

NOTES of AREA FORUM EAST

11th September 2014

The Area Forum East met at 6.30pm

Present: Borough Councillor L Dirveiks – Chair
County Councillors, N Dirveiks, C Clark
Borough Councillors, T Wykes, D Pickard, L Freer

In Attendance: A Rigby, G Stanley – WCC; R Beggs - NWBC
PCSOs L Udall, M Harle – Warks Police
R Jones – Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
M Shaw – Atherstone TC; T Hopkins – Mancetter PC
R Cockayne, J Bartlam, E Hill, D Kimberley, B Bartlam, T Wood,
R Freer, M Taylor, T Wilmot

1. Apologies for Absence.

PC Carter, PC Baxter, M Davis, K Johnston, A Forwood, T De Kretser, J Marshall, R Jarvis, M Singh Gill

2. Notes and Matters Arising of the meeting held on 10th June 2014

Minutes were agreed. Matters Arising:

Margaret Road, Atherstone – feedback on speed survey 7th-17th July 2014. Survey revealed over 2600 vehicles using the road in 12 hour period. Mean 85% quartile speed was 26.1mph. No speed over 41mph was recorded.

In response to questions:

- G Stanley to meet with Margaret Road residents
- Engineering measures to improve road safety on Margaret Road include: 'Keep Clear' sign outside school; signage to warn of bends; reflective bollards to highlight bends; bollards to restrict parking on Margaret Road & Oakfield Grds
- Request to extend bollards further down Margaret Road
- WCC does not currently have a policy on 20mph limits outside schools

There was a general feeling that the results of the speed survey did not reflect residents' perception of how dangerous the road has become.

Bus stop, Hartshill: Funding is in place to install a bus shelter. The precise location is still to be agreed. There is insufficient width for a bus lay-by. Discussions are being held between Hartshill PC and the school to make land available.

Market Street, Atherstone is too narrow for bollards to be installed between road and pavement.

Tarmac repairs in Market Square are to be replaced with York Stone.

There are currently no proposals to introduce Civil Parking Enforcement in North Warwickshire Borough.

T Wilmot gave an update on the new school development for QE Academy, Atherstone. 3 bids have been submitted by Carillion, BAM and Interserve as part of a Midlands package of 9 new school building projects. The Education Funding Agency will decide on the approved contractor with final bids in 10 October 2014.

In response to questions:

QE Academy Trustees are on the board of Atherstone Grammar School Trust. Income from the sale of the Grammar School site would be invested in the Academy – theatre / cinema; media studies centre; local museum. Admissions policy for the Academy would not change

3. Police Update

PCSO Udall presented the Safer Neighbourhoods Team update. The following comments were made:

- Town Watch CCTV by Hat & Beaver PH having positive impact
- PCSO Udall to speak to Lafarge Tarmac about lorry usage of Clock Bridge
- Lafarge Tarmac lorries can be reported to supervisor at quarry weighbridge
- Request for details of latest drink-driving campaign to involve pub landlords
- New speed limit of 40mph between Ridge Lane and Birchley Heath should reduce traffic speeds locally

R Beggs updated on the Community Safety Partnership's work with the Warwickshire Youth Justice Services and the Targeted Youth Services to help tackle a group of youths causing significant problems in Atherstone town centre.

Three priorities were chosen:

Priority: Anti-social behaviour by youths in Atherstone Town Centre hotspots

Priority: HGVs using Clock Bridge, Atherstone Road, Hartshill

Priority: Speeding on Margaret Road, Atherstone

4. Tell us your issues

- T Hopkins invited local agencies to join A5 cross-border discussions with Parish Councils in Leicestershire.
- Concerns raised over event management of Badgers Road Race on 31 August. Local residents adversely affected by road closures.
R Dobbs, NWBC to respond to concerns that procedures were not followed.
- Cllr Clark to set up local group to look at community facilities & youth support
- Plans for A5 improvements available at: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads>
- Hartshill PC & Severn Trent examining sewerage & storm drainage capacity from Castle Road to mainline railway bridge.

5. Any other business

2014/15 WCC Councillor Grant Fund closing date 30th September.

2014/15 WCC Community Computers (laptops) closing date 10th October

6. Suggestions for items / themes for next meeting

Civil Parking Enforcement in North Warwickshire. Local provision for young people

7. Date of next meeting: Thursday 11th December 2014 at NWBC