

23 January 2007

The **WARWICK AREA COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **23 JANUARY 2006**.

Present:-

Councillor Sarah Boad (Chair)
“ Ken Browne
“ Les Caborn
“ Alan Cockburn
“ Jose Compton
“ Chris Davis
“ Michael Doody
“ Eithne Goode
“ Marion Haywood
“ Bernard Kirton
“ Tim Naylor
“ Mota Singh
“ John Whitehouse

Also Present:-

Councillor Bob Stevens

Officers: Phil Astle and Mark Gore (Children, Young People and Families), Martin Stott, Annmarie Grace (Environment and Economy Directorate), Nick Gower-Johnson, Jean Hardwick, Peter Hunter, Tony Maione and Jane Pollard (Performance and Development Directorate), and Helen Maclagan, Head of Museum (Adult, Health & Community Services).

Ian Coker (Warwick District Council).
Mario Jaco (Portuguese Community Support Officer).

Pauline Urwin (South Warwickshire PIE Programme and CVS Warwick).

John Taylor, Ufton Parish Council.

Carol Goode, Head Teacher, and Roger Schofield, Chair of Governors, Budbrooke Primary School.

David Hazeltine, Head Teacher, North Leamington Community School and Arts College.

Andrew Chubb, Head Teacher, Campion School.

Michael Thompson, Head Teacher, and Chris Smart, Governor, Southam College.

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Michael Doody and Dave Shilton.

(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 Warwick District Councillor were disclosed by Councillors Les Caborn, Alan Cockburn, Jose Compton, Chris Davis, Eithne Goode and Bernard Kirton.

In addition the following Councillors disclosed the following interests:-

- (a) Councillor Jose Compton – agenda item 3 – Board Member Warwick District Council for Voluntary Service – personal.
- (b) Councillor Mota Singh – agenda item 3 – Member of Leamington Relate – prejudicial.
- (c) Councillor Alan Cockburn – agenda item 6 –because he had relations who owned land adjacent to the bridge and who had opposed the proposed order - prejudicial.
- (d) Councillor Sarah Boad – agenda item 9 – Governor of North Leamington School – personal.
- (e) Councillor Chris Davis – agenda item 8 - because he owned a property in the street – prejudicial and item 9 (3) - because he lived opposite North Leamington School - personal.
- (f) Councillor John Whitehouse – agenda item 8 – as a Member of Sustrans – Personal
- (g) Councillor Bob Stevens – agenda item 9 (4) – as a Governor of Southam School - Personal

2. Public Question Time

None

3. Well-being Fund/Social Inclusion Fund 2006/07 – Funding Proposals

Councillor Mota Singh left the room during discussion of the item relating to Relate Counselling Service.

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which outlined the proposals for projects to be funded through the Committee's Well-being and Social Inclusion Funds for 2006/07.

Comments were made in connection with the individual applications as follows-

Championing Sustainability at the Recycle Warehouse

Gabby Gogan spoke in support of this application.

Barford Village Shop

Kirstie Healey and Rod Scott spoke in support of the application and showed Members a drawing of the proposed Village Shop.

It was then resolved:-

- (1) That approval be given to a grant of £7,000 to the Championing Sustainability at the Recycle Warehouse.
- (2) That approval be given to a grant of £1,785 to the Barford Village Shop.
- (3) That approval be given to a grant of £1,680 to the South Warwickshire Fundraisers Forum and Fundraising Surgeries.
- (4) That approval be given to a grant of £5,000 to the Relate Counselling Service.

4. An oral presentation by Mario Jaco, Portuguese Community Support Worker

Mario Jaco and Pauline Urwin presented the Annual Report August 2006 of the Portuguese Community Support Project and outlined its successes and current projects (a copy of the report was circulated to Members). Work on the following areas were highlighted –

- Housing
- Welfare rights and benefits advice
- Health
- Racism and racial harassment
- Work issues
- Social issues
- Case work Summary
- Development issues
- Partnership working
- Work with other EU residents
- Take up project with Children and Families in Warwick District

The Chair thanked Mario Jaco and Pauline Urwin for their presentation and their work in the community.

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

Ian Coker presented the report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy which informed Members about the proposed changes to off-street parking in Warwick District. He said that the proposed charges would be subject to full consultation and had been set taking into account the charges that were likely to be imposed when parking enforcement was introduced.

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

6. Proposed 3 Tonnes Weight Restriction on Longhole Bridge, E2994 Ridgeway Lane in the Parish of Offchurch

Councillor Alan Cockburn left the room during discussion of this item.

Anmarie Grace presented the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy. The report outlined the proposal for a Traffic Regulation Order to impose a 3 tonnes maximum gross weight restriction on Longhole Bridge, which was advertised on the 2nd November 2006. Objections to the proposal had been received. The report detailed the objections and made recommendations to the Area Committee for consideration.

John Taylor outlined Ufton Parish Council's objections, which related to the environmental impact of the proposed signs, which it was considered was out of keeping with the rural character of the road. He also outlined the Parish Council's concern that it was not made clear in the consultation document which aspects of the proposals could be changed and those that could not be changed because of traffic regulations.

Resolved that the proposed 3 tonnes weight restriction order for Longhole Bridge on E2994 Ridgeway Lane be made as advertised.

7. Warwick Park and Gardens Project

Helen MacLagan presented the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services.

The County Council had been invited by Warwick District Council to be a partner in a bid to the 'Parks for People' fund of the National Lottery. The bid was for investment in St. Nicholas's Park, Warwick, to include (subject to WCC agreement) the garden of St. John's House, Warwick, managed by the County Museum Service. The proposals would go out to public consultation locally in January. The report summarised the issues and implications. It

was not envisaged that the proposals would lead to additional ongoing revenue costs.

In reply to a question Helen Maclagan said that it had seemed more appropriate to bring this report to the Area Committee's January meeting, so that Members' views could be taken on board at the outset of the consultation exercise. The bid needed to be submitted to the National Lottery "Parks for People" fund by March 2007 to go to the September 2007 national committee of Parks for People. She undertook to bring the issue back to the Area Committee if anything significant was brought to light during consultation.

Resolved that the Area Committee -

- (1) supports the Warwick Parks and Gardens Project.
- (2) subject to the proposal not resulting in increased revenue costs, support the submission of a bid to the "Parks for People" fund of the National Lottery, in partnership with Warwick District Council with the final decision whether or not to proceed being made by the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services in the light of public consultation and review of the final draft bid.

8. A429 Coventry Road Cycleway, Warwick

Martin Stott presented the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy.

The report proposed the development of a new cycleway along the A429 Coventry Road north of Warwick. This route would form part of the National Cycle Network route 52 between Warwick and Nuneaton. A preliminary design for the cycleway had been drawn up and a local consultation had been carried out. This report sought Area Committee approval for conversion of the western footway on the Coventry Road to a shared use footway/cycleway

Following a brief discussion during which Members welcomed and expressed support for the scheme it was -

Resolved that the Area Committee approves the conversion of the footway on the A429 Coventry Road, highlighted on the plan in Appendix A, to a shared use footway/cycleway.

9. Changes to Indicated Admission Numbers

Phil Astle presented the reports of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families.

(1) Budbrooke Primary School

This report informed Members of the proposal to increase the admission number of Budbrooke Primary School. It also asked for any comments that the Area Committee wished to make to Cabinet.

Phil Astle reported two letters received commenting on this proposal. One from the Head Teacher of Newburgh Primary School, which outlined concern that his school had been attracting new pupils and this proposal could set this back. The second letter was from the Head Teacher of Westgate Primary School who said that his school had already seen a decline in places.

Resolved that the Area Committee support the proposal to increase the admission number of Budbrooke Primary School.

(2) The Ferncumbe C of E (Controlled) Primary School

This paper informs Members of the proposal to increase the admission number of The Ferncumbe C of E (Controlled) Primary School. It also asked for any comments that the Area Committee wished to make to Cabinet.

Resolved that the Area Committee supports the proposal to increase the admission number of The Ferncumbe Primary School.

(3) North Leamington Community School and Arts College

This paper informed Members of the response to the consultation with stakeholders on proposals to reduce the admission number of North Leamington Community School and Arts College. It also asks for any comments that the Area Committee wishes to make to Cabinet.

Phil Astle reported responses to the consultation from the Head Teacher, Chair of the Finance Group and Parent Governor supporting the proposal.

David Hazeltine referred to the current poor school accommodation which was spread over 4 sites and welcomed the new school accommodation and asked Members to support the reduction in admission numbers.

Resolved that the Area Committee support the proposal to reduce the admission number of North Leamington Community School and Arts College in line with the proposal.

(4) Southam College

This paper informed Members of the proposals to increase the admission number of Southam College. It also asked for any comments that the Area Committee wished to make to Cabinet.

Michael Thompson, Head Teacher, Southam College spoke in support of the increase in pupil numbers, a copy of his presentation was circulated to Members.

Chris Smart, Southam College Governor, also spoke in support of the increase in admission numbers and of the excellent Ofsted Inspection and facility that was provided for parents and children by Southam College. He highlighted that the impact on Kineton should not be an issue as Kineton took more pupils from Southam's area than Southam took from Kineton.

Councillor Ken Browne, seconded by Councillor Bernard Kirton, proposed that a strategic view should be taken of educational provision in the central area to ensure that increasing the admission number in one school did not weaken another school. He further proposed that Cabinet should be recommended not to increase the admission number of Southam College.

During discussion the following comments were noted -

- (1) Concern was expressed about the proposal and reference was made to Table 3 of the report, which forecast that pupil admission numbers up to 2011 would be 214.
- (2) Concern was expressed about the potential detrimental impact on the admission number for Champion School.
- (3) It was considered that increasing the admission number in one school, which would impact on the viability of other schools, did not make economic or educational sense.

In response to Members' comments Mark Gore explained that it was the Cabinet's decision to consult on an admission number for Southam College of 221 places and the school had the capacity (the capacity calculation range being 198-221). The proposal was aimed at balancing the wish of the County Council to meet parental preference while at the same time not impacting on provision for other children in the area.

Phil Astle explained that the forecast in Table 3 was based on the current pattern of admissions and demand.

Resolved, 7 Members voting in favour, 3 Members voting against and 1 Member abstaining, that the Area Committee –

- (1) proposes that a strategic view should be taken of educational provision in the central area to ensure that increasing the admission number in one school did not weaken another school; and
- (2) That Cabinet be recommended not to increase the admission number for Southam College.

10. Development of the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement (LAA)

Nick Gower-Johnson presented the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

This report summarised recent progress made in relation to the development of the Warwickshire LAA following the submission of the 'near final' draft to Government Office West Midlands on 8th December 2006. The Report also sought to inform the Area Committee of the likely outcomes to be included within the final LAA and requests the views of the Area Committee on its priorities for delivery.

In reply to questions Nick Gower-Johnson explained that -

- (1) the LAA was the foundation stone for enhanced two-tier working.
- (2) whilst the Government Office commended the report, a Stratford College officer group was translating the strategic document into a more easier to understand working framework document.

Resolved that the Committee -

- (1) notes the current position in relation to the development of the Warwickshire LAA.
- (2) asks that a further report is brought to the Area Committee meeting on 8th May 2007 describing the progress made by the County Council and its partners in making arrangements for the local delivery of LAA outcomes.

11. Consultation on Local Area Scrutiny

Jane Pollard presented the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which sought the views of the Area Committee on any appropriate topics for a local area scrutiny exercise. She reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group, at its meeting on 17 January 2007 had agreed the process for selecting topics. Suggested topics would be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group on 20th March 2007 (not 7th March 2007 as stated in the report).

During discussion a range of topics were proposed as listed below, and Members voted on each suggestion to prioritise the most favoured topics as potential subjects for local area scrutiny –

1. Safer Neighbourhood Groups – Progress (1 vote)
2. Warwick Forum – Traffic Plan Progress (4 votes)
3. Social Care for the Elderly – Support (7 votes)
4. Management of the Street Scene under one Agency – Street Lighting/Road Maintenance (5 votes)
5. Traffic – Speed Management (7 votes)
6. Assimilation of other EU nationals into the area. (7 votes)

Resolved that the Area Committee identifies three issues that might be appropriate for a local area scrutiny exercise as follows –

- (1) Social Care for the Elderly
- (2) Traffic – Speed Management
- (3) Assimilation of other EU national into the area.

12. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Committee noted the provisional items for future meetings as listed below. The Chair asked Members to notify the Committee Spokespersons of potential issues for future meetings before the Spokesperson briefing on 30 January 2007.

30th January 2007

- Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement.

13th March 2007

- Myton Road, Warwick – Proposed 30 m.p.h. Speed Limit.
- Draft Speed Management Strategy – Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee wish to obtain the views of each Area Committee on the draft strategy.
- Capital Programme for Transport 2007-08.
- Extended Services Initiative – background and up-to-date data – countywide and Central Area.
- Children’s Centres in Central Area – background and up-to-date information.

8th May 2007

- Possible proposals on future school organisation in Warwick.
- Local Area Agreement – progress made by the County Council and its partners in making arrangements for the local delivery of LAA outcomes.

Unallocated

- Lillington Road, Leamington Spa – proposed cycle route as part of the Safer Routes to Schools initiative.

13. Minutes of the meeting of 21st November 2006 and matters arising

(1) Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on 23 January 2007, having been circulated, be approved and be signed by the Chair, subject to –

In respect of minute 5, page 8, 3rd paragraph, to add the words “in its mission statement” to end of the first sentence of the comments made by Councillor Ken Browne.

(2) Matters Arising

C25 Shrewley – Claverdon Road

The Chair referred the late question received at the previous meeting and circulated a response that had been prepared which Martin Stott undertook to send to Mr. Hull, the member of public who had put the question.

14. Any Other Items

There were no items of urgent business.

15. Report Containing Exempt Information

Resolved that members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the item mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972’.

16. Well-being Fund/Social Inclusion Fund 2006/07 – Exempt Item

Resolved, having considered paragraph 2.6 of agenda item 3 of the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development relating to the funding support for Warwick District Shopmobility, that –

- (1) approval be given to a grant of £7,500 to the Warwick District Shopmobility;
- (2) a representative from each party form a Working Group to meet with the organisers of Warwick District Shopmobility and representatives from the Business Consultancy and Warwick District Council to discuss the issues raised by the Committee.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 8:50 p.m.