

# MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM EAST

**20 April 2010**

The Area Forum East met at 6.30pm at Mancetter Memorial Hall, Mancetter

**Present:** Councillor M Davis in the Chair

County Councillor / Police Authority - C Fox  
Borough Councillors T Wykes, N Dirveiks, , D Pickard, A Forwood,  
L Freer

**In attendance:** S Robson, A Rigby, M Davey - Warwickshire CC  
A McLauchlan, C Bridges – North Warwickshire BC  
Insp Bamford, Sgt Fildes, PCSO Kirven, PCSO Wynder –  
Warwickshire Police  
Andy Bates, Matt Pardoe - Warwickshire Fire Service  
R Jarvis, D Clews, R Chamber – Atherstone TC; B Jayson,  
J Marshall, K Evans, T Hopkins, J Arrowsmith, M Blackburn –  
Mancetter PC; J Randle – Hartshill PC  
H Vero, D Atkin, J McMurdo, K Wood, M Williams

## 1 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from K Johnston, L Dirveiks, S Healy, A Macchi.

## 2 **Minutes and Matters Arising of the meeting held on 14 January 2010**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Leighton Somers, Dog Warden, NWBC is off for the foreseeable future. NWBC are using agency staff to cover the role of dog warden.

A request was made for the Forum to lobby the Chief Constable to consider extending PCSO powers to include anti dog fouling enforcement. It was agreed for Cllr Fox to include this request in her report to Police Authority.

Road Safety Dept, WCC report that there is a 7.5t weight limit on the whole length of Birchley Heath Road and on Ridge Lane.

A preliminary design for a pedestrian crossing outside Costcutter store, Hartshill has been done. Funding for the scheme has yet to be identified.

Cllr Fox in attendance as local County Councillor and representative of Warwickshire Police Authority.

The consultation period for the development of land on the existing site of Atherstone Police Station and the former magistrate courts has been extended to 7 May. It is anticipated that the Police will not be submitting an outline planning application until North Warwickshire Borough Council have made a decision on the options for future of The Council House. Borough Councillors will consider this in the summer 2010.

### 3 Safer Neighbourhoods Update

Sgt Fildes presented an update on police activity over the last 3 months and gave a summary of the progress and actions to address the Area Forum priorities chosen at the 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.

Points raised by Sgt Fildes:

- 46% reduction in anti social behaviour in the Forum area from 2008/09 to 2009/10.
- There were 20 reports of anti social behaviour over the last 3 months to March. 5 of these incidents were of young people playing football.
- Police officers have been trained to deliver 'tag rugby' in schools.
- Police leading on new 'Community Speed Watch' scheme which is running well in Nuneaton and Leamington. Warning letters are sent out by police to speeding motorist.
- Looking into use of CCTV to monitor car parking in Atherstone.

Further action agreed from January's Forum Priorities:

- ASB – St Mary's Rd Play Area, Atherstone. NWBC Community Development Team to run 'Activities 4 U'. Atherstone Town Council to fund lamppost conversion for mobile CCTV
- Parking – Hartshill School. PC Cox to monitor and report back.

A Bates encouraged Town / Parish Councils and residents to undertake Visual Audits to help identify any safety concerns in the community.

- For a form contact A Bates. Email [andybates@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:andybates@warwickshire.gov.uk)

C Bridges gave an update on the work undertaken by Borough Officers to deliver diversionary activities to young people in North Warwickshire.

Points raised by C Bridges:

- The Community Safety Partnership is working to agreed minimum standards. For more details. [www.northwarks.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviour](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviour)
- Solomon Theatre Company are delivering workshops to Yr 9 pupils to raise awareness of the impact of alcohol and drug abuse
- Number plate thefts have gone up. Free anti tamper screws are available from North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch. Contact T Hardman (NHW) [aphardman@aol.com](mailto:aphardman@aol.com)

Other points agreed:

- Cllr Pickard to send photos to Sgt Fildes re: parking on Upper Sheepy estate
- Sgt Fildes to feedback results of incidents involving nuisance motorbikes around Westwood Crescent / canal (Forum Priority July & October 2009)

#### 4 **Setting Forum priorities for next 3 months**

The following priorities were agreed:

Parking – Sandwich factory, Carlyon Rd, Atherstone

Speeding – Harpers Lane / Nuneaton Rd, Mancetter

Anti social behaviour – St Mary's Play Area, Atherstone

#### 5 **Tell us your issues**

A question was raised about the report written for NWBC on public car parking provision in Atherstone and whether this could be made available. A McLauchlan advised that the "ownership" and status of the report would need to be checked before it could be shared. Question also raised concerning should Aldi supermarket be persuaded to increase the time from 90 minutes to 2 hours for customer parking.

#### 6 **Sustainable Community Strategy**

S Robson introduced the new North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy. North Warwickshire Community Partnership has prepared the new strategy which identifies three priorities for the partnership to concentrate on through to 2026.

- Raising aspirations, educational attainment and skills
- Developing healthier communities
- Improving access to services

The partnership is made up of a wide range of organisations including the Borough and County Council, NHS Warwickshire, Warwickshire Police and the community and voluntary sector.

S Robson sought the views of the Forum in identifying local issues under the three priority headings for further discussion.

The following comments were made:

- Those on lower household incomes would be more reliant on accessing services
- Need to promote the role of parents in raising aspirations and educational attainment of children
- Need to improve access to post 16 education locally
- Support for subsidised student passes to centres of education
- Provision of Advice style café for young people to meet. Promotion of Ratcliffe Centre (County Youth Service) and forthcoming Boxing academy planned for Atherstone

- Town and Parish Councils are not acknowledged within the new strategy

## 7 **Funding**

C Bridges asked the Forum to consider three eligible applications to the Borough Council's Area Forum Fund. Borough councillors agreed with the recommendation to award its budget of £9,578 proportionally to all three projects leaving no further funds available for disbursement in October.

### **Resolved:**

- Atherstone Summer in the Square awarded £705
- Atherstone Theatre Workshop awarded £4,705
- Owen Street Community Arts Centre awarded £4,168

A Rigby announced the launch in North Warwickshire of Warwickshire County Council's Community Development Fund. £36,000 is available to community groups, with a maximum request of £4,500. Application deadline is 7 June 2010.

A Rigby announced applicants were welcome to apply to County Council's Equality Budget, which provides up to £5000 to community and voluntary organisations across Warwickshire supporting minority groups, promoting community cohesion, addressing equality issues. Application deadline is 30 April 2010.

## 8 **Any Other Business**

Request for the minutes to identify representatives from each Parish / Town Council present at Forum meetings.

## 9 **Suggestions for items / themes for the next meeting**

High Speed rail link (HS2)  
Nuneaton Chord (rail transport link) proposal  
Volunteer Centre presentation  
Atherstone Police station

## 10 **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday, 27 July 2010