



# **AREA FORUM SOUTH**

## **Thursday 14<sup>TH</sup> September 2017**

**Fillongley Village Hall  
Coventry Road, Fillongley, CV7 8EQ**

### **AGENDA**

#### **6.30 – 7.00 - Community drop-in and networking session**

Come along from 6.30pm to chat informally or confidentially to representatives from the Borough & County Councils and your local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team.

#### **7.00pm - Main Meeting**

- 1. Welcome from the Chair – Cllr Colin Hayfield**
- 2. Apologies and notes from the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017**
- 3. Review of Area Forum Working**
- 4. Police Update and Agreeing the Priorities for the next 3 months**  
Safer Neighbourhoods Team.
- 5. Questions & Issues from the Parishes - An opportunity for issues of local concern to be raised.**

*To ensure that an answer to a question can be given at the meeting, it should be submitted in advance to Northern Area Team on the contact details below.*

**Date of next Meeting** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017, venue to be confirmed

For general enquiries please contact the Northern Area Team via e-mail on  
[northernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:northernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
Or by phone on 01926 737 767

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## **Area Forum South – Notes**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017**

**Present:-** Councillors Hayfield (Chair), Farrell, Ferro, Ingram, Reilly, Gosling & Simpson  
25 Members of the public, PC Chris Bell & PCSO Craig Marshall, Jo Williams (WCC) & Brian Harley (Big Local Arley)

### **1. Welcome from the Chair**

Cllr C Hayfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies and notes from the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Notes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

### **3. Police Update and agreeing the Priorities for the next 3 months**

Safer Neighbourhoods Team PC Chris Bell & Craig Marshall presented a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken since the last meeting of the Forum.

The following questions were raised:-

Speeding out of Gun Hill to Spring Hill – exceeding 30mph speed limit.

Speeding – Corley Rocks.

Speeding – Tamworth Road, Fillongley to the Old Daw Mill site.

Speeding Church Lane, Fillongley (top end) concerns raised regarding the safety of school children walking along this stretch of road.

Parking issues (School time) – vehicles parking on grass verges, outside the opening to the play area adjacent Arley & St Michaels Community Centre.

Parking outside Coleshill CoE School, causing obstructions, vehicles over taking the School Bus parked along Wingfield Road.

Concerns raised regarding the smoking of illegal drugs between the Coop and the Premier shop in Gun Hill, Arley

Sgt Bell reiterated the need for all incidents to be reported by either calling 101 or via the internet [www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/6615/Online-services](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/6615/Online-services)

**Police to investigate and report back to the next forum meeting**



Following discussion the priorities identified were:-

- Tackling Acquisitive Crime in Coleshill. Including Vehicle thefts, Bicycle thefts and Burglaries.
- School parking improvements/solution for all schools on area.
- A446 Stonebridge Road lay-by – sexual activity in public view.

#### 4. **Big Local, Arley & Ansley – Brian Harley**

Community Development Worker Brian Harley from the Big Local in Arley and Ansley, explained that the three villages of Ansley, New Arley and Old Arley have been awarded £1 million from the Big Lottery fund via Local Trust to spend on local projects over the next ten years, under a scheme known as Big Local.

The funding is up to residents to decide how it's spent. There is one condition; the residents have to decide how it is to be spent for the benefit of the three villages. To get an idea of how the money is to be used, a steering group of local volunteers put together a questionnaire, called 'Who wants to be a Leys Millionaire?' in 2014. We sorted through the results, together with comments from other discussions we have had with residents outside the shops and Arley Primary school and had Feedback meetings in each of the villages in September 2015. The results of this consultation process formed 'The Plan' for our first two years of the ten year project which we submitted to Local Trust in early 2016. You can read the Plan on the 'Our Plan and Profile' via <https://leysmillionaires.com/>

We started running events in 2014 with our first Scarecrow Festival and followed this up with the Lantern Trail just before Christmas 2014. In 2015 we had a Thrift Week event and our first Festival of Flight together with the second Scarecrow Festival and Lantern Trail. In early 2016 we added a village Litter Pick to our events calendar. If you would like more information about the Big Local, please contact Brian Harley [bharley@wcava.org.uk](mailto:bharley@wcava.org.uk) or 07966 380230

#### 6. **Questions & Issues from the Parishes:-**

Maxstoke – Still issues with litter and flyer tipping. NWBC to investigate.

Corley (Mrs Bett – blocked drain, Tamworth Road, Corley, previously reported to Andy Keating, Transport & Economy, County Highways. Jo Williams to contact Andy Keating again and advise the drain is still blocked.

Ansley – OVC Energy Women's Tour – banners promoting the event are still up. Jo Williams to speak to the NWBC Community Development Team.

Arley Sports Centre – land adjacent site, Travellers have embarked on the site, Police have advised that the Borough Council have served formal notices and they have confirmed they will be gone by the end of the weekend.



Fillongley parking issues outside the Post Office on Coventry Road. Jo Williams was handed information and photos of the problem and these will be forwarded onto Graham Stanley, Senior Engineer, Traffic & Road Safety Officer (WCC).

**7. Representation on Outside Bodies**

Existing membership to remain the same.

**8. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 14 September 2017, Fillongley Village Hall, Coventry Road, Coventry, CV7 8EQ.

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Tel. 01926 73 7767

or via e-mail [northernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:northernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**Agenda Item**

**Area Forum South**

**14 September 2017**

## **Review of Area Forum Working**

### **Summary**

The attached report by Steve Maxey, Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, is to be considered by the Council's Executive Board.

Members of the Forum are invited to offer comments on how engagement with local communities might take place in the future.

Comments may be emailed to [democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk)

## **Agenda Item No 12**

### **Executive Board**

**18 September 2017**

#### **Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council**

#### **Review of Area Forum Working**

### **1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report makes recommendations to the Board regarding Area Forums, following the recent debate at full Council and subsequent meeting of the Area Forum Task and Finish Group.

#### **Recommendation to the Council**

- a That the Council consults with the Police, Warwickshire County Council and other interested parties on the current round of Area Forums being the last such meetings; and**
- b That subsequent reports are brought to this Board as part of the Council's review of Communications, including a revised Consultation Strategy in order to ensure that the positive elements of Forums meetings are continued.**

### **2 Report**

- 2.1 Members have debated the effectiveness of Area Forum meetings for some time, most recently at the Council meeting on 28 June. Following that debate, a Task and Finish Group was created and this met on 25 July.
- 2.2 Area Forums were first introduced in the late 90s in North Warwickshire, in partnership with the Police and Warwickshire County Council. Since then they have had a mixed history and it is fair to say that attendance has declined over the years.
- 2.3 Analysis in 2012 indicated that only 19% of those attending Area Forums were not formally attached to the Borough, County or Parish Councils or other agencies. This equated to just short of 6 members of the public per meeting against a population of over 62,000 (0.01%). An exercise in 2010 concluded that about 0.2% of Warwickshire's population attended area forums at that time.
- 2.4 Figures for the September 2015 round of meeting were as follows. For Area Forums North and West, of the 37 attending the two meetings, only 7 were unaffiliated residents. However for Area Forums East and South, 34 of the 62

attendees were minuted as residents. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) attended the Area Forum East meeting which may account for the 14 (out of 32) residents at that meeting, however in June 15 residents also attended (out of 29). Jeff Brown had been to discuss the Daw Mill application at the June and September 2015 South meetings which may have accounted for 20 residents out of 30 at the September meeting and 30 out of 43 in June.

- 2.5 The County Council however do not appear to record Parish Council representatives separately for Area Forum South so these figures do not show how many of the “residents” were affiliated to Town or Parish Councils. It does suggest however that greater attendance happens when issues of great local concern are being discussed, with the PCC and Daw Mill issues. Communications, and people’s willingness to attend formal meetings, have changed enormously since the 90s. A recent review by this Council of the public’s views on communication confirms the unpopularity of general public meetings. As the above figures show, attendance, by and large, at Area Forums consists largely of ‘known’ people.
- 2.6 The Council has looked at Area Forums on a number of occasions over the years. There was a flush of enthusiasm when the County Council worked to introduce them into the rest of Warwickshire as part of its localities work. A number of initiatives have been tried, including having a very short ‘summary’ agenda, where presenters had five minutes or so to set out their main points and then the rest of the meeting was a ‘workshop’ style event when those particularly interested in a topic could speak at more length with that agency. However, that pilot did not have a noticeable impact on attendance.
- 2.7 Leaders’ Liaison reviewed these initiatives last year and it was agreed to recommend to our partners that they be discontinued. However, the County Council then launched its own review in 2016, which reported just before the County elections earlier this year and it was decided to await the outcome of that review. The report has not been published at the date of writing this report but an Officer representative of the County Council was at the Task and Finish Group meeting in July and helpfully outlined County Officer thinking on the subject. In summary, that thinking is very similar to the suggestions made to the Task and Finish Group and in this report.
- 2.8 The Task and Finish Group discussed the matter extensively, reviewing the Forums history, recent experiences and how to better communicate with residents and those active in the community.
- 2.9 In short, and as was suggested at the full Council discussion, it was generally agreed the Area Forums have ‘had their day’. It recognises that there is still a need for planned meetings with those active in communities. In addition, the involvement of residents is not being abandoned, as the general view is that Area Forums do not perform that task and better solutions will be developed, including consultation and engagement, using public meetings as required, on topics of general interest/importance to residents.

- 2.10 However, the overwhelming case is that communications have moved on significantly and continue to change at pace. The Communications Review currently underway acknowledges this and is likely to significantly change the way the Council communicates and consults with communities.
  - 2.11 It is recommended therefore that the Council advises the Police and the County Council that we would like the current round of Area Forums to be the last, use this round to let attendees know and discuss with them how engagement with them might take place in the future
- 3 Report Implications
- 3.1 Safer Communities
- 3.1.1 The current way of working allows dialogue with local people and priorities to be agreed and coordinated through the Area Forums. Whilst attendance levels are fairly low new arrangements would need to be considered to address this issue.

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Maxey (719438).