

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 21 October 2010

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

Present: Councillor Hayfield in the Chair.

Councillors Fowler, Gordon, Sherratt,

In Attendance: Cheryl Bridges, Jaki Douglas, – North Warwickshire Borough Council
Joanne Rhodes, Mark Davey & Martin Gibbins – Warwickshire County Council
Sgt Sean Albrighton, Inspector Mike Smith & PCSO – Warwickshire Police
Andy Bates – Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
J Poole – Shustoke & Maxstoke Parish Council Clerk
R Thomas, B Cotton – Shustoke Parish Council
J McDonald – Corley Parish Council
B Martin, Katrina Sansome – Ansley Parish Council
Paul Reader – Arley Parish Council
Alison Perkins – Astley Parish Council
David White - reVolve

Laraine Jones, Tony Austin, Maxstoke residents
Jack Stuart, Bena Stuart, Coleshill residents

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Fox, Smith, Bowden, Zgraja, Stanley Osbourne (Corley)

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum South, held on 13 July 2010 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

Road signs at Church End had been inspected and were working correctly. It was highlighted that they were still not working properly. This would be followed up with the County Council team responsible for the signs.

4. Safer Neighbourhoods Update

Sergeant Sean Albrighton, Warwickshire Police and Cheryl Bridges, 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.northwarks.gov.uk via the link for meetings and minutes online.

The Forum was informed that Sergeant Ron Drake had retired and taken up the role of anti social behaviour co-ordinator. The Forum wished Ron well and thanked him for all the good works undertaken over the years in North Warwickshire.

Inspector Mike Smith introduced himself and indicated that he was taking over from Alan Bamford.

The three priorities identified were:

Alcohol related violence on High Street, Coleshill on Friday & Saturday nights

Anti social behaviour in the vicinity of the allotments in Ansley Common

Speeding on Gun Hill adjacent to the school in the evening & weekend. Following confirmation that speed checks are not conducted after dark it was agreed that speeding in the afternoon would be checked. The potential for local residents to become involved in community speedwatch to assist in addressing the issue would be followed up.

Other issues raised included:

- Parking problems in Shustoke caused by parents collecting children from the school. Cllr Fowler agreed to follow this up when visiting the school in the near future.
- Missing/theft of drain covers in the Corley area.
- Drivers not obeying the no right turn out of Church Hill, Coleshill

5 Police Authority Representative

Cllr Fowler introduced himself as the Area forum South lead for the Police Authority. A number of issues were highlighted including how the Police Authority is responding to the government's Comprehensive Spending Review. Details are available on the Police Authority website:

www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk

6 Sustainable Community Strategy Fund

Joanna Rhodes introduced the new Fund which supports local projects to help address the 3 priorities of the new North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy (NWSCS):

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

North Warwickshire Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council have allocated £20,000 to Area Forum South to support projects that address the NWSCS priorities.

A number of projects were discussed. Everyone was encouraged to make comments on the individual projects and indicate which of the projects they thought were most appropriate for the Forum area.

There was also the opportunity for people to put forward their own project ideas to help address the priorities of NWSCS.

Cllr Hayfield thanked everyone for their contributions. A report will be presented to councillors which will include the views expressed by the Forum. North Warwickshire Borough Councillors and Warwickshire County Councillors will decide on the projects to be funded.

7 Area Forum Fund

Jaki Douglas introduced the item.

Ansley Village Allotment Society

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. 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.

Arley Parish Council

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. The total cost of the project is £460 and the Parish Council has requested a sum of £230 from the Area Forum Fund.

Fillongley Village Hall Committee

Fillongley Village Hall Committee manages the operation of a busy village hall. 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. The Committee has requested a grant of £4305 from the Area Forum Fund.

The following project proposals were agreed:

Ansley Village Allotment Society - £500

Arley Parish Council - £230

Fillongley Village Hall Committee - £4305

8 Public Questions & Parish Issues

A number of local issues were highlighted including:

Arley – some local concern and uncertainty about the proposed merger of Gun Hill and Herbert Fowler schools, particularly as a new school will not be constructed for time.

Ansley – The progress being made in implementation the traffic calming scheme in the village. Concern was also raised at the amount of dog fouling in the village. Richard Dobbs indicated that the Borough Council was looking at using other officers within the Borough Council who had enforcement powers to supplement the work of the dog warden.

Ansley Village – Concern was expressed at the number of large goods vehicles now travelling through the village and it was requested that this be followed up to see what action can be taken.

Church End - Signs at Griffin Inn at Church End were still not working properly.

Emergency Road repairs – When a pot hole is reported and subsequently repaired can the repair crew look at other pot holes in the vicinity or are they limited to the pot hole reported for repair.

A446 Vehicle Survey – What are the results of the survey recently undertaken.

LEADER - It was agreed that an update on LEADER would be included in the minutes: The update is as follows:

North Warwickshire – LEADER update

The LEADER Executive Group has made its first grant award to the Landmark Trust for £25,000 which is going to create three circular walks around the Astley Castle Estate.

Four other bids were deferred and are due to come back to the Executive Group for further consideration in the next few weeks.

The funding is being very tightly managed by Advantage West Midlands. It is anticipated that the level of funding available for projects in North Warwickshire may be reduced following the Comprehensive Spending Review. Further information should be available in early November.

Future Meeting Dates

20 January 2011 – Corley Village Hall