

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM SOUTH

Thursday, 28 June 2012

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

Present: Councillor Hayfield in the Chair.

Councillors, Ferro, Fowler, Fox, Turley, Watkins

In Attendance:

PC Ellen Beaty (Beat Manager) PCSO Jane Owen –
Warwickshire Police
Martin Gibbins – Warwickshire County Council

Gordon Etheridge, Barry Cotton – Shustoke Parish Council
John Poole - Shustoke Parish Council Clerk
E Bradford – Corley Parish Council
Sandy Osborne, – Corley Parish Council Clerk
Gill Guy, Eric Fellowes, Gail Williams– Arley Parish Council
Bill Richards, Barry Gascoigne- Coleshill Town Council

Chris Hopkins, John Mills, Richard Jones, Roger Lea, Jillian Wall,
Beryl Allt, John Barry, Therese Gordon, Jane Jordison -
Residents

and others.

1. Welcome

Cllr Colin Hayfield welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence/ Minutes & You Said We Did

Apologies had been received from Councillors Barber, Smith, Sherratt and Brian Martin (Ansley Parish Council)

The minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum South, held on 23 February 2012, copy herewith, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Martin Gibbins provided an update – You Said We Did concerning progress made in addressing issues raised at the previous meeting of Area Forum South. A copy of the presentation can be viewed on the Councils website www.warwickshire.gov.uk via the link for meetings and minutes online

It was agreed that the County Council be requested to reconsider their decision to relocate a bus stop in Arley closer to a bench.

3. Safer Neighbourhoods Update

PC Ellen Beaty, Warwickshire Police and Robert Beggs, 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.warwickshire.gov.uk via the link for meetings and minutes online.

Following discussion the priorities identified were:

- Anti social behaviour at Bretts Hall Estate
- Speeding at Furnace End Crossroads
- Nuisance motorcycles to the rear of Sycamore Crescent Arley

Other issues highlighted included parking at Temple Way Coleshill, parking on High Street Coleshill, designated Public Places Order.

4. Police Authority Update

Update given by Peter Fowler, Police Authority representative.

Both West Mercia and Warwickshire are very focused on the Strategic Alliance at the moment and the Blueprint document is now in existence.

There are four parties to the agreement, the two Chief Constables and the two Police Authorities, when the Police Authorities are replaced with two Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) (each force area will have its own), then that PCC will replace the Police Authorities in the agreement.

There is a lot of work being done on the transition from Police Authorities to Pac's. Once all candidates are in place, they will all be given the same briefings and documents, so that they are fully aware of the role they need to fulfil.

The election of PCC's will be on 15 November and the Police Authority will cease on 22 November.

Until the changes it is business as usual.

The base for the Coleshill SNT team is likely to be moving in the future to the former Social Services offices in Coleshill though it was confirmed that there will not be any public access.

5 HS2 update

Sara Board, Warwickshire County Council, gave an update on key issues related to HS2. These included the role of the HS2 Community Forums and who is represented on them, impact on Gilson, timetable for documents, delay in consultation for the

proposed blight scheme, identification of the “box” for the line to Leeds being to the east of junction 9 of the M42.

In response to questions Sara confirmed that there are no proposals to build on the “Meriden Gap” should HS2 be developed. Details for the major car park near to the NEC are yet to be confirmed. Traffic counts are currently underway by HS2 in the area to establish baseline data for the traffic impact assessment. A similar assessment is being undertaken by HS2 of rights of way and footpaths.

Sara Board can be contacted via email on saraboard@warwickshire.gov.uk or 01926 412830 or via the website <http://wcchs2.files.wordpress.com>.

6 Morrisons Store update

A number of issues were raised on the development of Morrisons in Coleshill. The development is now in the 3rd week of a 19 week programme. Peter Fowler confirmed that agreement has been reached between the Police and NWBC to enable use of the car park at the police station by the public. The agreement should enable parking by 6 July. The Parkfield Road car park will have restrictions lifted so that the 14 spaces can be used for long term parking.

Peter Fowler confirmed that there had been an oversight re the pedestrian crossing on the Birmingham Road. Peter Fowler confirmed that a new puffin crossing was proposed to be installed in August and that he has requested that it be installed earlier.

In response to an issue concerning employment opportunities with Morrisons it was agreed that this would be followed up to establish what opportunities exist and the timetable for filling the vacancies.

7 Core Strategy

Mike Dittman (NWBC) reported that the public consultation on the Local Development Framework had commenced and ends on 23 August 2012. The LDF comprises a number of documents including the Core Strategy which set out the long term vision for North Warwickshire and the strategic policies required to deliver the vision. A display and copies of the documents were available at the meeting.

Mike explained that this is the last opportunity for individuals to give their thoughts on the Strategy, and urged residents to look at the documents provided and forward any questions they may have to Forward Planning at NWBC (forwardplanning@northwarks.gov.uk).

8. Changes to Children’s Services, George Eliot Hospital

Martin Lee and Teresa French gave a presentation on the proposed changes to children’s services provided at the George Eliot Hospital. A copy of the presentation is available on the County Council website.

In response to questions it was confirmed that the name of the unit currently reflected NHS practice. It was agreed that the name should reflect the service provided in a way that the public would understand. It was also recognised that transport was a significant issue and that people responding to the consultation were encouraged to highlight any concerns they had.

Colin Hayfields interest in the matter as Non-Executive Director – Arden Cluster NHS PCT were noted.

9 Public Questions and Parish Issues

Concern was raised about the impact of changes to street lighting on older people and potential difficulty for the ambulance service in finding houses. It was agreed that this would be passed on to the street lighting team.

Concern was raised about the number of hot food takeaways in Coleshill. It was pointed out that proposals can only be objected to on valid planning reasons not simply because of there being too many. It was highlighted that a neighbourhood plan offers an opportunity to consider this issue though evidence is necessary to support policy. It was confirmed that Coleshill Town Council was going to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

Confirmation was requested concerning the future of Coleshill Police station and whether it had been sold.

Poor state of grass cutting on A446 gives a bad first impression for visitors to the town. It was agreed that this should be followed up with the Highways Agency.

A number of those present indicated that they were not aware of the Area Forum. In response to the suggestion that details were included in NorthTalk it was indicated that they do not receive it. It was agreed that further ways of ensuring information about Area forums should be considered and that issues relating to the distribution of NorthTalk be raised

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10 NWBC update

Area Forum Fund

The Borough Councillors noted the awards made under the two Queen's Diamond Jubilee grant awards schemes.

The Borough Councillors were then asked to consider the eligible application to the Area Forum Fund.

Resolved:

That the application to the Area Forum Fund be awarded as outlined in the report.

Representatives on Outside Bodies

Borough Councillors were asked for nominations for appointments to the outside bodies "local" to the area covered by the Forum. It was agreed that the following should be appointed for a period of one year expiring in May 2013.

Coleshill Grammar School Endowment Foundation – Councillor Watkins and Sherratt

Items for future meetings

Update on the development of Community Hubs

Date of Next Meeting

Date of the next meeting is 4 September 2012 venue to be confirmed.