

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

Present:-

Councillor Sarah Boad (Chair)
“ Ken Browne
“ Les Caborn
“ Jose Compton
“ Chris Davis
“ Michael Doody
“ Eithne Goode
“ Marion Haywood
“ Raj Randev
“ Dave Shilton
“ Mota Singh
“ John Whitehouse

Also Present:-

Officers: Graeme Fitton, Steve O'Connor and Mike Waters (Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy), David Carter, Peter Hunter and Patrick Lee (Chief Executive's), Phil Astle, Peter Hatcher, Lynne Upton and Yvonne Walker (Education Department).

1. General
(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Alan Cockburn, Tim Naylor and Bernard Kirton.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members disclosed the following personal interests:-

Councillor Les Caborn – agenda item 9 – Member of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Jose Compton – agenda item 9 – Member of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Michael Doody – agenda item 9 – Member of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Raj Randev – agenda item 11 – Director of Warwick District Citizen Advice Bureau representing the County Council.

Councillor Mota Singh – agenda items 11 & 13 – Trustee of the Sydni Centre – prejudicial.

Councillor John Whitehouse – agenda item 4 – Warwickshire School Organisation Committee; agenda item 7 – Member of Sustrans.

Councillor Eithne Goode – agenda item 9 – Member of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Chris Davis – agenda item 9 – Member of Warwick District Council; agenda item 7 – Member of Leamington Old Town Regenesi s Board; agenda items 12 &13 – Member of Leamington Bath Place Community Venture Management Committee.

Councillor Marion Haywood gave a general disclosure for any issues related to Warwick.

2. Public Question Time Night Owl Bus Service

Mr. Andrews

He referred to the inadequate service provided by the Night Owl Bus Service in Warwick. There were no buses after 6 p.m. on Sundays. There was a two-hourly service around by the hospital and a half-hourly service via the Woodloes. He suggested that an hourly service alternating between the Woodloes and the hospital.

Graeme Fitton said that he would refer the matter to the Transport section for comment.

3. Warwick Area Community Education – Annual Report – October 2005

The Committee considered the report by the County Education Officer.

Peter Hatcher introduced the report.

The following points arose from the ensuing discussion:-

- The fact that two of the three services covered by the report operated timeframes from April to March and the third from September to August had caused confusion initially but officers had now adapted to this arrangement.
- It was noted that the staff shortage mentioned at reference 1.2, final column, of Appendix C related to the preceding year and was not the case for the current year.
- The training that had been cancelled as mentioned at reference 2.2.e of Appendix C also related to the previous year and the cancellation was as a consequence of capacity issues for youth workers. For this year, each area was asked to identify when it was best to provide training.
- It was stressed that when budget cuts should be communicated to affected user groups as soon as possible. There had been cases where

notifications had been sent to schools at the end of the summer term but had not been picked up by the schools until after the summer holiday resulting in late notification of the cuts and the consequence of user groups having to find urgently funds to meet the shortfall.

- Crime Beat (reference 3.3 of Appendix C) was part of a national initiative in which young people were given a small grant to take action for themselves to run projects with a community safety theme. For example, six young people from Kenilworth Youth Club undertook a survey around people's fear of crime.
- The decision had been taken that Area Committees should involve members of the youth parliament in their work and Members agreed that the Community Education Service would be approached to help facilitate this.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee endorse the progress report of Youth & Community and Adult Community Learning Services in Warwick District.

4. Draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10

The Committee considered the report by the County Education Officer.

Phil Astle introduced the report.

The following comments arose from the ensuing discussion:-

- It was noted that although there was a rise in the population of Warwick District, the school pupil numbers were falling.
- The pupil population might increase in the future.
- It was more difficult to produce those figures for individual schools. In the case of one big housing estate in the District, the expected number of primary children was produced however the number of secondary children was not being produced and it was not known where these were going.
- County policy was to amalgamate junior and infant schools except where the new school would be too large; 700+ pupils.
- There were no primary schools in the District with less than thirty pupils.
- Information as to the number of primary schools using temporary classrooms was not available on the night, however, every effort was made to avoid adding to temporary accommodation for the schools.
- There were still problems for parents from Warwick Gates finding places for their children at Bishops Tachbrook School.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee's comments on the draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10 be forwarded to the Cabinet at its meeting on the 8th December 2005.

5. Central Warwickshire and Southam : Area Review of Education and Training for Young People aged 14-19

The Committee considered the report by the County Education Officer.

Lynne Upton made a brief presentation to the Committee

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- It was recognised that if successful there would be a logistical problem with a large body of students having to travel between various locations. The County Council had pathfinder status for 14-19 and transport costs would be supported through this until the end of August 2006. After that, other arrangements would have to be made.
- Although the choice of the first specialism was relatively straightforward, when bodies had to go to a second specialism there would have to be collaboration between them to avoid competition for the same students. The Service would try to guide schools to a successful conclusion but it must be remembered that there was no power to direct them.
- In connection with the aim to increase access to the full range of 14-19 opportunities through further collaboration and addressing potential barriers, it was noted that European Social Funding was coming to an end.
- The area was performing well in keeping the numbers not in employment, education or training low.
- In widening opportunities it was also important to avoid gender stereotyping for particular courses.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee's comments on the central Warwickshire 14-19 strategic review action plan be forwarded to the Cabinet and the Local Learning & Skills Council.

6. Crime Statistics and Crime Hot Spots in Warwick

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

Patrick Lee, Area Community Safety Manager (South), introduced the report and presented the following figures of total crime for Warwick Beats to the Committee:-

All Crime Types	2003/04	Oct 04/Sep 05	Difference
Queensway/Heathcote	618	612	-6
Brunswick	623	598	-25
Town – Old Town	503	561	58
Town – Regency	651	560	-91
Lillington	454	499	45
Packmores	700	489	-211
Town – Clarendon	524	462	-62
Campion/St. Mary	527	462	-65
Town – Binswood	582	434	-148
Victoria	449	409	-40
North Leamington	373	391	18
Emscote/Myton	505	391	-114
Longbridge	429	377	-52
Sydenham	419	370	-49
Kenilworth North	252	337	85
Kenilworth West	302	337	35
Kenilworth East	376	334	-42
Whitnash	263	311	48
Warwick Town	392	303	-89
Milverton	262	251	-11
Hatton	306	243	-63
Stoneleigh	225	229	4
Cubbington/Radford/Offchurch	176	224	48
Woodloes	258	194	-64
Baginton	176	168	-8
Lapworth	168	134	-34
Barford/Bishops Tachbrook	185	129	-56
Showground	63	60	-3

The following points arose from the ensuing discussions:-

- There had been an increase in detection rates for sexual offences and the internet and drug offences.
- The possibility of cutting off shortcuts used to avoid the police was being looked at.
- The report was welcomed but the question was asked why action was not taken two to three years earlier when members raised the issues.
- Concern was expressed about the accuracy of the figures as residents had no confidence in them.

That the Warwick Area Committee note the report on crime statistics and crime hot spots in Warwick and its comments be forwarded to the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. Warwickshire Provisional Local Transport Plan 2005

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

Mike Waters introduced the report.

Mr. Wood

He expressed concern at the exclusion of interurban cycle routes from the Plan and in particular the proposed Kenilworth to Leamington cycle route. That route would have made Kenilworth accessible by cycling to principle retail centres, a train station, employment/training services and a sports college. It would help counter congestion by reducing motor vehicles at peak times and reduce harmful emissions. Cycling would be safer on an off road route. He understood that there was a cost issue and urged officers and members to secure additional funding. The cycle route was far more than a transport issue as it would impact upon health, tourism, sustainability and social inclusion.

Mike Waters confirmed that there was a funding issue and that the route would not meet the criteria for Landfill Tax funding.

Councillor Eithne Goode referred to the North Leamington School cycle route, which was part of the Safer Routes to School initiative, and said that the proposal to rebuild the school would mean that Kenilworth Road would be a better choice than Lillington Road.

Mike Waters confirmed that it would be sensible to revisit the route.

A number of Councillors spoke in support of the Kenilworth to Leamington Spa cycle route. Councillor John Whitehouse, seconded by Councillor Dave Shilton, moved and it was then Resolved, six members having voted in favour and three against:-

That provision be made for the Kenilworth/Leamington Spa cycle route in the provisional Local Transport Plan.

The following issues were then raised:-

- There was an air quality issue in the Butts caused by traffic congestion and the narrowness of the street and the high buildings. This problem was being reviewed but the only practical answer would be to address alternative traffic arrangements.

- Mike Waters was not aware of any proposals to close Nuneaton Railway Station and strong representations would be made against any such proposal.
- There was no proposal to open a railway station by the new Coventry Arena but instead an alternative bus service would be introduced instead.
- Every opportunity would be taken to press the claims for a Kenilworth train station.
- Concern was expressed about the prospect of the Hatton/Lapworth stations following a reduction in passenger numbers on the Chiltern Railways in reaction to vandalism. It was expected that passenger numbers would recover.
- Concern was taken on board by the officers about the difficulty of travelling to Walsgrave Hospital by public transport.
- Details were not known of parking proposals at Leamington Spa Railway Station.

8. Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management

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

That the Warwick Area Committee endorses:-

- (1) The establishment of a Forum of stakeholder organisations for the purpose of considering traffic and related issues in Warwick town centre; and
- (2) The outline structure presented for the future reporting of the Forum's progress and recommendations to them, namely:-
 - (i) That regular progress updates be provided via the Warwick Member Briefing as produced by the County Council's Members Services team.
 - (ii) That further formal reports be brought before the Warwick Area Committee for their consideration as key stages in the Forum's work are completed.

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

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

The Chair informed members that Ian Coker, Warwick District Council, was present for this item.

The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The introduction of public parking for a £1 during the evenings in the Barrack Street car park had been discussed with Property Services.
- The County Council parking permits would still apply at those times.
- There was concern that charging in the car park might impact upon the users of Warwick Library.
- It was proposed that Warwick residents living within a reasonable distance of the car parks would be able to park free of charge.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee endorses Warwick District Council's proposed changes to off-street car parking across Warwick District.

10. Lord Leycester Hospital Retaining Wall, Warwick

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

During the discussion of this issue the Committee resolved to continue as the three hour limit was reached.

Stephen O'Connor said that an application had been made to the Government Office of the West Midlands (GOWM) for listed building consent and that it was expected that it would take a month for the consent to come through. The Chamber of Trade had asked that there should be no traffic management leading up to Christmas.

Councillor Holland, Warwick Town Council

The Town Council opposed the suggested solution as being inappropriate for such an important historical site. The Town Council should have been consulted before an application was made to GOWM. In the circumstances the Town Council's objections would have to be sent direct to that organisation. He asked that sensible discussion should take place to resolve the issue. He also supported the reintroduction of a pedestrian route around the wall as the alternative route was inappropriate.

Councillors Raj Randev and Marion Haywood echoed the concerns about the lack of a footway around the wall. Councillor Ken Browne was extremely disappointed that action was not taken immediately after the site visit in the summer when members had made it clear that they were in favour of retaining a pedestrian route.

It was noted that traffic would only be able to use a single carriageway of the road if the pedestrian access were restored, with consequential delays in traffic movements.

Councillor Les Caborn, seconded by Councillor Chris Davis, moved and it was Resolved, five members voting in favour and two against:-

That the Warwick Area Committee endorses:-

- (1) The proposals for wall repairs including the associated traffic management scheme for the duration of the repair works; and
- (2) The proposal to retain the current pedestrian diversion until repair works are complete rather than impose the traffic management at the earliest possible opportunity to provide a temporary pedestrian route on the existing carriageway.

11. Well Being Fund 2005/6 – Funding Proposals

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

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

These paragraphs were noted.

- (3) Wellbeing Fund Proposal**
 - (a) Shree Krishna Temple – Disabled Persons Toilet**

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £5,000 to the Shree Krishna Community Centre towards the cost of building toilet facilities for disabled users.

- (b) African Caribbean Project**

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £6,000 to the African Caribbean Project to secure until the end of March 2006 the West Indian Senior Endeavour (WISE) project and the recording studio that has been the focus of work with disaffected young people.

(c) Asian Community Equality Centre

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £5,000 to the Asian Community Equality Centre towards the annual running cost of the organisations.

(d) Packmores/The Cape, Warwick – Community Safety Initiative

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £5,000 to the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service for a programme of home safety visits across the Packmores/The Cape area in Warwick.

(e) Community Arts Workshop – Lillington Mural – Feasibility Study

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £1,000 to the Community Arts Workshop and Lillington Young Artists for initial feasibility work in connection with a community mural for Lillington.

(f) Warwick District Citizens Advice Bureau – Advisor Training

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £9,000 to the Warwick District Citizens Advice Bureau towards the cost of training volunteers.

12. Community Development Fund 2005/6

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

- (1) Introduction and**
- (2) Eligibility and Scoring of Bids**

These paragraphs were endorsed.

(3) Allocation of Grants

Resolved:-

That approval be given to the following grants:-

Organisation	Project Title	Amount Awarded (£s)
Brunswick Local Action Team (LAT)	Resourcing the Brunswick LAT	1,350
Double R Playscheme	Playscheme for children with special needs in Lillington Easter and Summer 2006	4,800
Elderly Asian Men's Group	Fitness equipment in New Centre	5,000
Sydenham Neighbourhood Initiatives Ltd	(a) Community Cohesion Project	5,000
	(b) Community Space Project	5,000
Friends of Eagle Rec	Information and Community Involvement Day	1,900
SilverSeekers	Lillington Elders Project	1,620
WAYC	Build-up Project	5,000
Mad Hatters Song and Drama Group	Establish Song and Drama Group for Lillington	1,275
Safeline	Next Steps Training	2,850
		33,795

(4) Radford Semele Community Hall – ADDITIONAL ITEM

It was noted that this application for £4,000 to replace the floor tiling in the kitchen and a contribution towards replacing old single glazed windows with double glazed units had been unsuccessful. However it was proposed to fund this with a supplementary well-being fund grant. It was accordingly Resolved:-

That a grant of £4,000 be made to the Management Committee of Radford Semele Community Hall towards the refurbishment of the Community Hall.

13. Wellbeing Fund/Social Inclusion Fund Grants 2004/05 – Monitoring Report

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

14. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Committee noted the following provisional items:-

24 January 2006

Review of Myton School's priority area

Area Community Learning Plan [Report on progress in 2005/06 and projections for 2006/07]

Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Tachbrook Road Whitnash 30 mph speed limit [Speed limit reduction and introduction of centre refuges]

Warwick Area Business Plan – Half-year performance report

21 March 2006

Capital Programme for Integrated Transport 2006-07 – draft for Warwick area

15. Minutes of the meeting of 13 September 2005 and matters arising

(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 13 September 2005, having been circulated, be approved.

(2) Matters arising

(i) Minute 11(2) – 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 3 – A429 Coventry Road, Warwick – Possible Lowering of Speed Limit

In response to a question from Councillor Jose Compton, Graeme Fitton said that the publication of revised Circular 1/93 was still awaited.

16. Any other items

None.

17. 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 item 18 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.

14. Exempt extract of the minutes of 13th September 2005 and matters arising
(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the exempt extract of the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 13 September 2005, having been circulated, be approved and the minutes for that meeting be signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters arising

Nil.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 9.21 p.m.