

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM EAST

12th October 2010

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

Present: Councillor M Davis in the Chair

County Councillor / Police Authority - C Fox

County Councillor M Shaw

Borough Councillors: T Wykes, N Dirveiks, L Dirveiks, L Freer

In Attendance: S Robson, A Rigby - Warwickshire CC
S Garner, C Bridges, K Barrow, J Taylor - North Warwickshire BC
Sgt Fildes, PCSO Mander, PCSO Hoskin, Kirven - Warwickshire Police
K Gray, J Freer – NHS Warwickshire
A Wright, R Jarvis, G Davis - Atherstone TC; J Randle - Hartshill PC; J
Arrowsmith – Mancetter PC
J Sims, K Harper, I Filmer, C Wykes, S Lamb, M Horner

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from B Hanson, Mancetter PC, S Healey, J Marshall, D Clews, G Roberts, Robin Turton

2. Minutes and Matters Arising of the meeting held on 27 July 2010

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

To include under apologies for absence Cllr T Wykes

Boxing Academy for Atherstone is progressing slowly. The project is currently awaiting commitment from partners now that planning permission has been granted.

LEADER representative for Area Forum East is K Harper.

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.

On 12 September Warwickshire Police and partners held a Community Safety Day in Hartshill to find out the views on how safe young people felt. Generally young people felt safe but wanted more visible policing and known crime hotspot areas improved to deter further crime.

Sgt Fildes summarised Warwickshire Police 150 Plus Programme in responding to budgetary cuts. The Force is looking to reduce costs by £5.7m in 2010/11 and by £13.4m over three years. Some of this will be achieved through rationalisation of senior management.

There are currently no proposals to merge with any neighbouring police forces. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams will continue to be based at Atherstone and Coleshill stations. The new opening times for the front desks at both stations will be 8am – 4pm.

Comments made:

- Over 40% of violent crime involves alcohol. This issue affects a wide range of different age groups.
- Tannery Close – life for residents is getting worse. Recent incidents include: graffiti, broken bottles, drug dealing, fighting, verbal abuse, urinating in public. Local PCSO to respond by visiting Mr Lamb and to collect the incident list recorded by Mr Lamb. Partners to look at siting of mobile CCTV camera and to check existing street lighting provision
- Parking at bottom of School Hill, Chapel End. PCSO Hoskins to speak to company concerned

Priorities for next 3 months

The following priorities were agreed:

Parking – Long Street, Atherstone

ASB – Alcohol related crime Atherstone Town Centre

ASB – Tannery Close, Atherstone

Sgt Ron Drake has retired from Warwickshire Police but will continue to work in the local area as the newly appointed Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator – funded by Community Safety Partnership for 12 months from 1 November.

4. Police Authority Representative

Cllr Fox introduced herself as the North Warwickshire lead for the Police Authority.

For details on how the Police Authority is responding to the government's Comprehensive Spending Review visit:

www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk

Views were invited on the role of Special Constables within Warwickshire Police. Currently a considerable number of civilians have volunteered to be trained as warranted officers.

A request was made for the Police Authority to approach the Chief Constable to look again at giving additional powers to PCSOs to issue parking tickets.

5. North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy Fund

S Robson introduced the new Fund which supports local projects to help address the 3 priorities of the new North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy (NWSCS):

- Developing Healthier Communities
- Improving Access to Services
- Raising Aspirations, Educational Attainment & Skills

North Warwickshire Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council have allocated £20,000 to Area Forum East to support projects that have been commissioned by North Warwickshire Community Partnership.

8 projects were discussed. Everyone was encouraged to make comments on the individual projects and indicate which of the eight projects they thought were most appropriate for the Forum area.

There was also the opportunity for people to put forward their own project ideas to help address the priorities of NWSCS.

Cllr Davis thanked everyone for their contributions. A report will be presented to councillors which will include the views expressed by the Forum. North Warwickshire Borough Councillors and Warwickshire County Councillors will then vote to allocate the funding on behalf of the Forum.

6. Tell Us Your Issues

None were raised

7. Any Other Business

A Rigby announced an opportunity for local community groups and town / parish councils to apply for up to 2 recycled computers from WCC. Application forms were made available. The closing date for the scheme was 22 October.

Concern was raised over the lack of adequate cover for the post of Dog Warden, NWBC. Angela Coates, Assistant Director Housing, NWBC to respond with an update at the next meeting.

Rubbish bins continue to be a problem, particularly at the back of residential properties. Commercial waste bins are also being left unattended. Cllr Shaw to pass on further details.

Mancetter Parish Council requested that all local councils are consulted on the future dates of Area Forums to avoid clashes of meeting dates.

8. Suggestions for item / themes for the next meeting

None were raised

9. Date of Next Meeting

11 January 2011 at Mancetter Memorial Hall