

The **WARWICK AREA COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **11th JULY, 2006**.

Present:-

Councillor Sarah Boad (Chair)
“ Ken Browne
“ Les Caborn
“ Alan Cockburn
“ Michael Doody
“ Eithne Goode
“ Marion Haywood
“ Tim Naylor
“ Dave Shilton
“ Mota Singh
“ John Whitehouse

Also Present:-

Officers: Martin Stott and Malcolm Graham (Environment and Economy Directorate), David Carter, Tony Maione and Peter Hunter (Performance and Development Directorate).

1. General
(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Jose Compton, Chris Davis, Bernard Kirton and Raj Randev.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Personal interests relating to any item on the agenda arising by virtue of the member serving as a District or Borough Councillor were disclosed by Councillors Les Caborn, Alan Cockburn, Michael Doody, Eithne Goode, and Dave Shilton.

In addition the following interests were disclosed:-

Councillor Mota Singh – item 2 – Associate Director of Warwick Hospital – personal.

2. A Summary of the Coventry & Warwickshire Acute Services Review Consultation Proposals

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director of Performance & Development.

Dr. Mark Newbold, Project Director, Coventry and Warwickshire Acute Services Review, attended for this item.

The Chair expressed regret that no member of the public was present.

Mark Newbold made the following points in presenting the Acute Services Review and in response to Members questions:-

- The Acute Services Review had been set up the previous September as a clinical review before the deficits in the NHS had become apparent.
- 825,000 people were covered by the hospitals serving Coventry and Warwickshire.
- There were more hospital sites than usual for that number of people and that set its own challenges, both clinical and financial.
- Trends pointed to hospitals with smaller cost base; over the last eight consecutive years the number of beds had been reduced. Payment by results would make this even more essential.
- Consultants were becoming more specialist in nature and therefore it was more difficult for smaller units to cover the range of expertise. The need to meet European Working Time regulations would also make this difficult.
- The clear steer for the review was that local services should be kept local. 75% of Rugby people attended Rugby St. Cross Hospital.
- However, it was sensible that highly complex cases should be dealt with centrally. Only clinical grounds were used in determining whether services should be moved to Coventry. The University Hospital had never posted a deficit.
- Community Hospital could increase pressure on finances available for acute hospitals in the area.
- It was noted that a paediatric assessment unit would be set up at George Eliot Hospital and would be open twelve hours a day with the Special Care Baby Unit transferring to University Hospital. The unit at Warwick Hospital would be open twenty-four hours a day enabling the Special Care Unit to remain at Warwick. It was proposed that this would be monitored and should it prove impossible to maintain a twenty-four hour unit at Warwick, this would be replaced with the same system as at George Eliot. Mark Newbold promised to let Members have a copy of a letter that he had written to James Plaskitt M.P. on this issue.
- It was expected that the number of children going to the University Hospital in accordance with the preceding arrangements would not exceed about half a dozen a week.
- It was not known at that stage whether the finances would be available to set up an ambulatory centre at Warwick Hospital. The Acute Services Review could not force this but would strongly recommend that the service went ahead.
- The set of principles covering the care of older people was in the fuller consultation document. The plan was to prevent older people turning up at hospital when they should have received care in the community. The PCTs recognised they should be doing more and have employed

community matrons. The Acute Services Review also recognised that implementing the set of principles outlined in the consultation document had not been fully costed properly.

- The air ambulance service wished to have a helipad at hospitals; the difficulty for hospitals was that helipads took up the equivalent of forty-four car parking spaces.
- The Review had not addressed transport issues but it was recognised as a real problem. Stress was caused to visitors in some areas, as public transport did not exist and in others the travel time was too long. Even travel by car had its own problems in both cost terms and lack of parking on hospital sites.
- A dedicated direct bus service had been set up between Coventry City Centre and the Walsgrave. However, this had not attracted the number of patients expected and, therefore, it had been changed into a stopping service picking up passengers en route. Unfortunately this had lengthened journey times and even fewer passengers used it.
- He confirmed that press coverage was being watched with interest but it questionnaires contained at the end of the review document would be treated as the formal submissions and they would be submitted to the Review Board. He therefore recommended that people should complete the questionnaires and return them.

The Committee adjourned from 5.35 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

3. Public Question Time

(1) York Road, Leamington Spa - Closure

Jef Tuyn, Resident

The “green corridor”, of which York Walk and York Green were parts, was a valuable resource in the success of the town. The increasing use of York Road as a rat run by speeding vehicles was eroding a very pleasant environment. By closing the road at one end, it would be possible to provide a pedestrian and cyclist friendly route to Princes Drive, the library and the new cultural quarter.

Councillor Bill Gifford, Warwick District Council

He said that to make York Road cycle friendly would be beneficial to everyone. There was a precedent in that Archery Road and Victoria Street had similarly been closed to through traffic, making Victoria Park and the Bowling Green very quiet.

Martin Stott said that there were developments around Adelaide Road and Station Approach that meant it was not possible close York Road to through traffic immediately.

Councillor Michael Doody suggested that the Committee should agree the proposal in principle, as it would not be a problem.

Councillor Naylor said that it was a premature proposal as there were no statistics about accidents, the speeds of vehicles using the road or what alternative measures could be employed to deal with any issues. As for using it as a cycle route, this was only practical if it formed part of a larger network of cycle routes. He suggested that any decision should be deferred until officers could report back with the required information.

It was agreed that officers investigate the proposal and report back on all the issues involved.

(2) Bus shelter in St Margarets Road, Leamington Spa and Bus Service

Councillor Balvinder Gill, Warwick District Council

He reminded the Committee that he had raised the question of the replacement of a bus shelter in St. Margarets Road, Leamington Spa, in March 2005. He asked that the shelter be replaced or at least removed. There was a dispute between the County Council and the District Council as to which of them owned the shelter. He also referred to Route 75/77 bus service that had been stopped on Sundays. He asked if this could be reinstated for late morning/early afternoon.

Martin Stott undertook to look into this.

4. Barford Parish Plan

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director of Performance & Development.

Kirsty Healey and Rob Mulgrue introduced the Plan.

Members were very appreciative of the efforts of those involved in the production of the Plan. They also recognised the importance of ensuring that the Plan was not put on one side and forgotten. They considered that officers should identify any "quick wins" and implement them.

It was accordingly Resolved:-

- (1) That the Warwick Area Committee welcomes the publication of the Barford Parish Plan and requests appropriate County Council Departments to engage with the Barford Parish Plan Committee over those elements of the plan that relate to the services and responsibilities of the County Council and that officers report back on progress.
- (2) That the Warwick Area Committee congratulates the authors of the Plan for their efforts.

5. Tachbrook Park Drive, Warwick – Casualty Reduction Traffic Calming Scheme.

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director for Environment & Economy.

It was noted that although there was no special provision for cyclists, there was space between the cushions and the kerbs for them to pass. Officers had looked at the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing close to Sainsbury but accident statistics did not justify this as part of Casualty Reduction.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee approves the proposed Casualty Reduction scheme for Tachbrook Park Drive, Warwick.

6. Chiltern Railways – Proposed December 2006 Timetable

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director for Environment & Economy that was to be considered by Cabinet on the 13th July 2006.

The following points arose from the discussion on this item:-

- (1) The County Council had enjoyed a positive relationship with Chiltern Railways and Members were very disappointed with the proposals to change services.
- (2) It was recognised that there was improvement in speeding up some of the journeys to Marylebone.
- (3) It was clear that Hatton and Lapworth were the most affected in the Warwick Area, while there were reductions for both Leamington Spa and Warwick.
- (4) It was noted that the reduction of services for Claverdon and Bearley to one per day in each direction was virtually a closure as passengers were committed to travelling at a single time in each direction.
- (5) The changes to these valuable services should be opposed particularly as the County Council was committed to reducing road traffic movements.
- (6) It was difficult to see what would be achieved by reducing the service at the smaller rural stations as trains tended to stop at them for only very short periods of time.
- (7) Members supported improvement to rail services including the re-establishment of a station for Kenilworth.
- (8) There was suspicion that Chiltern Railways wanted people to make greater use of Warwick Parkway.
- (9) Chiltern Railways received a public subsidy for the provision of services at a certain level and the question was asked at what level of service reductions would trigger a review of those subsidies.

It was then Resolved:-

- (i) That the Cabinet be informed of the comments of Warwick Area Committee on the significant changes proposed by Chiltern Railways to its services and the impact of those changes on passengers in Warwickshire; and
- (ii) That the Cabinet be also informed the Warwick Area Committee support the recommendations in the report but recommend the addition of the following words to the end of the second recommendation “that in the event of any reduction being permitted in those services supported by public subsidy, the subsidy be reviewed and reduced accordingly”.

7. Safer Neighbourhood Policing Areas

The Committee considered a joint report from the Strategic Director of Performance & Development and the Strategic Director of Community Protection.

The following points arose from the discussion on this item:-

- (1) There had been a firm commitment that there would be no extraction of personnel from the Teams allocated to each neighbourhood area.
- (2) The total numbers of personnel for the Warwick area were an increase of one to seven sergeants, police constables remaining at thirty-five and PCSOs doubling from twelve to twenty-four.
- (3) There was some concern in that some members felt that it would have been better to increase the number of police constables than sergeants.
- (4) There could be some confusion because the Leamington North neighbourhood area had the same name as the County electoral division but covered a different area in that it also included the larger part of the Milverton electoral division.
- (5) Another area of concern was that local steering committees should have representatives from all local authorities in the area and the police should not rely on “twin/triple hatters”.
- (6) Members considered that they should have received the same presentation has had been made at meetings of parish councils. It was noted, however, that the intention was that the Committee would receive the full presentation in the Autumn.
- (7) The Committee were happy to support the arrangements.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee:-

- (i) Notes the proposals put forward by Warwickshire Police for operational deployment of their resources on a neighbourhood area basis.
- (ii) Notes the recommendations in the report to Cabinet that whilst these were not appropriate structures for locality working for the County Council, dialogue will continue with the Police and the Police Authority as to how to make the locality approaches effective together.
- (iii) Agrees the comments on the proposals be forwarded to the Cabinet.
- (iv) Notes that a further report will be brought to the Committee in due course to ensure its involvement in the definition of the Councils structures for locality working.

8. Well Being Fund / Social Inclusion Fund 2006/7 – funding proposals

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

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

- (1) Introduction**
- (2) Funding Proposals**
 - (a) Well Being Fund Proposals**

This paragraph was noted.

(b) Warwick Words Festival, Poet-Tree Project

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £3,500 to Warwick Words Festival to meet the cost of the Poet-Tree Project to enable artists to work and perform in association with local primary and secondary schools and youth clubs in Warwick West (Forbes Estate).

(c) Budbrooke Youth Club

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £500 to Budbrooke Parish Council to meet half the cost of seed funding required to establish a youth club in the village as part of an initiative to tackle the problem of anti-social behaviour in the village.

(d) Brunswick Healthy Living Centre – Building Extension feasibility Study

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £2,000 to Regenesys – Brunswick Healthy Living Centre for the cost of an architectural feasibility study to provide options for the physical alteration of the centre with a view to providing additional space for letting to a range of organisations to improve the centre's revenue generating capacity.

(e) Secondment of Community Worker from Sierra Leone

Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £2,000 to a partnership involving One World Link, the County Council, South Warwickshire PIE Programme and Mosaic Training for half the cost of a project for an exchange visit by a community development worker from Bo, Sierra Leone, to:-

- Pilot a cultural exchange focussed on community development activities and practices.
- Provide information and experiential learning around community development and activities in both areas.
- Provide local people with the opportunity to challenge their assumptions and to think creatively about addressing participation and issues within their own communities.
- Provide opportunities for local people to gain an understanding of the challenges

and issues of community participation and development in Sierra Leone.

9. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Committee noted the following provisional items:-

Not yet allocated

Lillington Road, Leamington Spa – proposed cycle route linking North Leamington School to the town centre as part of the Safer Routes to Schools initiative.

The Chair referred to the following events:-

- Longbridge Island – consultation event at the Hilton Hotel on the 21st July 2006.
- Briefing on Decriminalisation at 4 p.m. on the 16th August 2006

10. Minutes of the meeting of 16th May 2006 and matters arising
(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 16 May 2006, having been circulated, be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters arising

(i) Minute 15(2)(iii) – A429 Coventry Road, Warwick – Possible Lowering of Speed Limit

The Chair said that there would be a seminar on the 21st September 2006 arising from receipt of the revised Circular 1/93.

11. Any other items

None.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 7.50 p.m.