

The **WARWICK AREA COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **13th SEPTEMBER, 2005**.

Present:-

Councillor Sarah Boad (Chair)
“ Ken Browne
“ Alan Cockburn
“ Jose Compton
“ Michael Doody
“ Eithne Goode
“ Marion Haywood
“ Tim Naylor
“ Raj Randev
“ John Whitehouse

Also Present:-

Officers: Graeme Fitton, Jackie Hart, Steve O'Connor and Nicola Small (Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy), Jane Pollard and Peter Hunter (Chief Executive's), Ian Dawson (Property Services Department).

1. General
(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Les Caborn, Chris Davis, Dave Shilton and Mota Singh.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared the following personal interests:-

Councillor Jose Compton – agenda item 6 – Chair of the Environment and Economic Policy Committee of the Warwick District Council; agenda item 14 – dealt with at Warwick District Council; agenda item 15 – Member of Warwick District Council; agenda item 8 – Trustee of the CVS.

Councillor Michael Doody – agenda item 15 – Member of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Ken Browne – agenda item 6 – Member of Warwick Town Council.

Councillor Alan Cockburn – any issue on the agenda with a Warwick District Council connection – Member of Warwick District Council.

2. Public Question Time

(1) Kenilworth Town Centre – Smalley Place – Future of County Council owned land

Mr. Arnold Bolton, Joint Organiser of the Kenilworth Get It Right Campaign

Mr. Bolton said that the Campaign represented a considerable proportion of the people of Kenilworth who were against the proposal for housing development to take place at Smalley Place, Kenilworth. They publicly rejected any use for the site other than by a locally accessible public authority. He then asked the following question: "On September 2 staff from Robotham's, architects, were on County Council land at Smalley Place assessing whether plans need to be changed to take account of recent Tree Preservation Orders. As we strongly oppose the disposal of public assets, can you explain why such further work has become necessary?"

Peter Hunter said that he had consulted with the County Council Property Services Department and had obtained the following response to the question.

"The March meeting of the Warwick Area Committee had considered a comprehensive report on the development proposals in Kenilworth Town Centre, including proposals for a new public service centre. Two alternative sites were under consideration for the public service centre, Smalley Place and Abbey End. In relation to that proposal Warwick Area Committee had requested a further report to include a financial appraisal of the two site options, and partner's confirmation of space and operational requirements and commitment to involvement. The work being undertaken by Robothams was part of their contribution on behalf of the agencies operating from Smalley Place, (Warwickshire County Council, South Warwickshire PCT and Warwickshire Police) to the work on the appraisal of the two site options. In assessing the merits of the sites, the agencies need to take into account the implications of the recent tree preservation orders at Smalley Place. No decision on a site for the new public service centre had been taken. A further report will be provided to this committee for its views prior to a decision on the County Council's interests being taken by Cabinet."

Mr. Ted Herbert, Joint Organiser of the Kenilworth Get It Right Campaign

Mr. Herbert said that it was the overriding desire of Kenilworth people that the land should not be sold on.

Councillor John Whitehouse assured the Joint Organisers that the work being carried out by Robothams was a neutral act to ensure that the positioning of the trees was absolutely clear.

Councillor Alan Cockburn confirmed that all those involved were fully aware of what Kenilworth people wanted.

3. A429 Coventry Road, Warwick – Possible Lowering of Speed Limit

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

Councillor Charles Stubbs, Leek Wootton Parish Council

He congratulated officers on producing a factual report. He did, however, have three points to make:

- He questioned the statement that people did not comply with speed limits if they did not consider them to be appropriate. He felt that there had been a change with speeding being seen as antisocial. He suggested that officers should find out what was happening in other counties.
- He felt that the County Council policy was illogical because it required the expenditure of £100,000 on engineering works before the police would enforce it and suggested the use of safety cameras.
- Current policy was not delivering best value. Northamptonshire County Council had spent £50,000 of its £950,000 Casualty Reduction budget on the introduction of twenty-eight speed limits.

He had seen the draft circular and did not believe that it was much different from the existing circular.

Graeme Fitton said that there was very strict guidance on the introduction of safety cameras linked with the number of casualties subject to speeding and the section of the A429 in question did not comply with this. The impact of the lower speed limits in Northamptonshire was not known.

The following points arose from the ensuing discussion:-

- Speeds on the length of the A429 did meet the criteria for a 50 mph speed limit and the cost would be in region of the low thousands of pounds. This would take between three to six months to introduce depending on whether there would be any objections. However, if the Council did change its policy so that a 40 mph speed limit would become appropriate, it would be wasteful of officers' time to introduce a 50 mph now and then almost immediately introduce a 40 mph speed limit.
- Anecdotal examples were given where 40 mph speed limits had been imposed in similar circumstances elsewhere and were obeyed.
- Similarly examples could be given where speed limits were being ignored.
- There was a danger of causing anomalies by treating the road as an exception to the existing policy.
- Cabinet should be asked to agree to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee debating the new guidance and County Council policy before making a decision.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the Committee notes the report and resolves to await a review of County Council policy following the publication of the revised Circular 1/93, at which time any proposed speed limit on the A429 will be reviewed; and
- (2) That Cabinet be asked to refer the revised guidance when received to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a full debate and report back to them prior to making a decision.

4. Warwick Technology Park – Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Restrictions

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

That the proposals for prohibition of waiting on Warwick Technology Park be implemented as illustrated on Appendix A.

5. A429/13B Warwick, Lord Leycester Hospital Retaining Wall

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

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- The cost of the proposal was in the order of £100,000 but this could increase subject to any requirements by English Heritage.
- Although the footpath was blocked by scaffolding people were endangering themselves by continuing to cross at that point rather than use the alternative route.
- It was noted that the alternative route was not wide enough to cater for pushchairs/prams and electric buggies.
- Consideration should be given to rerouting traffic to enable a temporary footpath to be established alongside the scaffolding.
- A site visit should be held with local councillors to discuss alternative routes for pedestrians.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the Warwick Area Committee endorses the proposals for repairs to the wall and ask officers to arrange a site visit for local councillors to discuss arrangements for pedestrians.

- (2) That there be a further report at the next meeting of the Warwick Area Committee.

6. Warwick Market Place Review

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

Councillor Marion Haywood, seconded by Councillor Michael Doody, moved:-

That Members:-

- (1) Note the findings and recommendations of the Warwick Market Place Review Working Party; and
- (2) Ask the officers responsible for the County Council activities referred to in the recommendations to work with their District colleagues involving Warwick Town Council, Warwick Society, Warwick Chamber of Trade, local residents and business sector to develop a clear plan of action to submit to the Warwick Area Committee and the County Council.

Councillor Ken Browne, seconded by Councillor Raj Randev, moved as an alternative:-

That Members:-

- (i) Note the findings and recommendations of the Warwick Market Place Review Working Party; and
- (ii) Ask the officers responsible for the County Council activities referred to in the recommendations to work with their District colleagues involving Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Forum to develop a clear plan of action to submit to the Warwick Area Committee and the County Council.

Councillor Marion Haywood's motion was then put to the vote and was lost, three members having voted in favour and five against.

Councillor Ken Browne's alternative motion was then put to the vote and was carried, five members having voted in favour and one against with Councillor Jose Compton abstaining.

7. Restructure of the Kenilworth Town Centre Management Initiative

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

That Members:-

- (1) Support the proposals to restructure the Kenilworth Town Centre Management Initiative; and
- (2) Nominate Councillor John Whitehouse as the Warwickshire County Council (WCC) representative to sit on the Partnership Board and for him to be able to send a substitute where he was unable to attend.

8. Social Inclusion Fund Proposal – 2006/07 – Portuguese Community Support Worker

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

That Members approve the allocation of £22,000 from the Social Inclusion Fund in 2006/07 to meet the running costs of the Portuguese Community Research Project and enable the continued employment of the Portuguese Community Support Worker.

9. Well Being Fund 2005/6 – Funding Proposal – Culture in a Suitcase

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

That, subject to the full project proceeding, Members approve the allocation of up to £10,000 from the Wellbeing Fund to the “Culture in a Suitcase” project as part of the EU Culture 2000 Programme.

10. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Committee noted the following provisional items:-

22 November 2005
Review of Myton School's priority area

Area Community Learning Plan
Area Community Education Council report including development plans
Integrated Risk Management Plan
A4177 Hatton – 50 mph Speed Limit
Draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10
Review of Well-being Fund and Social Inclusion Fund Grants 2004/05
Tachbrook Road 30 mph
Community Development Fund
Warwick Town Centre Traffic Forum

11. Minutes of the meeting of 26 July 2005 and matters arising

(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 26 July 2005, having been circulated, be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters arising

(i) Minute 3 – Parade, Victoria Terrace and Bath Street, Royal Leamington Spa – Mixed Priority Demonstration Safety Project

A briefing note on the progress of the project was circulated to Members.

(ii) Minute 4 – Highway Maintenance Plan 2995/06 and Five Year List of Structural Maintenance Schemes

In response to a question from Councillor John Whitehouse, Graeme Fitton said that the work on sorting the schemes in accordance with Electoral Divisions had yet to be completed.

(iii) Minute 6 – Warwick Area Performance 2004/05

Peter Hunter said that he was looking at dates for the workshop sessions and would be speaking to the Chair on whether the preference would be for one session or two sessions.

(iv) Minute 14(2)(i) – Difficulties caused by parking at Trinity School, Guy's Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa

Graeme Fitton said that officers had visited the school twice in the morning and had identified that there was some congestion. The building work was still in progress and vehicles associated with it were parked on the side of the road but this should be completed by November 2005. Suggestions for easing the congestion included extending the zigzag lines, the introduction of a one way system for buses entering the school grounds to drop off children and the

school would write to parents asking them to be considerate when dropping children off at school.

12. Any other items

None.

13. Items 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 14 and 15 on grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

See summary below

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 9.10 p.m.

Summary of business transacted in the absence of the public

14. Princes Drive Recycling Centre Re-use Shop

The Committee supported the award to a charity of the contract to run the re-use shop at Princes Drive Household Waste Recycling Centre.

ADDITIONAL ITEM [Referred by Cabinet at their meeting on the 8th September 2005]

15. Warwick: Additional Shire Hall Car Parking Provision

The Chair agreed to take this as an urgent item to enable the views of the Area Committee to be fed back to Cabinet on the 20th October 2005 as the offer from Warwick District Council expired on 21st October 2005.

The Committee agreed their views for submission to the Cabinet.

ERIC WOOD,
Acting Chief Executive.