

# Area Forum South

21 October 2010

The Area Forum South will meet at Arley & St Michaels Community Centre, Gun Hill, New Arley, CV7 8HA

Report available in large print if requested.

For general enquiries please contact Jo Roberts, Warwickshire County Council on 01827 719317 or <mailto:joroberts@warwickshire.gov.uk>

For enquiries about specific reports, please contact the officer named in the report.

## 6.30 – 7.00pm - Police Surgery

Call in if you have specific concerns that you would like to discuss with your local Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team.

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence.**
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010, copy herewith, to be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.**
3. **Matters Arising**

**4. Safer Neighbourhoods Update** Sergeant Shaun Albrighton (Warwickshire Police)

Up to half an hour is available for this item. This will include feedback on actions undertaken since the last meeting and any other updates, details of current Community Safety issues identified within the Forum area and an opportunity for individual members of the public to raise any further concerns, advice on how these issues will be taken forward, and details of communications/publicity planned on Community Safety issues.

Community Safety concerns can be raised verbally or in writing at the meeting, or submitted in advance to Jo Roberts on 01827 719317 or via email to [jroberts@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jroberts@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**5. Police Authority Representative, Cllr Peter Fowler**

**6. North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy Fund, Joanna Rhodes (WCC)**

**7. Area Forum Fund, Jaki Douglas (NWBC)**

**8. Public Questions & Parish Issues**

Up to half an hour is available for members of the public to ask questions. Individual members of the public can speak for up to three minutes. To ensure that an answer to a question can be given at the meeting, details of it must be submitted to Jo Roberts or via email to [jroberts@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jroberts@warwickshire.gov.uk). Otherwise, please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting and ensure that Jo Roberts has notice on the matter on which you wish to speak.

**9. Any Other Business**

**10. Future Meeting Dates**

Please note the dates for the future meetings of Area Forum South are as follows;

Thursday 20 January 2011  
Tuesday 19 April 2011  
Tuesday 12 July 2011  
Thursday 27 October 2011

**MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM SOUTH**

**Tuesday 13 July 2010**

The Area Forum South met at Coleshill Town Hall, Coleshill at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Councillor Sherratt in the Chair.

Councillors Fowler, Fox, Gordon, Hayfield and Smith.

**In Attendance:** Cheryl Bridges, Jaki Douglas, Alethea Wilson – North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Joanne Rhodes, Mark Davey & Martin Gibbins – Warwickshire County Council  
Sgt Ron Drake, PC Andy Hopkins, PC Ellen Beaty PC Paul Vaughton, PCSO Jane Owen, PCSO Hayley Waller – Warwickshire Police  
Andy Bates – Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service  
J Poole – Shustoke & Maxstoke Parish Council Clerk  
P Gray, B Cotton – Shustoke Parish Council  
J McDonald – Corley Parish Council  
B Martin – Ansley Parish Council  
J Upton – Coleshill Town Council

David Simkin, John Burgess, Jillian Wall, John Wall - Public

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Sandy Osbourne (Corley)

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum South, held on 27 April 2010, copy herewith, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising**

Martin Gibbins confirmed that the issue of the Sustainable Community Strategy will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **4. Safer Neighbourhoods Update**

Sergeant Ron Drake, Warwickshire Police and Cheryl Bridges, North Warwickshire Borough Council, presented a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken to address the three priorities nominated by the Forum at its last meeting. A copy of the summary detailing these actions can be viewed on the Council's website [www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk) via the link for meetings and minutes online.

It was confirmed that the travellers on the land at Highfield Lane were responsible for paying utility costs they incurred.

Issues raised included:

- Community Speed Watch in particular the need for checks to be undertaken prior to an individual being able to participate in speed watch.
- Fly tipping, particularly of car tyres and the role of garages in disposing of them. It was subsequently confirmed that to dispose of old or unwanted tyres, contact a local tyre retailer who may be able to arrange collection and disposal for a small fee. Also contact <http://www.tyrecorecovery.org.uk> for more information.
- Removal of fly tipped waste on private land. It was confirmed that removal was the responsibility of the land owner. Removal of fly tipped material on public land was the responsibility of the Borough Council

Following a brief discussion no priorities were identified to be taken forward from Area Forum South.

#### **5. Public Questions & Parish Issues**

A number of road signs were identified as not working properly including those at the Griffin Inn at Church End.

An issue was highlighted concerning pupils getting off the school bus from Chelmsley Wood at Coleshill School and stopping traffic until all had crossed the road. It was confirmed by Cllr Fowler that the issue was already in hand.

Further issues were raised including the possibility of a crossing patrol warden, a pedestrian crossing or a 20 m.p.h. speed limit near to Coleshill School.

## 6. LEADER Update

Jaki Douglas provided an update on the progress being made by the LEADER Project. The Forum was also advised that a representative from the area covered by the Forum was required to serve on the Local Action Group executive. The person would ideally be someone active in the local community. Nomination forms were available for anyone interested in becoming the representative for the area.

## 7. Playing Pitch Strategy

Alethea Wilson introduced the draft Playing Pitch Strategy commissioned by the Borough Council. The Forum was advised about the process followed in developing the Strategy and the key elements to guide future developments through the Action Plan. A copy of the Playing Pitch Strategy for Area Forum South is available at [www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk).

In response to questions Alethea indicated that the medium term was over the next 2-4 years. With regard to specific sites such as improvements to Shustoke playing field this would be subject to discussion between the Borough Council and the Parish Council who own the site.

## 8. Representation on Outside Bodies.

The Area Forum considered a report seeking recommendations for appointments to the outside bodies It was agreed that:

**Coleshill Grammar School Endowment Foundation** – Councillor Sherratt and Dr Andrew Watkins

**Market Towns Initiative, Coleshill** – Councillors Gordon and Fowler.

Following a question from Jane McDonald it was also agreed that the representatives would provide feedback to the Area Forum on what the outside bodies are doing.

## 9. Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 21 October 2010  
Arley Community Centre

## **Area Forum Sustainable Community Strategy Fund**

### **Background:**

North Warwickshire Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council have jointly established a fund of £20,000 for Area Forum South to identify projects that address issues within one of the three themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy:

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

The Fund operates in a different way to other existing funds as it has been established to commission projects and is not a Fund that groups and organisations make applications for. The Borough Council provides funding, through the Area Forum Fund, for groups to apply to and the County Council has the Community Development Fund for the same purpose.

The projects commissioned by the Area Forum Fund should be those that will address aspects of the three Sustainable Community Strategy priorities at the local level. Some projects might be focussed on a particular community because of the local issues and needs, others might be projects that operate across the whole Forum area.

### **Key Issues for Area Forum South**

As indicated the Sustainable Community Strategy has identified three priorities to be addressed. The priorities were identified based on the evidence available which clearly indicated that these were important issues for the Borough.

There is also a considerable amount of evidence available that indicates how well the Forum area is performing against the three priorities contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Amongst the key issues for Area Forum South are:

#### **Education**

- 31% of people have no qualification (27% in Warwickshire)
- 16% have an NVQ level 4 qualification (20% in Warwickshire)
- High level of NEETs
- Lower level of achievement at secondary school compared to the County as a whole

**Health**

- Ageing population
- Obesity in children & adults
- Higher proportion of people with “limiting long term illness” and “not in good health”

**Access**

- Public Transport is limited
- Access to services is more difficult in rural areas
- Access to IT is limited for some households
- Loss of local services

Further information will be provided for the Forum that highlights in greater detail the evidence available about Area Forum South. The intention is for the Forum to have an informed discussion about potential projects that can help address the priorities and the particular issues prevalent in this Forum area.

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Area Forum Fund

**Recommendation**

That the three eligible applications to the Area Forum Fund be given consideration by members as indicated in the report.

**1. Summary**

1.1 This report summarises the Area Forum Funds eligibility criteria and informs members of available funds and applications received.

**2. Area Forum Fund**

2.1 The Area Forum Fund was established following a report to the Executive Board in July 2003, which recommended setting up the Fund to support projects of importance to each local Forum area.

2.2 A total sum of £35,000 has been allocated to the Area Forum Fund, this figure being based on a formula of £1,000 per ward member. Following the May 2008 Forum boundary changes, this method of allocation results in each Forum having the following sums available for local disbursement: Area Forum North £10,000; Area Forum South £9,000; Area Forum East £8,000 and Area Forum West £8,000.

2.3 Officers were instructed to establish a system for administering the Area Forum Fund, according to the guidelines established by the Executive Board. Application Arrangements were developed along with an Application Form.

2.4 Organisations invited to apply to the Fund include parish/town councils and any formally constituted community group with its own bank account. Applicant organisations, however, must be able to satisfy each of three main eligibility conditions:

1. Bids must be signed by a Borough councillor to indicate his/her support for the project.
2. Bids should be for one-off projects that provide lasting benefit to the community.
3. Projects will only be eligible for support from one source of Borough Council funding, of which the Area Forum Fund is one. Organisations will be signposted to other schemes of assistance if a more appropriate source of funding can be identified.



2.6 The Area Forum Fund was developed to support projects that address issues of importance to local communities. Accordingly, projects that satisfy the above eligibility conditions must also be able to identify a link to at least one of the three priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy that have been established by the community of North Warwickshire. Particular consideration will also be given to projects that promote social inclusion.

2.7 Awards can be made for up to 60% of the total annual fund available to the relevant Forum, resulting in maximum possible awards of £6,000 for Area Forum North, £5,400 for Area Forum South, £4,800 for Area Forums East and West. Community organisations must be able to provide at least 30% match funding for the project for which a grant is sought. Parish/town councils must provide at least 50%. This match funding can include in-kind support.

### **3 Area Forum Fund Applications**

3.1 The 2010/11 budget for Area Forum South is £9,000. At the April round of Forum meetings three awards totalling £3,220 were made resulting in a sum of 5,780 being available for the October round of meetings.

3.3 Three eligible applications have been received for consideration at this meeting. The total sum requested from the applicant organisations is £4,130.

### **4 Applications for Consideration**

#### **4.1 Ansley Village Allotment Society**

4.2 Ansley Village Allotment Society provides a community leisure facility in the form of allotment gardens, with plots available for the cultivation of vegetables and fruit. The Society is replacing an old shed on the site with a new high security allotment storage shed constructed from red brick with a green corrugated roof. Planning Permission has been approved for the project.

4.3 The total cost of the project is £9,400. The Society has been awarded funding in the sum of £8,750 from COMMA (the Community Aggregates Fund), is re-using the existing steel and heavy wood doors valued at £150 and has only requested a sum of £500 towards the project from the Area Forum Fund.

#### **4.4 Recommendation to the Forum**

4.5 The project links to the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities of Developing Healthier Communities and Improving Access to Services. It is recommended that members give consideration to awarding the project the requested sum of £500.

#### **5.1 Arley Parish Council**

5.2 Following requests from the general public and two football teams that use the football field at Hill Top in New Arley; Arley Parish Council has submitted a request to install a litter bin at the site. It is hoped that this will reduce the number of complaints regarding litter that relate to this site.

5.3 The total cost of the project is £460. The Parish Council must provide 50% funding towards this project and as such has requested a sum of £230 from the Area Forum

Fund. Additionally, the Parish Council will ensure that the bin is emptied on a regular basis.

#### **5.4 Recommendation to the Forum**

5.5 The project links to the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities of Developing Healthier Communities and Improving Access to Services. It is recommended that members consider awarding the project the requested sum of £230.

#### **6.1 Fillongley Village Hall Committee**

6.2 Fillongley Village Hall Committee manages the operation of a busy village hall. Activities taking place at the hall on a weekly basis include bowling, barn dancing, language and dancing classes, in addition to these activities the hall is used by a local history group and the Carbon Reduction Club and hosts other events such as parties and quiz nights.

6.3 The Hall has been experiencing problems with flooding due to an existing soak-away that fails to clear. When conditions are particularly bad this causes water to enter through airbricks. This problem is threatening the sustainability of the hall activities. The Committee has had surveys undertaken and is requesting funding towards the installation of a land drain.

6.4 The total cost of the project is £4,860. The Committee is going to provide £1,460 towards the project from its own funds, leaving a sum of £3,400 being requested from the Area Forum Fund.

#### **6.5 Recommendation to the Forum**

6.6 The project links to the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities of Developing Healthier Communities and Improving Access to Services. It is recommended that members consider awarding the project the requested sum of £3,400.

### **7 Area Forum Fund – Financial Implications**

7.1 If the Forum grants the requests in the sum indicated in the report, it will have £1,650 to add to 2011/12 budget. The next deadline for the submission of applications to the Area Forum Fund is 1 February 2011.