

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM EAST

13 October 2009

The Area Forum East met at 6.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Hartshill

Present: Councillor Martin Davis in the Chair

Borough Councillors: T Wykes, K Johnston, A Forwood, N Dirveiks, L Freer
County / Borough Councillor: C Fox

In Attendance: S Robson, A Rigby, K Johnson, K Wilding, C Jones, H Earp, R Drudge, M Gibbins - Warwickshire CC
A McLauchlan, C Bridges, D Baxendale, L Somers, – North Warwickshire BC
Cl Belcher, Sgt Albrighton, PCSO Hoskin, Wyndek – Warwickshire Police
Andy Bates - Warwickshire Fire Service

S Healy, C Ealing, M Horner, J Marshall, T Hopkins, J Randle, G Roberts, D Clews, R Jarvis

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from L Dirveiks, Sgt R Fildes, J Arrowsmith, B Hampson

2. Minutes of the meeting held of the Forum held on 28 July 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record

3. Matters Arising

Flexibus serving Priory Walk, Mancetter will have an additional service on a Tuesday.

Security fencing around St Georges Play Area has been installed. Mobile CCTV camera has been installed on Royal Meadow Drive

4. Safer Neighbourhoods

Glen Belcher is Acting Chief Inspector for North Warwickshire over the next 6 months.

Sgt Albrighton presented an update on police activity over the last 3 months and recorded crime statistics. The key message is that crime, including incidences of anti-social behaviour is falling across the borough.

Sgt Albrighton also gave a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken on the Area Forum priorities chosen at the last meeting:

ASB - Royal Meadow Dr Play Area, Atherstone

No problems generally although two complaints were made about people drinking. CCTV and lighting has been installed. North Warwickshire Borough Council's Community Development Team attend on Thursday evenings

ASB - Snow Hill Rec, Hartshill

No problems generally although one incident was reported. Hartshill Fair went well and shows what can be done when parish council, police, fair organisers etc plan the event together. North Warwickshire Borough Council's Community Development Team attend the rec regularly with an excellent response from young people, including a litter pick in local woods.

Lights have now been installed on the rec.

Motorcycle nuisance – Canal & Golf Course, Atherstone

18 calls were received with 38 patrols undertaken. Leaflets have been distributed locally raising awareness of the problem. A multi-agency meeting will look to agree a way forward.

C Bridges gave an update on the work undertaken by Borough Officers to deliver diversionary activities to young people in North Warwickshire and highlighted a range of successful projects.

C Bridges also advised on the increase in thefts of car number plates across the Borough. Free anti-vandal screws are available through local Neighbourhood Watch Groups.

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.

In response to a question on local policing, PC J Cox has swapped areas with PC P Painter.

C Bridges and NWBC Community Development Team were praised for their impact in engaging with young people. The Team is also increasingly supported by the Youth Service, WCC through the Hartshill Youth Project and Rural Youth Bus and worker.

It was agreed to keep the same Area Forum priorities:

Anti-Social Behaviour: Snow Hill Recreation, Hartshill

Anti-Social Behaviour: Royal Meadow Drive Play Area, Atherstone

Motorcycle nuisance: Canal & Golf course, Atherstone

5. Public Questions and Parish Issues

None

6. Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service Consultation – Simon Robson (WCC)

S Robson, (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.

The consultation in Atherstone had already taken place on 28 September. The Forum thought the event had been poorly advertised with a lack of opportunity to participate meaningfully in the consultation process. S Robson agreed to report this back to the Fire Service.

Copies of the consultation document were available at the meeting. Alternatively full details can be viewed on-line at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue. The closing date for submissions is 8 December 2009.

7. Role of Dog Warden – David Baxendale, NWBC

D Baxendale presented the report attached to the agenda. Leighton Somers, Dog Warden introduced himself.

A copy of the report can be viewed on the Council's website www.northwarks.gov.uk via the link for meetings and minutes.

In response to questions most dogs are re-homed through dogs homes. David to investigate putting a link on the Borough's website to dogs home website. Rewarding dog owners for picking up after their dog sets a good example to others and also provides some free publicity for the Borough Council.

8. Funding in North Warwickshire

C Bridges, NWBC informed of one application for funding and it was

Resolved:

That the following grant be awarded

- **Atherstone Theatre Workshop - £1350**

A Rigby, WCC informed of three funding schemes from Warwickshire County Council:

- Community Computers - 25 recycled computers available to community groups in North Warwickshire. This scheme will be launched shortly by North Warwickshire CAVA
- 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 to be considered by North Warwickshire Area Committee in January 2010
- Small Grants Fund – up to £500 available to new community groups and projects in North Warwickshire

9. Area Pledge update – Simon Robson

S Robson shared the draft Pledge with the Forum, which is supported by North Warwickshire Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council. The Forum was asked to comment on the draft Pledge to 'Improving activities for teenagers'.

Any one wanting to highlight a need or issue around teenager activities can fill out and return the appropriate section on the draft Pledge or alternatively send an e-mail to:

alistairrigby@warwickshire.gov.uk

The Community Development Fund, WCC can be used by community groups to help deliver the Pledge and improve activities for teenagers.

In response to questions about the use of tennis courts at QE School and Hartshill School, Extended Services Cluster Co-ordinators, WCC will be asked to find out the availability to the wider community.

In response to a request for more information, a list of sports facilities available to teenagers in the Forum area will be put together.

10. Future Agenda Items

The Forum agreed to pilot a young people's section on the agenda at a forthcoming meeting

11. Any Other Business

Volunteer Centre North Warwickshire highlighted some forthcoming events.

Youth Service, WCC provided a resume of local activity

Hartshill Hayes Country Park – Concern was raised about the future because of the retirement of the Ranger and the buildings have come to the end of their useful life. The Forum was informed that a report on Country Parks is to go to the County Council's North Warwickshire Area Committee on 25 November.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 14 January 2010