

Area Forum South

Thursday 28 January 2010

The Area Forum South will meet at Arley Community Centre, Gun Hill, 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 22 October 2009, copy herewith, to be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters Arising

4. Safer Neighbourhoods Update Sergeant Ron Drake (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 joroberts@warwickshire.gov.uk

5. 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 joroberts@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.

6. University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire - Foundation Trust proposal

7. Warwickshire LINK – role of the LINK and how they can work with local people to take forward issues of concern that relate to health and social care.

8. Green Space Strategy Fund

9. Any Other Business

10. Future Meeting Dates

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

Tuesday 27 April 2010

Tuesday 13 July 2010

Thursday 21 October 2010

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM SOUTH

22 October 2009

The Area Forum South met at 7.00pm at The Coleshill School

Present: Council Sherratt in the Chair

Borough & County Councillors: Fowler, Gordon, Fox; Zgraja

In attendance: A Rigby, C Fossey, J Rhodes (WCC), R Beggs, J Douglas, S Maxey, (NWBC) Sgt Drake, PC Hopkins, PC Vaughton, PCSO Staten, PCSO Waller CI Belcher, Insp Davies (Warwickshire Police), J Andrews (Over Whitacre PC); B Coton E H, J Poole (Shustoke PC); B Martin (Ansley PC) S Wallace, J Upton (Coleshill TC); J Macdonald (Corley PC); D Key, R Parker (NWCAVA);, L Davies, B Stuart & J Stuart, P Rafferty; G Twigge, P Twigge, D Jones, C McAleenan, B McAleenan, E Mortiboys, I Rees (Members of the Public)

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Hayfield, Fillongley Parish Council

2. Minutes of the meeting held of the Forum held on 14 July 2009

To include Bob Trahern, NWBC as present. The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Local Development Framework update from NWBC: Following the first round of consultation which finished on 6 August it is proposed that a further round of consultation takes place around March 2010 when the draft Core Strategy is due out.

4. Safer Neighbourhoods

Glen Belcher is Acting Chief Inspector for North Warwickshire over the next 6 months.

Sgt Drake presented an update on police activity over the last 3 months and recorded crime statistics. The key message is that crime, including incidences of anti-social behaviour is falling across the borough.

Sgt Drake also gave a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken on the Area Forum priorities chosen at the last meeting:

Parking – Coleshill Town Centre around Tesco (crossing, zig-zags and disable bay)

Anti-social behaviour – Coleshill Town Centre, Birmingham Rd, High Street

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.

In response to questions Sgt Drake replied that 2009 figures for Anti-social behaviour (ASB) were not yet available to the public. Latest figures used were from September 2008. It was pointed out these figures do not provide an up to date picture of police activity.

The accurate reporting of violent crime is a key priority for Warwickshire Police

In response to recent incidences of ASB in Ansley Common the public are encouraged to report each incident. One Acceptable Behavioural Contract (ABC) has been issued and two incidences of fly tipping have also been reported recently.

In response to observations that 'Active Traffic Management' vehicles are parking inappropriately in Coleshill town centre, local PCSO will liaise with company to find out what they are doing and ask them to park more responsibly.

PCSO responsibilities were discussed particularly around issuing parking tickets. Representation from local councils has been made to the Chief Constable in the past to increase powers to PCSOs in Warwickshire. Further representation will be made by Safer Communities portfolio group, NWBC in due course.

It was agreed a letter should be sent from this Forum to the Chief Constable in support of greater powers for PCSOs.

The need for a crossing point on the Coventry Road near The Coleshill School was raised.

The following Area Forum priorities were agreed:

Anti-social behaviour - Ansley Common around allotments

Anti-social behaviour (4x4 vehicles) – Ansley Common around Footpath AE 197

Anti-social behaviour – Coleshill Town Centre around Birmingham Rd / High Street

R Beggs advised on the increase in thefts of car number plates. Free anti-vandal screws are available through local Neighbourhood Watch Teams. An event is planned for 3 November in Coleshill Town Centre to raise awareness of the issue and give out free anti-vandal screws.

M Rowland, WCC Trading Standards Service, gave a presentation on 'Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol'. The presentation outlined the proactive role played by Trading Standards in preventing the illegal sales of alcohol to under 18s. It included their enforcement duties under the Licensing Act; initiatives to educate traders about their legal obligations; offences and penalties for underage sales of alcohol; and partnership working with the Police, to monitor compliance with the law, using young volunteers in targeted, intelligence-led test-purchasing campaigns.

The public are encouraged to report incidents of underage sales to Trading Standards by contacting: www.consumerdirect.gov.uk Tel. 08454 04 05 06

5. Public Questions/Parish Issues

Written question submitted by Clerk, Ansley Parish Council:

There was, until recently, a picnic area owned by the Borough Council on the old railway cutting site up Oldbury Road in the vicinity of Slacks Farm. This area has now been sold by the Borough Council to the owner of Slacks Farm who has bulldozed the lot and flattened the site. The Parish Council feel that it is such a shame that this area of local amenity has been lost, and over 100 saplings have been destroyed which the Borough Council planted themselves some years ago. Why was this done without any consultation with local residents and is it a new policy of the Borough Council to sell off public land to private individuals.?

Reply provided by Warwickshire County Council's Rural Services Team and Asset Management Team:

The land was acquired by WCC in 1960 / 70's as a potential site for tipping waste. Part of the land at Oldbury Cutting was formerly a picnic site managed within the Country Parks portfolio, WCC. However, constant vandalism, burnt out cars and other antisocial behaviour / police involvement resulted in it being decommissioned in 1994.

The site lay dormant whilst alternative uses were sought without success such as: a chipping store for County Highways; a green waste station; a site managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

In 2007/8, WCC Rangers contacted the owner of Slacks Farm when dealing with the public footpath (part of the Centenary Way long distance trail). The owner then expressed an interest in purchasing the Cutting.

The Oldbury Cutting Picnic Area, Hartshill was sold in April 2009 by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to the owners of Slack's Farm, subject to the existing public footpath. The owner purchased the Cutting to help improve security to the property. WCC retained the adjacent chipping store.

Further land sales:

There are no plans to dispose of any Country Parks or Greenways in North Warwickshire.

WCC has a new 'Procedure for Declaring Property Surplus', which requires it to consult with partner agencies, and also Warwickshire CAVA, on behalf of the third sector when we have surplus land or buildings, to see whether they have any interest in purchasing them. This procedure was not in place when the Oldbury Cutting disposal took place.

In response to a question by Coleshill Town Council and Coleshill Civic Society about the planning application made by a supermarket to build in the town the following reply was given. The Planning Board, NWBC supported the application giving outline planning permission. The application will go before Full Council, NWBC for a decision.

In response to a question from Over Whitacre Parish Council, concerned with increased traffic speeds through the parish the following response was given. Road Safety Unit, WCC to contact Parish Council and add site(s) to SpeedAware campaign.

In response to a question from Shustoke Parish Council about parking on double yellow lines (Wilkinson Way) outside the school the following reply was given. PCSO Boulter to assist.

6. Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service Consultation – Joanna Rhodes (WCC)

J Rhodes, (WCC) reported on the County Council's Fire and Rescue Service consultation process currently taking place and encouraged people to attend the public consultation meetings to be held on 27 October 2009 at The Coleshill School and 19 November 2009 at Polesworth.

Copies of the consultation document were available at the meeting. Alternatively full details can be viewed on-line at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue. The closing date for submissions is 8 December 2009.

7. Future of Indoor Leisure Provision in Coleshill – Jaki Douglas (NWBC)

J Douglas fed back on the two public consultations held on 1st July and 26th September. 366 questionnaires have been received from groups and individuals.

All those who have responded agreed that there was a need for leisure provision in the town. 17% thought it should remain at the present site; 35% preferred the Memorial Park; 39% at The Coleshill School.

As part of the consultation all parish councils have been contacted. It is looking unlikely that a swimming pool would be included in the final plan.

A progress report will be discussed by NWBC councillors in due course.

In response to a question about the future of Kingsbury swimming pool, a report will be going to Warwickshire County Council's North Warwickshire Area Committee in either November 2009 or January 2010.

8. Speed Limit Review – Chris Fossey (WCC)

C Fossey gave a presentation on the Speed Limit Review undertaken on all A & B roads in the County by the Road Safety Unit, Warwickshire County Council.

When reviewing a speed limit for a particular road the following issues were considered: speed of vehicles, number of injuries, the road environment, types of vehicles using the road.

Phase 1 of the Review involved 105Km of A & B road network being assessed in North Warwickshire

Phase 2 involved an informal public consultation process

Phase 3 involved a statutory consultation with partners (police, local councils)

Final decision on the Speed Limit Review in North Warwickshire was agreed by Warwickshire County Council's North Warwickshire Area Committee

C Fossey gave a local example: B4114 from Birmingham boundary to Nuneaton

The road was divided into 8 sections.

Two sections had a reduction in speed limit from 60mph to 50mph and one section from 60 mph to 40mph at a cost of approx. £50,000. Two sections required engineering measures - Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) to assist motorists to comply with the new speed limit.

In response to questions. It is too early to say whether the review has had a positive impact on driver behaviour. An evaluation will be undertaken in due course.

No speed limits were increased as part of the review.

C Fossey will follow up the installation of VAS on the section between Furnace End to Ansley Common.

9. Funding in North Warwickshire

J Douglas, NWBC informed of two applications for funding and it was

Resolved:

That the following grants be awarded

- **5th Coleshill Brownies - £760;**
- **The Old Barn Centre, Old Arley - £2840**

A Rigby, WCC informed on three funding schemes from Warwickshire County Council:

- Community Computers - 25 recycled computers available to community groups in North Warwickshire. This scheme will be launched shortly by North Warwickshire CAVA
- Community Development Fund - £36,000 available to local voluntary and community groups in North Warwickshire to benefit local communities. Closing date for applications 4 December 2009. Applications to be considered by North Warwickshire Area Committee in January 2010
- Small Grants Fund – up to £500 available to new community groups and projects in North Warwickshire

10. Area Pledge update – Joanna Rhodes

J Rhodes shared the draft Pledge with the Forum, which is supported by North Warwickshire Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council. The Forum was asked to comment on the draft Pledge to 'Addressing local transport issues'.

Any one wanting to highlight a need or issue around local transport can fill out and return the appropriate section on the draft Pledge or alternatively send an e-mail to: alistairrigby@warwickshire.gov.uk

The Community Development Fund, WCC can be used by community groups to help deliver the Pledge and tackle local transport issues.

11. Future agenda items

None

12. Any other business

None

13. Next Meeting

Thursday, 28 January 2010

Area Forum South

28 January 2010

Green Space Strategy Fund

Recommendation

That the allocation of £10,000 be made available to Fillongley Parish Council for the commissioning and implementation of a management plan for the recreation ground in Fillongley, including improvements to play provision, in accordance with key priorities AP046 and AP047 of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008-2018.

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of consultation on the allocation, through the Area Forum, of funding that has been made available for projects that help to deliver the key priorities of the adopted North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008-2018.

2 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting held in July 2009, the Area Forum South received a report from the Borough Council detailing proposals for consultation on the allocation of £10,000 that has been made available for the implementation of projects that deliver key priorities identified in the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008-2018. The consultation period then ran from 19th August to 7th December 2009.

- 2.2 Through the consultation parish and town councils and other partner organisations (listed at Appendix A) were invited to indicate which of the key priorities identified for their sub-area they would most like to see taken forward – each could indicate a first and second choice. Where their choice was a project on land that they control, they were also asked to complete an Expression of Interest 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 could also be put forward, provided that applicants clearly demonstrated how their proposal would advance the priorities of the Strategy itself.

- 2.3 To be eligible projects should:

- help to deliver the priorities of the Green Space Strategy
- comprise physical improvements to green space, or the preparation of feasibility studies, plans or landscape designs to deliver such improvements
- provide value for money
- be sustainable
- be inclusive

Applicants would not be required to provide match funding but the use of the Green Space Strategy Fund as “match” to lever in other external grant aid would be encouraged, provided the overall project meets these criteria.

2.4 Details of the Green Space Strategy Fund were also placed on the Borough Council's website in order to gain as much feedback as possible.

3 Scoring

3.1 In order to score the parish and partners consultation responses points were allocated as follows:

- 4 points for each first choice "hit" where the project would directly deliver a key priority of the Strategy
- 3 points for each second choice "hit" where the project would directly deliver a key priority of the Strategy
- 2 points for a project that would indirectly contribute to delivery the priorities of the Strategy
- 1 point where the project has secured match funding

4 Consultation Results

4.1 There was a good level of responses in Area Forum South with seven returns for the parish and partners consultation, as summarised below.

		Responding organisation	Points for First Choice	Points for Second Choice	Amount of Funding Requested	Points for Match Funding	Points for Delivery on other GSS priorities	Total Score
Key Priority in Green Space Strategy								
AP001	Management plan for Cole End Park, Coleshill	Coleshill Town Council		3				3
AP002	Management Plan for Memorial Park, Coleshill							0
AP022	Management Plan for Old Arley Recreation Ground	Arley Parish Council	4			1		5
AP023	Management plan for Hill Top Recreation Ground and adjoining land, New Arley							0
AP024	Improved access to countryside in Arley & Whitacre	Shustoke Parish Council / Astley Parish Council		6				6
AP025	Improvements to play facilities at Hill Top in New Arley							0
AP027	Management Plan for Bretts Hall Recreation Ground and Allotments	Ansley Parish Council / Corley Parish Council	4	3		1		8
AP028	Management Plan for Ansley Recreation Ground	Ansley Parish Council		3				3

continues

		Responding organisation	Points for First Choice	Points for Second Choice	Amount of Funding Requested	Points for Match Funding	Points for Delivery on other GSS priorities	Total Score
Key Priority in Green Space Strategy								
AP046	Management Plan for Fillongley Recreation Ground	Fillongley Parish Council		3				3
AP046	Management Plan for Shustoke Recreation Ground							
AP047	Play facilities at Fillongley	Fillongley Parish Council / Astley Parish Council / Corley Parish Council	12		10,000			12
AP047	Play facilities at Shustoke	Shustoke Parish Council			1,140		2	2
New project	Play improvements at Memorial Park	Coleshill Town Council			10,000		2	2
New project	Gun Hill cemetery improvements	Arley Parish Council			10,000	1	0	1

4.2 There were also many responses online, as summarised below.

		First Choice	Second Choice
Key Priority in Green Space Strategy			
AP023	Management Plans for Hill Top Recreation Ground		1
AP025	Play facilities at Hill Top New Arley		3
AP028	Management Plans for Ansley Recreation Ground	1	
AP046	Management plan for Fillongley Recreation Ground	4	25
AP047	Play facilities at Fillongley	43	1
AP047	Play facilities at Shustoke		6

These responses were predominantly, but not exclusively, from residents in Fillongley. To avoid distorting the results the responses were not scored but the high level of support demonstrated for both improvements to play and a management plan

for the recreation ground in Fillongley has been taken into account in putting forward the proposed allocation of the funding.

5 Proposed Allocation of the Funding

- 5.1 Fillongley Parish Council's primary concern is the refurbishment of play facilities but it is also interested in developing a management plan for its recreation ground. Given the degree of support shown for these two related priorities and the level of expenditure that is likely to be necessary to deliver them, officers feel there is a strong case for the full allocation of funding in Area Forum South to be offered to the Parish Council.
- 5.2 In respect of the play facilities the Parish Council has so far been unsuccessful in applications for grant aid, such as through the Landfill Communities Fund. Thinking around the subject of children's play provision has recently undergone significant change. It is now well-understood that children and young people should be at the heart of consultation on the development of new play facilities and that a balance should be sought between providing fixed play equipment and allowing opportunities for more interaction with the natural environment. Officers feel that the approach taken to the project so far may not be in accord with this best practice and that this may be the reason why funding bids have so far been unsuccessful.
- 5.3 The Green Space Strategy identifies a number of sites across the Borough for which the development of management plans is a key priority, as is the case at Fillongley. Such a plan ensures an holistic approach to the enhancement of the particular green space, rather than piecemeal developments, and is a valuable tool in targeting resources and securing external grant aid. Preparation of a management plan should therefore precede proposals for specific projects that deal with discrete elements within the green space, such as the provision of play equipment. The recommendation is therefore that the funding should be used to commission a management plan for the recreation ground that also encompasses proposals for refurbishment of the play facilities, with any surplus being put towards implementation of the plan. Officers will work with the Parish Council to take this forward.
- 5.2 Whilst recognising the level of support, and need, for the preparation of management plans for the Borough Council's sites at Bretts Hall in Ansley Common, Cole End in Coleshill and Old Arley (AP027, AP001 and AP022) it is felt that these can be progressed through other revenue budgets and priority will be given to them when allocating those budgets.
- 5.3 Although improvements to countryside access in Arley & Whitacre (AP024) have received some support no actual proposals have been put forward for implementation at this time. Similarly, although indicating preparation of a management plan for Ansley Recreation Ground, Ansley Parish Council has not submitted a specific expression of interest for the project.
- 5.4 Shustoke Parish Council has selected improvements to play facilities at its recreation ground as its first choice but the expression of interest put forward is solely for the replacement of fencing. Although this could be seen to contribute to delivery of the priority set out in the Green Space Strategy it does not in fact deliver improvements to the play facility in terms of play value, which is the intent of the Strategy, but rather addresses a possible safety issue. Given the change in thinking on children's play provision (5.2 above), which also embraces a move towards allowing more risk in play and away from the traditional approach to perceived safety issues, officers feel that the project proposed by the Parish Council may not be in accord with current best practice and that there is a need to explore in more detail the opportunities for

development at this site. The recommendation is therefore not to fund this specific project but to work with the Parish Council to determine an appropriate way forward and to identify other funding opportunities as necessary.

- 5.5 Similarly Coleshill Town Council has applied for funding for play equipment at Memorial Park, rather than for the preparation of a management plan for the park, which is the priority set out in the Green Space Strategy. The Town Council is seeking £10,000 towards new play equipment, with no proposals for match funding. Officers feel that this relatively small sum is unlikely to deliver a facility of significant play value and, similarly to Shustoke, that the proposed approach to the project may not be in accord with current best practice. The recommendation is therefore again not to fund this specific project but for officers to work with the Town Council to find a way to develop a management plan for the open space. This would include consideration of play provision and should identify other opportunities for funding the enhancement the park.
- 5.6 As its second choice Arley Parish Council has submitted an expression of interest in respect of improvements to Gun Hill Cemetery. Whilst this does qualify as green space the project does not contribute sufficiently to the priorities set out in the Green Space Strategy to merit funding where projects of more direct relevance have been put forward. Officers will, however, help the Parish Council to explore other possible sources of funding for the project.

Appendix A: **Green Space Strategy Fund Area Forum South List of Consultees**

Consultation Specific to Area Forum South

Ansley Parish Council
Arley Parish Council
Astley Parish Council
Coleshill Town Council
Corley Parish Council
Fillongley Parish Council
Great & Little Packington Parish Council
Maxstoke Parish Council
Over Whitacre Parish Council
Shustoke Parish Council

Consultation for All Areas

Environment Theme Group Members:

- Warwickshire County Council
- Warwickshire Rural Community Council
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- RSPB
- Environment Agency
- Atherstone Civic Society

Warwickshire CAVA