

# MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM EAST

28 July 2009

The Area Forum East met at 6.30pm at North Warwickshire Borough Council, Atherstone.

**Present:** Councillor Carol Fox in the Chair

Borough Councillors: A Forwood, D Pickard, L Freer,  
T Wykes, Martin Davis, K Johnston & County Councillor M Shaw

**In Attendance:** S Robson, A Rigby, C Carr - Warwickshire CC  
S Garner & C Bridges, M Dittman, D Barratt, A Wilson – North Warwickshire BC  
Deputy Borough Commander Belcher, Sgt Fildes, PCSO Mander, Smith – Warwickshire Police  
Andy Bates - Warwickshire Fire Service

A Mather, M New, C Jarin, J Randle, J Marshall, R Jarvis, D Atkin, R Gadsby, K Johnson, J Foster, P Oldman, J Arrowsmith, J Vero, D Everett, C Guft, H Leaiz, M & L Jarvis, R Chambers, D Key, G Collett, K Harper and 7 more members of public

## 1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, G Roberts, S Healey

## 2. Minutes of the meeting held of the Forum held on 21 April 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record. With the following inclusion to be made in response to Cllr Johnson's question around the length of time it took to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in The Woodlands, Hartshill:-

Page 3, Item 5 – 'Sgt Fildes acknowledged that it took a long time for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to be set up'.

## 3. Matters Arising

Cllr Fox to chair next meeting of De Mulders liaison committee in November.

**St Georges Play Area** - A Wilson reported back that security fencing would be installed by August.

**Royal Meadow Drive** – A Wilson reported back that the play area is now complete. The Contractor would be installing lighting cable to the site this week. CCTV to be set up and operational soon afterwards.

**Atherstone Rail Services** – There is a display on Long Street in vacant shop premises at the front of the Arcade showing the new train timetable and station information / history. There has been good local reaction to the display put together by Cllr L Dirveiks. It was agreed that the train service could be raised at future Area Forum meetings. D Atkin informed that Atherstone & District Rail Users Group (ADRUG) met on 2 July to discuss the promotion of Atherstone Rail Station. Minutes of the meeting are available on request. Contact D Atkin Tel. 01827 718310 Email [pamanddaveatkin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pamanddaveatkin@tiscali.co.uk)

**Priory Walk, Mancetter** – Cllr Fox updated that a local bus service will now stop on Priory Walk every Friday providing a return service to Atherstone. This should help residents who find it difficult to get to the local Post Office because of new boundary fencing on the playing field. It is hoped that this service will be extended to a second day of the week in the near future.

**Area Forum Fund** – There is £2928 left in the pot. Deadline for applications is 1<sup>st</sup> August. Please speak to Jaki Douglas, NWBC tel. 01827 719492

**Area Pledge** – S Robson underlined the Area Pledge as a commitment by the public agencies to work more closely with the local community on locally important issues that bring benefit to residents and the local area. In April it was agreed that a draft Pledge would focus on addressing activities for teenagers. Partners (NWBC, WCC, Voluntary sector etc) are currently gathering information on local service provision and drawing up a draft Pledge to develop in consultation with the Area Forum.

#### 4. Local Development Framework, Core Strategy – Issues & Options

Local Development Framework (LDF) is a new plan being prepared by the Council to guide future planning development to 2026.

Key issues have been identified which NWBC believe need to be addressed for planning the future of the borough over the next 15 years. The LDF proposes several different ways, or Options, of dealing with these issues. The Consultation will provide the opportunity for local residents to decide which Option would work best and whether the right issues and options have been identified.

The full document can be viewed on NWBC website [www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk).

M Dittman informed on the current consultation by NWBC to gain residents' opinion on the five Options for housing development and retail / commercial development in the borough.

The first stage in the preparation of the Core Strategy is the Issues and Options Consultation, which identifies the issues to be included in the Core Strategy and what the strategic planning options could be. All Parish Councils have been sent copies of the full document and been invited to comment. The closing date for comments is 6 August.

In response to questions M Dittman replied that North Warwickshire is not required to accommodate the housing needs of Coventry City Council although it is expected to respond positively to Tamworth Borough Council housing needs. The preferred option of the Regional Spatial Strategy of figures set for North Warwickshire of 3000 extra homes and 33 hectares of employment land has not been challenged. The Regional Spatial

Strategy has not identified the borough as a growth area keeping it as a restrained rural development within a north/ south corridor of development.

## **5. Safer Neighbourhoods - Partners And Communities Together (PACT)**

Sgt Fildes presented a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken on the PACT priorities nominated at the last meeting (Anti Social Behaviour – Lister Road, Snow Hill Recreation and the Woodlands, Hartshill and parking – The Woodlands, Hartshill at school times.

Sgt Fildes reported that a minimum of 8 dedicated patrols were assigned to each of the priority locations. Over the last 3 months the number of reports of anti-social behaviour in the area had fallen.

A full copy of the presentation and details of the actions taken are available on the Warwickshire County Council website [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk)

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 to contact Atherstone Town Council about activities planned for Westwood Road Play Area.

In response to a question about priority setting Deputy Borough Commander Belcher made it clear that a Priority is set around a location rather than round an action. By doing this an agreed locality will be prioritised and will receive police attendance from the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team. This is not at the exclusion of other areas or incidents receiving police attendance, but in response to priorities set and agreed by the Area Forum.

Sgt Fildes asked the Forum for the priorities to be taken forward to the PACT panel for this round of Forums. A general discussion took place and it was decided that the priorities to be taken forward from the Area Forum East were:

Anti-Social Behaviour: Snow Hill Recreation, Hartshill

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

Motorcycle nuisance: Barnsley Court, Canal Tow Path, Golf course, Westwood Crescent, Atherstone

The PCSO will investigate the graffiti on west-side of town, Atherstone around Aldi, station etc.

## **6. Public Questions and Parish Issues**

The speed cushions on Witherley Road were discussed briefly, with Cllr Fox taking the lead to resolve the situation.

The decision by Warwickshire County Council Regulatory Committee to support the application of a waste recycling centre at Lower House Farm, Baddesley Ensor was noted. It was requested that A5 traffic flow be monitored to measure the impact of the new waste centre on traffic volume.

Following a discussion on dog fouling it was requested that an update on the role of the Dog Warden be reported back at the next Forum meeting. This item would also be raised at the next Community & Environment Board, NWBC.

## **7.Green Space Strategy Fund**

A Wilson reported that in December 2008 the Borough Council's Executive Board formally adopted the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy and approved, in principle, the supporting Action and Funding Plan.

£10,000 has now been made available to each Area Forum for the implementation of projects that deliver key priorities identified in the Strategy. These projects may be on land within the control of parish and town councils, other organisations or on land owned by the Borough Council. A Wilson advised that the Authority will be writing to each parish/town council and partner organisations to draw their attention to the key priorities in the Strategy for their sub Area, and ask that the relevant Parish Councils to indicate which projects they would like to be taken forward. If their choice is a project on land that they control, they will also be asked to complete an Expression of Interest form 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 will also be considered, provided that applicants clearly demonstrate how their proposal will advance the priorities of the Strategy.

The deadline for the return of this information will be early November 2009, in order to allow the necessary time for local consultations and the preparation of "bid" submissions. The results of the submissions from parishes and partners and any received Expressions of Interest will be reported to each Area Forum at its meeting in January 2010.

A Wilson advised that supporting information can be found on the Borough's website:- [www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk).

## **8. Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

The following representatives were appointed for a period of one year expiring in May 2010.

Atherstone Forum – Cllr Forwood & Cllr Davis  
Hartshill Hayes Country Park Advisory Committee – Cllr Wykes (substitute Cllr Johnston)  
Market Towns Initiative, Atherstone – Cllr Davis & Cllr Forwood  
Rowan Organisation – Cllr Forwood

## **9. Future Agenda Items**

None

## **10. Any Other Business**

A brief discussion and ideas were put forward about improving publicity of the Forum to the public.

The County Council are currently consulting on Local Transport Plan, which will set out the transport strategy for Warwickshire. Forum members were encouraged to complete a Local Transport Plan questionnaire. The aim at this stage of the consultation is to prioritise goals and issues. The deadline date for the consultation has been extended to 31 August 2009

#### **11. Date of Next Meeting**

13 October 2009 at Friends Meeting Room, Hartshill