

# MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM EAST

11 January 2011

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

**Present:** County Councillor C Fox in the Chair

Police Authority - C Fox

County Councillor M Shaw

Borough Councillors: M Davis, T Wykes, A Forwood, N Dirveiks, L Dirveiks, L Freer

**In Attendance:** S Robson, A Rigby, M Walker, M Davey - Warwickshire CC  
D Barratt, C Bridges, J Taylor - North Warwickshire BC  
Insp Ward, Insp Smith, Sgt Fildes, PCSO Hoskin, Wynder -  
Warwickshire Police  
A Newth – NHS Warwickshire  
D Clews, R Jarvis, G Davis - Atherstone TC; J Randle - Hartshill PC; B  
Hanson, H Blackburn, M Prowse, D Allton, J Arrowsmith – Mancetter PC  
L Hanson, R Hodgkins, R Barrow, D Atkin, A Thomson, K Harper

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from K Johnston, A Macchi, J Randle, A Wright

**2. Minutes and Matters Arising of the meeting held on 12 October 2010**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Andy Newth, Head of Primary Care Finance, NHS Warwickshire introduced himself as a new member of the Forum. A Newth is the NHS Warwickshire representative for Area Forum East and will pick up health related enquiries raised by the Forum.

A Rigby gave an update on the support given by the Youth Service, WCC to help young people connect with the Forum. Young People will set up their own Young People's Forum meeting at The Hartshill School and QE School, Atherstone by the end of February.

The Youth Service is also supporting the yearly election of young people to the UK Youth Parliament. Voting is open to secondary school pupils across the County. The result of the elections will be known on 17 March.

**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.

Comments made:

- Use of marked police cones by local shop in Coleshill Road to deter parking
- Request for restriction on HGVs using Long Street, Atherstone. Cllr Shaw to pass information to Sgt Fildes
- Sat-nav possibly directing traffic on to Witherley Road, Atherstone. Weight restriction signage to be checked and improved if necessary
- Request to Chief Constable to give powers to PCSOs to issue parking tickets

#### **Priorities for next 3 months**

The following priorities were agreed:

Parking – School Hill / Coleshill Road, Hartshill

Parking – The Woodlands, Hartshill at school time

ASB, nuisance motorbikes – The Woodlands, Hartshill

#### **4. Police Authority – Police Model**

Cllr Fox introduced Insp Ward, Warwickshire Police 150plus and Sgt Fildes.

Cllr Fox introduced the Warwickshire Police 150plus Programme that will shape a new policing service in Warwickshire and respond to the Coalition government's Comprehensive Spending Review for the Force to make £22.9m savings over the next 4 years.

The Police Authority has approved the 4 year savings programme and the new policing model which will come into operation on 9 May 2011.

At a local level the 4 Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) will remain. Sgt Fildes will be the Beat Manager. The changes will increase the visibility of all 4 SNT teams with support from the Patrol Team

There will be 3 countywide policing teams:

- 33 Safer Neighbourhood Teams – tackling the problems and the people that cause you harm
- Patrol Team – Visible patrols concentrating on areas most affected by crime & disorder and responding to incidents
- Investigation Team – Investigate incidences and identify those responsible

#### Answers to questions raised on the new Police Model:

There will be an announcement shortly on the future of Atherstone Police Station. A police presence (venue) will remain in Atherstone.

There will be no change in the pro-active role of the Road Policing Unit (RPU) however Police units will be merged: Fire Arms Unit; Dog Unit; RPU.

The new Warwickshire Police Model has been developed in collaboration with neighbouring Forces.

Police Constables should be more visible locally – dealing more with problem solving. They will however be covering larger areas.

Similar back room services have been brought together to reduce duplication and effort. Paperwork should be reduced in favour of active policing eg SNT main role is now problem solving. CID main role is investigation – reducing their administrative responsibilities.

There are three 999 response units operational across County. More detail to be announced shortly.

Where a Force needs to reduce staff numbers the only real option is via Regulation A19 whereby officers with more than 30 years service can be requested to retire. It is almost impossible to lay off police staff in any other way.

The SNT teams remit will be: Problem solving; Community engagement; Use of volunteers and Specials; support to Neighbourhood Watch teams. All helping to address the Big Society Agenda as well improve policing on the streets.

The reduction in number of response teams could have an impact on the use of local knowledge and intelligence when responding to local incidents. However the general protocol will be to return officers to the same areas to maximise use of local knowledge.

The improved level of local policing could mean police attendance at Parish Council meetings in the future.

## **5. Tell Us Your Issues**

K Harper, BeeLine Community Transport highlighted the strength of community support for the service that takes clients to their medical appointments. In response to the Coalition government's Comprehensive Spending Review Warwickshire County Council could withdraw its support to all Community Transport organisations across the county, including BeeLine.

Cllrs Fox and Shaw suggested a meeting with BeeLine to look at the organisation's Business Plan to help meet the challenges ahead.

## **6. High Speed Rail (HS2)**

M Walker, Group Manager - Regeneration Projects, WCC presented saying the HS2 proposal is a scheme supported by the Coalition government and proposed by the previous Labour government. The County Council has recently voted to oppose the plans as have North Warwickshire Borough Council. However the County Council does have a role to play in informing local communities about HS2 and working with HS2 Ltd to ensure the formal consultation process which begins in February is delivered adequately in Warwickshire.

The presentation highlighted the proposed route between London and Birmingham; the national and regional benefits that the scheme could bring and the lack of easily identifiable benefits for Warwickshire. The presentation concluded with the latest timetable to take the plan to Parliament in October 2013.

D Barratt, NWBC gave the view of the Borough Council in opposing the scheme and added that the forthcoming consultation period will give the opportunity to residents to highlight local impact as well as national concerns.

Answers to questions raised on HS2:

Some local benefits could include: the reduction of car journeys passing through the region, freeing up the roads for local traffic and reducing local journey times. Reducing environmental pollution from car emissions.  
Freeing up the West Coast mainline for an improved local train service.

The expansion of the car park at Coleshill Park Way would be part of the consultation process.

Lessons learnt from opposing the M6 Toll Road enquiry include: asking for 'local projects' to benefit the borough for mitigation. Need to also consider the wider implications of increased pressure to build hotels to accommodate the increase in inter-city commuters and also the provision of a local train service using the HS2 route as seen at HS1 between Ashford and Dover, Kent.

**7. North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy Fund**

Cllr Fox introduced the fund. Cllr Pickard questioned the recommendation not to fund North Warwickshire Citizen Advice Bureau (NWCAB) to undertake outreach work in the locality. Assurance was given that officers and councillors were confident that the project would be approved at the other three Area Forum meetings where outreach work was key to NWCAB providing an accessible service across the borough.

Borough Councillors voted to approve the recommendation to give £10,000 to 10 projects providing 50% of the funding for each project.

[On 12 January at North Warwickshire Area Committee, County Councillors also approved the recommendation to give £10,000 to provide the other half of the funding for each project.]

**8. Any Other Business**

None

**9. Suggestions for item / themes for the next meeting**

Health & Wellbeing Agenda

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

14 April 2011