



Area Forum East

Tuesday 19th September 2017

St Peters Church (Bracebridge Room),
Quarry Lane, Mancetter, CV9 1NH

AGENDA

6.00pm to 6.30pm – Surgery session

Please come along and talk to Councillors, Council staff and the Police about issues you might have.

6.30pm – Main meeting

1. **Welcome from the Chair**
2. **Apologies, notes of the last meeting**
3. **Police update**
Safer Neighbourhood Team
4. **ASB issues Mancetter**
5. **Public health Annual report update**
Rachel Robinson WCC/CCG
6. **Local Plan Update NWBC**
Steve Maxey NWBC
7. **Review of area forum working**
NWBC report
8. **Parking issues Atherstone**
Cllr Blackburn
9. **“Have Your Say” – Questions and issues - An opportunity for issues of local concern to be raised**
To ensure that an answer to a question can be given at the meeting, it should be submitted in advance to the Northern Area Team using the contact details below.
10. **Any Other Business**
11. **Date of next meeting: TBC**

To submit a question or for general enquiries please contact the Northern Area Team via e-mail northernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk or by telephone on 01926 737 767.



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NOTES of AREA FORUM EAST 20th June 2017

NWBC Chamber

Present: County Councillor – Margaret Bell
Borough Councillor – D Clews (chair)
County and Borough Councillor – N Dirveiks
Borough Councillors – B Henney, R Jarvis, L Dirveiks

In Attendance: L Harvey – WCC; D winter – NWBC
Serg Mitch Oakley

PC Dave Tew and PCSO Hughes

1. Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Clews Welcomed the group

2. Apologies and notes of last meeting

Mr Clews

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed

3. Police Update

Safer Neighbourhoods Team –PC Dave Tew presented a summary of progress and actions taken since the last Forum meeting.

The following comments were made:

- Cllr Bell asked about issues at Drayton Court and it was agreed that Diary sheets would be made available for residents to report any suspicious behaviour.
- Cllr Jarvis promoted the use of Crimestoppers 0800555111
- Cllr Henney Reported the De-crim of Parking would be April-October 2018

Three priorities were Agreed:

Priority 1: Drugs - Atherstone

Priority 2 Drugs - Mancetter

Priority 3. Inconsiderate parking and High visibility Policing – Hartshill

4. Neighbourhood action on Lorries

5. Inconsiderate Parking

- Both above items were discussed together whilst the Police were still in attendance
- A number of Hartshill residents concerned about Lorries breaking the law in terms of weight limits and speed
- Cllr Bell suggested a Neighbourhood lorry watch but would need to know what information to collect and could distribute through the Hartshill residents group
- Mr Blackburn reported that the Quarry manager won't deal with empty Vehicles
- It was reported that weight limit signs were in the wrong place
- Cllr Henney to circulate information on VOSA reporting

6. Dog Fouling

- LH reported that the dog warden was unable to attend but had sent an update and information
- Hartshill Hayes dog bins on edge of park none in centre
- Hayes has new policy – Stick and flick into undergrowth
- Hartshill Parish council reported they have paid for 2 bins but needed to know where needed LH to Check with NWBC where the ordered bins are

7. Outside Bodies recommendations

- It was agreed by all in attendance that the recommendations would remain the same

8. AOB

- Fence in Sheepy road car park was reported to belong to the solicitors
- Issues in relation to the A5 and traffic lights at Woodford lane were discussed

9. Date of next meeting

TBC – Venue in Mancetter

For general enquiries please contact the Northern Area Team:

Tel. 01926 737767 or via e-mail northernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk

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Agenda Item

Area Forum East

19 September 2017

Review of Area Forum Working

Summary

The attached report by Steve Maxey, Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, is to be considered by the Council's Executive Board.

Members of the Forum are invited to offer comments on how engagement with local communities might take place in the future.

Comments may be emailed to democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk

Agenda Item No 12

Executive Board

18 September 2017

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council

Review of Area Forum Working

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report makes recommendations to the Board regarding Area Forums, following the recent debate at full Council and subsequent meeting of the Area Forum Task and Finish Group.

Recommendation to the Council

- a That the Council consults with the Police, Warwickshire County Council and other interested parties on the current round of Area Forums being the last such meetings; and**
- b That subsequent reports are brought to this Board as part of the Council's review of Communications, including a revised Consultation Strategy in order to ensure that the positive elements of Forums meetings are continued.**

2 Report

- 2.1 Members have debated the effectiveness of Area Forum meetings for some time, most recently at the Council meeting on 28 June. Following that debate, a Task and Finish Group was created and this met on 25 July.
- 2.2 Area Forums were first introduced in the late 90s in North Warwickshire, in partnership with the Police and Warwickshire County Council. Since then they have had a mixed history and it is fair to say that attendance has declined over the years.
- 2.3 Analysis in 2012 indicated that only 19% of those attending Area Forums were not formally attached to the Borough, County or Parish Councils or other agencies. This equated to just short of 6 members of the public per meeting against a population of over 62,000 (0.01%). An exercise in 2010 concluded that about 0.2% of Warwickshire's population attended area forums at that time.
- 2.4 Figures for the September 2015 round of meeting were as follows. For Area Forums North and West, of the 37 attending the two meetings, only 7 were unaffiliated residents. However for Area Forums East and South, 34 of the 62

attendees were minuted as residents. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) attended the Area Forum East meeting which may account for the 14 (out of 32) residents at that meeting, however in June 15 residents also attended (out of 29). Jeff Brown had been to discuss the Daw Mill application at the June and September 2015 South meetings which may have accounted for 20 residents out of 30 at the September meeting and 30 out of 43 in June.

- 2.5 The County Council however do not appear to record Parish Council representatives separately for Area Forum South so these figures do not show how many of the “residents” were affiliated to Town or Parish Councils. It does suggest however that greater attendance happens when issues of great local concern are being discussed, with the PCC and Daw Mill issues. Communications, and people’s willingness to attend formal meetings, have changed enormously since the 90s. A recent review by this Council of the public’s views on communication confirms the unpopularity of general public meetings. As the above figures show, attendance, by and large, at Area Forums consists largely of ‘known’ people.
- 2.6 The Council has looked at Area Forums on a number of occasions over the years. There was a flush of enthusiasm when the County Council worked to introduce them into the rest of Warwickshire as part of its localities work. A number of initiatives have been tried, including having a very short ‘summary’ agenda, where presenters had five minutes or so to set out their main points and then the rest of the meeting was a ‘workshop’ style event when those particularly interested in a topic could speak at more length with that agency. However, that pilot did not have a noticeable impact on attendance.
- 2.7 Leaders’ Liaison reviewed these initiatives last year and it was agreed to recommend to our partners that they be discontinued. However, the County Council then launched its own review in 2016, which reported just before the County elections earlier this year and it was decided to await the outcome of that review. The report has not been published at the date of writing this report but an Officer representative of the County Council was at the Task and Finish Group meeting in July and helpfully outlined County Officer thinking on the subject. In summary, that thinking is very similar to the suggestions made to the Task and Finish Group and in this report.
- 2.8 The Task and Finish Group discussed the matter extensively, reviewing the Forums history, recent experiences and how to better communicate with residents and those active in the community.
- 2.9 In short, and as was suggested at the full Council discussion, it was generally agreed the Area Forums have ‘had their day’. It recognises that there is still a need for planned meetings with those active in communities. In addition, the involvement of residents is not being abandoned, as the general view is that Area Forums do not perform that task and better solutions will be developed, including consultation and engagement, using public meetings as required, on topics of general interest/importance to residents.

- 2.10 However, the overwhelming case is that communications have moved on significantly and continue to change at pace. The Communications Review currently underway acknowledges this and is likely to significantly change the way the Council communicates and consults with communities.
 - 2.11 It is recommended therefore that the Council advises the Police and the County Council that we would like the current round of Area Forums to be the last, use this round to let attendees know and discuss with them how engagement with them might take place in the future
- 3 Report Implications
- 3.1 Safer Communities
- 3.1.1 The current way of working allows dialogue with local people and priorities to be agreed and coordinated through the Area Forums. Whilst attendance levels are fairly low new arrangements would need to be considered to address this issue.

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Maxey (719438).