

The **WARWICK AREA COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **13th MARCH, 2007**.

Present:-

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

Also Present:-

Officers: Martin Stott and Mike Waters, Vicky Porter, Philippa Young, Malcolm Graham, Peter Samwell (Environment and Economy Directorate), Tony Maione and Peter Hunter (Performance and Development Directorate) Carole Edkins (Adult, Health and Community Services) Ally Lynch, Phyllis Collins and Norma Smeaton (Children, Young People and Families Directorate).

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Ken Browne, Marion Haywood, Raj Randev and Mota Singh.

(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, Michael Doody, Eithne Goode, Bernard Kirton and Dave Shilton.

In addition the following Councillors disclosed the following interests:-

- (a) Councillor Sarah Boad – agenda item 8 – member of managing committee of Lillington Children Centre– personal.
- (b) Councillor Jose Compton – agenda item 4 – NHS Patient Forum– personal.

- (c) Councillor Chris Davis – agenda item 4 – Leamington Old Town Regenesi s Board – personal; agenda item 5 – owns property on the Myton Road – prejudicial.
- (d) Councillor John Whitehouse – agenda item 7 – member of extended services steering group for school clusters – personal.

2. Public Question Time

None.

3. Barford Village Plan Update – presentation by Barford Village Plan Group

Kirsty Healey, Barford Parish Plan Committee

She reminded the Committee that they had received the Barford Parish Plan with enthusiasm when it was brought to them in July 2006. Since then a lot of work had been done and in those areas where the Parish Council was involved this had progressed well. However, progress was very slow where County Council involvement was needed.

John Murphy, Chair of the Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council.

He then updated the Committee on the progress on the action plan arising from the parish plan:-

- *Village Directory* – funding of £1,000 had now been obtained to enable the printing of the village directory. Copies would be available in the three parishes with the remainder being available from the village shop when it opened.
- *Pressurise Police to prevent illegal, inconsiderate and dangerous parking* – the police response had been that unless a serious obstruction was caused they had higher priorities. Pressure would continue to be applied to the police.
- *Ensure regular, visible Police presence in the village and swifter investigation of offences, especially speeding* – there had been a small improvement.
- *Restart Neighbourhood Watch* – group formed and street co-ordinators appointed and beginning to work well.
- *Initiate campaign to reinstate a general store/post office and encourage other retail services* – the groups were formed. It had been a struggle to restart the village shop but a site had now been identified next to the Village Hall on the Village Green. Subject to clearing certain planning issues with the District Council, it was hoped that the shop would be operating by the end of the year.
- *Provide access to computers for all villagers who need it* – attempted to make use of spare capacity on the school computers but this had not been possible because of security reasons.

- *Investigate cost of provision of mains water supply to allotments* – the water supply would be connected within the next few weeks.
- *Improve appearance of Joint Parish Council allotments and encourage up-take* – the allotments had been cleared and were now mainly occupied.
- *Demand that the land enclosed by the bypass was not developed for residential purposes* – current local plan prevents such development.
- *Demand improved maintenance of pavements, kerbs, roads and designated footpaths* – met with County Council officers and although there had been a great deal of sympathy expressed there had been very little action.
- *Request local authorities to designate Wasperton and Hareway Lanes as “quiet lanes”* – the County Council policy was not to use this Government initiative and reports from other parts of the country suggested that this might be the correct course.
- *Campaign for better access to river and the provision of more riverside walks* – progress was slow.
- *Request quiet tarmac to be laid on M40 and A46* – this would be done as part of the normal renewal programme in 2008/9.
- *Request current re-cycling scheme to be extended to include plastics and cardboard* – the District Council was not very forthcoming and he asked if the County Council could help.
- *Demand better maintenance of drains and sewers on Wellesbourne Road* – although some jetting had taken place there was problem with severe flooding.
- *Campaign for introduction of a Warwick Parkway taxi-bus service* – if this was to be a success commercially, Wellesbourne residents would need to use the service but their Parish Council had shown no interest in the proposal.
- *Discuss with Dial-a-Ride possibilities of a regular minibus service for youth to use the facilities in Wellesbourne and Warwick* – the absence of a youth club was making this difficult to implement.
- *Provide improved lighting street lighting in High Street and Wasperton* – there were no plans for Wasperton.
- *Request parking bays in Wasperton Lane and service road at south end of Wellesbourne Road* – the County Council rejected this but efforts would continue to obtain the parking bays, as there was concern that a significant accident would happen.
- *Promote establishment of 20 m.p.h. zones in Church Street, High Street and Wasperton Lane* – the County Council were waiting for the results from trial zones in other villages.

- *Request introduction of cycle ways to Sherbourne corner and to Wellesbourne – an indication had been given that money had been found.*
- *Encourage the provision of affordable housing within the village and inform local housing authorities, including WRHA, of the need for sheltered housing within the village – there was no provision for bungalows for people with significant disabilities.*
- *Investigate ways in which Barford could have its own Youth Club – unfortunately there had been little public support for this.*

Councillor Les Caborn reminded members that the Barford Parish Plan had been held up as a model for other villages to follow. He then moved that the Committee instruct officers to meet with the Joint Parish Council to discuss the issues and to report back in six months. Councillor Jose Compton indicated that she would second the motion.

Councillor Kirton questioned the time it was taking to address the issue of 20 m.p.h. zones and said that officers should write to the Parish Council to explain the situation and send him a copy.

Martin Stott said that such a long list of requirements had resource implications, especially as most parishes could have similarly long lists. On the question of recycling cardboard and plastic, the lack of weight and the bulk of those materials meant that it was astronomically expensive to provide a kerbside collection service.

Councillor John Whitehouse was pleased that progress had been made on establishing the village shop. He asked that any response to the parish council should set out the realistic expectations of whether or not the requirements could be met.

It was then Resolved:-

That Warwick Area Committee instruct officers to meet with the Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council to discuss the issues arising from the action plan of the Barford Village Plan and to report back in six months.

4. Delivering Health & Wellbeing in Leamington Old Town

Councillor Chris Davis left the room during the whole of this item in accordance with his earlier disclosure of a prejudicial interest [Minute 1(2)(c)].

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services.

Carole Edkins introduced the report and said that within the last few days she had received confirmation from the three statutory agencies that they would meet the costs of running the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre for 2007/2008. It was proposed to establish a separate company and charity to run the Centre.

Members supported the continuance of this valuable resource

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That Warwick Area Committee support the sustainability of the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre as laid out in this report.
- (2) That the Warwick Area Committee agree to fund the legal costs of £1,000 for establishing the company element of the arrangement.

5. Myton Road, Warwick – Proposed 30 mph Speed Limit

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

Philippa Young introduced the report.

Roger McEvoy, Resident

He supported the speed limit but had a concern about its effectiveness and enforcement. He felt more consideration should have been given to the community with the provision of more crossing points. Currently there were only two crossing points with a long stretch of road between them. It was a busy road and further developments would increase the number of vehicles using it. He compared more favourable treatment given to Tachbrook Park Drive, which was not in a residential area and had less traffic.

Members supported the reduction in speed on the Myton Road and sympathised with the request for more crossing facilities.

Philippa Young confirmed that it was proposed to establish three new crossing facilities along the length of Myton Road. It was hoped to include a fourth crossing but this was proving difficult because of the configuration of junctions on the road.

It was then Resolved:-

That the 30 mph speed limit be implemented on Myton Road, Warwick as advertised.

6. Talisman Square Development Traffic Consultation

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

Vicky Porter made a presentation to the Committee. A revised option 3 was circulated to the Committee and she said that officers were recommending this to the Committee with a view to reviewing after a year by which time it would be possible to assess whether option 2 was viable.

Councillor Trevor Martin, Kenilworth Town Council

He said that although there was no perfect answer, option 2 was favoured. This seemed to be recognised in the proposal to move towards option 2 after a year but he considered that the Committee should introduce it straight away. Option 3 would block the access to the Abbey End car park. That proposal would also make it possible to comply with a planning condition related to the movement of HGVs at the northern service yard.

Councillor Alan Cockburn spoke in favour of option 3 (amended) and said that the reason why it was not proposed to implement option 2 immediately was that it was not certain what the impact would be on traffic of the options. Option 3 was a more flexible option and it would be possible to move to Option 2 once the impact of traffic was known.

Councillors John Whitehouse and Dave Shilton supported this.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee :-

- (1) Endorse option 3 amended as shown on drawing numbers C8001 and C8002, as the preferred scheme.
- (2) Approves the advertising of Traffic Regulation Orders as requested for the preferred scheme.

7. Extended Services update report

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families.

Ally Lynch and Phyllis Collins introduced the report. It was noted that it was not intended that all services would be provided on school premises. Outreach work would be undertaken to ensure that children in rural communities would not be disadvantaged. Nurseries would be included in the arrangements.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee considers the progress to date of the Extended Services strategy in the Warwick area and comments further as appropriate.

8. Implications of the Childcare Act 2006 and development of Children's Centres

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families.

Norma Smeaton introduced the report.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee acknowledge the duties imposed on Warwickshire County Council by the Childcare Act 2006 and comments on the work in progress to meet them.

9. Speed Management Strategy

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

Malcolm Graham explained if the strategy were adopted the Area Committee would be able to set its priority for speed reductions taking account of community needs.

Members were in favour of the strategy, as it should reduce the time taken to implement speed reduction measures. However, they recognised that the number of schemes that could be implemented would always be restricted by available resources.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee support the adoption of a speed management strategy as submitted.

10. Highway Maintenance Plan 2007/08 and Five Year list of structural maintenance

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy and it was then Resolved:-

Peter Samwell introduced the report.

The following points arose during the ensuing discussion:-

- (1) There was support for the provision of £10,000 to £20,000 per district to sustain a tree replacement policy on the highway network.
- (2) There was a need for more effective patching when potholes appeared in the road surface. Currently patching lasted only a short time, leading to criticism from the public.
- (3) The question was asked as to whether the priority order was based on up-to-date data.
- (4) There was a need for gully cleaning because of flooding.

Peter Samwell reminded members that if finance were provided for tree replacements, this would have to come from elsewhere within highway maintenance budget. Twice as much funding had been provided for 2007/08 as compared to the current year for patching work. The data for prioritising schemes was gathered by surveys carried out on a four-yearly cycle, updated by information received about the current state of the highway. The drainage issue in the rural area might not be caused by a blocked gully, flooding might be caused by drainage ditches being blocked and a high water table.

11. Capital Programme for Transport 2007-8

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy and it was then Resolved:-

That Members:-

- (1) Support the Capital Programme for Integrated Transport for the Warwick Area given in Table 1.
- (2) Support the schemes identified in Table 3 for the delegated budget.
- (3) Agree that schemes listed in Table 4 be removed from the list of requests.

12. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Chair informed members a seminar would be held on the 8th May 2007 at 4 p.m. prior to the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee. The purpose of the seminar would be to allow the Area Committee the opportunity to determine how £400,000 allocated by the Council for highway maintenance and safety should be spent.

The Committee noted the following provisional items:-

8th May 2007

- Proposed Speed Cushions – Queensway, Leamington Spa.
- Summary of progress made by the Area Community Learning Partnership for Warwick District during 2006/07 and giving an outline for proposed partnership activity for 2007/08.
- Installation of Toucan Crossings in Leamington Spa.
- Local Area Agreement – progress made by the County Council and its partners in making arrangements for the local delivery of LAA outcomes.

10th July 2007

- Possible proposals on future school organisation in Warwick.

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.

13. Minutes of the meetings of 23rd and 30th January 2007 and matters arising

(1) 23rd January

(i) Minutes

The public minutes of the meeting of the 23rd January were approved.

(ii) Matters arising

None.

(2) 30th January

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 30th January 2007, having been circulated, be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters arising

None.

14. Any other items

The Chair said that this would be the last meeting of the Committee that Mike Waters would attend, as he was leaving the Council's employment.

Mike Waters said that he was taking up a consultancy job in the East Midlands and that Shirley Reynolds would replace him.

Members played tribute to the thoroughly professional way he had carried out his duties and his skill in dealing with difficult traffic proposals. It was accordingly Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee place on record their appreciation of the thoroughly professional way in which Mike Waters had carried out his duties and for the considerable help he had given to members and wish him well for the future.

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. Exempt extract of the minutes of the meeting of 23rd January 2007

Resolved:-

That the exempt extract of the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 23rd January 2007, having been circulated, be approved and that the minutes of that meeting be signed by the Chair.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 8.45 p.m.