

# MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM EAST

**14 April 2011**

The Area Forum East met at 6.30pm The Partnership Centre,  
Coleshill Road, Atherstone

**Present:** Borough Councillor M Davis in the Chair

County Councillor / Police Authority - C Fox

County Councillor M Shaw

Borough Councillors: D Pickard, T Wykes, A Forwood, L Dirveiks, L Freer

**In Attendance:** A Rigby, B Perks - Warwickshire CC  
S Maxey, C Bridges - North Warwickshire BC  
Sgt Fildes, PC Carter, PCSO Hoskin, Mander, Smith – Warks Police  
R Robinson – NHS Warwickshire  
R Jarvis, G Davis, A Wright - Atherstone TC; J Randle - Hartshill PC; T Hopkins – Mancetter PC; R Barrow, M Horner, D Atkin, G Hieke

## **1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from M Davey, D Clews, K Johnston, A Macchi, N Dirveiks, S Healy, A Newth, J Marshall

## **2. Minutes and Matters Arising of the meeting held on 11 January 2011**

The minutes were agreed as a true record with following amendments: record Cllr D Pickard as present and remove J Randle from attendance list.

The results of the UK Youth Parliament elections open to secondary school pupils returned 4 members to Youth Parliament and 4 deputies. No representatives from North Warwickshire. Local young people were elected to North Warwickshire Youth Council. They are: Abigale Jackson, Connor Ealing, Debbie Horton. Over 2500 North Warwickshire pupils took part in the elections which also recorded their key issues. They are: Relationships, sex education; Drugs, alcohol & smoking.

14 pupils from QE School, Atherstone have joined the Young Firefighters at Atherstone Fire Station. They have begun a 15 week course to improve life skills.

New weight limit signs to go up on B4116 and on Sheepy Road to restrict HGV movement through Atherstone.

New pedestrian crossing in place on Coleshill Road, opposite School Hill, Hartshill.

Beeline Community Transport have received a further year's funding from both the County and Borough Councils.

New local bus service for Atherstone to be announced shortly – bringing in residents from Mancetter and neighbouring estates in Atherstone to the town centre.

A request was raised to clarify the proposed changes to bus services for Piccadilly.

### 3. Safer Neighbourhoods Update

PC Leon Carter is the new Beat Manager for SNT East. PC Carter highlighted the local changes of the new police model that will take effect from 9 May. Some changes have already happened: the local restructuring of SNT staff led by Sgt Fildes and live briefings and updates from police HQ to local stations.

Police activity in the local area over the last 3 months was reported back as well as a summary of the progress to address the Area Forum priorities chosen at the last meeting. A 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.

Other work highlighted:

- To set up more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes locally
- Use of Community Pay-back scheme to remove graffiti from Atherstone, Mancetter, Hartshill
- Arrest of serial burglar
- Focus on business thefts at Dobbies and Brobot premises

The North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2010/11 summary was highlighted. Copies of which were circulated at the Forum meeting. The success of Soloman Theatre group workshops to all secondary schools in North Warwickshire was shared.

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

Comments made:

- Investigate signage outside Costcutter, Hartshill encouraging parking outside shop
- Request for police to attend Parish Council meetings
- Check licences of local scrap metal collectors
- Parking on footpaths - Little Church Walk, Atherstone opposite school & Willow Close, Chapel End

Priorities for next 3 months:

**Priority:** Parking - Long Street, Atherstone

**Priority:** ASB - Under age drinking in PH, Atherstone town centre

**Priority:** Speeding – Coleshill Road, Chapel End

#### **4. Police Authority**

Cllr Fox reported on the move of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (North & East) from Atherstone police station to Old Bank House, NWBC in the near future and reported on the approach with West Mercia Police Force for a common strategic alliance.

The Atherstone police front desk is now at the One Stop Shop, NWBC. Trained Borough Council staff are the first point of contact for the public when requesting a police service.

Cllr Fox to look in to the queuing system to speak to a police officer.

#### **5. Health & Wellbeing in North Warwickshire**

Rachel Robinson, NHS Warwickshire Public Health, presented a case history as background to a presentation highlighting the key health issues for North Warwickshire.

These were: increasing numbers of alcohol related hospital admissions; higher level of obese children in reception classes compared to the county average; higher level of families in fuel poverty compared to the county average.

R Robinson emphasised the role of the Public Health agenda in preventing illness and improving general health by drawing a link between deprivation, education, healthiness and overall life expectancy.

Comments made:

- Request for life expectancy data comparing the borough with county and Nuneaton and Bedworth figures
- Link between individuals on low incomes buying inferior foods and levels of obesity

R Robinson to circulate Annual Report from Director of Public Health and highlight health issues and actions that the Forum could help to address.

#### **6. Volunteer Centre North Warwickshire**

M Horner, Project Officer and Cllr L Dirveiks, Trustee presented the core functions of the Volunteer Centre which includes a brokerage service matching volunteers to placements and development of volunteer opportunities. The presentation highlighted a number of successful projects including 'Garden Buddy Scheme', 'North Warwickshire's Got Talent' and gave an overview of strategic planning for the future.

#### **7. Tell us your issues**

In response to a question about changes to traffic calming measures on Witherley Road, Atherstone, Cllr Fox replied that the road is a priority for speed cameras, should the County Council provide a budget for installing new cameras.

In response to a question on the future of the Youth Service, proposals are currently out to consultation to changes on the future use of premises. The consultation deadline is 16 May.

#### **8. HS2 update**

B Perks gave an update on the consultation process that closes on 29 July. HS2 Ltd is holding one public event on 11 June at The Link, Water Orton. For more information online go to:

<http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk>

The lack of public events in North Warwickshire has been challenged with HS2 Ltd. Meanwhile local action groups are being encouraged to host their own public meetings to give more opportunity to local people to find out more and have their say.

#### **9. Area Forum Fund update (NWBC)**

No applications received. Next deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> August. There is a pot of £8,000 to fund local projects.

#### **10. Any other business**

A national scheme rating Environmental Health inspections of food outlets has been launched.

[www.food.gov.uk/ratings](http://www.food.gov.uk/ratings)

A request was made to check licences of gold buying and loan giving businesses in Atherstone.

#### **11. Items for next meeting**

None.

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

Thursday, 21 July 2011.

## MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM SOUTH

Tuesday 19 April 2010

The Area Forum South met at Coleshill Town Hall at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Councillor Hayfield in the Chair.

Councillors Sherratt, Fowler, Gordon, Fox, Smith

**In Attendance:** Cheryl Bridges, Richard Dobbs – North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Joanne Rhodes & Martin Gibbins – Warwickshire County Council  
PC Ellen Beaty (Beat Manager), Sgt Roger Fildes & PCSO – Warwickshire Police  
Rachel Robinson, NHS Warwickshire Public Health  
J Poole – Shustoke & Maxstoke Parish Council Clerk  
R Thomas, B Coton, P Gray, P Coton – Shustoke Parish Council  
G Bradford, S Osborne – Corley Parish Council  
B Martin, – Ansley Parish Council  
Alison Perkins, O Hunter – Astley Parish Council  
Alan Vaughton  
Lorraine Jones, Tony Austin, Maxstoke residents  
Jack Stuart, Bena Stuart, Coleshill residents

and others. 30 people attended.

### 1. Apologies for absence.

Councillors Welby, Bowden and Zgraja,

### 2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum South, held on 20 January 2011, copy herewith, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters Arising

#### HS2 Update

Joanna Rhodes, WCC, provided an update on the current position with regard to HS2, in particular the consultation being undertaken by HS2 Ltd including a consultation event at Water Orton on 11 June.

### 4. Safer Neighbourhoods Update

PC Ellen Beaty, Warwickshire Police and Cheryl Bridges, North Warwickshire Borough Council, presented a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken since the last meeting of the Forum. 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 online.

An overview of the changes taking place within Warwickshire Police and how these related to the work of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team was also provided.

Cheryl Bridges highlighted the key priorities identified from the North Warwickshire Community Strategy Partnership Strategic Assessment 2010/11. Copies of the Assessment were circulated at the Forum meeting. Copies of the summary are available on the North Warwickshire Borough Council website.

The priorities identified were:

- Anti social behaviour in the vicinity of the Polash Restaurant/Church Hill Coleshill
- Anti social use of motorcycles around the Sycamore Crescent area in Arley

Other issues raised included:

- Recent acts of vandalism to allotments in Coleshill. Does happen occasionally and all reported incidents are followed up as they are acts of criminal damage.
- Application for an off licence in Coleshill. Police indicated no objections and had requested conditions be attached
- Motorcycles on A446. Police are aware of the issue and are taking action to address the problem

## 5 Police Authority Representative

Carol Fox, Police Authority representative, updated the meeting on the changes taking place within the Police service. These were:-

- Strategic Alliance with West Mercia Police ongoing – to report back at next meeting
- Atherstone Police Station to move to Old Bank House. Front desk service now operational at the One Stop Shop in Atherstone
- No decision yet on relocation of Coleshill Police Station

Questions were raised concerning retirement of officers. It was pointed out that this is an operational issues and the responsibility of the Chief Constable.

Further information concerning the Police Authority can be found on the website: [www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk)

## 6 Health & Wellbeing in North Warwickshire

Rachel Robinson, NHS Warwickshire Public Health, presented a case history as background to a presentation highlighting the key health issues for North Warwickshire. The priorities are:

Obesity  
Alcohol  
Fuel Poverty

In response to questions Rachel indicated that a small budget had been identified to help address the problems.

Other issues highlighted included an increasing trend in drinking at home, current initiatives such as Cook and Taste sessions being delivered across the Borough.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed on the Council's website [www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk) via the link for meetings and minutes online.

## 7 Area Forum Fund

Three eligible applications to the Area Forum Fund were considered.

### **Resolved:**

- a That Ansley Parish Council be awarded the sum of £2,207 towards the project highlighted in the report;**
- b That the Colehill United Church be awarded the sum of £3,373 towards the project highlighted in the report; and**
- c That Corley Village Hall be awarded the sum of £4,165 towards the project highlighted in the report.**

## 8 Public Questions & Parish Issues

A number of local issues were highlighted including:

Solar powered traffic signs at the Griffin Inn (Furnace End) and at Church End and Whitacre Garden Centre not working or working infrequently at best.

Speeding on Castle Lane.

Traffic issues in Astley, particularly on a Sunday.

The announcement earlier in the day about expansion of Birmingham Airport and what this means for the area.

The need for increased awareness within the area generally about HS2 proposals and what they mean.

**9 Future Meeting Dates**

12 July 2011  
27 October 2011

Chairman