

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

Present:-

Councillor Marion Haywood (Vice Chair) (In the Chair)
“ Ken Browne
“ Les Caborn
“ Alan Cockburn
“ Jose Compton
“ Chris Davis
“ Tim Naylor
“ Raj Randev
“ Dave Shilton
“ Mota Singh
“ John Whitehouse

Also Present:-

Officers: Malcolm Graham, Martin Stott and Philippa Young (Environment and Economy Directorate), Tim Healey, Peter Hunter and Tony Maione (Performance and Development Directorate), Dina Pink (Resources Directorate) Emma Andrews (Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate)

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair took the Chair for the meeting.

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Sarah Boad, Michael Doody, Eithne Goode and Bernard Kirton.

(2) Members' Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

The following Councillors disclosed the following interests:-

Councillor John Whitehouse – agenda item 10 – personal – Governor of St. John's School, Kenilworth.

Councillor Mota Singh – agenda item 9 – prejudicial – Member of the Sydni Centre, Leamington Spa.

Councillor Chris Davies – agenda item 2(2)(b) – prejudicial – resident of Binswood Avenue, Leamington Spa; agenda item 9 – prejudicial – on the Management Committee of the Leamington Bath Place Community Venture.

**2. (1) Public Question Time
St. Augustine School, Kenilworth, Pelican Crossing**

Representatives of the school: Angela Scull, Headteacher and two parents

There were very serious concerns about the dangers to children crossing the very busy Beehive Hill to reach the school. 100% of the pupils had to cross this very busy and dangerous road. It had been impossible to employ a crossing patrol. It was, therefore, requested that a pelican crossing be provided to enable children to cycle and walk to the school. This would be beneficial both to their health and good for the environment. People wishing to access the church, a day nursery, playing fields and allotments that were soon to open would also use the pelican crossing. The local MP, staff at the school, parents and parishioners supported the provision of the crossing. There was a petition containing 285 signatures. The Committee was asked not to wait until a child was killed or seriously injured before acting.

Councillor John Whitehouse confirmed that he totally supported the campaign for the pelican crossing. The 85th percentile of vehicle speed on Beehive Hill was 45 mph or more. The police had accepted the need for enforcement and hard standing was being provided for a police motorcycle. He asked that officers take away the request and report back at the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Dave Shilton said that the school was sited on a very large bend with speeding traffic. There was a problem with parked cars that needed tackling but the most urgent issue was the provision of safe crossing facilities. This also had the support of the Town Council. He would welcome a report on the problem at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Alan Cockburn also welcomed the proposal for a report back on the problem and considered that the County Council should be asked to consider including the crossing in next year's programme.

Peter Hunter said that he understood that the criteria were met for the provision of a crossing. He would pass on the request for a feasibility report to the Environment and Economy Directorate.

The Vice-Chair then accepted the petition.

This was an item for the next meeting – the members were adamant that they wanted very prompt action

**ADDITIONAL ITEM (taken as an urgent one not having been published on the agenda separately – the Chair had agreed that it was urgent)
(2) Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement**

Peter Hunter referred to an update prepared by Roger Bennett, Environment and Economy Directorate, on decriminalisation of parking enforcement in Warwick Area and to a briefing note prepared by Ian Coker, Amenities

Manager, Warwick District Council, on the initial impact of the scheme. Copies of the update and briefing note were circulated to members.

He then said that there were two issues for the Committee's consideration that evening. The first of these related to Bertie Road and Station Road, Kenilworth and was set on the back of the update report; the second related to representations from residents of Binswood Avenue.

(a) Bertie Road and Station Road, Kenilworth – Proposed On Street Charge of 30p for Half an Hour

Councillor Alan Cockburn fully supported the proposal for the introduction of a half hour parking period at a charge of 30p on Bertie Road and Station Road, Kenilworth.

Councillor John Whitehouse said that parents who used the Nursery School in Bertie Road were forced to either park illegally or pay 70p when taking their children to the nursery school and another 70p when collecting them. Similar issues applied with patients attending the GP surgery. Also traders in Millar Court feared for their livelihood. He therefore proposed the introduction of an on-street charge of 30p for half an hour in both Bertie Road and Station Road. This was higher than the normal charge of 20p for such periods to comply with the general principle of on-street charges being higher than off-street.

Councillor Dave Shilton confirmed his support for the proposal.

It was then Resolved unanimously:-

That Warwick Area Committee approves the introduction of an on-street parking charge of 30p for half an hour in both Bertie Road and Station Road, Kenilworth.

At this point Councillor Chris Davis left the room because he had a prejudicial interest as a resident of Binswood Avenue.

(b) Binswood Avenue, Leamington Spa

Chris Gardiner, Resident

He informed the Committee that it had practically become impossible for residents to park in Binswood Avenue since the introduction of the decriminalisation of parking enforcement scheme. The situation was made worse because the scheme operated in the town centre from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. 365 days a year.

Fiona Fairbairn, Resident

Residents did not expect to be able to park outside the front of their houses but they had to park a long way away. On occasions it was necessary for residents to double park and they were subjected to horns being sounded

and abusive language despite leaving notes in their car windscreens informing where to contact them.

Zahida Hafeez, Resident

No. 1 Binswood Avenue was a combined private dental practice and residence. She asked that consideration being given to parking for staff. The property was very wide.

Councillor Ken Browne drew attention to the minutes of the previous meeting (minute 5(5)) that stated proposals would be brought forward at the six month review to deal with the displacement of parking into Binswood Avenue.

Councillor Jose Compton asked that the hours of operation of the scheme be reviewed with the intention of standardising them.

The Vice-Chair said that the officers would look into the issues.

Councillor Chris Davis then returned to the room.

3. Presentation by the Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership on their work in Warwick District

Arun Kang, Chief Executive of the Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership (WREP), attended to make a presentation to the Committee on the work of the Partnership. He made the following points:-

- (1) WREP was a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity established in 2005.
- (2) There was a Board of sixteen directors; eight of whom were representatives of the community and eight representatives of the public agencies across the County.
- (3) WREP provided advice and expertise to the public agencies.
- (4) Support, practical advice and assistance were given to black and minority ethnic (BME) community led groups in the District.
- (5) WREP acted as a critical friend to the public agencies.
- (6) WREP's 'bread and butter' work was casework in connection with racial harassment and discrimination.
- (7) WREP carried out investigations in conjunction with public agencies.
- (8) WREP had a significant role in the Local Area Agreements.
- (9) WREP engaged BME and new and emerging communities throughout the County.
- (10) WREP held a number of surgeries throughout the County and would carry out further surgeries on a continuing basis..
- (11) WREP ensured consistency of training in racial equality and discrimination with the public agencies.

- (12) Since April 2007 there had been 61 cases of racial discrimination compared to 63 during the whole of 2006; this did not necessarily mean that there had been an increase in discrimination but might reflect that WREP was becoming more known.
- (13) A new draft protocol for reporting and recording racial incidents had been produced.
- (14) Although the majority of reporting and recording would be expected to take place at statutory centres, reporting points were being arranged in the community.
- (15) WREP was a professional organisation that aimed to consolidate its significant development since its inception in late 2005 to date and was planning to become one of the best racial equality bodies in the country.
- (16) Significant dates:-
 - (a) Winter Newsletter published 19th November 2007
 - (b) Honour Crime and Forced Marriages event – 22nd November 2007 – Leamington Spa Town Hall
 - (c) Annual General Meeting 28th November 2007 – Nuneaton Town Hall.
 - (d) Launch of “Have We Heard the Isolated Voice” at AGM.
 - (e) Warwick District Black and Minority Ethnic Forum at Bath Place, Leamington Spa, 24th January 2008.

The following points arose during the ensuing question and answer session:-

- (i) WREP used the County Council’s translation and interpretation services. This was mainly used in respect of the new and emerging communities.
- (ii) It was recognised that there was a need to interface with elected members and Arun Kang hoped to increase visits to local authorities to speak to members.
- (iii) WREP used the police definition of a major incident, which related to national events. An example of a critical incident would be local problems between two different racial groups.
- (iv) The Community Cohesion Network met monthly and it would be used to gather data that could inform whether any increase in the number of reported cases was because of an increase in the number of incidences of discrimination or harassment or because of public awareness of WREP.
- (v) It was noted that the one stop shops around the county would be an ideal vehicle for reporting incidences of racial harassment or discrimination.

The Vice-Chair thanked him for his presentation and wished him and his colleagues well for the future.

4. Warwick Bus Station – Outcome of Public Consultation

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

That Warwick Area Committee notes the outcome of the Warwick Bus Station public consultation exercise, and endorses the final layout of the Warwick Bus Station and the progression of the scheme and approve the advertising of Traffic Regulation Orders as required in relation to the scheme.

5. Business Improvement Districts – Leamington and Warwick

It was noted that this item had been deferred to the next meeting because Sue Ashley, Town Centres Regeneration Manager, Environment and Economy Directorate, was unable to attend due to an injury.

6. Speed Limit Review of A and B Roads

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

Malcolm Graham introduced the report.

It was noted that following the technical review and community consultation, the Committee would be presented with data to enable it to prioritise schemes.

It was then Resolved:-

That the proposed procedures for taking into account community concerns in carrying out the review of A and B road speed limits be approved.

7. Highway Maintenance and Safety Budget 2008-09 – Outline Capital Allocations

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

The following points were noted:-

- (1) Members were free to fund vehicle activated signs if that was their wish but they should be mindful of the possibility of overuse.
- (2) There was no point in altering the proposed outline allocation of funding 2008-9 as set out in Table 1 at this stage. If they wished to do so, they could revisit the question once they had a list of schemes and vire amounts between the headings.

It was then Resolved:-

That:-

- (1) The outline capital allocations for the Warwick Highway Maintenance and Safety Budget 2008-9 given in Table 1 be approved.
- (2) A detailed programme of capital projects based on the allocations in Table 1 be prepared for discussion at the seminar early in 2008.

8. County Arts Service Area Committee Bid

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

Emma Andrews introduced the report.

It was noted that there were contingency arrangements to deliver a reduced project if the funding bid for £5,000 from the Arts Council was unsuccessful.

Members were very supportive of the project and it was unanimously Resolved:-

That the Warwick Area Committee support the proposed Dance 4 Health project and commit the £10,000 Arts and Health funding to this project.

9. Community Development Fund 2007/08

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

At this point Councillor Chris Davis left the room because he had a prejudicial interest in the next item as a Member of the Management Committee of the Leamington Bath Place Community Venture.

Councillor Mota Singh said that before he left the room because of his prejudicial interest as a Member of the Sydni Centre, Leamington Spa, he had one general point to make. Members should receive details of all sixteen applications that had been made, even those that had not been successful.

It was agreed that details of the unsuccessful applications should be circulated to Members for information. In future the details would be included in the report.

Councillor Mota Singh then left the room.

Councillor Ken Browne said that he was happy to accept the proposal for funding the eight applications listed in paragraph 3.6 of the report but he was not in favour of resurrecting previous year's applications and could not, therefore, support funding the 2006/7 bid by the Bath Place Community Venture.

Other members felt that as the Committee's Funding Sub-Group had been happy to recommend the bid it should be supported.

Councillor Jose Compton, seconded by Councillor John Whitehouse, moved:-

- (1) That the Area Committee confirms the following 2007/8 applications be supported from the Community Development Fund to the amount indicated:-

Organisation	Project Title	Amount Awarded
RELATE	Family Counselling – Lillington	£5,000.00
Lillington Community Action Forum	Lillington Community Bench Project	£5,000.00
Sydenham Neighbourhood Initiatives Ltd	Sydenham History Project	£4,610.00
Sydenham Neighbourhood Initiatives Ltd	Urban Art	£3,559.00
The GAP, Warwick	P.E.P.P.E.R.S.	£4,993.76
Bath Place Community Venture	Stay and Play	£4,700.00
St Pauls Church Youth Department	Quench Youth Café	£5,000.00
The Link Project	Well Women	£5,000.00
	TOTAL	<hr/> £37,862.76 <hr/>

- (2) That the bid from Bath Place Community Venture to develop and support volunteering at the Centre, which had been submitted in 2006/7 and had narrowly failed to be funded in that year, be now funded to the amount of £5,000.

Councillor Ken Browne, seconded by Councillor Raj Randev, then moved as an amendment:-

That the second part of the motion be amended by the deletion of all the words after "2006/7" and the substitution of the words "*be not funded*" in their place.

The amendment was then put to the vote and was carried.

The amended motion was then put as the substantive motion and it was Resolved:-

- (1) That the Area Committee confirms the following 2007/8 applications be supported from the Community Development Fund to the amount indicated:-

Organisation	Project Title	Amount Awarded
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	TOTAL	<hr/> £37,862.76 <hr/>

- (2) That the bid from Bath Place Community Venture to develop and support volunteering at the Centre, which had been submitted in 2006/7 be not funded.

10. Review of County Council Land and Property - Kenilworth

The Committee considered the report by the Strategic Director of Resources and it was then Resolved:-

That the Area Committee approve the findings of the review.

11. Locality Proposals for the Warwick Area

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

Peter Hunter introduced the report in the absence of Nick Gower Johnson who was sick.

Members expressed some concerns about the proposals and confirmed that the Cabinet should be informed of them.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the contents of the Report be noted.
- (2) That the views of the Area Committee as set out below be relayed to the Cabinet when it next considers the proposals at its meeting on 6th December 2007.
 - (a) If locality working was based around fora without decision-making powers it would be doomed to fail.

- (b) If localities had decision-making powers, how would they fit with other tiers of government, Parish Councils, District and County Council, particularly the Area Committee? - greater clarity was needed.
- (c) Safer Neighbourhoods Panels were starting to have a positive impact locally - the fact that they had budgets and took decisions on local priorities was important – do not jeopardise that by subsuming them into wider locality fora that lacked budgets or decision making powers.
- (d) The proposed single rural Warwick locality was too large to make sense to the local communities who were intended to participate in locality working. The two locality model made more sense to local people.

12. Provisional Items for Future Meetings

The Committee noted the following provisional items:-

22nd January 2008

- Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Review – options for consideration.
- School organisation in Warwick.
- Wellbeing Fund/Social Inclusion Fund.
- Business Improvement Districts – Leamington and Warwick
- A429 Barford to Warwick cycleway.
- Decriminalisation of parking enforcement – review of arrangements
- Merged South Warwickshire CDRP – latest position.

11th March 2008

- Capital Programme for Transport 2008-09 – draft programme for Warwick Area.
- Changing school admission numbers.

13. Minutes of the meetings of 25th September 2007 and matters arising

(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick Area Committee held on the 25th September 2007, having been circulated, be approved subject to the following amendments and be signed by the Chair.

(i) Minute 5(6) – Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement in Warwick

Replace “November” with “January 2008”

(ii) Minute 9 – Proposed Cycle Route to Bishop’s Tachbrook

Add as a third resolution “The views of the Bishop’s Tachbrook Parish Council be taken on board and speed reduction checks be carried out”.

(iii) Minute 11 – Minutes

Amend date in heading and following resolution to read “10th July 2007”.

(iv) Minute 11(2)(iii) – Street Lighting Hours of Operation

Add the following to the final sentence “but the local member would be informed before the trial took place”.

(2) Matters arising

(i) Minute 3 – Nomination of Member Representative to the Merged South Warwickshire CDRP

Councillor Ken Browne said that the Government Office of the West Midlands or the Home Office had stopped the merger because neither of the CDRPs concerned were expected to meet their targets. It was agreed that a report on this issue be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

(ii) Minute 5 – Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement in Warwick

Members had given an undertaking at the very start that the review would be completed as soon as possible and they were not prepared to wait for a report until after the next meeting. It was agreed therefore that the officers should report to the January 2008 meeting of the Committee with proposals for dealing with any problems.

(iii) Minute 6 – A429 Stratford Road, Warwick – Proposed Speed Limit Changes

Martin Stott said that it had been confirmed that the Order could not be introduced piecemeal and if the Committee wished to proceed with the revised speed limit, the procedure would have to start from the beginning. Furthermore, as the proposal was against policy, the Area Committee would have to go through the Cabinet for approval. However, as the policy had only recently been agreed, it was unlikely that the Cabinet would approve the proposal.

The Committee agreed that officers should refer the issue to Cabinet for decision.

(iv) Minute 2(1) – Redevelopment of Ridgeway School

Peter Hunter said that it had not been possible to bring a report to this meeting because it was taking longer than expected to resolve the issue. Members noted that there was a report on school organisation in the District due to the next meeting and the update could be included in that report.

14. Any other items

Nil.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 9.05 p.m.