

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM EAST

27th July 2010

The Area Forum East met at 6.30pm The Council Chamber,
North Warwickshire Borough Council, Atherstone

Present: Councillor C Fox in the Chair

County Councillor / Police Authority - C Fox
Borough Councillors: M Davis, K Johnston, D Pickard

In Attendance: S Robson, A Rigby, K Wilding, J Hodgson - Warwickshire CC
S Maxey, C Bridges, A Wilson – North Warwickshire BC
Sgt Fildes, PCSO Mander, PCSO Hoskin, C Shepherd, A Moutter –
Warwickshire Police
A Bates - Warwickshire Fire Service
M Shaw, D Clews, A Wright – Atherstone TC; J Randle, G Roberts –
Hartshill PC
J McMurdo, H Vero, D Atkin, C Musgrave, A Jackson, N Woolard, D
Horton, S Ashville, G Richards, M Masters, J Gordon

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from R Jarvis, L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, L Freer, M Jones MP, Mancetter Parish Council, Robin Turton

2. Minutes and Matters Arising of the meeting held on 20 April 2010

The minutes were agreed as a true record with the following amendment:

Funding: Cllr N Dirveiks declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application made by Owen Street Community Arts Centre and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Leighton Somers, Dog Warden, NWBC is still off and his return date uncertain. Vicky Hemmings is covering for the time being. NWBC secured a new kennels contract from April, jointly with Nuneaton & Bedworth BC, at Pheasants Nest Farm, Smorral Lane, Bedworth.

The new boxing academy for Atherstone has been granted planning permission.

The pedestrian crossing outside Costcutter store, Hartshill could be delayed due to budget cuts affecting the County Council. Cllr Fox will continue to lobby support for the project.

Costcutter now using smaller delivery vans to ease traffic congestion around store.

S Maxey updated on the accommodation review of The Council House, NWBC. A seminar was held recently with stakeholders to discuss the types of services that might be delivered if practicable from a shared public services centre operating out of The Council House. Consultants ARUP will provide a report in September. Public consultation would follow in due course to comment on the proposals. It was confirmed that no decisions have yet taken place.

S Maxey confirmed that a planning application has been received from WCC / Warwickshire Police for the development of the former Magistrate Courts and Atherstone Police Station. Local residents will be receiving notification shortly.

The application will be looked at by the Planning Board, NWBC on 16 August and likely to be determined at the following Planning Board meeting.

In response to questions on development of The Council House, NWBC S Maxey replied the public will be consulted at the earliest opportunity once the consultant's report has been considered by NWBC and stakeholders.

In response to questions on the planning application for the former Magistrate Courts and Atherstone Police Station site S Maxey replied that the application is not considered to be premature.

A discussion was then held around the requirement to retain the site in public ownership. S Maxey concluded by saying the planning application will be considered against the Local Plan and a decision made on the need for local community provision.

In response to a question on the Local Transport Plan 3, WCC S Maxey responded that NWBC would be giving its feedback after meeting on 29 July and further consideration by Councillors.

In summary:

The Borough Council, at its Planning & Development Board meeting on 16th August, generally welcomed the LTP3 (Local Transport Plan for Warwickshire) giving particular support to a Strategy for the A5. A copy of the report can be found on the Council's website.

www.northwarks.gov.uk

The following link to the Borough council's website can be used to access and comment on the report on 'Car park provision in Atherstone'.

http://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/DraftMins_Ex_Board_280610.pdf

Cllr Carol Fox introduced herself as the local representative for Warwickshire Police Authority and informed of an agenda item at the next Forum meeting to consult on how the police could improve public confidence.

3. Safer Neighbourhoods Update

Sgt Fildes presented an update on police activity over the last 3 months and gave a summary of the progress and actions to address the Area Forum priorities chosen at the last meeting. A copy of the summary detailing these actions can be viewed on the Council's website www.northwarks.gov.uk via the link for meetings and minutes.

Comments made:

- Parking – Sandwich factory, Carlyon Rd, Atherstone. Sgt Fildes to send a letter to the Sandwich Factory advising where workers can park
- Local Nature Reserve to be established behind the Sandwich factory
- Funding has been agreed to improve fencing between The Woodlands and Hartshill Hayes Country Park
- Hartshill PC, Atherstone Town Council, Mancetter PC are interested joining 'Community Speed Watch'
- Look to actively involve young people in Community Speed Watch
- Police presence around 'cattle creek' area, Atherstone
- Police presence around car park off Manor Rd, Mancetter
- Police presence around green, Greendale Close, Atherstone

Priorities for next 3 months

The following priorities were agreed:

Parking – Eitherside of junctions on Long Street, Atherstone with: Market Street, Church Street, Coleshill Road

Parking – Junction of Coleshill Road & School Hill, Hartshill

Parking – Pavement obstruction, Manor Road, Mancetter

4. Tell us your issues

A comment was raised over the number of black bins left out permanently around Atherstone, in particular around Dog Lane, North Street, Church Street. NWBC to look into this issue.

A request was made to keep the Forum informed on the consultation process for the future of Warwickshire County Council's residential care homes, including Bracebridge Court.

A 3 month consultation period begins 1st August – 31st October with residents, their families and staff to assess individual impact before any proposals on the future of the homes are considered by the County Council.

5. VOX, Voice4M & Youth provision in Area Forum East

Members of VOICE4M and VOX Warwickshire County Youth Council gave a presentation on youth activity in Warwickshire which included feedback on Warwickshire Youth Parliament activity; VOX Warwickshire County Youth Council activity and local action in North Warwickshire & East Area by VOICE4M

The presentation ended by showing a video on the Toxic Toes street dance project at Memorial Hall, Atherstone. Leaflets were passed round including 'North Warwickshire Youth Service Summer Programme 2010', summary of 'Youth Provision in Area Forum East'

The Toxic Toes dance project has funding to the end of 2010.

A discussion took place about improving the Area Forum meetings to be more inclusive for young people and to give them more opportunity to raise their issues on a regular basis.

6. North Warwickshire LEADER

J Gordon, Development Officer announced that the project currently has funding of £1million over 3 years. 50% comes from European Funding, 50% from DEFRA. The DEFRA part of the funding is under review.

There should be another round of funding open to community groups in October (subject to DEFRA decision) for projects that meet the local development strategy: access to services; transport; communication

The Forum was also advised that a representative from the area covered by the Forum was required to serve on the Local Action Group executive. The person would ideally be someone active in the local community. Nomination forms were available for anyone interested in becoming the area representative.

In response to questions funding for this year 2010/11 needs to be spent by 31 March 2011 with similar spending requirements in years two and three of the project. The project finishes January 2013.

7. Atherstone Area Property Review

J Hodgson, Senior Asset Management Surveyor, WCC presented. WCC have been undertaking property reviews since 2007. The Atherstone Area Property review is the 13th of 14 reviews across the County. In general the reviews have shown that around 60% of properties will form part of a core portfolio with the remainder up for further consideration.

The review of 29 freehold / leasehold County properties around Atherstone, Hartshill, Mancetter includes: fire station, schools, children centres, libraries

The purpose of the presentation was to invite local knowledge from individuals on any of the 29 properties before the review goes to a stakeholder meeting in September.

Copies of the property list, area map and comments sheet were circulated.

In answer to questions:

The former Magistrates Courts, Sheepy Road is owned by WCC
Atherstone Police Station is owned by Warwickshire Police

Stakeholders include North Warwickshire Borough Council, Warwickshire Police, Town / Parish Councils, WarwickshireCAVA.

Stakeholders would be expected to map out their property interests at the stakeholder meeting in September and to pass comment on the County properties

Hartshill School is a Foundation school and therefore own their own site. However the County Council would have a say in any change of land use.

The sale of the former annex to Hartshill School has been deferred pending an improvement in property market conditions. WCC has applied to NWBC for a renewal of the current planning permission which expires in January 2011. S Pell in the Estates Group, WCC is responsible for the site.

8. Outcomes of Playing Pitch Strategy

A Wilson presented.

The Forum was advised about the process followed in developing the Strategy and the key elements to guide future developments through the Action Plan. The Strategy is now out to consultation and available for comment on the Borough Council's website

9. Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Area Forum considered a report seeking recommendations for appointments to the outside bodies. It was agreed to reappoint the councillors from last year:

Atherstone Forum – Councillor Forwood and Davis
Hartshill Hayes Country Park Advisory Committee – Councillor Wykes
Substitute:- Councillor Johnston
Market Towns Initiative, Atherstone – Councillors Davis and Forwood
Rowan Organisation – Councillor Forwood

10. Suggestions for items / themes for the next meeting

Atherstone bus service
Bullying in schools
Police Authority – Community confidence
Volunteer Centre presentation

11. Date of next meeting

12 October 2010