

Area Forum South – Minutes Thursday 3rd March 2016

Present:- Councillors Hayfield (Chair), Fowler, Farrell, Ferro, Simpson, Watkins, Jones, Ingram.

J Gordon, WCC

Sgt M Oakley, PC E Beaty, Warwickshire Police

Parish Council representatives P Reader, T Tennant, G Guy, E Fellows, J Poole, B Martin, D Greedy, EA Bradford, T Battle

6 members of the public

1. Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Hayfield welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies and Minutes from the meeting held on 1st December 2015.

Apologies: Cllr Wright, Cllr Smith, J Jordison.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising:

- Litter at Hill Top: To be inspected on Monday 14th March.
Action: J Gordon to contact NWBC Streetscape to be part of inspection
- Parking at the surgery in Old Arley: Andy Keating, Localities Officer (Highways) in contact with Arley PC
- Off-road motorcycles, Sycamore Crescent: Richard Dobbs, NWBC to respond

3. Police Update & Priorities for next 3 months

Safer Neighbourhoods Team - PC Ellen Beaty presented a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken since the last meeting of the Forum.

Following discuss the priorities identified were:

- Traffic offences at Packington Lane, Coleshill
- Obstruction issues, Birmingham Road, Ansley
- Speeding in Oak Lane and Woodside, Arley.

4. Questions and Issues from the Parishes

Ansley Parish Council

- Concerns raised around the poor condition of local road signs **Action:** J Gordon to report to WCC, Highways
- Overdue replacement of Croft Meadow street sign **Action:** J Gordon to NWBC
- Appearance of new road sign for Oldbury Road - is this connected with the gypsy/traveller site? Who paid for it? **Action:** J Gordon to investigate

Corley Parish Council

- Councillor Simpson to follow up concerns about new building at Moor Farm Stables which doesn't appear to meet the planning consent granted.

Coleshill Town Council

- Planning application for Aldi supermarket has been received by NWBC. WCC to respond to inclusion of pedestrian crossing on Station Road

Fillongley

- Proposed closure of Arley Sports Centre

In response to questions:

A written response is to be provided by NWBC about the proposed closure.

Action: J Gordon to speak to Simon Powell, Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development).

An article in North Talk will give the opportunity to all North Warwickshire residents to respond to the consultation. Consultation closes on 22 May 2016.

Further details:

www.northwarks.gov.uk/arleysportscentreconsultation

A borough-wide review of all borough leisure facilities is planned for later this year. Residents may want to use the consultation to request that a decision on Arley Sports Centre is taken as part of this wider review.

Arley

- Proposed closure of Arley Sports Centre

In response to questions:

Cllr Hayfield encouraged everyone to respond. NWBC will take notice of the consultation, but it is not bound by it. Objections showing likely personal impact from a closure and how it affects people's lives can be powerful. More responses can demonstrate the impact on neighbourhoods and the wider community. It is not a done decision – the consultation can make a difference and everyone should complete it as fully and strongly as they can.

Staff at the Sports Centre have been contacted by HR about their jobs and redundancy. This is usual practice and does not mean a decision on the future of that facility has been made.

A formal petition with sufficient signatures against the closure could mean Full Council, NWBC would have to discuss and consider the proposal.

It was advised that the following points be included as part of the consultation process:

- All North Warwickshire leisure centres are losing money, not just Arley and are subsidised by the council
- The leisure centre is in the Arley Neighbourhood Plan as an important asset for Arley. It looks like the closure is being rushed through before the Plan is accepted by NWBC
- Users could pay more to use the facilities. Management of the centres could be looked at. Cost saving made around day time usage, heating and lighting, closing during quiet periods etc. Compare running costs with other local leisure centres.
- Increase Council Tax to help cover running costs
- 600+ users will lose the opportunity for sports, fitness and social interaction. Elderly residents are less likely to drive elsewhere. There will be nothing for them.
- Local authorities are responsible for the health outcomes of their populations and as such should provide leisure facilities

Other comments made – asking Arley Councillors to resign and force a by-election on the issue would detract from helping to save the leisure centre

Figures quoted from a previous consultation done by Arley Big Local were used by NWBC without permission

Any Other Questions:

- Traveller Site on Oldbury Lane – NWBC Planning Board passed the application in January 2016 to engage with the County Council. It is believed some residents are progressing a judicial review.
- Request for Chair to invite Councillor D Humphreys to a future Forum.

5. Date of next Meeting – Tuesday, 21 June Corley Village Hall

For general enquiries please contact the Northern Area Team
Tel. 024 7637 5700
or via e-mail northernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk