

## MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM WEST

27 January 2011

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

- Present:** Borough and County Councillor Lea in the Chair  
Borough Councillors Lewis, M Moss, Payne and Swann
- In attendance:** Angela Coates, Jenny Price and Robert Beggs -North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Alistair Rigby, Mandy Walker and Bob Perks – Warwickshire County Council  
Sergeant Shaun Albrighton, and PCSO Tim Strathen, Mike Smith and Sgt Fildes - Warwickshire Police  
Louise Hargraves, Charlotte Carr and R Drudge – Youth & Community Service  
S & R Hemmings, J Mullarkey, C & R Radbourne, M Mordue, P & E Grant, P & R Lucas, E G Bullivant and D Call – Curdworth residents  
Ian Thomas – Piccadilly Community Association  
Carol Fox – Warwickshire Police Authority  
Alan Vaughton, Paulette Ross, M Weatherley and Anne Rimmer – Curdworth Parish Council  
John Rowland and David Williets – Middleton Parish Council  
A Garner – NHS Warwickshire  
J Warren – Water Orton resident  
Tony Hardman (NW Neighbourhood Watch), P Griffiths, Mick Levy, Nick Wigglesworth, and Chris Passey – Kingsbury residents  
J Pickworth \_ Nether Whitacre resident  
Kevin Oakley, John Poole, Sharon Meanley and Helen Chaplain – Lea Marston Parish Council  
Andy Bates and Steve Sorrell – Warwickshire Fire & Rescue  
Clare Jolly – Coleshill Cluster  
Robin Pearson – Coleshill and District Civic Society
- Apologies:** County and Borough Councillor B Moss and Borough Councillor Phillips.

### 1 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2010 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## 2 **Matters Arising**

### Signage

A request that the highway sign at Wishaw Lane, Curdworth, be multi-lingual was noted.

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

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. 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.

In response to a request at the last Area Forum meeting, a Gating Orders briefing note was circulated for information.

Other issues raised were;

- Illegal parking at gated area in Old Kingsbury Road, Lea Marston.  
Response: reassurance patrols and better liaison with residents.
- Increase in the number of HGV's travelling through Lea Marston and Birmingham Road, Whitacre. No weight restriction signage on Birmingham Road at Nether Whitacre.  
Response: WCC highways to investigate and PC Nina Boden given as the Police point of contact for reporting incidents.

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

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

- Anti-Social Behaviour – Range Way, Kingsbury
- Anti-Social Behaviour – Glebefields, Curdworth
- Anti-Social Behaviour – Recreation grounds at Sycamore Road and Kingsbury County Club, Kingsbury.

## 4 **Police Authority Community Confidence**

Councillor Carol Fox, Police Authority representative, introduced the Warwickshire Police 150plus Programme that will shape a new policing service in Warwickshire and respond to the Coalition government's Comprehensive Spending Review for the Force to make £22.9m savings over the next 4 years.

The Police Authority has approved the 4 year savings programme and the new policing model which will come into operation on 9 May 2011.

At a local level the four Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) will remain. Sgt Fildes will be the Beat Manager. The changes will increase the visibility of all four SNT teams with support from the Patrol Team.

There will be three countywide policing teams:

- 33 Safer Neighbourhood Teams – working with communities and tackling the problems and the people that cause you harm
- Patrol Team – Visible patrols concentrating on areas most affected by crime and disorder and responding to incidents
- Investigation Team – Investigate incidents and identify those responsible.
- New technology in cars – removing the need to go back to a Police station to do paperwork
- Change to an eight hour shift pattern
- Estate strategy looking at all properties. Leek Wootton headquarters to be sold.
- Strategic alliance with West Mercia Police.

The local newspaper report that Coleshill Police station was due to close was raised. Councillor Fox explained that there were presently two police stations in North Warwickshire accommodating 8 SNT's and that with the planned improvements no police station was needed. It was proposed that a front desk would be set up in the One Stop Shop at the Council offices in Atherstone manned by trained staff. A vehicle depot and front desk base in Coleshill had yet to be identified.

A consultation on the setting of the Police precept was underway and forum members were encouraged to visit the Police Authority website at [www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk) and take part in a survey to get the public view on whether there was a willingness to increase the amount of precept paid to the police towards policing in Warwickshire to meet some of the savings.

## **5 Public Questions and Parish Issues**

A member of the audience asked if North Talk could be circulated by e-mail not in paper form, stating it was expensive to post out to every household in the Borough and suggested it would be cheaper to have it available on the website or emailed out.

It was explained that the majority of copies were hand delivered by staff which was cheaper than posting via Royal Mail. However it was noted that there was support from other members of the audience that the paper copy remains. The general feeling was that North Talk was a very useful document; however the Chair asked that a report be brought back at the next meeting on costs and alternatives.

## **6 High Speed Rail (HS2)**

Mandy Walker, Group Manager - Regeneration Projects, WCC presented the HS2 proposal a scheme supported by the Coalition Government and proposed by the previous Labour Government. The County Council had recently voted to oppose the plans as had North Warwickshire Borough Council. However the County Council does have a role to play in informing local communities about HS2 and working with HS2 Ltd to ensure the formal consultation process which begins in February was delivered adequately in Warwickshire.

The presentation highlighted the proposed route between London and Birmingham; the national and regional benefits that the scheme could bring and the lack of easily identifiable benefits for Warwickshire. The presentation concluded with the latest timetable to take the plan to Parliament in October 2013.

A representative of the Water Orton Action Group asked for two things from the Borough and County Councils - financial assistance and the use of Council expertise. It was agreed that we would get back to them on this request.

The forum were made aware of the existence of the SNoW HS2 group (Staffordshire and North Warwickshire against HS2) which had been formed to share information, support other action groups and organise campaigns against HS2. Anyone interested in joining the group was asked to contact John Warren. The next meeting of the group was 24 February 2011 at Hints Village Hall.

A national conference day event 'Stop HS2' at Stoneleigh on 19 February 2011 was highlighted.

It was resolved that Area Forum West supports the action being taken by North Warwickshire Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council in respect of its objections to the HS2 proposals. This was unanimously supported by those present at the meeting.

## **7 NHS Warwickshire**

Ann Garner introduced herself as the Area Forum West representative for NHS Warwickshire and highlighted the issues of the new Health and Social Care Bill.

## **8 North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy Funding**

Robert Beggs (NWBC) summarised the proposals for the use of the North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy funding. Borough Councillors were asked to vote on the allocation of funding. It was noted

that the County Councillors had supported the suggested projects indicated in the report at the Area Committee.

**Resolved:**

**That the projects as indicated in the report be approved and that the uncommitted amount of £744 be split 50/50 between Disability Benefits Support and the Rural Youth Worker.**

**9 Future Agenda Items**

- Long term item – Wind turbines
- HS2 update on consultation

**10 Any Other Business**

- Warwickshire County Council Youth Service – The possible demise of the youth service in North Warwickshire was highlighted and the impact it would have on the area. A petition was made available at the meeting for people to sign.
- EMR Site, Kingsbury - Concerns were raised that the business that had been a straight forward scrap metal yard had now changed to a metal processing plant. Fumes from metal cutting, much more traffic and concerns about pollution in the water table because of the processing procedures were raised. The scrap metal pile had grown and was considered to be a significant blight to the nearby residential properties. There were also concerns about its closeness to the oil refinery. An environmental health officer had attended the site after it was raised at the last meeting and advised that there was no public health issue. He suggested contact with the Health and Safety Executive as they are the regulatory authority for these matters.

It was agreed that Robert Beggs would speak to the Fire and Rescue Service for assistance and identify who was responsible for monitoring the site.

**11 Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Area Forum West will be held on Tuesday 5 April 2011 at Water Orton.

Chairman