

WARWICK RURAL EAST

COMMUNITY FORUM

Meeting of 22nd October, 2009

Stoneleigh Village Hall

Minutes of the meeting

Attendees:

Cllr Mike Doody	Chair		Malcolm Storer	
Phil Evans	WCC		Reg Smith	Cubbington NW
David Chater	Radford Semele PC		B Wyatt	
Sheila Woolf	Stoneleigh PC		Robert Inman	WDC
Nigel Thomas			Paolo La Barbera	Cubbington PC
Jane Coates	WCC		Bob Malloy	Warks Police Authority
PC Adriano Towle	Police			

1 Apologies

Action

1.1 Roger Sargent, Gill Green, Roger Gilbert, Cllr Pratt, Gary Holtby.

1.2 Cllr Doody gave his apologies for the January meeting due to being on holiday.

*Jane Coates.
Approach Cllr
Hammon or Cllr
MackKay to chair.*

2 Minutes of last meeting

2.1 Agreed as an accurate record.

3 Matters arising

3.1 Cllr Doody gave an update on the Warwick District Core Strategy. After some discussions back and forth with Coventry City Council and government office the present figure for housing to be built in the district is 11,000 (rounded up by government office from the previous figure of 10,800), plus 3,500 of overflow housing from Coventry. Whilst it does not seem ideal to accept any overflow housing the current offer is better than the other options, which would lead to a larger number of houses being built in the district overall. The council has requested a six month extension to allow for further consultation on the

current proposals.

- 3.2 Cllr Doody updated the forum that Garden Organic has now pulled out of the LEADER project. (Amendment to clarify that Gareth Davies has left the project as programme manager, and Sally Gardner has taken over. Garden Organic are still managing Central Warwickshire Villages LEADER.)

Amended at January 2010 meeting.

4 Police report and priority setting

- 4.1 Forum attendees are invited to make contact with the Safer Neighbourhood Team by ringing the local line and asking for extension 4471. This is for non-urgent business. Urgent business should be communicated on the 999 number.
- 4.2 Adriano reported that the speed enforcement priority from the last forum had been completed. Checks were made in Cubbington, Weston Under Wetherley, and Radford Semele. The forum reported that the high Police visibility in those areas had made a real difference in reducing speeding.
- 4.3 The priority on conducting 20 stop and searches to reduce travelling crime also took place. Adriano reported that property crime has decreased over the period, although there was insufficient evidence to prosecute two males who were suspected of a crime in Radford Semele.
- 4.4 Cllr Doody reported that WCC have agreed to the Rugby Road speed reduction scheme.
- 4.5 The forum reported that there is mixed success with illuminated speeding signs. The signs work well in some locations and not others. This can be because the signs are obscured by trees, or they have become dirty.
- 4.6 Priorities were identified by the forum for the upcoming quarter:

ASB Cubbington: WRE SNT will conduct 10 High visibility evening patrols in Cubbington Village to address Anti Social Behaviour.

Police

Speed Checks: WRE SNT will conduct speed enforcement activity checks on 5 separate occasions in Mill Hill, Baginton and Rugby Road, Cubbington.

- 4.7 Cllr Doody suggested that it is unreasonable to expect the District Council to monitor parking on double yellow lines in villages, and asked that the Police pick it up as it is an offence. Adriano reiterated that it is no longer an offence. Cllr Doody asked again that the Police move people on, even if they can't issue tickets.
- 4.8 Adriano talked about the Community Speedwatch programme and stated that the Police are in a position to train people to use the laser guns. The Police will then send letters to those whose details are captured. Dave Crisford has a speed gun and equipment that may be used by others. Chris Fossey from WCC also has a mobile speed indicator that is available for use.
- 4.9 It was suggested that Rugby Road would be a good place to use the Community Speedwatch equipment as it is a long stretch of 30mph speed limits.
- 4.10 Bob Malloy of the Warwickshire Police Authority introduced himself to the forum and stated that the WPA is looking to engage with forums across the county.
- 4.11 Cllr Doody requested a meeting between the District Council and the WPA to talk about the use of CCTV in towns, and upcoming issues with their use.

5 Cubbington Flood Forum (CFF) update

- 5.1 Roger Jewsbury from WDC has been working with the CFF group to devise a scheme to address the flooding problem. The scheme that the group thinks is the best for the area will cost in the region of £600,000. The Environment Agency (EA) is looking at the plans with a view to asking further questions about them. Cllr Doody extends his thanks to Roger Jewsbury for his hard work.
- 5.2 Andrew Savage of WCC is prepared to put money into the creation of a levy board, which will get 6 months to make a case for the scheme to be built. Decisions will be made by the EA in Sept/Oct 2010.
- 5.3 The proposed plan takes flood water away from the village and into the river. Thwaites, a local factory,

seem to approve of the scheme, and having this sort of backing will improve the case. Also, local landowners appear to be happy to keep the moved soil on their land, which reduces the cost of the project.

- 5.4 Maltby Land Service engineers have been in the village undertaking surveys on behalf of EA. They are also surveying the River Leam.

6 **Travel tokens update**

- 6.1 Cllr Doody talked about the travel token scheme that is operating in the district since the Racing Club scheme folded. Several forum members reported dissatisfaction with the Racing Club scheme, as it appeared that those who lived closest to the scheme received the best service, whilst those living further away found it hard to book transport. It was felt that this because long trips to rural areas were not cost effective for the operation.
- 6.2 Warwick District Council is putting £120,000 into the scheme, which gives two value levels of token to the over 60s and disabled people depending on where they live. The intention is that money unspent from the budget will be used to provide travel for disabled people living in towns.
- 6.3 An analysis of the scheme will be undertaken at the end of the year.

7 **Waste collection**

- 7.1 Cllr Doody reported that WDC is a high performing council in relation to waste collection and recycling, and that this is in part due to the waste being 'clean'. Recycling is in the upper 50% region, with local targets of 70%.
- 7.2 Last year WDC made £700,000 from selling waste for recycling. The income is used to offset council tax increases.
- 7.3 Cllr Doody made an additional comment on council tax. WDC received £7.4m in council tax this financial year. There has been a 0.5% yearly increase over recent years, and it seems likely that a similar increase will be sought again in the next round.

8 Funding for community forums

8.1 Jane Coates introduced the community forum guidance and explained how WCC/WDC sees the scheme working. The purpose of the grant scheme is for each community forum to support priority work in their locality, including both safer neighbourhood and other priority projects. The short application form will allow for an audit trail for payments as well as provide outcomes for the spending so that the success of each project can be monitored. The forum itself will decide which projects should be supported.

8.2 A number of concerns about the fund were raised, including whether or not it created a new layer of unnecessary bureaucracy. Jane responded that the paperwork is not onerous, nor is it meant to make applying for the funding more difficult. The purpose of the form is to maintain an audit trail (required by law) for the spending of public money, to give a baseline amount of information to the entire forum on what the project is about, to support decision making, and so that outcomes are clearly indicated for the purpose of evaluating the project afterwards.

8.3 Concerns were strong regarding fears that some projects might attend meetings 'mob handed' so that their project was assured success on the basis of numbers of voters. Jane explained that the forum can decide how to manage voting on the projects. The forum may wish to allocate a single vote to each project rather than to every attendee as a way of capping the potential problem. Jane added that in other areas funding sub-groups had been set up to look at applications between meetings, and that this forum could opt to set up a similar group if it wanted to.

8.4 Members of the forum questioned the application process in terms of the role of parish councils. Jane offered to amend the application form to include a box requesting sign-off on the project from the relevant parish council, but no decision was reached on this.

8.5 The forum remained concerned that this method was not better than the previous method of awarding funding. Phil Evans suggested that a senior officer might be invited to the next forum to explain the

*Jane Coates to
organise a
representative of WCC
to attend the January*

reasoning behind the grant fund and to take any questions. *meeting.*

- 8.6 Cllr Doody stated that the fund would continue to offer 50% match funding for projects, as was the way with the previous Safer Neighbourhoods allocation.
- 8.7 Cllr Doody reported that there were two applications for funding from attendees, but they were not put before the forum pending the provision of more information about the purpose of the grant fund at the next meeting.
- 8.8 Cllr Sheila Woolf of Stoneleigh & Ashow JPC stated her concerns about the grant fund, LEADER, and the community forum and tendered her resignation from the forum and from the LEADER local action group.

9 Priority setting

- 9.1 No priorities were discussed.

10 Any other business

- 10.1 No other business was discussed.

11 Dates of upcoming meetings

- 21st January 2010, Baginton Village Hall, 7pm
- 22nd April 2010, Offchurch Village Hall, 7pm
- 22nd July, venue tbc, 7pm
- 21st October 2010, Bubbenhall Village Hall, 7pm.