

**Notes of the Annual Meeting between the Borough Council and
Town and Parish Councils**

Thursday 26 January 2017 at 7pm

**At the Kingsbury Methodist Church Hall,
Barlow Court (Off Tamworth Road), Kingsbury**

Present: Councillor Humphreys, Leader of North Warwickshire Borough Council,
in the Chair.

Members and Officers from North Warwickshire Borough Council and
representatives from Town and Parish Councils within North
Warwickshire.

1 Welcome

Councillor Humphreys welcomed all to the Annual Meeting and outlined the
evacuation procedure.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2016, copies having previously
been circulated, were received and noted.

3 Matters Arising

None.

4 Planning

Steve Maxey, Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, provided
an update on the current situation in relation to the Local Plan.

Steve reported that the Draft Local Plan was published in August 2016 and
since then additional information had been produced to accompany the Plan,
namely the Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal.
Steve reiterated the current housing numbers required; 5280 houses which
takes into account the new assessment of the Coventry and Warwickshire
market area plus looking to see if we can deliver up to 3790 from Birmingham.

Consultation was open until 31 March 2017 and Town and Parish Councils and
residents were urged to provide their views and suggestions on all aspects of
the Draft Local Plan, including infrastructure, by that date.

5 Green Waste Collections

After careful consideration North Warwickshire Borough Council had taken the decision to suspend the green waste collection service from 24 December 2016 until 23 January 2017. Richard Dobbs (Assistant Director – Streetscape) was keen to ascertain Town and Parish Councils' views on the impact, if any, this had had on their community.

The overall opinion was that this had not had a detrimental effect and the decision had generally been well received. One issue raised was in relation to how this decision had been communicated to households and whether the Council had done enough to publicise the arrangement. Richard explained that in the past North Talk would have been used as experience had proved this as an effective communication tool. However, timing had not enabled Streetscape to meet the deadline for publication of North Talk before Christmas. Therefore, on this occasion one of the methods used was a blue tag fixed to the refuse bins detailing the arrangements.

Richard explained that any information received would be fed into the review conducted to assess the impact on the service and on residents.

6 Refuse Collection

Mancetter Parish Council raised some concerns from residents regarding bins not being placed in the correct area after being emptied. Richard apologised and commented that the refuse staff should return the bins correctly and that if this didn't happen residents should telephone the Contact Centre to advise them accordingly.

On a separate issue, representatives from the Town and Parish Councils stated that they had concerns about the recent implementation of charging for damaged or replacement bins. Richard explained that the Council's policy was now to charge householders for damaged bins which cannot be repaired. If the bin was under two years old the Council will replace it free of charge or a repair will be made if possible. The policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time.

7 Neighbourhood Plans

Some issues were raised regarding potential delays putting Neighbourhood Plans out for consultation and there was a suggestion that this could possibly be connected with trying to merge any Neighbourhood Plan Referendum with forthcoming elections.

Steve Maxey explained that where elections were merged it did allow for an improved turnout. However, if a Neighbourhood Plan Referendum was required and an election was not scheduled for the near future the Referendum would go ahead separately and would not slow the process down.

8 **Potholes**

Nether Whitacre Parish Council had stated that a number of potholes had arisen within their locality. The Parish Clerk went on to explain that following reporting the pothole to Warwickshire County Council they send an operative to mark the pothole for repair but unfortunately the time lapse between this and the subsequent repair often means that the paint has worn off. Richard Dobbs asked for details to be sent to him and he would speak to Jane Pritchard at the County regarding this. He went on to suggest that in the future Town and Parish Councils should report the potholes via the Warwickshire County Council website and also mention it to the relevant local Councillor.

9 **Flytipping**

Nether Whitacre Parish Council gave an instance of a farmer within their area who had been the victim of two loads of rubbish being flytipped on to his land and as the land was private was deemed his responsibility to clear the rubbish. Richard Dobbs was aware of this particular instance and agreed to ask his Team to look at this issue again and to liaise with other services to see whether anything can be done to resolve the problem.

10 **Membership of the Area Committee of Parish Councils**

Paulette Simpkin, Secretary to the North Warwickshire Area Committee of Parish Councils addressed the meeting to explain the benefits of joining the Area Committee and encouraged other Town and Parish Councils to pursue membership. Paulette distributed the Constitution of the Committee for information. Any further queries should be addressed directly to Paulette.

The meeting closed at 9pm.