

The **WARWICK AREA COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **26<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2005**.

Present:-

Councillor Sarah Boad (Chair)  
“ Les Caborn  
“ Alan Cockburn  
“ Jose Compton  
“ Chris Davis  
“ Michael Doody  
“ Eithne Goode  
“ Tim Naylor  
“ Raj Randev  
“ Bernard Kirton  
“ Dave Shilton  
“ Mota Singh  
“ John Whitehouse

Also Present:-

Officers: Graeme Fitton, Max McDonagh and Peter Samwell (Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy), Jane Pollard and Peter Hunter (Chief Executive's), Martin Jones and David Curle (Social Services).

**1. General**  
**(1) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Ken Browne and Marion Haywood.

**(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None.

**2. Public Question Time**  
**(1) Provision of Basket Ball Court – Whitnash**

**Jamie Beaman**

Whitnash Youth Club was established at Whitnash Community Centre two years ago for young people between the ages of 8 and 12. There was an attendance of 40/50 young people on Tuesday nights. Also Positive About Young People arranged activities for young people on Thursday nights. It was proposed that a basketball court should be provided on land next to the Centre at an estimated cost of £25,000. £8,000 had already been raised towards the cost and there were further grant applications in the pipeline. A sponsored walk had also raised another £250 and other fund raising

activities were being considered. He asked the Area Committee to underwrite any shortfall that might arise.

Peter Hunter said that a Landfill Tax application had been made to fund the balance. If there were a small shortfall, a request would come back to the Committee for funding.

Councillor Kirton fully supported what he considered to be a reasonable request from the Youth Club.

Several other members also spoke in support of the request.

## **(2) A429 Guy's Cliffe – Speed Restrictions**

The Chair referred to minute 2(2) of the previous meeting and said that Councillor Stubbs had asked to speak on this item in the light of further information from the Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy Department.

A report by Malcolm Graham, Team Leader, Safety Engineering, Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy Department, together with a written response by Councillor Stubbs was circulated to the Committee.

### **Councillor Charles Stubbs, Leek Wootton Parish Council.**

If the County Council policy prevented the introduction of a 40 mph speed limit on the A429, that policy should be reviewed. Other councils were interpreting Circular No. 1/93 differently because they had introduced speed limits without expensive engineering works. The guidance contained in the Circular was about to be replaced with a requirement to have regard to the mean speed on the road rather than the 85%ile. There was public anxiety over the issue and an additional hundred people had signed the petition since the last meeting. The Committee should start dialogue with the Police to get their support. He also suggested that the Casualty Reduction Budget should be renamed Casualty Prevention Budget so that work would not have to wait until people were injured or killed.

The Chairman said that she had been travelling on the A49 in Herefordshire where a 40 mph speed limit had been imposed and was being obeyed by all drivers even though there had been very little engineering works carried out to it.

Graeme Fitton said that drivers tended to drive to the appearance of the road and that speed limit signs on their own had very little effect. The three accidents during the last three years had been caused more by inattentive driving rather than speeding. Those authorities who took a different view to Warwickshire were not so much interpreting the guidance in Circular 1/93 differently as ignoring it completely. As the mean speed was 44 mph on the road, it probably meant that 60% of drivers were travelling at speeds in excess of 40 mph speed limit requested. He confirmed that draft guidance was expected in the Autumn to replace Circular 1/93. When that was received a report would go to Cabinet on its interpretation and implications for existing

County policy. The position of the A429 would be revisited in the light of any new policy.

Councillor Alan Cockburn said that he understood Councillor Stubbs' view but it was essential to have the support of the police with regard to enforcement.

Councillor Jose Compton considered that most drivers would adhere to a 40 mph restriction and that a self-enforcing scheme could be introduced. Although there were only three reported injury accidents, there were numerous instances of cars in the ditch where there were no injuries. She looked forward to a further report in the Autumn with interpretation of new guidance.

Councillor Bernard Kirton said that the police were completely rigid in their policy in not enforcing speed limits unless street furniture was provided at cost to the local taxpayer. Members were democratically elected and should inform the police that they expected them to enforce any orders that were made. If the police still refused to do so the issue should be raised with the Home Office.

Councillor Dave Shilton supported Councillor Bernard Kirton's comments. He informed the Committee that he had spoken to the Assistant Chief Constable to press for representatives of the police to be present at meetings of the Committee. Despite assurances that this would happen, there were no representatives present.

Members considered the possibility of asking Cabinet to consider the implementation of a 40 mph limit on the road sooner than later but after discussion agreed that a better approach would be to wait until the Autumn and receive a further report and it was accordingly Resolved:-

That a report be prepared by officers for the Autumn setting out the budgetary implications of introducing a 40 mph speed restriction on the A429 from the A46 roundabout south east of Leek Wootton to the roundabout just north of the BP garage, the interpretation on the new guidance that was to replace Circular 1/93 and referring to the petition submitted to the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2005 and the two responses considered at this meeting.

**3. Parade, Victoria Terrace and Bath Street, Royal Leamington Spa – Mixed Priority Demonstration Safety Project**

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

The Chair said that Janet Alty had requested to speak to this matter.

**Janet Alty – Chair of Regenesi; also representing the Old Town Business Association, the Cycleways Group, Living Streets and All Saints Church, Leamington Spa**

She had come tonight to urge Councillors to leave Cabinet in no doubt about the importance of completing this vital scheme that was intended to join Old and New Town. There was a need to complete the frontages to All Saints Church by March and she had received assurances from officers that this would be done. She suggested that savings could be made in the scheme by dropping the controversial mini roundabout proposed at the Kenilworth Road/Clarendon Avenue junction. This would also have the advantage of allowing officers to review the need for traffic control at the junction after the rest of the scheme was in operation.

The following points arose from the ensuing discussion:-

- Disabled drivers had complained about the lack of spaces for disabled drivers. As a result they had parked in loading only bays but had been booked by the police. The loading only bays appeared to be located in places they were not required while lorries parked in disabled persons parking bays.
- There were more disabled parking bays provided than previously. In addition, Shopmobility in Leamington Spa provided a free service for disabled persons where they could park in safety and borrow mobility equipment to enable them to access the Royal Priors Arcade and the general shopping area outside the arcade. The loading bays had been provided at the request of the Chamber of Trade.
- It was noted that the main reason for the delay and increased costs were the presence of the old coal cellars in the street. Although the presence of cellars in the street was known, it had not been feasible to carry out an investigation prior to the works starting as it would have required taking up all the paving slabs to locate each cellar and determine its condition and then replace the slabs. Electronic sounding would not have revealed the problem, as it would have only indicated that there was a void under the street, not the condition of the cellar nor the closeness of the cellar to the surface, which was the main problem. Nor would it have identified those cellars that had been filled in with rubble.
- Members considered that it was sensible to stop the works in October to ensure that the shops would not suffer during the Christmas trading period. They also considered that it was essential to complete the whole scheme to link in with Old Town.
- The DfT would be asked to consider increasing its funding in view of the increased costs.
- Consideration was given to the feasibility of stopping work north of the River Leam Bridge to carry out work on the southern part of the scheme prior to stopping work in October. However, it was impractical to do this.

- The LTP settlement would be announced in December and Cabinet would consider funding for the scheme in January 2006.
- At that time a decision would be made whether it was better to continue with the existing contract or enter into a new one.

It was then Resolved, with Councillor Alan Cockburn abstaining from the vote on the second and third parts as he was a member of the Cabinet:-

- (1) That because of the impact of the mixed priorities demonstration safety project works would have on Christmas trade, Warwick Area Committee agrees the proposal that construction works be completed from Clarendon Avenue to north of the River Leam Bridge by 21<sup>st</sup> October 2005 and informs Cabinet of the planned action;
- (2) That Warwick Area Committee urges Cabinet to agree that the remaining works be recommended to restart in May 2006 and completed over the summer of 2006;
- (3) That Cabinet be informed of the financial position as soon as possible in 2005 and be asked to allocate funding for the remaining works in 2006/2007;
- (4) That the works on the frontages of All Saints Church, Leamington Spa, be completed in the financial year 2005/06 subject to funding being available; and
- (5) That a progress report be made to the next meeting of the Warwick Area Committee.

#### **4. Highway Maintenance Plan 2005/06 and Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes**

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

The following points were noted:-

- There was no consistency in categorising schemes by area with schemes for Leamington Spa being placed under Leamington Spa, Lillington and Sydenham

- Members would find it more convenient if the schemes were sorted in accordance with Electoral Divisions.
- There was a problem in some streets where the roots of trees were above the level of the pavement. A balance always had to be made between removing trees on safety grounds and retaining them for environmental reasons.
- When utilities needed to open up the public highway, the Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy Department supplied them with details of the compaction rate that was needed to make the works good. Even if work was carried out to the required standard, experience showed that the patched area did not last as long as the rest of the surface.
- Work was prioritised on the following basis:-
  - That necessary on safety grounds.
  - That where there was a cost benefit in carrying out the work; work that would prevent the need later for more expensive remedial work.
  - That identified by members and the public as being needed.
- The standard of street lighting was reasonable because of improvements made during the 1980s. However, this would become a problem within the next five to ten years.
- There was a restriction on the strength of weed killer the Department was allowed to use.

**5. Eyffler Close, Lammas Walk, Mallory Drive and Wavytree Close, Warwick – Prohibition of Waiting**

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

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the advertised proposals for prohibition of waiting on Eyffler Close, Mallory Drive and Wavytree Close, Warwick be implemented as advertised; and
- (2) That further consultations be carried out in respect of introducing double yellow lines (no waiting at any time) in part of Lammas Walk, Warwick.

**6. Warwick Area Performance 2004/05**

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

The following points were raised:-

- Councillor Tim Naylor considered that it was important to retain the targets about the percentage of the population who were smokers because of the importance this had for the health of the community.
- Concern was expressed about the number of red/amber indicators under education and social services and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to hold a workshop session outside the formal committee setting on the issues identified.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the Warwick Area Committee notes the 2004/05 area performance data; and
- (2) That a workshop session be arranged outside the formal committee setting to inform members about the issues in the education and social services fields highlighted as amber and red in the performance data.

## **7. Well Being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund 2005/06 – Funding Proposals**

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

- (1) Introduction**
- (2) Well-being Fund – Available Resources and**
- (3) Social Inclusion Fund – Available Resources**

These paragraphs were noted.

- (4) Wellbeing Fund Proposals**
  - (i) Percy Estate, Warwick – Consultation Project – Reflect for Change**

Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee approves a grant of £5,000 from the Wellbeing Fund to The Gap – Warwick Percy Estate Community Projects Limited for the purpose of developing an area plan for the Percy Estate in Warwick and building the capacity of local people to play a central role in shaping the future of their community.

**(ii) Warwick Words – Poets in Residence, Warwick West and Lillington**

Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee approves a grant of £3,000 from the Wellbeing Fund to Warwick Words/Warwick Events Group Percy Estate Community Projects Limited for the purpose of developing a project called Poets in Residence involving poets taking live poetry to young people in Warwick District through a number of workshops and performances in association with local primary and secondary schools, libraries and youth clubs in Warwick West (Forbes Estate) and Lillington area in Leamington Spa over eight days during September to November 2005.

**(5) Social Inclusion Fund Proposals**

**(i) Portuguese Community Support Worker – Portuguese Community Research Project**

Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee approves a grant of £15,000 from the Social Inclusion Fund to enable the continued employment through to the end of 2005/06 of a Portuguese Community Support worker undertaking associated research into the needs of the Portuguese Community in Leamington Spa.

**(ii) Warwick District Welfare Rights Group**

Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee approves a grant of £20,000 each for this year and the following two years from the Social Inclusion Fund to the Warwick District Welfare Rights Group towards the cost of establishing a local welfare rights outreach service, particularly to hard to reach groups and individuals, with a view to maximising the uptake of a wide range of welfare benefits.

## **8. Appointment of Councillors to External Organisations**

The Committee considered the report by the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive and it was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the Committee agree the distribution of places between groups on the basis shown in the appendix subject to the following changes:-
  - (i) The Liberal Democrat Group relinquish their place on the One World Link to the Labour Group and specifically Councillor Mota Singh.
  - (ii) The Labour Group relinquish their place on the Leamington Bath Place Community Venture Management Committee to the Conservative Group and their place on the Leamington Welfare Rights Management Committee to Councillor Bernard Kirton.
- (2) That details of the Groups' nominations to the bodies be forwarded to Jan Purcell, Members Services Manager.

## **9. Member Champion for the Development Partnership with Sierra Leone**

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

That the Warwick Area Committee nominate Councillor Mota Singh as the Lead Member to champion Warwickshire County Council's Development Partnership with Bo Town Council in Sierra Leone.

## **10. Asset Management Plan for Social Services**

The Committee considered the report by the Director of Social Care and Health and the following comments were made:-

- There was a move away from big institutions to smaller satellite day care centres.
- Use was being made of open plan offices and hotdesking.
- There was concern that the Kenilworth Social Services offices were not moving to one-stop premises in the town. It was pointed out that the accommodation in those premises was too expensive and there was not

the urgency to move there because the Department was not providing front line services in the existing premises.

#### **11. Permissive Access to Gaveston Cross, Leek Wootton**

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

It was noted that the owner of the field had refused to allow access to the Woods across his land. Another suggestion to seek Highway Agency approval to access being made available directly from the A46 was unlikely to be successful because of the steepness and stability of the land at that point.

It was then Resolved:-

That Leek Wootton Parish Council be supported in its efforts to secure permissive access to Gaveston Cross.

Three hours having elapsed since the start of the meeting, the Committee agreed to continue in accordance with Standing Order 27.7.

#### **12. Parish Appraisals and Parish Plans**

The Committee considered the report by the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive and it was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee endorses the proposed guidelines for the County Council responding to Parish Plans and Appraisals set out in the report.

#### **13. Provisional Items for Future Meetings**

The Committee noted the following provisional items:-

13 September 2005

Crime and Disorder and Drugs Misuse Reduction Strategy  
Central Warwickshire and Southern Area 14-19 Provision Action Plan  
Princes Drive Recycling Centre Re-use of Shop EXEMPT

22 November 2005

Review of Myton School's priority area

#### **14. Minutes of the meeting of 21 June 2005 and matters arising**

##### **(1) Minutes**

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 21 June 2005, having been circulated, be approved.

**(2) Matters arising**

**(i) Minute 2(3) – Difficulties caused by parking at Trinity School, Guy's Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa**

It was noted that the position would be reviewed when the building work was completed at Trinity School and the builders' vans were no longer parked on the road. Agreement had been reached for the school buses to enter the school grounds to disembark children. There were no concerns about the safety of children as the problems meant that traffic was travelling slowly.

**(ii) Minute 10(1)(ii)(c) – SIDS**

It was noted that there were now three useable SIDS.

**15. Any other items**

None.

.....  
Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 9.11 p.m.