

Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council held on 17 December 2019

Present:
Councillor Nicola Davies (Chair)

Councillors Helen Adkins, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Jo Barker, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Mark Cargill, Richard Chattaway, Jonathan Chilvers, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, John Cooke, Andy Crump, Yousef Dahmash, Corinne Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Judith Falp, Bill Gifford, Peter Gilbert, Clare Golby, Seb Gran, Colin Hayfield, John Holland, John Horner, Andy Jenns, Kam Kaur, Keith Kondakor, Jeff Morgan, Bill Olnor, Maggie O'Rourke, Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Anne Parry, Dave Parsons, Wallace Redford, David Reilly, Clive Rickhards, Howard Roberts, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, Andy Sargeant, Izzi Seccombe OBE, Dave Shilton, Jill Simpson-Vince, Dominic Skinner, Bob Stevens, Heather Timms, Adrian Warwick, Alan Webb, Pam Williams and Andy Wright.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Jenny Fradgley, Dan Gissane, Caroline Phillips and Chris Williams

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

With reference to agenda item 4 Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2019/20, Councillor Judy Falp declared a non-pecuniary interest with two of the schools referenced in the report located in her division. In addition, she is a governor at Campion School.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2019

Council considered the draft minutes from the meeting of 15 October 2019.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

(4) Announcements

A series of announcements were made to Council.

1. The recent death of former Warwickshire County Councillor Antoinette Gordon was announced. Antoinette Gordon represented the Council from 1989 – 2001. From 1997 until 2001 she served on the Effective Management Scrutiny & Review Committee, Economic Development Sub-Committee and Environmental Strategy Committee. Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) led tributes to ex-

Councillor Gordon stating that she served various councils in a robust fashion and with a strong sense of duty. Councillor Richard Chattaway (Leader of the Labour Group) acknowledged the dedication of Councillor Gordon to the community she served. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) informed Council he had worked with Mrs Gordon on a number of committees; she was a person who stood up for what she believed in.

Councillor Judy Falp stated that whilst she had not always agreed with Councillor Gordon, she recognised her commitment to her community.

Council stood in tribute to Antoinette Gordon.

2. The Chair announced the retirement of Helen King (Deputy Director of Public Health). In 2007 Helen was appointed Deputy Director of Public Health for Warwickshire Primary Care Trust and was acting Joint Director of Public Health until 2009. Over the next few years she led Warwickshire in a range of Public Health with a focus on Children and Maternity Services. Helen became Interim Director of Public Health in March 2019 pending the appointment of a new Director of Public Health.

Members joined in commending Helen King for the leadership, diplomacy and positive approach she has always displayed. Her work on Swine Flu and the development of the 0-5 Strategy were particularly commended.

Helen King thanked members for their words of appreciation adding that the support they had provided had been invaluable.

3. The Chair commended the Fire and Rescue Service for its effective response to the fire that had occurred at Nuneaton Town Hall on 16 December.
4. Council was informed of the recent signing of the Armed Forces Covenant by the Warwick District Branch of the Royal Naval Association. The signing ceremony attended by the Lord Lieutenant had been held at the Lord Leycester Hospital.
5. A ceremony was recently held in Coventry to recognise the work of 31 Magistrates who were set to retire. It was reported that between them they had contributed around 500 years' service.
6. The Chair had recently attended the County Council's long service awards with 51 members of staff present who had delivered a combined 1250 years of service. Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council) added that it is important to recognise the contribution of all staff in delivering services to the people of Warwickshire.

7. The Chair had recently attended a concert by young musicians. This was one of a series of such concerts organised by the County Music Service across Warwickshire. It was, the Chair added, a credit to the young musicians, teachers and support staff involved.

(5) Petitions

None

(6) Public Speaking

None

2. A452 Kenilworth to Leamington Spa Cycling Scheme

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) moved the recommendation and was seconded by Councillor John Cooke. In proposing the motion Councillor Clarke reminded Council that the cycleway between Kenilworth and Leamington had been long sought by residents and campaigners. Having the funding in place is a major milestone but he added, a number of physical challenges remain to overcome before the route comes into use. The current timescale is for construction to be undertaken in 2021/22.

Members of Council added the following points:

- Warwick District Council, Leamington Town Council and Kenilworth Town Council have expressed their full support for the scheme.
- The project fits well with the declared climate emergency and the need to establish a network of green transport.
- The route will be well used by cyclists and pedestrians. Many will wish to access Warwick University.
- After a long wait Kenilworth secured a new station. The cycleway will be worth waiting for too.
- The Leamington Road (between Kenilworth and Leamington) can be dangerous especially at night.
- The project will be welcomed by Public Health as it encourages people to take exercise.
- There is an urgent need to improve the air quality in Warwick District.
- A cycling strategy that joins up cycle routes in Warwickshire is required.
- Any increase in cycling will assist in reducing traffic levels and congestion.
- Modal shift cannot be achieved rapidly. In the Netherlands it took 30 years to develop the cycle network.
- Strategic cycle routes serve a purpose, but local cycle routes should be developed at either end.
- Cycle routes are cheap to develop compared to major road projects.
- The Kenilworth to Leamington project is one of 40 identified routes in Warwickshire. It will be important to press for the others to be progressed.
- The finances for the project have arisen through careful management of the Council's budget.
- The contribution and advice made by local cycle groups in getting to this stage should be acknowledged.

The Council was reminded that a special Communities OSC is scheduled for the 9 January 2020.

The recommendation was put to the vote. It was agreed unanimously

Resolved:

That Council approves an allocation of £4.749 million from the Capital Investment Fund to the Kenilworth to Leamington Spa Cycling Scheme and its addition to the Capital Programme.

3. Capital Investment - Nuneaton

In moving the recommendation Councillor Izzi Seccombe explained that a report on the proposal to build a new public facility in Nuneaton had been considered at Cabinet on 14 November 2019. The decision required ratification by Council. The proposed new library supported office facilities and public space will form an iconic gateway to the town centre. It will be one of the largest single investments in the centre of Nuneaton for many years generating around 200 new jobs and supporting 120 new businesses.

Councillor Jeff Morgan seconded the recommendation adding that in developing the new library, it will be important to remember the importance of books as sources of information and pleasure.

Members of Council added the following points:

- The new facility will serve to attract fresh private investment to the area.
- Universities and the local hospitals should be encouraged to invest and have a presence in Nuneaton town centre.
- The scheme before Council dates back as far as 2001 and the outcome of the Library Best Value Working Party.
- The work of officers and members in getting to this stage in the project is to be commended.
- The project conveys a message that Warwickshire County Council is committed to investment in town centres.
- Nuneaton is a post-industrial town that many residents feel a strong affection for.
- Development in Nuneaton will have a positive knock-on effect on neighbouring towns e.g. Bedworth.
- If existing retail businesses are to be made to re-locate, to make way for the scheme, it will be important to assist them in identifying suitable locations.
- Once the current library has been vacated it will be important to ensure that it is not left to stand empty. Pop up facilities for art and other functions should be considered to assist in avoiding it becoming derelict.
- The inclusion of changing provision for adults is particularly welcome. Without such facilities it can be very difficult for parents/carers to accompany people with physical or mental health disabilities into town centres.
- The new library in Worcester is a good model for Warwickshire to follow for Nuneaton.
- The business start-up centre will be a major asset for the town.

- Funding for the scheme has been provided via the CIF which in turn has become available through growth in Warwickshire. The more growth there is in the economy the more funding will be available via CIF.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe closed by noting that a principal purpose of the Council is to grow a sense of pride in the area. Nuneaton is the largest town in Warwickshire, but its centre as defined by the (somewhat constraining) ring road and is currently too reliant on retail. The WCC business centres in the Nuneaton area currently have a 95% occupancy rate. The business centre in the town will provide extra capacity and will be an asset for Nuneaton and the people who use it.

The recommendation was put to the vote. It was agreed unanimously.

Resolved:

That the Council approves the allocation of £19.42m funding from the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) to enable the development of a new library and business centre in Nuneaton and add the project to the Capital Programme at the cost of £19.42m.

4. Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2019/20

Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning) explained to Council that the purpose of the Education Capital Programme is to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in schools to accommodate all children. The reason the report was before Council was because of the value of the funds being allocated.

Councillor Yousef Dahmash seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Members of Council made the following observations and comments.

- School expansions are generally to be welcomed but the growth of one school can be detrimental to its neighbours, if it draws children away from them.
- It is important that members and officers communicate well over proposals. This helps to ensure that sufficient funding is made available for expansion.
- The way in which schools are funded means that there can be a lengthy delay between the commencement of operation of an expanded school (with additional staff and pupils) and the funding for that operation being delivered.
- Funding for education is not evenly distributed across the country. A levelling of that funding would be welcomed in Warwickshire where it is significantly lower than some other areas.
- It currently takes too long to commission and build new primary schools in areas of major residential development such as Rugby and Nuneaton.
- Secondary schools will soon see a significant increase in their roll.
- There is too much reliance on developers playing their part in providing new schools as part of expansion. Not only should the council ensure that developers contribute what is owed but this should be done in a timely fashion.

In response to members' comments, Councillor Hayfield noted that the Council has no control over which school parents and carers send their children to. Good schools will always be popular. Predictions for places, he added, tend to vary

from year to year. The system of predicting demand needs to be able to cope with the vagaries of parental choice etc. Council was reminded that every school carries an environmental impact. It is important to ensure that any new developments are as environmentally sustainable as possible.

Council was informed that the Nuneaton Challenge Board is examining issues around achievement in schools in that area.

The recommendation was put to the vote. It was agreed unanimously.

Resolved:

That Council approves the addition of £15,694,411 to the capital programme to deliver the schemes outlined in Section 3 of the published report.

5. Notices of Motion (Standing Order 5)

1) Bus Services in Warwickshire

Councillor Keith Kondakor moved the first motion stating:

“This Council requests a report to go to Cabinet by April 2020 that:

1. Clarifies and prioritises the Authority’s powers and key objectives in relation to bus provision to enable more consistent and effective negotiations with bus operators. This should include investigating multi-operator ticketing, bus priority measures and improved bus information.
2. Analyses the success of s.106 contributions which have been used to pump prime new bus routes over the last 10 years in Warwickshire and investigates alternative frameworks to incentivise long term successful routes around new developments if necessary.
3. Fully scopes the use of Advanced Quality and Enhanced Partnership schemes as set out in the Transport Act 2000 and Bus Services Act 2017, including engagement with operators and sets a date no later than December 2020 to assess whether implementation of the AQ or EP schemes are necessary to achieve the Authority’s key objectives.
4. Considers and assesses the resources required to successfully deliver the Council’s key objectives recognising that any strategy or objectives that emerge from this process must be fully costed before they can be presented to Cabinet and all sources of funding identified”.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Leader of the Green Group) seconded the motion reserving the right to speak.

In support of the motion Councillor Keith Kondakor informed Council that although 14 million trips have been made on buses in Warwickshire in the last year, this was down on previous figures. Improvements to bus services can bring about rapid enhancements in terms of accessibility and reductions in congestion and pollution. The key is to kickstart greater bus use so that it becomes the preferred mode of transport for more people.

Amendment 1

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) moved an amendment. This changed the first paragraph of the motion and stated,

“This Council **supports the call by the “Campaign for Better Transport” report called “The Future of the Bus” and** requests that a report to go to Cabinet by April 2020 that.....”

In proposing the amendment Councillor Roodhouse observed that the report cited should be brought to the fore. He added that more should be done to work with the bus operators, Stagecoach.

Councillor Clive Rickhards seconded the amendment adding that the issue of bus service provision should be considered by Cabinet. With fewer than 50% of small rural settlements in the UK being served by buses a national and a Warwickshire bus strategy are required.

The amendment tabled by the Liberal Democrat Group was accepted by the Green Group as a friendly amendment. This then became the substantive motion.

Amendment 2

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) tabled the following amendment.

“This Council requests ~~supports the call by the “Campaign for Better Transport” report called “The Future of the Bus”~~ **(that the Strategic Director Communities takes a report to Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2020)** ~~by 30 April 2020 that:~~

1. Clarifies and prioritises the Authority’s powers and key objectives in relation to bus provision to enable more consistent and effective negotiations with bus operators. This should include investigating multi-operator ticketing, bus priority measures and improved bus information.
2. Analyses the success of s.106 contributions which have been used to pump prime new bus routes over the last 10 years in Warwickshire and investigates alternative frameworks to incentivise long term successful routes around new developments if necessary.
3. Fully scopes the use of Advanced Quality and Enhanced Partnership schemes as set out in the Transport Act 2000 and Bus Services Act 2017, including engagement with operators and sets a date no later than December 2020 to assess whether 3 of 4 implementation of the AQ or EP schemes are necessary to achieve the Authority’s key objectives.
4. Considers and assesses the resources required to successfully deliver the Council’s key objectives recognising that any strategy or objectives that emerge

from this process must be fully costed before they can be presented to Cabinet and all sources of funding identified.

5. Considers the call by the “Campaign for Better Transport” report called “The Future of the Bus”

(Communities OSC to discuss the findings of the report and to bring forward recommendations to Cabinet).

In proposing this second amendment Councillor Clarke stated that there was a clear role for Overview and Scrutiny in reviewing the situation ahead of consideration by Cabinet.

Amendment 2 was seconded by Councillor Dave Shilton.

Amendment 2 was accepted by the Green Group as a friendly amendment. This then became the substantive motion.

Debate

Council discussed the new substantive motion. The following points were made by members.

- Heavily used bus routes become part of a bus-use culture. For this culture to become established it is important that services are frequent as in London. A challenge for bus users travelling from Leamington to Warwick is that it takes around an hour to make the journey.
- The cost of operating a bus decreases if they are carrying many passengers. To increase patronage people should see buses as useful and affordable.
- Bus shelters should display real-time travel information.
- People living in rural areas can be very isolated. Buses provide them with a lifeline giving them access to services, shops and leisure activities.
- Two newly created bus services in North Warwickshire are serving to improve health and social mobility.
- Some bus operators are prepared to run services whilst Section 106 money is available. However as soon as that funding ceases the operators withdraw the service.
- Some bus operators regard the County Council as a “cash cow”. The Council should apply pressure on those operators to achieve a reversal in the falling number of passengers.
- Account should be taken of the needs of rural commuters.
- Ideally everyone would have a bus waiting for them whenever they wished to travel. This is unreasonable. Therefore, it is necessary to consider that which is realistic and affordable. The Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have the time and resources to explore this issue in detail. It will be required to be rational in identifying what can be done.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Leader of the Green Group), the seconder of the original motion, acknowledged that the Council cannot control the bus operators. However, he did suggest that the Council recognise that it does have control over matters that the bus operators would find appealing. For example, the Council controls bus subsidies. In addition, it engages in negotiations for S106 payments

from developers. It is important also to consider the legal levers (e.g. Bus Services Act 2017) that can be applied. Council recognised that some elements of any review may need to be considered in private.

Councillor Keith Kondakor who proposed the original motion noted that around 30% of households in Warwickshire do not have access to a car. Some developer funding is wasted when bus operators fail to run services at night. In addition, fare zones can mean that short journeys can be more expensive than long journeys. He concluded by calling for more bus shelters to be provided and for closer working with Coventry.

Vote

A vote was held on the Conservative amendment (accepted as a friendly amendment). This was agreed unanimously.

Resolved

This Council requests that the Strategic Director Communities takes a report to Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2020:

1. Clarifies and prioritises the Authority's powers and key objectives in relation to bus provision to enable more consistent and effective negotiations with bus operators. This should include investigating multi-operator ticketing, bus priority measures and improved bus information.
2. Analyses the success of s.106 contributions which have been used to pump prime new bus routes over the last 10 years in Warwickshire and investigates alternative frameworks to incentivise long term successful routes around new developments if necessary.
3. Fully scopes the use of Advanced Quality and Enhanced Partnership schemes as set out in the Transport Act 2000 and Bus Services Act 2017, including engagement with operators and sets a date no later than December 2020 to assess whether 3 of 4 implementation of the AQ or EP schemes are necessary to achieve the Authority's key objectives.
4. Considers and assesses the resources required to successfully deliver the Council's key objectives recognising that any strategy or objectives that emerge from this process must be fully costed before they can be presented to Cabinet and all sources of funding identified.
5. Considers the call by the "Campaign for Better Transport" report called "The Future of the Bus"

Communities OSC to discuss the findings of the report and to bring forward recommendations to Cabinet.

2) Reducing the use of Excess Packaging

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers moved the motion stating,

“This Council encourages all Warwickshire residents to leave excess packaging at supermarket checkouts”.

In proposing the motion Councillor Chilvers observed that with the emphasis on excess packaging the need is to reduce the amount used in the first place. Members were informed that £20m a year is expended by the County Council on disposing on packaging. A 5% reduction in this would realise a saving of £1m. The key is to ensure that the supermarkets receive the message that they need to do more to reduce packaging.

Councillor Keith Kondakor seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture) expressed her concern over the motion as proposed by the Green Group stating that if implemented it could initiate conflict in stores. The government, she added, is keen to reduce waste generation.

Amendment

Councillor Heather Timms proposed the following amendment.

“The new National Waste Strategy for England will allow the Council to work with the District and Borough Councils to develop a renewed Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Warwickshire and to deliver real improvements including reducing our carbon emissions.

This Council therefore will write to the Prime Minister to urge him to continue to drive forward progress on the Strategy and to minimise the use of excess packaging at supermarkets to radically reduce waste and increased reuse and recycling across Warwickshire”.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Adrian Warwick who reserved the right to speak.

Debate

Members made a series of observations regarding the matter of waste reduction.

- Where excess packaging is removed at supermarket tills it only ever attracts positive remarks. In some instances, other customers follow the example being set.
- Leaving waste at a till can make people feel uncomfortable. Any conflict at a shop till can have a negative and unreasonable impact on the staff. However, it is down to the individual to choose their actions.
- Not enough recycling is being undertaken. Any waste strategy should be used to encourage people to recycle.
- Some packaging is necessary to protect goods in transit.
- Supermarkets should be encouraged to reduce the production of excess packaging.
- Recycling facilities in the UK are inadequate. Materials for recycling are sent overseas and there is uncertainty regarding where it ends up.

- People should be encouraged to buy goods from local shops (e.g. greengrocers) and markets where excess packaging is reduced. In addition, fruit and vegetables that are considered misshapen or not up to standard should be bought rather than wasted.

Councillor Keith Kondakor, the seconder of the motion, observed that the reduction of waste generation sits at the top of the waste hierarchy. He suggested that greater consideration be given to ways in which excess packaging can be designed out. He observed legislation can be slow to have an impact and litter is a major threat to the environment.

Councillor Heather Timms advocated closer working with supermarkets to reduce excess waste generation.

In closing, Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, the proposer of the original motion suggested that there is a place for direct action and legislation. The focus, he stated is around excess packaging not on the removal of all packaging. He agreed that local shops should be supported but also stated that there is value in unwrapping excess packaging at supermarkets too.

Vote

The motion as proposed by the Green Group was put to the vote. The motion was lost 41 against and 6 for.

The amended motion as proposed by the Conservative Group became the substantive motion at this point. A vote was held. This has passed 40 for, 1 against and 7 abstentions.

Resolved

“The new National Waste Strategy for England will allow the Council to work with the District and Borough Councils to develop a renewed Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Warwickshire and to deliver real improvements including reducing our carbon emissions.

This Council therefore will write to the Prime Minister to urge him to continue to drive forward progress on the Strategy and to minimise the use of excess packaging at supermarkets to radically reduce waste and increased reuse and recycling across Warwickshire”.

6. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)

1) Restoration of the Former Daw Mill Colliery Site

Councillor Kondakor to Councillor Clarke

Councillor Kondakor asked why progress on the restoration of the site of the former Colliery at Daw Mill was not being progressed.

In response Councillor Clarke stated, “In June 2018, we requested Harworth Estates to submit and implement the restoration scheme. In October 2018 Harworth's indicated that they were unlikely to do anything further in this respect unless an Enforcement Notice was served seeking restoration of the site.

As a result, since the end of 2018 we have been preparing an appropriate Enforcement Notice. This is a complex and detailed piece of work and it is imperative that we get the wording and the structure of the Notice correct to ensure that it can be effectively implemented, and that we do not enter into a lengthy and costly legal argument with Harworth Estates. We have therefore been required to access specialist legal advice, including from Counsel. We have also been in discussion with the lawyers acting for Harworth Estates and given the complexity of the site we must also liaise with statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Environmental Health, Natural England, ecology etc) on the wording of the Notice and their requirements before we serve it.

We now have a draft Enforcement Notice, but we are seeking further Counsel's opinion on this in January 2020 and hope to be able to move forward on this following advice.

Throughout this process the representatives of the community have maintained a keen interest and are kept informed”

2) Year of Wellbeing

Councillor Kondakor to Councillor Caborn

Councillor Kondakor, recognising the success of the 2019 Year of Wellbeing asked what plans were in place to build on its legacy.

In reply Councillor Caborn informed Council that a series of legacy projects are being planned. The messages for the Year of Wellbeing will be embedded in communication and projects like the “Good Gym” initiative will be supported.

Councillor Kondakor proposed developing the initiative into a “Decade of Wellbeing”.

3) Refreshing the Dementia Strategy

Councillor Gifford to Councillor Caborn.

Councillor Gifford asked what steps are being undertaken to refresh the Dementia Strategy and what account is being taken of carers.

Councillor Caborn explained that the refresh is underway with a three-phase approach being adopted. Phase one is engagement with those who have lived the experience e.g. carers. Phase two is a review of the Strategy. For this, the Council is working with the Alzheimer's Society. The third phase will commence when the refreshed Strategy is in draft form. At this point it will be shared with partners and carers etc.

4) Paving in Bedworth Town Centre

Councillor Chattaway to Councillor Clarke.

Councillor Chattaway informed Council of a recent spate of people tripping on unsafe paving in Bedworth. He asked Councillor Clarke if he would be prepared to undertake another site visit to see the problem for himself.

In reply, Councillor Clarke noted that the Council's highways team does undertake inspections and responds accordingly. He agreed to meet on site to review the situation.

5) Alverston Church of England Primary School

Councillor Rolfe to Councillor Hayfield

Councillor Rolfe informed Council that Alverston Church of England Primary School had recently been recognised as one of the top 25 state primary schools in the country. She asked that Councillor Hayfield join her in acknowledging this achievement.

In response Councillor Hayfield recognised the achievement and agreed that a letter should go from the County Council to the school to offer congratulations.

6) County Smallholdings

Councillor Dirveiks to Councillor Butlin

Councillor Dirveiks reminded members that the County Council owns a number of smallholdings and has declared an ambition to maintain them. He noted that nationally the number of smallholdings has declined and asked whether this pattern was to be seen in Warwickshire.

In response Councillor Butlin noted that in 2015 the Council had owned 5000ha of smallholding land. It had been agreed that if any of this land is sold then it should be replaced through the purchase of land elsewhere. In some instances, it may be necessary to buy land outside of Warwickshire. In these cases, land close to the county boundary will be chosen.

7) Bus Stops Murray Road, Rugby

Councillor Dahmash to Councillor Clarke

Councillor Dahmash asked when the two bus stops on Murray Road in Rugby will be moved.

In reply Councillor Clarke expressed his concern that this had not apparently been progressed. He agreed to investigate the matter and send a full reply to Councillor Dahmash.

8) Pears Centre, Bedworth

Councillor Gilbert to Councillor Butlin

Councillor Gilbert noted that the purchase of the Pears Centre in Bedworth had recently been completed. He asked if there is an aspiration to provide a similar facility in south Warwickshire.

In reply Councillor Butlin congratulated officers for their work in completing the purchase. He added that if the opportunity were to present itself then a facility in the south would be considered.

9) Road Accidents in North Warwickshire

Councillor Parsons to Councillor Clarke

Councillor Parsons noted a steep increase in the number of serious road accidents in north Warwickshire. He requested that details of these be provided to him. He asked that road safety in North Warwickshire be made a priority and that speed limit enforcement cameras be sent by the police to the north of the county.

In response Councillor Clarke assured Council that road safety is of paramount importance. He added that the Safer Warwickshire Partnership has been reinvigorated with a view to addressing the concerns that Councillor Parsons has. Councillor Clarke agreed to get a full response to Councillor Parsons.

10) New Secondary School in Nuneaton

Councillor C.Davies to Councillor Hayfield

Councillor Davies asked the Portfolio Holder whether he knew who the provider of the new secondary school in Nuneaton might be.

Councillor Hayfield stated that he did not know but agreed to find the answer.

11) Schools in Deficit

Councillor Adkins to Councillor Hayfield

Councillor Adkins reminded Councillor Hayfield that it had previously been agreed that a report would be produced setting out details of schools that are in deficit. That report was awaited, and Councillor Adkins asked when it might be produced.

In reply Councillor Hayfield stated that given the sensitive nature of schools funding it might not be appropriate to produce a report. He agreed to pursue the matter with officers.

7. Any other items of urgent business

None

The meeting closed at 13.05.

.....Chair