

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 23 February 2012

The Area Forum South met at Fillongley Village Hall, Fillongley at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor Hayfield in the Chair.

Councillors Barber, Fowler, Fox, Sherratt, Turley, Watkins

In Attendance:

PC Ellen Beaty (Beat Manager) PCSO Jane Owen –
Warwickshire Police

Joanna Rhodes, Martin Gibbins, Andy Stokes, Kevin McGovern –
Warwickshire County Council
Dorothy Hogg George Eliot Hospital Trust

Gordon Etheridge, Barry Cotton – Shustoke Parish Council

John Poole - Shustoke Parish Council Clerk

E Bradford, R Williams – Corley Parish Council

S Osborne, – Corley Parish Council Clerk

Sheena Baird, Gill Guy, Eric Fellowes, Gail Williams– Arley
Parish Council

Bill Richards, - Coleshill Town Council

Sue Taylor, S Martin, Sheila Makin – Fillongley Parish Council

R Hancocks - Over Whitacre Parish Council

Wendy Townsend, Karen Garland – Gun Hill Allotment
Association

and others.

1. Welcome

Cllr Colin Hayfield welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence/ Minutes & You Said We Did

Apologies had been received from Councillors Les Smith, Dominic Ferro, and Brian Martin (Ansley Parish Council)

The minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum South, held on 27 October 2011, copy herewith, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Joanna Rhodes provided an update – You Said We Did concerning progress made in addressing issues raised at the previous meeting of Area Forum South. A copy of the presentation can be viewed on the Councils website www.warwickshire.gov.uk via the link for meetings and minutes online

3. Safer Neighbourhoods Update

PC Ellen Beaty, Warwickshire Police and Robert Beggs, North Warwickshire Borough Council, presented a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken since the last meeting of the Forum. A copy of the summary detailing these actions can be viewed on the Council's website www.warwickshire.gov.uk via the link for meetings and minutes online.

Following discussion the priorities identified were:

- Speed of vehicles at Furnace End Cross Roads particularly on Tuesday evenings and Sundays
- Anti social behaviour Bretts Hall, Ansley Common
- Parking outside Bournebrook School Fillongley

A number of other points were highlighted including issues at Coleshill Cricket Club, whether CCTV cameras could be monitored by Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Watch (it was confirmed that they could not) and the speed of motorbikes on the A446, Coleshill (this would be passed on the respective police unit as it was not an issue the Safer Neighbourhoods Team could address).

4. Police Authority Update

Update given by Peter Fowler, Police Authority representative.

- Police Authority have increased their precept by 3.9% to fund 36 additional police officer posts across the county (13p per week for a band D property).
- Police Authority to be replaced by a Police & Crime Panel. The Panel's primary role is to hold the Commissioner to account.

An issue was raised concerning the closure of police stations. It was noted that the process had been instigated by the then Chief Constable Keith Bristow to maximise resources available at the front line.

5 Public Transport update

Kevin McGovern & Andy Stokes, WCC, gave an update on the reductions made to public transport in Area Forum South. During the discussions a number of points were raised including:

- Difficulties in accessing the George Eliot from Coleshill
- Possibility of a flexibus service to Monwode Lea
- Children having to stand going to school
- Cut to 717 service makes it difficult to get to Birmingham

6 George Eliot Hospital Trust – Securing a Sustainable Future

Dorothy Hogg, George Eliot Hospital Trust, provided an update on the work in hand to secure the future of the George Eliot Hospital. It was confirmed that seven organisations had expressed an interest in forming a strategic alliance with the Trust to establish a Foundation Trust including:

- Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust
- South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust
- Care UK
- Circle
- Serco Group PLC

(One organisation declined to be named)

Further details can be found at www.geh.nhs.uk

A number of issues were discussed including:

- The future of paediatric services are likely to be out to consultation in May by the Arden Cluster
- Aim is to ensure services are sustainable
- Want input into service delivery
- Recognised that car parking can be an issue at certain times
- Support is being provided by the Strategic Health Authority
- Cannot guarantee what will happen to services in the future as yet to be confirmed. Services need to be those purchasers will want.
- Aim is to ensure people get the right treatment, at the right time, at the right place

7 Public Questions and Parish Issues

Gail Williams raised concern at cars being parked on the verge and footpath at Phil Collins Way/Rectory Road. Also for the provision of a footpath adjacent to the site of the new doctors surgery on Bournebrook View.

8. Queens Diamond Jubilee Grants (NWBC)

The report attached to the agenda had been superseded by a decision taken the previous evening at the meeting of North Warwickshire Borough Council meeting. The Area Forum was informed that additional resources of £20,000 had been agreed to fund local groups and organisations who wanted to run celebratory events. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting is 28 June 2012 - venue to be confirmed.