

MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM SOUTH

Tuesday 12 July 2011

The Area Forum South met at Astley Reading Room, Astley at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor Hayfield in the Chair.

Councillors Fowler, Fox, Smith, Ferro, Watkins, Barber

In Attendance: Robert Beggs – North Warwickshire Borough Council
PC Ellen Beaty (Beat Manager), & John Reeves, PCSO Phil McGuinness & Jane Owen – Warwickshire Police
Martin Gibbins – Warwickshire County Council
Gordon Etheridge, Barry Cotton – Shustoke Parish Council
Richard Williams – Corley Parish Council
Brian Martin – Ansley Parish Council
Jane Sands – Ansley Parish Council Clerk
Alison Perkins, Olivia Hunter – Astley Parish Council
Gill Guy, Gail Williams – Arley Parish Council
Bill Richards Coleshill Town Council
Sue Taylor – Fillongley Parish Council

J Hoyle, Paul Reader, Jillian Wall, John Wall, Jane Ormrod, John Taylor

and others. (30 people attended)

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Sherratt, Joanna Rhodes (WCC), John Poole (Clerk to Shustoke Parish Council)

2. Minutes & You Said We Did

The minutes of the meeting of the Area Forum South, held on 19 April 2011 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

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.

The priorities identified were:

- Anti social behaviour, damage & robberies - Coleshill Memorial park
- Nuisance motorcycles to the rear of Sycamore Crescent Arley

Other issues raised included:

Coleshill Library is receiving more enquiries than expected which is positive. It was noted that shotgun certificates are dealt with at the desk or can be dealt with via the post.

Work will be undertaken with Coleshill Primary in the Autumn involving pupils focussed on parking issues at dropping off and collecting times.

4 Police Authority

Peter Fowler, Police Authority representative, updated the meeting on the proposals for a strategic alliance with West Mercia Police force aimed at providing greater resilience for both forces. It was emphasised that it was an alliance not a merger with each Police Force retaining their respective Chief Constable.

Further information concerning the Police Authority can be found on the website: www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk

Peter Fowler highlighted the crime mapping function available on the website <http://www.police.uk/crime>. To use this simply type in the post code and a map is then produced showing offences committed within the area.

Some concerns were expressed regarding the potential reduction in opening hours at Coleshill library with the front reception service for the Police being provided from there.

5 Public Questions & Parish Issues

Arley – land to the rear of Silver Knight depot – Cllr Fox confirmed that the Police and Fire Service are aware of the issue.

Astley – Accidents and speed of vehicles approaching the crossroads, including those using Nuthurst Lane. It was agreed that Christine Lambert should be asked to attend the next meeting of Astley Parish Council to provide an update.

Fillongley – Overflowing bottle bank adjacent to the Village Hall. Restricted visibility at the junction of Wood End Lane/Park Lane due to overgrown verges.

Shustoke – dumped mattress on Castle Lane (1st gate on the lane) hasn't been removed in spite of being reported.

Waste disposal & recycling – An update was requested on recycling arrangements for glass bottles from clubs & pubs or whether they go to landfill. Concern was also raised about recycling vehicles not going out to Astley in particular Cow Lees/Astley Lane. Green bin collections being missed at Charles Street New Arley and the distribution of orange bags in Fillongley.

6 Updates

HS2 – Closing date for the consultation on HS2 being led by HS2 Ltd is 29 July. The County Council Cabinet is due to consider the response to the consultation on HS2 on 14 July and the Borough Council on 18 July. Both Councils have already indicated their opposition to the proposal for HS2.

Libraries & Youth Centres – The Forum was provided with an update concerning the outcome of the consultations undertaken by the County Council into the future provision of library services and Youth Services.

It was confirmed that the only County Council Youth Centre will be in Atherstone and will act as a “Centre of Excellence”. The “Centre of Excellence” will act as a base for expertise and support to be available to local organisations which are taking on responsibility for working with young people. From the centre good quality programmes will be offered to young people that can be shared and replicated.

Funding News – It was confirmed that the County Councils North Warwickshire Area Committee were due to consider proposals for the use of the Area Community grants at the meeting on 20 July. The total fund available was £50,000.

7. Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Area Forum considered a report seeking recommendations for appointments to the outside bodies. It was agreed that:

Coleshill Grammar School Endowment Foundation – Councillors Gordon Sherratt and Andrew Watkins

8. Potential Issues for Future Meetings

Transport
Localism Bill
Powers of Parish & Town Councils
Future direction of Borough Council

Future Meeting Dates

27 October 2011