

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM EAST

21 July 2011

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

Present: County Councillor / Police Authority - Carol Fox in the Chair

County Councillor M Shaw

Borough Councillors: A Forwood, L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, L Freer, K
Johnston, M Davis

In Attendance: A Rigby, J Rhodes - Warwickshire CC
S Garner, C Bridges - North Warwickshire BC
PC Carter, PCSO Mander – Warks Police

D Clews, R Jarvis, G Davis, - Atherstone TC
D Clay, M Wrigley, D Atkin, Mr Chowdray

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from T Wykes, D Pickard, A Wright, T Hopkins, A Macchi

2. Minutes and Matters Arising of the meeting held on 14 April 2011

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

A Rigby presented 'You said – We did' reporting back on the actions from the last meeting that were followed up by Warwickshire County Council, (WCC) North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) and NHS Warwickshire.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed at www.warwickshire.gov.uk via the link for meetings and minutes.

Discussion focused on Atherstone Train Station. Request was made for improved signage to direct people to the station and for an updated timetable to be displayed at the bus station.

3. Safer Neighbourhoods Update

PC Leon Carter, Beat Manager for SNT East fed back on Police activity over the last 3 months including the three priorities chosen at the last meeting. The presentation can be viewed at www.northwarks.gov.uk via the link for meetings and minutes.

Cheryl Bridges, NWBC reported back on the success of a number of recent youth and community activities including: Call 4 Sport; Community Fun Days, Community Safety Day in Atherstone and 5 a-side tournament at Aston Villa's training ground.

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

Comments made:

- Highway Agency to be notified of speeding on Atherstone by-pass
- Pavement clutter outside shops on Coleshill Rd, Chapel End to be reduced
- Police to ask NWBC licensing officer to approach Atherstone supermarket re: sales of alcohol to minors
- Police School Liaison Officer to approach Head of QE School re: impact of pupils in town on Prom Night
- Police force priority to respond to serial burglars
- Police to increase presence along canal in Atherstone to deter motorbikes and under age drinking
- Parking on Ratcliffe Road and on Coleshill Road, Atherstone to be looked at after the summer holidays
- Thanks passed to PC Carter's team for work on 3 priorities

Priorities for next 3 months:

Priority: Parking - Long Street, Atherstone

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

Priority: ASB and associated issues in Chapel End

4. **Police Authority**

Update given by Police Authority representative Cllr Fox.

A strategic alliance between Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police Force has been agreed. This will help Warwickshire Police meet its next saving target of £5.9 million by merging some of the workforce eg IT department.

Both police forces will retain a separate Police Authority, Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable.

Since the new policing model came into operation on 9 May: 900 police staff have been moved, 400 computers / items of IT have been moved, 150 police vehicles relocated and more Special Constables have been used.

221 requests for voluntary redundancy by Warwickshire policing staff were approved.

On 9 August Atherstone's CCTV centre will be linked directly to Leek Wooton.

5. **Tell us your issues**

Atherstone Town Council would like to assist the Borough Council's dog warden in keeping the town clean and tidy. Coleshill Road, Atherstone in particular needs attention. Officers to discuss ideas further.

Residents / Councillors can already make use of the One Stop Shop to report any dog related issues.

6. Updates

- **HS2**

J Rhodes gave an update on the consultation that closes on 29 July. All the latest information can be found at <http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk>

The County Council's Cabinet met on 14 July to agree its formal response to the Government's consultation on High Speed Rail 2 in opposing the project.

A question was raised as to whether the County Council supports in principle a high speed rail connection from Birmingham to Scotland.

- **Libraries**

The County Council's Cabinet met on 14 July to decide on the proposal for the transformation of libraries. Cabinet approved an extension for finalising the business plans of all 16 bids to run community libraries. Community groups have until 19 August to complete their plans.

Hartshill library has two business cases proposed by Hartshill Parish Plan project and Inglebury Foundation. Officers are assisting both groups to complete their business cases on time.

- **Youth Service**

Cabinet has confirmed that the Ratcliffe Centre, Atherstone will continue to be run as a Youth Centre and will act as a "Centre of Excellence" providing a base for expertise and support to local organisations continuing to work with young people locally.

- **Funding**

Warwickshire County Council's North Warwickshire Area Committee has agreed to launch a grants programme worth £50K. The Community Development Fund and Small Grants Fund will run as in previous years. Both funds will be open to community and voluntary groups in North Warwickshire and launched before the end of July. For further details visit

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/grants

7. Representatives of Outside Bodies

Borough Councillors agreed the membership to be:

Hartshill Hayes Country Park Advisory Committee – Cllr Wykes
(Sub Cllr Johnston)

Rowan Organisation – Cllr Forwood

8. Any Other Business

Council officers to assess and comment on the improvement works around the bridge at Atherstone train station

9. Suggestions for items / themes for next meeting

Update Atherstone train station

Resident only parking in Atherstone town centre

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday, 6 October 2011