, Head of Transport & Highways.

Peter Samwell, County Highway Project Manager.

Philipa Young, Safety Engineer.

Performance and Development Directorate

Lisa Arbern, Solicitor, Community and Environment Legal Services.

Martin Gibbins, Stratford Area Manager.

Pete Keeley, Member Services.

Amanda Wilson-Patterson, Localities and Communities Officer

Jo Webster, Area Administrative Officer.

7 members of the public attended.

Before the commencement of business, Councillor George Atkinson, Chair of the Area Committee, referred to the recent deaths of Firefighters Ian Reid, Darren Yates-Badley, John Averis and Ashley Stephens who lost their lives while tackling the warehouse fire at Atherstone on Stour.

Members stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect.

1. General

(1) Apologies

None.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor John Appleton declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 8 and 9 as a member of the Stratford on Avon District Council.

Councillor Chris Saint declared a prejudicial interest in agenda 8 as a Trustee of Age Concern at Shipston on Stour and indicated that he would leave the room when the item was discussed.

Councillor George Atkinson declared a personal interest as a Member of the Warwickshire Association for the Blind.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 19 September 2007 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the 19 September 2007 meeting be approved.

(ii) Matters Arising

(a) Minute 5 – B4451/07 Harbury Station Bridge – Temporary Weight Restriction

The Chair advised Members that a report was to be submitted to the Cabinet in December.

(b) Minute 8(3) Update on the Fire at Ufton.

In response to comments from Councillor John Appleton, Martin Gibbins, Area Manager, advised Members that he was still awaiting further information before submitting an update report to the Committee.

(c) Minute 8(1) – World Class Stratford, proposed pedestrian bridge and improvements Waterside and Southern Lane.

In response to comments from Councillor Jill Dill-Russell, Members were advised that a further report would be submitted to the Committee when the consultations had been completed.

2. Public Questions and Answers

(1) Question from Karl Field of Mulberry Street, Stratford upon Avon re Access to his Property.

Karl Field reported that access to his property was often blocked by parked commercial vehicles and despite him protesting to both the Police and the County Council no action had been taken.

Members noted that a meeting was to be arranged between Mr Field, the Local Member, the police and a representative from the Environment and Economy Directorate to discuss possible remedies.

(2) Question from Dr W Roberts, Chairman of the Wilmcote Parish Council.

Dr Roberts outlined difficulties with traffic in the village which would be overcome by the proposed Traffic Management Scheme Proposal - to be considered later on the Agenda. He advised the Committee that the Parish Council fully supported the proposed scheme.

3. Wilmcote Traffic Management

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy relating to the proposed Wilmcote traffic management scheme which involved signage, road markings and extension of speed limits.

Following introductory comments from Graeme Fitton it was Resolved:

That the Area Committee approve for implementation the proposed traffic management proposals outlined in the report.

4. Waiting Restriction - Broad Street, Stratford-upon-Avon

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

At its meeting on the 16 May 2007 the Stratford Area Committee Members considered a report containing a proposal to introduce No Waiting 8am-6pm Monday – Friday for Broad Street. The Committee resolved not to implement the proposal and that Officers should re-examine the restriction. The recommendation is to formalise the existing 'School Keep Clear' markings to prevent parking during school hours and provide unrestricted parking outside of term time.

Following introductory comments from Graeme Fitton it was **Resolved:**

That a Traffic Regulation Order be advertised to formalise the existing 'School Keep Clear' Markings to prevent parking during school hours and provide unrestricted parking outside of term time.

5. Area Committee Maintenance and Safety Funding 2007/08

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy which provided details of the priorities and schemes for the Area Committee's Maintenance and Safety funding.

Peter Samwell, County Highways Project Manager, introduced the report.

Resolved:

That the priorities and schemes for the Area Committee's Maintenance and Safety funding are approved.

6. Highway Maintenance and Safety Budget 2008-9 - Outline Capital Allocations

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

At its meeting of 6 February 2007 the County Council approved a £2 million 2008-9 capital allocation to Highway Maintenance and Safety; £400,000 for each of the County's five areas. The funding was to be allocated to local schemes in consultation with Area Committees. The report made proposals for outline capital allocations within the £400,000 for Stratford area. When the Area Committee had agreed the outline allocations a programme of capital schemes would be prepared for discussion at the Transport Seminars in early 2008.

Following introductory comments from Phillipa Young, Safety Engineer, Members discussed several aspects of the report. The following points were noted during the discussion:

- Several Members considered that the suggested £50,000 allocation for local schemes was insufficient and the suggested allocation for the speed limit review was too great.
- Consideration of the allocation of resources should be left until later in the budget process.
- Other sources of funding should be researched.
- The speed limit review was based on community concerns rather than casualty reduction and there was no direct link with this Agenda Item.

- Two seminars were planned in early 2008 to deal with Transport and the speed limit review.
- Communities were not necessarily village based
- Need to take bigger view on priorities and look at other sources of funding.

Councillor Chris Saint, seconded by Councillor Sue Main, moved and it was Resolved by ten votes to two:

- (1) That, having regard to the Council's budget process, consideration of the outline capital allocations for the Stratford Highway Maintenance and Safety Budget 2008-9 given in Table 1 of the report be deferred to a later date.
- (2) That a further report be submitted which includes the information on the possibility of other sources of funding and on the level of resources for the speed limit review.

7. Speed Limit Review of A and B Roads

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

The technical review of existing speed limits on A and B roads was progressing. The report recommended a procedure whereby Area Committees could take into account any community concerns when prioritising schemes to alter any speed limits.

Philipa Young, Safety Engineer, introduced the report.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- The review will include an examination roads such as the B Road at Kineton which had prompted a petition to the Council.
- The review related to A and B roads only, there was no intention to include C and D roads.
- The current village speed limit review would continue.
- The Area committee would not commit to funding the review.

Resolved:

That the proposed procedures for taking into account community concerns in carrying out the review of A and B road speed limits be approved.

8. Community Development Fund 2007/8

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

The report gave details of the applications received for the Area for the year's (2007/8) Community Development Fund. It described the processes followed in evaluating the applications and made recommendations as to which applications should receive a grant.

Following introductory comments from Amanda Wilson-Patterson, Localities and Communities Officer, Members discussed several of the proposals.

The following points were noted:

- Application 07/02 relating to Drug Action Shipston had not met the criteria because of the salary element of the bid.
- Unsuccessful applications were directed to other possible sources of funding.

It was then **Resolved:**

That the Area Committee agrees to fund the eleven eligible bids, scoring ten points and above, at the amount recommended, as shown in the final column of Appendix A to the report.

9. Stratford on Avon Potential Well being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund Projects

Councillor Chris Saint left the room during consideration of this item.

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development relating to funding proposals for projects under the Well being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund as set out in the report.

Following introductory comments from Martin Gibbins, the Area Manger, Members discussed various aspects of the projects. The following points were noted during the discussion:

- Consideration should be given to the possibility of viring and remaining money to the Community Development Fund
- With regard to the Welcome Pack Initiative:
 - Similar projects were operating in other areas, parishes etc. through ventures such as parish newsletters and care must be taken not to undermine these existing arrangements.
 - There was concern about how the Initiative would work in rural areas.
 - Some villages/communities such as Lighthorne Heath, did not have the resources to undertake projects such as newsletters and these areas would benefit from the Welcome Pack Initiative.
 - Similar initiatives undertaken in other parts of the county had been successful.

- There would be a need for all parties, including church councils, to agree to proposal before they went ahead.
- There was uncertainty about the number of communities that would benefit from the initiative and at the level of costs involved.

It was then Resolved:

- (1) That consideration of the Welcome Pack Initiative should be deferred to enable further information to be provided about the number of parishes/communities that would benefit from such proposals.
- (2) That the Area Committee approves the other Well being Fund proposals set out in Section 4 and the Social Inclusion Fund proposal set out in Section 5.

10. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

23 January 2008 Meeting

Proposed changes to the admission number of Stratford High School

Future Meeting

- (1) Problems of unsuitable country lanes being used HGVs particularly those HGVs being guided by satellite navigation equipment.
- (2) Update on the fire at Ufton Landfill site.
- (3) Update report on gating order at Charles Close, Stratford upon Avon.
- (4) Proposed pedestrian/cycle bridge over the River Avon at Stratford upon Avon.

11. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items.

The Committee rose at 5.50 p.m.

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Chair.