

Area Forum North

Thursday, 28 September 2017

The Area Forum North will meet at 6.30 pm at

**St Nicholas Church and Community Hall
Hill Top
Baddesley Ensor
Warwickshire
CV9 2BQ**

6.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Surgery Sessions

**Meet your local Police, Borough and County Council
Representatives.**

**Call in if you have any specific concerns you would like to
discuss with your local Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team.**

6.30pm – Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence.**
- 2 Notes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017**

Copy herewith, to be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **Matters Arising**

4 **Safer Neighbourhoods** – Warwickshire Police

Up to half an hour is available for this item. This will include an outline of the purpose and format of the Safer Communities agenda, 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 Amanda Tonks on 01827 719221 or via email to amandatonks@northwarks.gov.uk.

5 **Review of Area Forum Working** - Members of the Forum are invited to offer comments on how engagement with local communities might take place in the future.

6 **Representation on Outside Bodies** – Members of the Forum are requested to provide recommendations for appointments to the outside bodies 'local' to the area covered by this Area Forum North

7 **“Have Your Say” – Questions and Issues**

An opportunity for issues of local concern to be raised. To ensure that an answer to a question can be given at the meeting, details of it should be submitted to Emma Humphreys or via email to emmahumphreys@northwarks.gov.uk.

8 **Any Other Business**

For general enquiries, please contact Emma Humphreys or Amanda Tonks,
North Warwickshire Borough Council on 01827 719221 or
emmhumphreys@northwarks.gov.uk.

**Notes of the Area Forum North Meeting held at
Shuttington and Alvecote Village Hall
on Thursday, 23 February 2017**

Present:

Councillor Morson in the Chair, Councillors Humphreys and County Councillor Parsons.

In Attendance:

Amanda Tonks - North Warwickshire Borough Council, PC Kim Stafford, PCSOs Simeon Hodson and Mo Yoqub – Warwickshire Police, Geoff Taylor – Baddesley Parish Council, Jean Ball, Dave Butcher, Joan Daniels and Richard Meredith – Polesworth Parish Council, Mark Doggett, Bill Whitmore and John Winter – Dordon Parish Council, Alan Andrews, Mike Smith and Penny Smith – Shuttington Parish Council, Dave Hanratty – Dordon Resident, Steve Exley – Polesworth Resident, K Kovach – Shuttington Resident, Derek Tattersall and Judith Tattersall – Alvecote Residents, Colin Cartwright – Austrey Neighbourhood Watch.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davey, Hanratty and Wright.

1 Matters Arising from the Notes of the Meeting held on 2 June 2016

Councillor Humphreys confirmed that the Local Plan was out for consultation until 31 March 2017, and that further consultation would be carried out on any amendments.

A general discussion ensued on the impact that additional housing would have on the area.

2 Safer Neighbourhoods

As part of the Safer Neighbourhoods update the following three priorities were agreed:

- Fly-tipping in North Warwickshire;
- Speeding in Baddesley; and
- HGV's in Shuttington.

3 Presentation on Cyber Crime Prevention – Protecting Individuals and Families

Due to Alex Gloster, Cyber Crime Advisor, WCC not being able to attend, this item was deferred to a future meeting.

It was noted that Hartshill Neighbourhood Watch were hosting a Cyber Crime event in March and that members of the public were welcome to attend.

4 Future Meeting Dates

Thursday, 1 June 2017 – St Nicholas Baddesley Ensor Church and Community Hall.

Agenda Item 5

Area Forum North

28 September 2017

Review of Area Forum Working

Summary

The attached report by Steve Maxey, Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, is to be considered by the Council's Executive Board.

Members of the Forum are invited to offer comments on how engagement with local communities might take place in the future.

Comments may be emailed to democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk

Agenda Item No 12

Executive Board

18 September 2017

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council

Review of Area Forum Working

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report makes recommendations to the Board regarding Area Forums, following the recent debate at full Council and subsequent meeting of the Area Forum Task and Finish Group.

Recommendation to the Council

- a That the Council consults with the Police, Warwickshire County Council and other interested parties on the current round of Area Forums being the last such meetings; and**
- b That subsequent reports are brought to this Board as part of the Council's review of Communications, including a revised Consultation Strategy in order to ensure that the positive elements of Forums meetings are continued.**

2 Report

- 2.1 Members have debated the effectiveness of Area Forum meetings for some time, most recently at the Council meeting on 28 June. Following that debate, a Task and Finish Group was created and this met on 25 July.
- 2.2 Area Forums were first introduced in the late 90s in North Warwickshire, in partnership with the Police and Warwickshire County Council. Since then they have had a mixed history and it is fair to say that attendance has declined over the years.
- 2.3 Analysis in 2012 indicated that only 19% of those attending Area Forums were not formally attached to the Borough, County or Parish Councils or other agencies. This equated to just short of 6 members of the public per meeting against a population of over 62,000 (0.01%). An exercise in 2010 concluded that about 0.2% of Warwickshire's population attended area forums at that time.
- 2.4 Figures for the September 2015 round of meeting were as follows. For Area Forums North and West, of the 37 attending the two meetings, only 7 were unaffiliated residents. However for Area Forums East and South, 34 of the 62

attendees were minuted as residents. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) attended the Area Forum East meeting which may account for the 14 (out of 32) residents at that meeting, however in June 15 residents also attended (out of 29). Jeff Brown had been to discuss the Daw Mill application at the June and September 2015 South meetings which may have accounted for 20 residents out of 30 at the September meeting and 30 out of 43 in June.

- 2.5 The County Council however do not appear to record Parish Council representatives separately for Area Forum South so these figures do not show how many of the “residents” were affiliated to Town or Parish Councils. It does suggest however that greater attendance happens when issues of great local concern are being discussed, with the PCC and Daw Mill issues. Communications, and people’s willingness to attend formal meetings, have changed enormously since the 90s. A recent review by this Council of the public’s views on communication confirms the unpopularity of general public meetings. As the above figures show, attendance, by and large, at Area Forums consists largely of ‘known’ people.
- 2.6 The Council has looked at Area Forums on a number of occasions over the years. There was a flush of enthusiasm when the County Council worked to introduce them into the rest of Warwickshire as part of its localities work. A number of initiatives have been tried, including having a very short ‘summary’ agenda, where presenters had five minutes or so to set out their main points and then the rest of the meeting was a ‘workshop’ style event when those particularly interested in a topic could speak at more length with that agency. However, that pilot did not have a noticeable impact on attendance.
- 2.7 Leaders’ Liaison reviewed these initiatives last year and it was agreed to recommend to our partners that they be discontinued. However, the County Council then launched its own review in 2016, which reported just before the County elections earlier this year and it was decided to await the outcome of that review. The report has not been published at the date of writing this report but an Officer representative of the County Council was at the Task and Finish Group meeting in July and helpfully outlined County Officer thinking on the subject. In summary, that thinking is very similar to the suggestions made to the Task and Finish Group and in this report.
- 2.8 The Task and Finish Group discussed the matter extensively, reviewing the Forums history, recent experiences and how to better communicate with residents and those active in the community.
- 2.9 In short, and as was suggested at the full Council discussion, it was generally agreed the Area Forums have ‘had their day’. It recognises that there is still a need for planned meetings with those active in communities. In addition, the involvement of residents is not being abandoned, as the general view is that Area Forums do not perform that task and better solutions will be developed, including consultation and engagement, using public meetings as required, on topics of general interest/importance to residents.

- 2.10 However, the overwhelming case is that communications have moved on significantly and continue to change at pace. The Communications Review currently underway acknowledges this and is likely to significantly change the way the Council communicates and consults with communities.
 - 2.11 It is recommended therefore that the Council advises the Police and the County Council that we would like the current round of Area Forums to be the last, use this round to let attendees know and discuss with them how engagement with them might take place in the future
- 3 Report Implications
- 3.1 Safer Communities
- 3.1.1 The current way of working allows dialogue with local people and priorities to be agreed and coordinated through the Area Forums. Whilst attendance levels are fairly low new arrangements would need to be considered to address this issue.

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Maxey (719438).

Area Forum North – 28 September 2017

Representation on Outside Bodies

Recommendation

That the Forum make recommendations for appointments to the outside bodies listed in the report.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Borough Council has requested that Area Forums be consulted for recommendations for appointments to the outside bodies 'local' to the area covered by this Area Forum.

1.2 The Area Forum is invited to recommend to the Borough Council the appointment of representatives to the following outside body:-

JLR Baddesley Liaison Group

1.3 The memberships previously comprised:-

JLR Baddesley Liaison Group – Councillors Sweet and A Wright

1.4 The appointments are made for a period of one year expiring in May 2018.

The Contact Officer for this report is Amanda Tonks (719221).