

## MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM WEST

29 April 2010

The Area Forum West met at Water Orton Primary School, Water Orton at 6.30pm.

- Present:** Borough Councillor Payne in the Chair  
Borough and County Councillor B Moss  
Borough Councillors Lewis, M Moss, Phillips and Swann.
- In attendance:** Linda Bird, Jenny Price, Jaki Douglas and Robert Beggs - North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Alistair Rigby – Warwickshire County Council  
Sergeant Shaun Albrighton, and PCSO's Warwickshire Police  
Andy Bates – Warwickshire Fire and Rescue  
Carl Lewis – Water Orton Primary School  
Jean and Ian Thomas – Piccadilly Community Association  
Steve and Sue Turner – Wood End Community Association  
Robin Pearson – Coleshill and District Civic Society  
Richard Hemphill – Nether Whitacre  
H Hodgins, J Barker, and Keith Jacob – Residents  
Kevin Oakley – Lea Marston Parish Council  
Wendy Rees and Lynda Davies – Water Orton Parish Council  
Vivienne Wright and J E Pickworth – Nether Whitacre Parish Council  
John McPhail – Warwickshire Police Authority  
Alan Vaughton, Paulette Ross, Anne Rimmer and Louise Baudet – Curdworth Parish Council
- Apologies:** June Evans, Councillor Lea, Bob Perks, Keith Woodward and Carol Fox.

### 1 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2010 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 2 Matters Arising

#### New Road Signage at Wood End

Alistair Rigby (WCC) confirmed that in the event that the road signs at Wood End are erected by the Highways Authority no planning permission

would need to be sought from the Borough Council. The Local Highway Authority enjoys permitted development rights to erect traffic signs within and adjacent to the highway.

### **3 Safer Neighbourhoods – Partners and Communities Together (PACT)**

Sergeant Shaun Albrighton, Warwickshire Police, together with Robert Beggs, North Warwickshire Borough Council presented a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken on the three PACT priorities nominated by the Forum at its last meeting. A copy of the summary detailing these actions can be viewed on the Council's website [www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk) via the link for meetings and minutes.

Andy Bates, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, highlighted a publicity campaign to seek assistance from members of the public to help identify fire risk issues. The public were encouraged to carry out visual audits of risks such as abandoned cars, blocked building exits, breaches of security of premises, fly tipping, void premises and abandoned gas cylinders. Visual Audit forms were available by emailing Andy Bates – [andybates@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:andybates@warwickshire.gov.uk)

A general discussion then followed about the next set of priorities to take forward for this round.

It was decided that the priorities to be taken forward from Area Forum West were:-

- Anti-Social Behaviour – Wood End
- Anti-Social Behaviour and vehicle crime – Train station car park, Water Orton
- Speeding – Tamworth Road (B4098) Whitacre and Coton Road, Nether Whitacre.

Subsequently it was ascertained that because of health and safety issues it would not be possible to carry out speed checks on Tamworth Road (B4098) due to the 50mph speed limit. However, the Police would investigate any survey data available.

With the consent of the Chairman it was agreed that the third priority would be amended to;

- Speeding – Station Road and Coton Road, Nether Whitacre.

### **4 Water Orton School – Update**

Carl Lewis, Head teacher, Water Orton Primary School, thanked the local PCSO's and Andy Bates (Warwickshire Fire and Rescue) for the work they had done with the school.

Carl outlined his aspirations for the community and the school, which included;

- development of the parents advice drop-in centre to the wider community;
- working with the community to promote a healthy lifestyle, including the displacement of cars from outside the school; and
- development of responsible citizens of the future.

However, Carl raised three areas of concern which were parking and transportation, impact of housing development in Water Orton and the High Speed Rail Link. Carl requested that he was kept informed of any future developments in Water Orton so he could signpost the local community for advice.

Warwickshire County Council would be taking the lead on the High Speed Rail Link and a briefing note was made available at the meeting and was also available at Water Orton and Coleshill libraries.

## **5 Public Questions and Parish Issues**

An issue was raised on behalf of a resident of Curdworth concerning the length of time taken (13 days) by the Borough Council to collect bulky waste items. It was stated that the resident had an offer from someone else to take items away but couldn't take it up because they had paid up front for the service.

Lea Marston Parish Council raised issues concerning the holding of car boot sales and the condition the site was left in after the sales. A request was made that a set of conditions be attached to the car boot sale application.

It was agreed that an officer from the Council be requested to attend a future meeting and an item on car boot sales be included on the agenda.

## **6 Sustainable Community Strategy – Developing Forum Priorities**

Robert Beggs (NWBC) informed the Forum of the background to the North Warwickshire Community Partnership. The partnership is made up of a wide range of organisations including the Borough and County Council, NHS Warwickshire, Warwickshire Police and other partners including community and voluntary sector groups. The partnership had recently developed a new Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026 to replace the existing North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Plan 2006 -2009.

A consultation process was carried out and collation of an evidence base to identify local priorities for the area. These were identified as;

- raising aspirations, educational attainment and skills;
- developing healthier communities; and
- access to services.

The partnership sought views from members of the Forum to identify local proposals for future more detailed discussion as how the priorities can be addressed in their areas.

An issue of school funding was raised and a request made for an explanation of how education funding is allocated. It was perceived that North Warwickshire as a rural area was losing out to schools in more urban areas in the Warwickshire, eg schools in Nuneaton and Bedworth area. An example given was the post of Parent Support Adviser being self-funded in North Warwickshire but funded by the local authority elsewhere.

## **7 Funding in North Warwickshire**

Jaki Douglas (NWBC) asked the Forum to consider two eligible applications for funding. The total sum requested from the applicant organisations was £9,600. To ensure that the Area Forum West did not exceed its budget, both of the awards were proportionately reduced from the organisations requested sum.

**Resolved:**

**That the following proportionately reduced grants be awarded;**

- **That Kingsbury Methodist Church Outreach Group be awarded a grant of £3,956; and**
- **That Rapid Aid – Community First Response be awarded a grant of £4,044.**

Alistair Rigby (WCC) announced the launch of the Warwickshire County Council Community Development Fund. £36,000 was available to community groups, with a maximum request of £4,500. Application deadline was 7 June 2010.

## **8 Future Agenda Items**

- Car Boot sales
- Future presentation on High Speed Rail Link.
- Play Strategy
- Sustainable Community Strategy – details and discussion.

## **9. Any Other Business**

None.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 29 July 2010 – venue to be confirmed.

Chairman