

The **WARWICK AREA COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **8th MAY, 2007**.

Present:-

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

Also Present:-

Officers: Martin Stott, Roger Newnham, Roger Bennett Philippa Young (Environment and Economy Directorate), Tony Maione and Peter Hunter (Performance and Development Directorate) Linda Price and Kath Bannister (Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council Community Support Team)

1. General

(1) Apologies

The Chair referred to the seminar that should have been held prior to the meeting for consideration of the use of £400,000 allocated by the Council for highway maintenance and safety and said that this had been postponed because of the clash caused by delays in counting the Warwick District Council's Election results. She gave the Committee three dates – the 14th, 24th and 25th May 2007 at 4 p.m. – as options for the seminar. The Chair then said that she would raise the matter again at the end of the meeting to give Members the opportunity to consider which of the date was best.

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Ken Browne and Bernard Kirton.

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

In addition the following Councillors disclosed the following personal interests:-

- (a) Councillor Sarah Boad – agenda item 6 – Governor of North Leamington School.
- (b) Councillor Jose Compton – agenda item 8 – Trustee of Warwick District Council for Voluntary Service.
- (c) Councillor Eithne Goode – agenda item 10 – friend of the Director of the Warwick Folk Festival.
- (d) Councillor Dave Shilton – agenda item 5 – member of Kenilworth Town Council.

2. Public Question Time

Traffic Noise – A46/Hampton Road, Warwick

On behalf of one of his constituent, Councillor Raj Randev raised the issue of a traffic noise from the A.46/Hampton Road, Warwick. The noise was particularly intrusive around Young Close, near the bridge carrying Hampton Road over the A46 at which point there is a break in the noise bunding along the A46. Warwick District Council Environmental Health officers accepted that the traffic noise was a serious problem. Identification of the correct organisation to deal with the issue had proven difficult. The Highways Agency was responsible for the A46, the noise bunding was provided by the builders of the houses and the County Council owned the land at the point where there was the gap in the bunding. There was a need for all those concerned to work together to resolve the issue and the fact that the Highway Agency was due to start work on major improvements to the Longbridge A46/M40 junction provided an ideal opportunity to tackle the problem.

Martin Stott undertook to take this matter up and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

3. Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement

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

Roger Bennett introduced the report.

Members accepted that there were certain issues that would need to be addressed in the review period but otherwise were happy with the scheme. It was accordingly Resolved:-

That the Warwickshire County Council (Various Streets, District of Warwick) (Residents' Parking Places, On-Street Parking Places and Waiting Restrictions) Order 2007 be made as advertised:-

- (1) Including the following modifications:-
- (i) Leamington Spa
 - (a) The pay and display time limit in Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa be reduced from an 8 p.m. termination to a 6 p.m. termination.
 - (b) Zone L.2 permit eligibility be limited to residents of Willes Road, Leamington Spa (excluding Lansdowne Crescent) between Clarendon Street and Cross Street only.
 - (c) The waiting be limited to 4 hours, no return for 8 hours except for Zone L5 permit holders, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily on parts of both sides of Archery Road.
 - (d) Zone L3 permit exemption be applied on Pay and Display parking sections in Augusta Place.
 - (e) The limited waiting for 2 hours, no return for 4 hours except for Zone L2 permit holders, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily restriction be extended into the north side of Beauchamp Avenue, between Kenilworth Road and Clarendon Street.
 - (f) Zone L6 permit exemption be applied on Limited Waiting parking sections in Church Street.
 - (g) Removal of the No Waiting, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. restriction in Clarendon Crescent along with minor adjustments in location of Limited Waiting and No Waiting At Any Time areas.
 - (h) The limited waiting for 2 hours, no return for 4 hours except for Zone L2 permit holders, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily restriction be extended into the length of Clarendon Street between Beauchamp Avenue and Binswood Avenue on both sides.

- (i) The limited waiting for 2 hours, no return for 4 hours except for Zone L3 permit holders, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily restrictions be removed from part of the east side of Grove Street and be extended into the west side.
- (j) Zone L2 permit exemption be applied on Pay and Display parking sections in Oxford Street.
- (k) Zone L2 permit eligibility be extended to include residents of Chandos Street, Guy Street, Guy Place East, Guy Place West, Oxford Place, Oxford Street and Nos. 55 and 57 Regent Street and Clarendon Street.
- (l) A section of Pay and Display for 2 hours, no return for 4 hours, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily restriction be added into Regent Grove on a section of the south side between Regent Street and Clarendon Street.
- (m) Zone L3 permit eligibility be extended to include residents of Nos. 3 to 5 (odd) and 2 to 12 (even) Regent Street.
- (n) The limited waiting for 2 hours, no return for 4 hours except for Zone L6 permit holders, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily restriction be extended into sections of the north side of Russell Terrace, between George Street and Farley Street. The restriction should terminate a distance of 10 metres from the junction with Farley Street on the north side (rather than the proposed 15m).
- (o) Zone L4 permit eligibility be extended to include residents on the west side of Wood Street.

- (ii) Warwick
 - (a) The limited waiting for 2 hours, no return for 4 hours except for Zone W3 permit holders, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily restriction be extended into part of the length of Coten End between Coventry Road and Guy Street.
 - (b) Zone W3 permit eligibility be extended to include residents of Coten End between Coventry Road and Broad Street.
 - (c) Zone W3 permit eligibility be extended to include residents of Nos. 35-41 Percy Road.
 - (d) Zone W1 permit eligibility be extended to include residents of Nos. 13-19 West Street.
 - (e) The on-street parking charges be as follows:-
 - 30 minutes – 20p
 - Up to 1 hour – 90p
 - Up to 2 hours - £1.50
- (iii) Whitnash
 - (a) The extension of No Waiting At Any Time restriction on the east side of Tachbrook Road Service Road be removed.
 - (b) The Limited Waiting restriction on the west side of Tachbrook Road Service Road be removed and replaced with a No Waiting At Any Time restriction.
- (iv) Visitor Permits
 - (a) Registered Guest Houses be allowed to apply for Visitor Permits, with the maximum being one per lettable room, at a charge of £15 for the first permit and £5 each thereafter.

(2) Excluding the following proposed modifications:-

(i) Leamington Spa

(a) A reduction in the length of limited waiting on the west side of York Road so that it commences at a point 48 metres north of its junction with Avenue Road (rather than 9 metres as originally proposed).

Roger Bennett confirmed that the scheme was on target for the implementation date of the 6th August 2007. Residents would be informed in the next few weeks when the white lines would be painted on the roads and the Directorate were asking residents to co-operate with the contractors and park elsewhere when notified.

The Chair asked him to ensure that members were kept fully informed of any progress.

4. Queensway, Leamington Spa – Proposed Speed Cushions

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

Councillor Mota Singh supported the proposal and requested that consideration be given to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Queensway because of the number of people crossing to reach the new Sikh Temple. The busiest times were from Thursdays to Sundays but the last time this was surveyed it was outside those periods.

Phillippa Young undertook to take this request back to the traffic project team and ask that a new survey take place within the busiest period.

Councillor Tim Naylor said that the siting of the speed cushions should be arranged with a view to the possibility of a pedestrian crossing being provided at some time in the future.

It was then Resolved:-

That the speed cushions be implemented on Queensway, Leamington Spa, as advertised.

5. Report of Warwickshire County Council/Warwick District Council Community Support Team, 2006/7

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

Members expressed their appreciation of the very good work that Linda Price and Kath Bannister were doing.

The following points arose during a question and answer session:-

- (1) The Community Support Team worked with community groups to support them in their efforts.
- (2) The Team worked in partnership with other organisations including the police where there was an overlap with them in the Safer Neighbourhood Initiative.
- (3) The Team adopted a fluid approach to the way they operated, directing their efforts to a particular area for as long as it took to achieve the desired result and dovetailing their efforts with other organisations.
- (4) The Team was in the second year of a three-year funding programme.

The Chair thanked them for coming to the Committee.

It was then Resolved:-

That Members accept the report of the work of the joint Warwickshire County Council/Warwick District Council Community Support Team in 2006/7.

6. Proposed Cycle Route to North Leamington School

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

Martin Stott introduced the report and informed members that the cost of the scheme would be £300,000.

Contents of an e-mail from Rodney King on behalf of the Warwick District Cycle Forum to Councillor Eithne Goode relating to the proposed cycle route

The Forum asked the Committee to consider the following proposed modification:-

Going north up Lillington Road, instead of cutting through Oak Tree Close at the roundabout, the roundabout should be converted in to a signalled junction, along with the next roundabout, Lillington Road/Cubbington Road, the cycle route heading on a widened pavement in a straight line between them.

These two roundabouts are a major barrier for anyone wishing to walk or cycle from Cubbington and Lillington in to Leamington, so their removal would benefit both pedestrians and cyclists.

When this proposal was given to PTES, it was turned down as being too expensive, which may be pertinent to the school route. However, money could be brought in from the cycling and pedestrian budgets.

One only has to wait at the Lillington Road/Lillington Avenue roundabout to see what an obstacle it is for anyone walking or cycling.

Therefore we would be grateful if the committee could ask for full details on the suggested modification to the proposed scheme.

One other point that we wish to bring to the committee's attention is the comment in the Observer, 3rd May, by a WCC spokesman regarding the Parade. The comment "The Parade provides the best cycling facilities linking the north and the south of the town", is a view not shared by cyclists, judging by the conclusion of a survey conducted by Cycleways – "The poor cycling environment within Victoria Terrace and the lack of a continuous uphill cycle lane through the Parade, precludes this scheme as a good quality cycle route".

Because the survey identified a number of concerns, I understand that a copy is being sent on to you within the next week or so. In the meantime, we would be grateful for the committee's support for a fuller investigation in to the replacement of the roundabouts with signalled junctions, please.

Mr. Jonathan Bayliss - resident

He lived within the vicinity of the Cubbington Road roundabout. Although he supported the scheme, he had some concerns about safety. The first of these was that there were blind egresses from driveways because of high walls and trees and hedges. Although this caused no problems to pedestrians who were able to stop in time if a car drove out onto the path, cyclists would not be able to do so. His wife had such an experience when a cyclist collided with the car she was driving, fortunately the cyclist had been going slowly and no injuries or damage occurred. The other safety concern related to the older pedestrians who were frightened by cyclists coming up from behind them silently and at speed. They would prefer to have a separately delineated cyclepath.

Councillor Eithne Goode generally welcomed the proposals but suggested that if the route across the Midland Oak Field were to be used as a shared footpath and cyclepath, extra lighting should be provided. She asked whether there would be any merit in deferring a decision to the next meeting to enable investigation of the suggestion that the two traffic islands on Lillington Road should be replaced by traffic lights.

Martin Stott said that it would cost around £1m to replace both traffic islands with traffic lights.

The Chair supported the provision of a Toucan crossing at the bottom of Cubbington Road as this would have the added advantage of helping to break up traffic speed on that road.

Martin Stott said that the Binswood Avenue/Kenilworth route was proposed because this linked up with the Parade. As for the decision not to have a separately delineated cyclepath, experience was that cyclists travelled at slower speeds if there was no segregation. He had personal experience of this on the Myton Road.

Peter Hunter then referred to representations received from Mrs. Lawless a resident in Binswood Avenue who considered that a shared cycleway and footway was not necessary in Binswood Avenue as the carriage was very wide. She also expressed concern about the audible signal on the proposed Toucan crossing.

It was pointed out that there was echelon parking in Binswood Avenue and therefore the proposal for a shared cycleway and footway was desirable. Mr. Stott said that the audible warning on the Toucan was able to be reduced and could be turned off altogether at night.

The Chair said that an anonymous letter had claimed that trees would be cut down as a result of the proposals and stressed that this was totally untrue.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to:-

- (1) The conversion of the various sections of footway as shown on the plan in Appendix B to shared use cycleway/footways, with relevant comments to be taken on board during detailed design.
- (2) The provision of a Toucan crossing on Cubbington Road.
- (3) The upgrade of the existing Zebra crossing on Kenilworth Road to a Toucan crossing.
- (4) The upgrade of the existing two Pelican crossings on Lillington Road to Toucan crossings.

7. Review of Parking Policies

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

Roger Bennett introduced the report. In relation to the issue of permits in residents parking schemes he mentioned an item that was not included in the report – a suggestion for the number of permits in houses of multiple occupation to be limited to one per room. In addition he referred to continuing

discussions with Warwick District Council regarding the possibility of restricting eligibility for permits of new “self contained” residential dwellings (including conversions).

Members referred to the concern they had expressed at their meeting on the 30th January 2007 about the removal of informal disabled persons parking bays. They noted that it was suggested that there should be a change to existing policy to allow formal bays to be provided subject to the applicant paying the costs (up to £500). It was also noted that if this change were agreed, the cost of converting existing bays in Warwick District would be met from the set up costs for decriminalisation of parking. Members were concerned that the cost of the provision of future bays would fall upon applicants who might not be able to afford £500, however, it was pointed out that it might be possible for disabled persons to obtain financial help towards the cost.

There was strong feeling that footway parking should not generally be permitted. However it was noted that there were areas where specific arrangements had been made to enable vehicles to park on the footway and Members considered that this was clearly acceptable. They also recognised that because many of the streets around the Warwick District had been built at a time when car ownership was not envisaged, parking on footways was inevitable. The real issue was around inconsiderate parking that forced people with pushchairs, in wheelchairs or using disabled vehicles off the path onto the carriageway or caused damage to flagstones.

It was then Resolved:-

That the comments made by Warwick Area Committee on the draft policies be submitted to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8. Area Community Learning Partnership (ACLP) for Warwick District, Progress Report 2006/07 and Action Plan for 2007/08

The Committee considered the report of the Area Community Learning Partnership.

It was noted that Tim Howram had intended to present the report but had been unable to attend because personal reasons. Peter Hunter presented the report on his behalf.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the progress made in the development of the Community Learning Strategy and the multi-agency Community Learning Plan for Warwick District be noted.

- (2) That the detailed progress report against 2006/07 actions be endorsed.
- (3) That the Area Committee gives its comments on the draft outline plan and actions for 2007/08.
- (4) That a finalised Area Community Learning Plan for 2007/08 be made available to the Area Committee for information in the summer 2007.

It was agreed that the Committee's best wishes be passed on to Tim Howram.

9. Social Inclusion Fund 2007/08 – Migrant Worker Support Post

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

Councillor Alan Cockburn said that although he was prepared to agree the funding for this year, he was uneasy about continuing it beyond that.

It was noted that no other applications for funding had been received to date.

It was then Resolved:-

That Members approve a further years funding for the migrant worker support post from the Social Inclusion Fund 2007/8 as set out in this report.

10. Well-Being Fund 2007/8 – Funding Proposals

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

(1) Introduction

This paragraph was noted.

(2) Funding Proposals

(i) Mediation and Community Support Service – Gap Funding

It was noted that if the proposed funding was agreed and with money the Service had in the bank, there would be sufficient funds to enable it to continue for another nine months.

It was then Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £10,290 to the Mediation and Community Support Service – Warwick District to cover the running costs of that organisation for ten weeks to enable further funding

sources to be identified with a view to securing a sustainable future for the project.

(ii) Warwick Folk Festival – Street Festival and Singing Safari

It was Resolved:-

That approval be given to a grant of £2,500 to Warwick Folk Festival towards the total cost of £8,000 of two initiatives – a street festival in Warwick Town Centre during the whole of the Festival weekend and a Singing Safari educational project comprising informal workshops in the period leading up to the festival involving participation by local people.

11. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Committee noted the following provisional items:-

10th July 2007

- Possible proposals on future school organisation in Warwick.
- Portobello Bridge – strengthening footways.
- Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Review – progress report.

12. Minutes of the meetings of 13th March 2007 and matters arising

(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 13th March 2007, having been circulated, be approved – subject to Councillor Raj Randev's apologies being added to those in Minute 1(1) and a note being added under Minute 5 that Councillor Chris Davis had left the room during consideration of that item – and be signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters arising

(i) Minute 3 – Barford Village Plan

Councillor Les Caborn said that officers had met with the Barford Village Plan Group but he had not been informed of the arrangements and therefore did not attend. He said that it was important that he should be kept informed such meetings even if he did not attend.

Martin Stott agreed and said that he would reinforce the message with his colleagues.

(ii) Minute 6 – Talisman Square Development Traffic Consultation

Roger Newnham said that the developer had indicated that he was not prepared to fully fund all the proposals in the section 278 agreement. There were two items at issue: the widening of both sides of Station Road and the provision of a pedestrian crossing. After further negotiation, the developer had agreed to widen one side of Station Road. Attempts would be made to fund the pedestrian crossing from other developments in the town.

Members were concerned that the developer had not agreed to fund fully the proposals but considered that it was essential to have no further delays in the development. It was accordingly Resolved:-

That section 278 agreement in connection with the Talisman Square, Kenilworth, development be signed with the proposal for the widening of both sides of Station Road being reduced to one side and the omission of the pedestrian crossing.

13. Any other items

It was agreed that the new date for the postponed seminar would be the 14th May 2007.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 8.19 p.m.