



# Area Forum West

**Curdworth, Hurley, Kingsbury, Lea Marston,  
Middleton, Nether Whitacre, Piccadilly,  
Water Orton, Wishaw, Wood End**

## Area Forum West

**Thursday 4 February 2010**

The Area Forum West will meet at Piccadilly Community Centre, Perryman Drive, Piccadilly, B78 2ER at 6.30pm.

Reports available in large print if requested.

For general enquiries please contact Jenny Price, North Warwickshire Borough Council on 01827 719450 or <mailto:jennyprice@northwarks.gov.uk>

For enquiries about specific reports, please contact the officer named in the report.

### **6.00 – 6.30 pm - Police Surgery**

Call in if you have specific concerns that you would like to discuss with your local Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team.

## **AGENDA**

1. **Apologies for absence.**
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009, copy herewith, to be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.**
3. **Matters Arising**

**4. Safer Neighbourhoods – Partners and Communities Together (PACT) Sergeant Ron Drake (Warwickshire Police)**

Up to half an hour is available for this item. This will include an outline of the purpose and format of PACTs, feedback on actions undertaken since the last meeting and any other updates, details of current Community Safety issues identified within the Forum area and an opportunity for individual members of the public to raise any further concerns, advice on how these issues will be taken forward, and details of communications/publicity planned on Community Safety issues.

Community Safety concerns can be raised verbally or in writing at the meeting, or submitted in advance to Jenny Price on 01827 719450 or via email to [jennyprice@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:jennyprice@northwarks.gov.uk)

**5. Public Questions**

Up to half an hour is available for members of the public to ask questions. Individual members of the public can speak for up to three minutes. To ensure that an answer to a question can be given at the meeting, details of it must be submitted to Jenny Price or via email to [jennyprice@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:jennyprice@northwarks.gov.uk). Otherwise, please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting and ensure that Jenny Price has notice on the matter on which you wish to speak.

**6. University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire – Foundation Trust proposal – Janet White.**

**7. Warwickshire LINK – role of the LINK and how they can work with local people to take forward issues of concern that relate to health and social care.**

**8. Green Space Strategy Fund – Alethea Wilson (NWBC)**

**9. Parish Issues**

**10. Future Agenda Items**

**11. Any Other Business**

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

29 April 2010 – Venue to be confirmed.

**MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM WEST**

**15 October 2009**

The Area Forum West met at St Nicholas Church Hall, Curdworth at 6.30pm.

- Present:** Borough Councillor Payne in the Chair  
Borough and County Councillors Lea and B Moss  
Borough Councillors Lewis, Phillips and Swann.
- In attendance:** Linda Bird, Jenny Price, and Robert Beggs -North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Joanna Rhodes, Jonathan Simkins, Mark Porter and Martin Gibbins – Warwickshire County Council  
Inspector Andy Davis, Sergeant Shaun Albrighton and PCSO's Warwickshire Police  
Andy Bates – Warwickshire Fire and Rescue  
Mark Weatherley, Paulette Ross, Alan Vaughton, Sandra Bullivant and George Bullivant – Curdworth Parish Council  
Jean Thomas and Ian Thomas – Piccadilly Community Association  
David Williets and John Rowland – Middleton Parish Council  
Mark Davey – WCC Youth Service  
Jon Illsley and J Leavie – Kingsbury Parish Council  
Katy Harper – Beeline Community Transport  
Steve and Sue Turner – Wood End Community Association  
Phil Alderman, Graeme Arkell and Kevin Lacey, - Residents  
Malcolm Brown and Vic Brown – Lea Marston Parish Council
- Apologies:** Councillor M Moss and Nether Whitacre Parish Council.

**1 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2009**

The minutes of the held on 30 July 2009 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**2 Matters Arising**

None.

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

The Forum was informed that Inspector Glen Belcher would take over from Chief Inspector Mike Wylde for the next six months.

Inspector Andy Davis and 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 (Hams Hall, anti-social behaviour – Birmingham Road shops area, Water Orton and off road bikes at Edge Hill, Wood End). 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.

Robert Beggs reported on a Neighbourhood Watch initiative to offer Number Plate Anti-Tamper Screws.

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

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

- Hams Hall
- Anti-Social Behaviour – Birmingham Road, Water Orton
- Off road bikes at Edge Hill, Wood End.

#### **4 Public Questions**

No public questions were received.

#### **5 Warwickshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service Consultation**

Martin Gibbins, (WCC) reported on the County Council's Fire and Rescue Service consultation process currently taking place and encouraged people to attend the public consultation meetings to be held on 27 October 2009 at The Coleshill School and 19 November 2009 at Polesworth.

Copies of the consultation document were available at the meeting. Alternatively full details could be viewed on line at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue). The closing date for submissions was 8 December 2009.

#### **6 Signs for Heavy Goods Vehicles**

Jonathan Simkins, Group Manager Traffic Project and Mark Porter explained the background to the work they had carried out to ensure Heavy Goods Vehicles used appropriate roads within the area.

A discussion then took place on the problems at the following sites;

- Curdworth Bridge, Marsh Lane, Water Orton
- Piccadilly Bridge
- Station Road, Nether Whitacre
- Old Church Rd, Water Orton
- Wood End and
- Whateley.

Jonathan Simkins agreed to keep under review the areas highlighted at the meeting and invited members of the audience to discuss any issues in more detail at the end of the meeting.

#### **7 Funding in North Warwickshire**

Linda Bird (NWBC) reported that no Area Forum Funds were available for disbursement at this time but asked that the forum note that the 2010/11 budget of £8,000 would be available at the April round of Area Forum meetings. The application deadline for this fund was 1 February 2010.

Martin Gibbins reported on three funding schemes from the County Council.

- Community Computers - 25 recycled computers available to community groups in North Warwickshire. Closing date for applications 4 December 2009.
- Community Development Fund - £36,000 available to local voluntary and community groups in North Warwickshire to benefit local communities. Closing date for applications 4 December 2009. Applications would be considered by North Warwickshire Area Committee in January 2010.
- Small Grants Fund – up to £500 available to community groups.

## 8 **Area Pledge**

Joanna Rhodes (WCC) reported further on the Area Pledge “Improving activities for teenagers”. A draft leaflet setting out the next steps was circulated at the meeting.

## 9 **Parish Issues**

A proposal to re-establish Water Orton Tennis Club was highlighted and support from the Forum was requested.

Curdworth Parish Council asked whether a maintenance plan still existed for the a piece of land known as The Spinney, Curdworth and whether it would be possible for the Borough Council's Streetscape team to do some maintenance work on thinning out trees and removal any self setting trees and shrubs?

**Action: Linda Bird to investigate.**

## 10 **Future Agenda Items**

None were identified.

## 11. **Any Other Business**

None.

## 12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The following dates were agreed

4 February 2010  
 29 April 2010  
 29 July 2010  
 14 October 2010

Chairman

**Area Forum West  
4 February 2010**

**Green Space Strategy Fund**

**Recommendation:**

- a) That £5,500, be offered to Kingsbury Parish Council for the provision of improved play facilities at Church Lane Recreation Ground, in accordance with key priority AP020 of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008-2018; and
- b) That £4,500 be offered to the RSPB for the development of recreation and community activity opportunities at Middleton Lakes, in accordance with key priority AP017 of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008-2018.

**1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of consultation on the allocation, through the Area Forum, of funding that has been made available for projects that help to deliver the key priorities of the adopted North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008-2018.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting held in July 2009, the Area Forum West received a report from the Borough Council detailing proposals for consultation on the allocation of £10,000 that has been made available for the implementation of projects that deliver key priorities identified in the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008-2018. The consultation period then ran from 19 August to 7 December 2009.
- 2.2 Through the consultation parish and town councils and other partner organisations were invited to indicate which of the key priorities identified for their sub-area they would most like to see taken forward – each could indicate a first and second choice. Where their choice was a project on land that they control, they were also asked to complete an Expression of Interest to indicate how much support they would be seeking from the Fund and, in outline, how this money would be spent in the delivery of the project. Submissions for projects that are not specifically identified within the Green Space Strategy could also be put forward for consideration, provided that applicants clearly demonstrated how their proposal would advance the priorities of the Strategy itself.
- 2.3 To be eligible projects should:
- help to deliver the priorities of the Green Space Strategy
  - comprise physical improvements to green space, or the preparation of feasibility studies, plans or landscape designs to deliver such improvements
  - provide value for money
  - be sustainable
  - be inclusive

Applicants would not be required to provide match funding, but the use of the Green Space Strategy Fund as “match” to lever in other external grant aid would be encouraged, provided the overall project meets these criteria.

2.4 Details of the Green Space Strategy Fund were also placed on the Borough Council’s website in order to gain as much feedback as possible.

### 3 Scoring

3.1 In order to score the parish and partners consultation responses points were allocated as follows:

- 4 points for each first choice “hit” where the project would directly deliver a key priority of the Strategy
- 3 points for each second choice “hit” where the project would directly deliver a key priority of the Strategy
- 2 points for a project that would indirectly contribute to delivery the priorities of the Strategy
- 1 point where the project has secured match funding

### 4 Consultation Results

4.1 There were four responses to the parish and partners consultation in Area Forum West, which are summarised below.

| Key Priority in Green Space Strategy |  | Responding Organisation        | Points for First Choice | Points for Second Choice | Amount of Funding Requested | Points for Match Funding | Points for Delivery on other GSS priorities | Total Score |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------|
| AP006                                | Preparation of a Management Plan for Water Orton Recreation Ground               |                                |                         |                          |                             |                          |   | 0           |
| AP007                                | Improvements to play facilities at Water Orton Recreation Ground                 |                                |                         |                          |                             |                          |   | 0           |
| AP008                                | Improvements to play facilities at Smiths Way, Water Orton                       |                                |                         |                          |                             |                          |   | 0           |
| AP013                                | Preparation of a Management Plan for the open space and play area at Middleton   | Nether Whitacre Parish Council |                         | 3                        |                             |                          |   | 3           |
| AP014                                | Preparation of a Management Plan for the open space and play area at Lea Marston | Nether Whitacre Parish Council | 4                       |                          |                             |                          |   | 4           |
| AP015                                | Preparation of a Management Plan for the King George V Playing Fields, Curdworth |                                |                         |                          |                             |                          |   | 0           |

|       |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|-------|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| AP016 | Support for the promotion of access to rights of way across the Curdworth, Hurley & Wood End Area |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
|-------|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|

continues.....

| <b>Key Priority in Green Space Strategy</b> |   | <b>Responding Organisation</b>  | <b>Points for First Choice</b> | <b>Points for Second Choice</b> | <b>Amount of Funding Requested</b> | <b>Points for Match Funding</b> | <b>Points for Delivery on other GSS priorities</b> | <b>Total Score</b> |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| AP017                                       | Support the RSPB in the development of recreation and community activity opportunities at Middleton Lakes | RSPB / Middleton Parish Council | 4                              | 3                               | £10,000                            | 1                               |  | 8                  |
| AP019                                       | Provide new play facilities at Sycamore Road Recreation Ground, Kingsbury                                 | Kingsbury Parish Council        |                                | 3                               |                                    | 1                               |  | 4                  |
| AP020                                       | Support the provision of improved play facilities at Church Lane Recreation Ground, Kingsbury             | Kingsbury Parish Council        | 4                              |                                 | £10,000                            | 1                               |  | 5                  |
| New project                                 | Improvements to recreational facilities at the open space and play area                                   | Middleton Parish Council        |                                |                                 | £7,000                             |                                 | 2  | 2                  |

4.2 No responses were received online.

## 5 Proposed Allocation of the Funding

5.1 As can be seen, responses were received from parishes and partners in respect of several potential projects. However, in order to be able to offer a meaningful level of financial support it is felt that funding should be directed towards just those two that scored most highly – i.e. Kingsbury Parish Council and the RSPB at Middleton. Each has requested funding for a project that directly delivers a key priority of the Green Space Strategy and for which plans are already well developed.

5.2 Kingsbury Parish Council is hoping to improve play facilities at its recreation ground at Church Lane in Kingsbury. Specifications have been prepared based on the results of consultation that has been carried out with local children and young people. The Parish Council has £10,000 available towards the estimated £60,000 cost of its project and would like to apply to the Landfill Communities Fund for the remainder. To do this it needs to secure independent Third Party Funding. Used in this way a grant of £5,500 from the Green Space Strategy Fund could potentially enable the Parish Council to draw down the required £50,000 and so deliver this project.

5.3 The RSPB is seeking funding towards total projects costs of £72,000 to help deliver access improvements that will enable the local community to access nature at Middleton Lakes. Works would involve new paths, bridges, gates and viewpoints as well as signage, picnic benches and pond dipping areas. Alongside the physical improvements they will be delivering an improved programme of schools and community events such as family fun days. The funding would be used as match to



other funds, such as from Natural England, to enable the whole project to be delivered. It is therefore recommended that the remaining £4500 from the Green Space Strategy Fund be offered to the RSPB.

- 5.4 It is not felt to be appropriate, in this instance, to direct funding towards the preparation of a management plan for the open space and play area at Lea Marston or the improvement of play facilities at the Borough Council's recreation ground in Sycamore Road, Kingsbury. Although there was support for the former no expression of interest was received from Lea Marston Parish Council itself. Where the latter is concerned the site has been designated for funding through the Government's Playbuilder Programme, which will enable delivery on this priority without recourse to the Green Space Strategy Fund.
- 5.5 There was also support for the preparation of a management plan for the open space and play area at Middleton but the Parish Council itself has only applied for a modest sum to install some additional play equipment. Although this would contribute to delivery of priorities in the Green Space Strategy it does not address any of them directly. The Strategy identifies a number of sites across the Borough for which the development of management plans is a key priority, as is the case at Middleton. Such a plan ensures an holistic approach to the enhancement of the particular green space, rather than piecemeal developments, and is a valuable tool in targeting resources and securing external grant aid. Preparation of a management plan should therefore precede proposals for specific projects that deal with discrete elements within the green space, such as the provision of play equipment. At the same time, thinking around the subject of children's play provision has recently undergone significant change. It is now well-understood that children and young people should be at the heart of consultation on the development of new play facilities and that a balance should be sought between providing fixed play equipment and allowing opportunities for more interaction with the natural environment. Middleton Parish Council is seeking only £7,000 towards a piece of play equipment, with no proposals for match funding. Officers feel that such a relatively small sum is unlikely to deliver a facility of significant play value and that the proposed approach to the project may not be in accord with current best practice. The recommendation is therefore not to fund this specific project but for officers to work with the Parish Council to find a way to develop a management plan for the open space. This would include consideration of play provision and should identify other opportunities for funding the enhancement of this valued community space.

The Contact Officer for this report is Alethea Wilson (NWBC) 01827 719212 or <mailto:aletheawilson@northwarks.gov.uk>