

Area Forum East

Tuesday 13 October 2009

The Area Forum East will meet at the Friends Meeting House, Castle Road, Hartshill, CV10 0SG at 6.30pm.

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.

6.00 – 6.30 pm - 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 28 July 2009, copy herewith, to be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.**
3. **Matters Arising**

4. Safer Neighbourhoods – Partners and Communities Together (PACT) Sergeant Roger Fildes (Warwickshire Police)

Up to half an hour is available for this item. This will include an outline of the purpose and format of PACTs, 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. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Consultation – Simon Robson (WCC)
“How to get involved in the Consultation”**

7. Role of Dog Warden (NWBC)

8. Funding in North Warwickshire – Jaki Douglas (NWBC) & Alistair Rigby (WCC)

9. Area Pledge Updates – Simon Robson (WCC)

10. Future Agenda Items

11. Any Other Business

12. Future Meeting Dates

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

Thursday 14 January 2010
Tuesday 20 April 2010
Tuesday 27 July 2010
Tuesday 12 October 2010.

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM EAST

28 July 2009

The Area Forum East met at 6.30pm at North Warwickshire Borough Council, Atherstone.

Present: Councillor Carol Fox in the Chair

Borough Councillors: A Forwood, D Pickard, L Freer,
T Wykes, Martin Davis, K Johnston & County Councillor M Shaw

In Attendance: S Robson, A Rigby, C Carr - Warwickshire CC
S Garner & C Bridges, M Dittman, D Barratt, A Wilson – North
Warwickshire BC
Deputy Borough Commander Belcher, Sgt Fildes, PCSO Mander, Smith
– Warwickshire Police
Andy Bates - Warwickshire Fire Service

A Mather, M New, C Jarin, J Randle, J Marshall, R Jarvis, D Atkin, R
Gadsby, K Johnson, J Foster, P Oldman, J Arrowsmith, J Vero, D
Everett, C Guft, H Leaiz, M & L Jarvis, R Chambers, D Key, G Collett, K
Harper and 7 more members of public

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, G Roberts, S Healey

2. Minutes of the meeting held of the Forum held on 21 April 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record. With the following inclusion to be made in response to Cllr Johnson's question around the length of time it took to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in The Woodlands, Hartshill:-

Page 3, Item 5 – 'Sgt Fildes acknowledged that it took a long time for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to be set up'.

3. Matters Arising

Cllr Fox to chair next meeting of De Mulders liaison committee in November.

St Georges Play Area - A Wilson reported back that security fencing would be installed by August.

Royal Meadow Drive – A Wilson reported back that the play area is now complete. The Contractor would be installing lighting cable to the site this week. CCTV to be set up and operational soon afterwards.

Atherstone Rail Services – There is a display on Long Street in vacant shop premises at the front of the Arcade showing the new train timetable and station information / history. There has been good local reaction to the display put together by Cllr L Dirveiks. It was agreed that the train service could be raised at future Area Forum meetings. D Atkin informed that Atherstone & District Rail Users Group (ADRUG) met on 2 July to discuss the promotion of Atherstone Rail Station. Minutes of the meeting are available on request.
Contact D Atkin Tel. 01827 718310 Email pamanddaveatkin@tiscali.co.uk

Priory Walk, Mancetter – Cllr Fox updated that a local bus service will now stop on Priory Walk every Friday providing a return service to Atherstone. This should help residents who find it difficult to get to the local Post Office because of new boundary fencing on the playing field. It is hoped that this service will be extended to a second day of the week in the near future.

Area Forum Fund – There is £2928 left in the pot. Deadline for applications is 1st August. Please speak to Jaki Douglas, NWBC tel. 01827 719492

Area Pledge – S Robson underlined the Area Pledge as a commitment by the public agencies to work more closely with the local community on locally important issues that bring benefit to residents and the local area. In April it was agreed that a draft Pledge would focus on addressing activities for teenagers. Partners (NWBC, WCC, Voluntary sector etc) are currently gathering information on local service provision and drawing up a draft Pledge to develop in consultation with the Area Forum.

4. **Local Development Framework, Core Strategy – Issues & Options**

Local Development Framework (LDF) is a new plan being prepared by the Council to guide future planning development to 2026.

Key issues have been identified which NWBC believe need to be addressed for planning the future of the borough over the next 15 years. The LDF proposes several different ways, or Options, of dealing with these issues. The Consultation will provide the opportunity for local residents to decide which Option would work best and whether the right issues and options have been identified.

The full document can be viewed on NWBC website www.northwarks.gov.uk.

M Dittman informed on the current consultation by NWBC to gain residents' opinion on the five Options for housing development and retail / commercial development in the borough.

The first stage in the preparation of the Core Strategy is the Issues and Options Consultation, which identifies the issues to be included in the Core Strategy and what the strategic planning options could be. All Parish Councils have been sent copies of the full document and been invited to comment. The closing date for comments is 6 August.

In response to questions M Dittman replied that North Warwickshire is not required to accommodate the housing needs of Coventry City Council although it is expected to respond positively to Tamworth Borough Council housing needs. The preferred option of the Regional Spatial Strategy of figures set for North Warwickshire of 3000 extra homes and 33 hectares of employment land has not been challenged. The Regional Spatial Strategy has not identified the borough as a growth area keeping it as a restrained rural development within a north/ south corridor of development.

5. Safer Neighbourhoods - Partners And Communities Together (PACT)

Sgt Fildes presented a summary of the progress and actions that had been undertaken on the PACT priorities nominated at the last meeting (Anti Social Behaviour – Lister Road, Snow Hill Recreation and the Woodlands, Hartshill and parking – The Woodlands, Hartshill at school times.

Sgt Fildes reported that a minimum of 8 dedicated patrols were assigned to each of the priority locations. Over the last 3 months the number of reports of anti-social behaviour in the area had fallen.

A full copy of the presentation and details of the actions taken are available on the Warwickshire County Council website www.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 and highlighted a range of successful projects.

C Bridges to contact Atherstone Town Council about activities planned for Westwood Road Play Area.

In response to a question about priority setting Deputy Borough Commander Belcher made it clear that a Priority is set around a location rather than round an action. By doing this an agreed locality will be prioritised and will receive police attendance from the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team. This is not at the exclusion of other areas or incidents receiving police attendance, but in response to priorities set and agreed by the Area Forum.

Sgt Fildes asked the Forum for the priorities to be taken forward to the PACT panel for this round of Forums. A general discussion took place and it was decided that the priorities to be taken forward from the Area Forum East were:

Anti-Social Behaviour: Snow Hill Recreation, Hartshill

Anti-Social Behaviour: Royal Meadow Drive Play Area, Atherstone

Motorcycle nuisance: Barnsley Court, Canal Tow Path, Golf course, Westwood Crescent, Atherstone

The PCSO will investigate the graffiti on west-side of town, Atherstone around Aldi, station etc.

6. Public Questions and Parish Issues

The speed cushions on Witherley Road were discussed briefly, with Cllr Fox taking the lead to resolve the situation.

The decision by Warwickshire County Council Regulatory Committee to support the application of a waste recycling centre at Lower House Farm, Baddesley Ensor was noted. It was requested that A5 traffic flow be monitored to measure the impact of the new waste centre on traffic volume.

Following a discussion on dog fouling it was requested that an update on the role of the Dog Warden be reported back at the next Forum meeting. This item would also be raised at the next Community & Environment Board, NWBC.

7. Green Space Strategy Fund

A Wilson reported that in December 2008 the Borough Council's Executive Board formally adopted the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy and approved, in principle, the supporting Action and Funding Plan.

£10,000 has now been made available to each Area Forum for the implementation of projects that deliver key priorities identified in the Strategy. These projects may be on land within the control of parish and town councils, other organisations or on land owned by the Borough Council. A Wilson advised that the Authority will be writing to each parish/town council and partner organisations to draw their attention to the key priorities in the Strategy for their sub Area, and ask that the relevant Parish Councils to indicate which projects they would like to be taken forward. If their choice is a project on land that they control, they will also be asked to complete an Expression of Interest form 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 will also be considered, provided that applicants clearly demonstrate how their proposal will advance the priorities of the Strategy.

The deadline for the return of this information will be early November 2009, in order to allow the necessary time for local consultations and the preparation of "bid" submissions. The results of the submissions from parishes and partners and any received Expressions of Interest will be reported to each Area Forum at its meeting in January 2010.

A Wilson advised that supporting information can be found on the Borough's website:- www.northwarks.gov.uk.

8. Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies

The following representatives were appointed for a period of one year expiring in May 2010.

Atherstone Forum – Cllr Forwood & Cllr Davis

Hartshill Hayes Country Park Advisory Committee – Cllr Wykes (substitute Cllr Johnston)

Market Towns Initiative, Atherstone – Cllr Davis & Cllr Forwood

Rowan Organisation – Cllr Forwood

9. Future Agenda Items

None

10. Any Other Business

A brief discussion and ideas were put forward about improving publicity of the Forum to the public.

The County Council are currently consulting on Local Transport Plan, which will set out the transport strategy for Warwickshire. Forum members were encouraged to complete a Local Transport Plan questionnaire. The aim at this stage of the consultation is to prioritise goals and issues. The deadline date for the consultation has been extended to 31 August 2009

11. Date of Next Meeting

13 October 2009 at Friends Meeting Room, Hartshill

**Area Forum East
13 October 2009**

Dog Warden – Update

- The Borough Council has provided a dog warden service since it became mandatory in 1991 – the statutory element relates to dealing with stray dogs, **not** dog fouling (Environmental Protection Act 1990 – sections 149 to 151)
- The Council provided this service by contractor up to March 2008, then took the service ‘in house’ and integrated it with pest control so that we now have two ‘animal wardens’, one who principally deals with dogs and the other pests, but who support and cover for each other.
- We have a contract with a local kennels at Camp Hill. So far this year we have dealt with 58 stray dogs *April-August 2009 (110 last year), and issued 14 fines for littering / fouling (42 last year). The recession has seen an increase in dogs abandoned, especially with injuries or medical needs, and a decrease in dogs reclaimed or rehomed, resulting in extra costs and time to deal with them. Reports of dog attacks have also gone up.
- The wardens have powers to seize and accept stray dogs and to issue fixed penalty notices for littering and for not removing dog faeces. They are trained and authorised to ask people’s identity and can ask further questions following the appropriate PACE caution. They can also then act as witnesses if cases proceed to Court. They also enforce the *collar and tag* requirement, and work in partnership with the Police and with other departments and staff. They also remove fly posters and report graffiti, abandoned vehicles and fly tipping.
- The wardens are employed on the standard 148 hours in 4 weeks contract, but their hours are flexible to suit the needs of the job, for example early starts, late finishes, weekend working etc.
- The Borough is divided into ten areas which the warden tries to patrol on a ten day working cycle, subject to having to deal with calls to stray dogs or complaints of fouling or aggressive dogs. Their work is monitored routinely by their supervisor, and each has a detailed monthly case by case review.
- Fines for littering and dog fouling (not scooping the poop) are set at £50-80, the lower figure applies if paid within 1 week of issue – all have to be paid within 2 weeks. We retain those fines to use within the service, and has purchased poop scoops, signage, and is running a promotion campaign called ‘Good Job’.
- We also leaflet streets and areas where we are told there are problems but where there is no specific witness against a particular person.

- The staff also have responsibility to rehome unclaimed stray dogs, to arrange emergency veterinary treatment, and to have some dogs put to sleep.
- Further service information is available via the following web links – including detailed enforcement protocols for dog fouling and stray dogs;
http://www.northwarks.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=284&documentID=110
http://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/enfprot1_1.doc
- Requests for service, suggestions, complaints and compliments can be made via the one-stop-shop (01827 715341), by letter or fax, in person, by Email, (customerservices@northwarks.gov.uk), or via web-form,

David Baxendale, Environmental Health Manager

North Warwickshire Borough Council, Environmental Health (Regulatory) Division
Council House, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 1AB

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Area Forum East – 13 October 2009

Area Forum Fund

Recommendations

That the single eligible application to the Area Forum Fund be granted an award as indicated in the report.

1 Summary

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

2 Area Forum Fund - Background

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.

- 2.5 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 seven key themes of the Sustainable Community Plan, which reflect priorities that have been established by the community of North Warwickshire. Particular consideration will also be given to projects that promote social inclusion.
- 2.6 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 Changes to the Area Forum Fund Application Process

- 3.1 Members are reminded of the following changes to the Area Forum Fund application process:
- a That with effect from the 2006/07 financial year, applications to the Area Forum Fund are considered twice per annum, in the March/April and September/October cycle of meetings, with fixed application deadlines of 1 February and 1 August; and,
 - b That town/parish councils no longer be requested to submit a constitution or its annual accounts in support of any Area Forum Fund application.

4 Area Forum Fund - Applications

- 4.1 The 2009/10 budget for Area Forum East was £8,000. An additional sum of £1, 106 was carried forward from 2008/09, resulting in a total sum of £9,106 being available for disbursement during 2009/10.
- 4.2 Three eligible applications totalling £6,178 were approved in April, leaving a sum of £2,928 for disbursement at this time.
- 4.3 A single eligible application has been received for consideration at this meeting. The total sum requested from the applicant organisations is £1,350.

5 Applications for Consideration

5.1 Atherstone Theatre Workshop

- 5.2 Atherstone Theatre Workshop has submitted an application for assistance with upgrading its lighting dimmers and desk. The upgrade will enable the technical operators to expand the quality of the lighting for performances and enable the younger people to expand their technical knowledge and expertise.

5.3 The total cost of the project is £1,929. The Theatre Workshop is requesting a sum of £1,350 from the Area Forum Fund and the remaining funding will be provided by Atherstone Dramatic Society.

5.4 **Recommendation to the Forum**

5.5 The project links to the Sustainable Community Plan themes of Children, Young People and Their Families, Community Life, Education and lifelong Learning, Environment, Health and Well-being and Safer Communities. It is recommended that the project be awarded the requested sum of £1,350.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 If the Forum grants the requests in the sums indicated in the report, it will have a sum of £1,578 to carry forward to its 2010/11 Area Forum Fund budget. The next deadline for Area Forum Fund applications is 1 February 2010.