

The Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee met at Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon on the 19 March 2008.

Present:-

Councillors George Atkinson (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.

Andy Cowan, Chief Planner.

Performance and Development Directorate

Lisa Arben, Senior Solicitor.

Martin Gibbins, Stratford Area Manager.

Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnerships Manager.

Pete Keeley, Member Services.

Elizabeth Price, Area Administrative Officer.

Amanda Wilson-Patterson, Localities and Communities Officer

Children, Young People and Family Services Directorate

Phil Astle, Assistant Head of Service – Service Planning.

8 members of the public attended.

General

(1) Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Richard Hyde.

(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Agenda 8 – Proposed Eco Town at former Long Marston MOD Depot.

Councillors David Booth, Peter Barnes, Izzi Seccombe declared personal interests as local members.

Other Declarations

Councillors Richard Hobbs, Chris Saint, Bob Stevens and Sue Main declared personal interests as Members of the Stratford on Avon District Council.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 23 January 2008 and Matters Arising

Minutes

With regard to Minute 2(1)(iii) relating to lighting on Bishopton Lane, Stratford upon Avon, it was agreed that the reference to the Lane being hardly used after dark referred to use by pedestrians and that the Minutes should be amended accordingly.

It was **Resolved:-**

That the minutes of the 14 November 2007 meeting be approved as amended.

Matters Arising

Minute 2 Public Questions and Answers – Lighting on Bishopton Lane.

Members noted that the street lights had now been installed.

Minute 2(3) – Alderminster to Whitchurch footpath

Councillor Izzi Seccombe reported that a meeting had been held to resolve the outstanding issues and requested the officers to endeavour to make reasonable progress on the matter whilst keeping the local Member and residents aware of important developments.

Minute 6 E5998 Stroat Lane, Great Aine.

Councillor Nina Knapman reported that the Members site visit had been held and that officers were examining the conclusions of Defra. Consequently the report to the Area Committee had been deferred until May/June.

2. Public Questions and Answers

(1) Question from Colin Flint relating to Traffic Claverdon

Mr Flint presented a petition from residents of Claverdon relating to their concerns about traffic through the village.

He advised the Committee that the road through the village was not fit for the kind of traffic now using it: the junctions, and particularly the crossroads in the centre of the village were dangerous: the footpath alongside the road was virtually unusable.

He considered that there was an urgent need for much more vigorous and effective speed control in the village. He also requested that weight restrictions should be imposed on the B4463.

Graeme Fitton, Head of Transport and Highways, advised Members that officers were in communication with Mr Flint over the issues raised. The accident rate on the road concerned did not meet the national criteria for the installation of fixed cameras although an examination was being undertaken in relation to a mobile camera. Investigations were also being undertaken relating to traffic calming in the village and in respect of a weight restriction on the B4463.

Councillor Richard Hobbs, the local Member, advised the Committee that he supported the views of the residents.

(2) Question from Russ Braithwaite from Stretton on Fosse Parish Council

Russ Braithwaite advised the Committee of local concern about the dangers in using the junction on the Fosse adjacent to Stretton on Fosse and the need for improvements to be made. He gave photographic examples of the dangers at the junction.

Graeme Fitton advised Members that this particular site is now being dealt with as part of a Casualty Reduction Scheme that is looking at the whole of the Fosse Way within the County rather than as part of the Speed Limit Review. He reminded Members of the seminar arranged for the 2 April to consider the Speed Limit Review.

Councillor Chris Saint, the local Member expressed his support for action on this issue and reminded officers of the need to keep local members aware of any highway proposals.

Members stressed the need to also keep parish councils aware of such proposals.

(3) Question from Don Hannah of Payton Street Residents Association, Stratford upon Avon.

Mr Hannah advised the Committee that recently Whitbread's obtained permission to put an 85 room hotel with no guest parking on the College House site at the Junction of

Payton Street and Warwick Road. The expected 60 cars plus those of the 38 staff would swamp the 45 parking spaces in zone 4 (Payton, John and Tyler streets). Hotel

guests would be able to park free overnight, as current pay and display restrictions only apply from 8am to 6pm, meaning residents returning from work would be unable to

park.

Discussions with the relevant County Officers recommend that the Association approach the Area Committee for an action recommendation to officers, so that formal

consideration can take place. Officers point out that without such a recommendation it would be a considerable time before they could consider the problem, and a lengthy process to get implementation.

Despite considerable reservations about traffic and parking, a scheme to use the Red Lion car park opposite for drop off, and the Bancroft Multi-storey for parking, are in

place but would only be safe and effective if guests were not able to park overnight in adjoining streets. Whitbread's, the Highways Dept, local Councillors and Residents all

recognise the need and proposal for such action.

He requested the Committee to recommend that action be taken to resolve these issues.

Councillor Mike Perry indicated that he had expressed reservations about the proposed development when the application for planning permission was submitted.

Graeme Fitton reported that funding had been made available under the planning permission for a parking order as proposed by Mr Hannah, if considered necessary.

The Committee requested Councillor Richard Hobbs, in view of his knowledge of the development, to liaise with Don Hannah, Graeme Fitton and local members to progress the matter.

3. Locality Working in Stratford on Avon District

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

The report followed on from the decision of the Cabinet on 6th December 2007 and was intended to support discussion relating to the establishment in the area of 3 Joint Committees (i.e. jointly with Stratford on Avon District Council) and 6 Locality Forums. The views of the Area Committee would be reported to meetings of the Cabinet and County Council on 24 April & 13 May.

During his introduction of the report Nick Gower-Johnson advised Members that the Stratford on Avon District Council's Executive had deferred consideration to enable further discussion on the functions it could delegate to a joint committee.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

Voting arrangements would be heavily influenced by the functions delegated by both councils.

There were concerns about the voting rights of Members, both County and District Councillors and those councillors who were members of both council.

When determining voting rights regard should be given to the difference in the size of electorate represented by county councillors and district councillors and the urban/rural nature of each area.

Any arrangements should be reviewed after a specific period.

Consideration must be given to the arrangements for the scrutiny of decisions under the joint arrangements.

The future process for decision making relating to the County Councils Highways Maintenance and other budgets should be given further consideration.

It was then **Resolved:**

That the Area Committee:

- (1) Confirms its support for the establishment of three Joint Committees (jointly with Stratford District Council) in the place of the Area Committee
- (2) Supports officers now making the practical arrangements to establish the six locality forums as approved by the full Council on 11th December 2007
- (3) Confirms its support for the boundary delineation for the Joint Committees and Locality Forums as shown on the map attached to the report at Appendix 1
- (4) Recommends to Cabinet and the Council the draft Standing Orders for the Joint Committees as set out in Appendix 2 subject to a satisfactory outcome to discussions relating to the capital budget for Highway Maintenance and Safety and such other amendments considered by the Strategic Director of Performance and Development to be necessary
- (5) Recommends to Cabinet and the Council the list of delegated functions for the Joint Committees as set out in Appendix 3 subject to there being a satisfactory outcome of the Stratford on Avon District Council's delegated responsibility review and such other amendments considered by the Strategic Director of Performance and Development to be necessary
- (6) Agrees a date for the implementation of these arrangements when all practical and delegation arrangements have been resolved.

Requests officers to prepare a further report on the issues.

Councillor David Booth, moved, Councillor Jill Dill-Russell seconded and it was also Resolved:

- (8) recommends that the Stratford on Avon District Council be requested to increase its delegation to the Joint Committees.

In conclusion Nick Gower-Johnson agreed to distribute a Briefing Paper after 8th April outlining the progress made and a response to the various issues raised during the discussion

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

The Area Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which asked the Committee to consider whether to approve the Well being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund projects set out in the report.

The Committee considered the individual projects as follow:

(1) Just Me!!

The Committee agreed to the award of grant of £3,000

(2) Addressing Anti Social Behaviour in Alcester

The Committee agreed to the award of grant of £8,000.

(3) Community Facility in Shipston

During the discussion the following points were noted:

As with all projects, local members must be advised of these projects.

It was understood that the proposer of the project would be a community interest company that had not yet been established formally. Safeguards relating to the operation of the proposing company would need to be included in the grant contract.

There was an amount of developer funding from a Section 106 Agreement relating to the Tileman's Lane development that was allocated towards community facilities. The use of the Section 106 funding was being considered by the Stratford on Avon District Council and it was possible that some funding could be used by this project. Any grant from the County Council would need to be subject to clarification of the Section 106 funding.

The officers would ensure that the Shipston on Stour Town Council was aware and supportive of the project.

The Committee **agreed** to award a grant of £6000 to the project, subject to further examination of the use for the project of funding from the Section 106 Agreement, to the proposing company being properly constituted and to validation of the these matters by the local Member.

(4) Back & 4th Transport

The Committee agreed to award a grant of £16,500

(5) Citizens Advice Bureau, Southam

During the discussion on this item clarification was sought about funding from the Stratford on Avon District Council and the use of One Stop Shop services.

The Committee agreed to award a grant of £6614, subject to clarification of the above points to the satisfaction of the local Member.

5. Increase in the Admission Number of Bishopton Primary School, Stratford-upon-Avon

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families which informed Members of the response to the consultation with stakeholders on proposals to increase the admission number of Bishopton Primary School. It also sought any views the Area Committee wished to make to Cabinet.

Following introductory comments from Phil Astle, Head of Service – Service Planning, Members discussed several aspects of the proposal. The following points were noted during the discussion:

- There was a need for additional places at the school which should be accommodated by permanent buildings.
- Further information should be provided for the Committee outlining plans for the provision of primary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon and detailing all the developer contributions that are available.

Resolved:

(1) That the Area Committee support the proposal to increase the admission number of Bishopton Primary School.

(2) A report be submitted to a future meeting outlining plans for the provision of primary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon and detailing all the developer contributions.

6. Change to the Admission Number of Southam Primary School

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families which informed Members of the response to the consultation with

stakeholders on proposals to reduce the admission number of Southam Primary School. It also asked for any comments that the Area Committee wished to make to Cabinet.

Following introductory comments from Phil Astle, Head of Service – Service Planning it was **Resolved:**

That the Area Committee supports the proposal to reduce the admission number of Southam Primary School.

7. Capital Programme for Transport 2008-09

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Strategic Director of Environment and Economy which set out the proposed 2008-9 Capital Programme for Integrated Transport and Delegated Budget Allocations for Stratford on Avon Area.

In response to comment made during the discussion, Graeme Fitton, Head of Transport and Highways indicated that he would contact Councillor Chris Saint direct regarding schemes at Little Wolford, Idlicote and Honington.

It was then **Resolved:**

That Members:-

1. Support the 2008-9 Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for Stratford on Avon Area given in Table 1 to the report.
2. Support the 2008-9 Delegated Budget Local Schemes (Minor Improvements) Programme for Stratford on Avon Area given in Table 2.
3. Agree that the schemes listed in Table 3 be removed from the list of requests.
4. Support the 2008-9 Delegated Budget Allocations for Stratford on Avon Area given in Table 4.

8. Information Report on Proposed 'Eco-town' at Former Long Marston MOD Depot

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

As part of the national 'Eco-towns' initiative, a proposal to develop a new settlement of 6,000 dwellings had been submitted to the Government by the private landowners of a

240 hectare site, largely comprising the former MOD Depot at Long Marston. The Government was expected to announce a short-list of preferred broad locations for at least ten eco-towns across the country in April with an announcement of the final choices in July. This information report had been requested by the Area Committee at its last meeting.

Andy Cowan, Chief Planner, introduced the report and indicated that a report would be submitted to the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- Any planning applications for an Eco Town, would be processed following submission to the planning authority, which was likely to involve Government intervention with the council being involved as a consultee only, or submission under the New Towns Act which was a speedier process involving public examination and the establishment of a new town development corporation.
- Any slippage in the timetable must provide a fair opportunity for responses to any consultations.
- Cross boundary issues had not yet been discussed with neighbouring councils at this stage. This would likely involve a joint Member working group. Members noted that there was an existing joint members group to consider cross boundary issues in the south of the county.
- The number of houses in an eco town could be used for housing needs calculations for neighbouring authorities.
- The Section 106 master planning exercise already undertaken for the future use of the site was not invalidated by the eco town proposal.

The Committee noted the report.

9. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Committee noted the following items for future meetings.

7 May 2008 Meeting

- (1) Area Community Learning Partnership for Stratford District, Progress Report 2007/08 and Action Plan for 2008/09**

A report summarising progress made by the ACLP during 2007/08 and giving an outline for proposed partnership activity for 2008/09

(2) Earlswood Common Village Speed Limit Review - Proposed Extension of 30 mph Speed Limit on D5005 Malthouse Lane and D5008 Earlswood Lakes Causeway

A report presenting the results of traffic speed surveys undertaken on the D5005 Malthouse Lane and D5008 Earlswood Lakes Causeway, Earlswood Common.

(3) Highway Maintenance Plan 2008/09 and Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes

A report providing information about highway maintenance work proposed in 2008/2009 and listing other sites where maintenance work will be required in the future.

(4) Speed Limit Review

To present the speed limit review recommendations as discussed at the speed limit review seminar.

(5) E5998 Stoa Lane, Great Alne

Report in response to a Petition requesting mechanically propelled vehicles (except farm traffic) be prohibited

Future Meeting

- (1) Proposed pedestrian/cycle bridge over the River Avon at Stratford upon Avon.
- (2) Stratford upon Avon Primary School - Report outlining the provision of primary school places in Stratford
- (3) Stannals Bridge

11. Any Other Items

Computers.

The Committee was advised that twenty redundant computers had been distributed along with an additional ten which had been obtained from those allocated to other areas.

The Committee rose at 6.50 p.m.

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Chair.