

The **WARWICK AREA COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **22nd MARCH, 2005**.

Present:-

Councillor Sarah Boad (Chair)
“ Ken Browne
“ Cliff Cleaver
“ Jose Compton
“ Chris Davis
“ Eithne Goode
“ Marion Haywood
“ Tim Naylor
“ Raj Randev
“ Dave Shilton
“ Mota Singh

Also Present:-

Dr. Wusu Sannoh (Mayor of Bo)

Officers: Graeme Fitton and Hussinatu Yumkella (Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy), Steve Cooper (Property Services) David Carter and Peter Hunter (Chief Executive's), Anne Clarke (Social Services).

1. General
(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Alan Cockburn, Bernard Kirton, Andy Marshall and Haydn Thomas.

The Chair reminded members that this would have been the last meeting of the Committee that Councillors Andy Marshall and Haydn Thomas would have attended as members because they were not standing for re-election in May. It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee place on record their deep appreciation of Councillors Andy Marshall and Haydn Thomas' service as members of the Committee.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

The following personal interests were declared:-

Councillor Jose Compton: Agenda items 5 and 13 – member of Warwick District Council's Planning Committee – she

informed the Committee that she would leave the room for those items.

Agenda item 6 – member of Warwick District Council.

Agenda item 7 – Board member of the Warwick District Council for Voluntary Services (representing the County Council).

Councillor Ken Browne: Agenda item 6 – member of Warwick Town Council.

Councillor Chris Davis: Agenda item 6 – member of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Eithne Goode: Agenda item 6 – member of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Dave Shilton: Agenda item 6 – member of Warwick District Council.

2. Welcome to the Mayor of Bo, Sierra Leone – Dr. Wusu Sannoh

The Chair welcomed Dr. Wusu Sannoh, the Mayor of Bo, and Mr. John Myers, the Secretary of the Warwick District One World Link. She then presented Dr. Sannoh with gifts to mark the occasion of his visit.

Dr. Sannoh thanked the Chair. He informed the Committee that he was the political and executive leader of the Bo Council. Links had existed with Warwickshire for some time and his purpose for attending was to suggest how those links might be developed in the future. Nineteen elected Councils were established across Sierra Leone last May and were faced with major challenges. The people had high expectations of local councils and the Government of Sierra Leone had faith in them being able to meet those expectations. Bo was the Country's second largest town with a population of around 170,000. There were 20 secondary schools and 90 primary schools. Unemployment was high because of the war. Although land tenure was invested in the chieftdom authorities, land development was the joint responsibility of the Town Council and the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment. There were many opportunities for investment in the town.

Hussinatu Yumkella explained that she had been born in Sierra Leone and had come to Britain six years earlier and had joined the Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy Department in October. She then gave the Committee a presentation on Bo:

Bo District was in the southern province of Sierra Leone in Western Africa and was of comparable size to Warwickshire with a population of about 500,000. Bo Town had a community-based link with Warwick District since the early 1980s managed by voluntary One World Link Groups. A friendship

agreement had been signed between Leamington Spa Town Council and Bo in January 2005. It was hoped that councils in Warwickshire would become more closely involved through the Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme as part of a UK Local Government taskforce for collaboration with Sierra Leone. Partners in the Taskforce were:-

- Hull City Council/Freetown
- Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council/Bo
- Southwark/Kono
- West Dunbartonshire/Kenema
- Hastings/Hastings (Western Area)

The intention was that the County Council would use its expertise to assist in capacity building in Bo. There was an acute waste disposal problem in Bo. Even though a water treatment plant had been built twenty years earlier, it had never been used and the only water that was available was drawn from wells. The roads had been built in the 1970s but had never been maintained and were no longer useable. Hospitals needed to be developed. Although the County Council was neither involved in water provision nor running hospitals, it could use its contacts to make the links with the Severn-Trent Water Authority and the NHS. The County Council would also gain through staff development, as the staff going to Bo would be placed in situations that they had never faced in Britain.

Councillor Mota Singh said that he had visited Bo in his capacity as Leamington Spa Town Mayor. He confirmed the very poor state of services in Bo and was able to give examples of what he had witnessed. The staff providing services were dedicated and committed to improving conditions. The County Council needed to think very positively about how it could provide help to enable development within Bo. He then moved and Councillor Tim Naylor seconded:-

That the Warwick Area Committee fully support initiatives for the County Council in conjunction with others to become involved in schemes to improve services and infrastructure in Bo through capacity building.

Other members praised the people of Bo for the immense efforts they were putting into improving conditions in their country.

The Chair then put Councillors Mota Singh and Tim Naylor's motion to the vote and it was carried unanimously.

3. Public Question Time

Bus Shelter – St. Margaret's Road, Leamington Spa

Councillor Balvinder Gill, Warwick District Council

He said that he had reported the need for a bus shelter on St. Margaret's Road but despite contacting the Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy Department, he had received no reply.

Graeme Fitton

He was unable to give an answer that night but undertook to look into the matter.

4. Presentation by Social Services on delayed discharges from Hospital

Anne Clarke, Assistant Service Manager, Older People Community Care Services, Social Services Department gave a presentation to the Committee on the delayed transfer of care. The following points were made during the presentation:-

- There were three agencies involved in maintaining patient flow through the system in the South Warwickshire Health area for which she was responsible. These were the Social Services Department, the South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust and the South Warwickshire General Hospital Trust.
- The problem was being tackled in two ways (1) ensuring care packages were in place to enable patients to be discharged from hospital as early as possible (2) preventing inappropriate admissions to hospitals.
- Delayed discharges were categorised as (1) those for which Social Services were responsible (2) those for which Health were responsible and (3) others. Others included situations where carers had refused to accept patients home with the level of care thought appropriate.
- Measurements against targets were calculated weekly by using a snapshot of the situation at midnight on Thursdays.
- Targets were set to limit to 9 the total number of delayed discharges across the three categories.
- The number of referrals at February 2004 was 231 but this had increased to 317 at February 2005.
- Hospitals were not following the protocols for the notification of delayed discharges. Section 2 referrals, which were being notified, were sent when it became known that there might be a requirement for a care package. Section 5 referrals were sent at the time when the decision was made that the patient could be discharged and it was these that were not being notified. Of the 317 referrals at February 2005 only 59 were section 5 referrals.
- On Thursday 17th March 2005 there were 11 delayed discharges; six were attributable to Health and 5 to Social Services.
- Warwick Hospital staff was receiving further training to ensure that they were aware of the protocols.
- Most of the social workers in her section were based at Warwick Hospital. Recruitment problems and pressure of work was resulting in low morale.
- Depending on the level of care required to achieve a safe discharge, patients might be discharged to their own homes with appropriate care

packages or to various types of residential establishments either short or long term.

- For the more specialist care it was likely that it would not be possible to find accommodation close to his or her home.
- There were a number of measures being implemented that should help to ease the problem of delayed discharges.

Councillor Jose Compton left the room before the Committee started to consider the next item.

5. Kenilworth Town Centre Development Framework

The Committee considered the joint report by the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy and the Director of Property Services.

A map was circulated showing the location of the various proposals set out in the appendices to the report.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee -

- (1) endorse the recommendations of the Kenilworth Town Centre Working Party in relation to specific development sites contained in Appendix 1 and to the overall town centre framework amended in light of these proposals to Cabinet.
- (2) endorse the package of possible traffic management measures set out in the report as the basis for consultation with the community.
- (3) request a further report on the proposal for a Public Service Centre in Kenilworth to include a financial appraisal of the two site options, and partner's confirmation of space and operational requirements and commitment to involvement.
- (4) request Cabinet to agree to the proposals contained in this report being incorporated within a revised town centre strategy and action plan.

Councillor Jose Compton returned to the room

6. Proposed Changes to Fees and Charges for Off-Street Car Parking across Warwick District

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

A copy letter of objection from the Warwick Town Council to Warwick District Council was circulated to the Committee.

Councillors Ken Browne, Marion Haywood, Tim Naylor and Raj Randev spoke against the proposed revision of car parking charges for the following reasons:-

- The proposed charges for Warwick were inequitable because they were higher than those in Kenilworth.
- There was no rationale given why there should be a difference in charging nor was such rationale placed deposit
- The introduction of Sunday charging in Warwick; this was the day in the week when families visited.
- Extending charges to evenings (from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.) would impact –
 - on the economy of the town because it would hit the restaurant trade.
 - on those residents who did not have garages and who returned home from work during that time
- Visitors would choose to park in the streets rather than pay the charges causing even more inconvenience to residents.

The following contrary views were expressed:-

- There were reasons why the differences in charging existed and Ian Coker, Amenities Manager at Warwick District Council, would have been able to explain the rationale if he had been present.
- The whole charging policy would have to be revisited when decriminalisation was introduced to the area and it was better to leave any changes to then.
- The redevelopment of Kenilworth Town Centre would make it more difficult to keep shops open in the town and it was not, therefore, the right time to start altering the basis of the charges.

Councillor Ken Browne, seconded by Councillor Raj Randev, moved:-

That Warwick Area Committee does not endorse Warwick District Council's proposed changes to off-street parking across Warwick District in relation to Warwick.

Councillor Dave Shilton, seconded by Councillor Chris Davis, moved by way of amendment:-

That all the words of the motion be deleted and replaced by the following – “that Warwick Area Committee endorses Warwick District Council’s proposed changes to off-street parking across Warwick District”.

On being put to the vote 5 members for the amendment and 5 against. The Chair then voted against the amendment and declared it lost.

The original motion was then put as the substantive motion with 5 members voting in favour and 5 against. The Chair then voted in favour of the motion and declared it carried.

7. Social Inclusion Fund 2004/5 – Funding Proposals

The Committee considered the report by the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive.

(1) Introduction

(2) Social Inclusion Fund – Available Resources

These paragraphs were noted.

(3) Social Inclusion Fund Proposals

(i) Warwick CVS Community Support Worker

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a further grant of £9,121.50 to the Warwick District Council for Voluntary Service to extend funding half the cost of the post of Community Support Worker for a third and final year.

(ii) RR Playscheme

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a further grant of £2,000 to the RR Playscheme Committee to complete the organisation’s business plan and funding strategy.

8. Capital Programme for Integrated Transport 2005-06

The Committee considered the report by the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy and it was Resolved:-

That Members:-

- (1) Support the Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for Warwick Area given in Table 1.
- (2) Support the actions recommended in Table 3 for the delegated Budget.

In answer to a question from the Chair, Graeme Fitton confirmed that one of the Committee's SIDS was broken, however, he was unaware that the rest of them were also broken. He would look into this.

9. Minutes of the Meetings of 25th January 2005 and matters arising
(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 25th January 2005, having been circulated, be approved – subject to the replacement of the word “headmaster” where it appears in the seventh line of minute 1(2) by the word “headteacher” – and be signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters arising

(i) Minute 2 – Footpath, Gaveston Wood

In response to a question from Councillor Jose Compton, Graeme Fitton confirmed that there would be a report on this matter to the June meeting but it might be oral rather than written. The signs were looking good for the footpath to be open.

(ii) Minute 7(2)(ii) – Kenilworth Railway Station

It was noted that this was progressing slowly.

10. Any other items

None.

11. Reports Containing Exempt Information

Resolved:-

That members of the public be excluded under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 from the meeting for Agenda items 12 and 13 on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

SEE SUMMARY BELOW

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 8.30 p.m.

Summary of business transacted in the absence of the public

12. Countywide Bus Shelter Advertising Agreement

The Committee strongly supported the proposed Countywide Bus Shelter Agreement.

At this point Councillor Jose Compton left the meeting.

13. Relocation of Kenilworth Youth Centre

The Committee endorsed arrangements for the disposal of Kenilworth Youth Centre in exchange for a brand new Youth Centre.