

Henley & Studley Community Forum

Thursday 1st July 2010

7.30pm Studley Village Hall, High Street, Studley

Members in Attendance: Stephen Thirlwell
Mike Weddell
Mike Perry
Paul Beaman
Hazel Wright
Clive Rickhards
Justin Kerridge
John Horner
Jem Jones
Richard Hobbs

32 Members of the public, Parish Councils and support officers from SDC and WCC

- Welcome from Steve Smith Lead Officer from Warwickshire County Council to the Community Forum meeting.

1. Election of Chairman for 2010 – 2011. Cllr Stephen Thirlwell nominated and accepted as Chairman for the forthcoming year.
Cllr John Horner nominated and accepted for the role of Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.

2. Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team

Presentation given by Sgt Bob Shaw.

Data Protection Notice read out.

Community priorities:

- Warwickshire Police obliged to protect Communities from harm in line with Police priorities. This may mean that in exceptional circumstances SNT officers may be required to work on other policing priorities. If this happens there will be a need to re-negotiate priorities. This will be done in liaison with the Chair and panel.
- **Warwickshire Police priorities 2010/11:**
 - a) To reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured through road traffic collisions by 2.5% compared to last year.
 - b) Reduce number of people killed or seriously injured as a result of violence.
 - c) Detect 45% of crimes where someone is killed or seriously injured.
 - d) Increase number of serious sexual offences we detect compared with last year or a baseline of 2008/09 whichever is greater.
 - e) Main priority is to reduce the number of victims of robbery compared to last year.
 - f) Reduce the threat of organised crime groups on the Communities of Warwickshire by 15%.

- g) To reduce the number of homes burgled and vehicle crimes committed compared to last year.
- h) **To improve the trust and confidence** - The local SNT teams will deliver 100% of policing activity that a) protects from harm, b) tackles anti social behaviour, c) builds confidence and support community priorities. Increase the number of victims of serious sexual offences who report crimes to us compared to last year. Ensure at least 85% of victims are satisfied with the overall experience they receive. Ensure 53.3% of people agree that 'police and council are dealing with anti social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area' based on December 2010 British Crime Survey results
- i) **Community Speed Watch Scheme** – Community Forum driven initiative which involves volunteers from the community monitoring the speed of vehicles with measurement devices. Where speeds are inappropriate notice will be sent to the drivers by Warwickshire Police. Volunteers are vetted, trained and given equipment. The scheme may only be initiated when 'speeding traffic' has been identified. Actual sites are risk assessed by Warwickshire Police and then checks can be carried out.
- j) Sergeant Bob Shaw and PC Andy Dunbar have now received their bikes, equipment and training to enable them to patrol areas by cycle. There are now four Community Support Officers trained to use the cycles in Alcester North SNT.
- k) **Alcohol Restriction Zone** – Now in place around Studley and being utilized when required.
- l) **Crime Overview Alcester North - Comparisons 2009 with 2010**
 - Violent Crime (assault with injury) Inc by 11.1% (18)
 - Violent Crime detections (Target 45%) 44.8% (8)
 - Domestic Burglary + Vehicles stolen – 46% (13 + 6)
 - Theft from Vehicle -16% (24)

3 Priorities from the last meeting:

- Parking issues outside Tesco Express, Alcester Road, Studley. Agreed to carry out 20 visits to the area. Since the last Forum meeting the team has carried out 21 visits. On virtually all occasions a number of motorists were moved on and advised of their actions. Many unrecorded visits to the area. CCTV office in Stratford has been visited to monitor the rush hour traffic and record registration numbers of vehicles committing no waiting offences. Letters sent to offending vehicle owners giving advice. Bollards have also been moved closer to the road but vehicles now park in the bus lay by opposite.
- Anti- Social Behaviour around Studley Library and Millennium Park. Agreed to carry out 8 extra duties until 2am in the area – Operation Cranford. Since last forum meeting carried out 12 extra duties by 2 officers. Drugs dog involved in walking through pubs resulting in two people warned for possession of cannabis. Methodrone also found just

prior to it being made illegal. Pub toilets checked for cocaine and 3 premises showed positive reaction. A recorded 57 PACE forms submitted. Alcohol seized and poured away a number of times and the dispersal zone enforced regularly.

- Traffic related issues along Foreshaw Heath Lane and Juggins Lane, Earlswood – Agreed policing actions were to carry out 20 visits to gauge and tackle issues found. Visited area 23 times and the vast majority of problems are from vehicles that mistake the lane for the slip road of the M42. This leads to vehicles of all sizes trying to turn round in the lane. Nobody was found contravening the current speed limit. Cllr Mike Perry has met with Highway Authority. They are looking at the signage issue which needs to be improved.

Other matters of Interest:

- PS 128 Andy Moss is to start Monday 21st June as Team Leader for Alcester South SNT following the retirement of Sgt Stuart Wild.
- PC Doug Johnson involved in following a vehicle suspected of a house burglary in Claverdon. It was followed until safely stopped and two people were arrested in possession of stolen property.
- Officers have arrested and charged a male from Hall Green in Birmingham following a burglary which took place in Tanworth Lane in April. Some stolen items have been recovered.
- Two men charged after items left at the scene following an office burglary in Earlswood in January.
- In Henley in June on two consecutive nights one male assaulted another. After second assault suspect arrested by PC Bennett and charged with both offences. He has been convicted and received Community Service.
- After a drugs warrant executed in March 2009 David Hall was sentenced to 2 years in prison and occupants of an address in Henley evicted.

Police Priorities for the next 3 months:

- Anti Social Behaviour, Studley Centre Friday and Saturday nights
 - Anti Social behaviour by Medical Centre in Henley Friday and Saturday nights
 - Speeding Earlswood Common.
 - Parking by One Stop shop, Henley
 - Parking opposite Tesco in bus lay by
- Voting to take place and results later in the meeting.

4. Bob Malloy – Independent Member of Warwickshire Police Authority

- 17 members of Warwickshire Police Authority 9 of whom are County Councillors and 8 Independent members.
- Councillors are appointed by WCC. Independent members recruited by public advertisement for a four year term.
- Monthly meetings take place at Shire Hall, Warwick.

- Any changes will take place at the same time as Government implement changes.
- The Police Authority set and monitor the force budget and responsible for Community charge.
- They appoint the Chief Constable and senior officers and can also dismiss if necessary.
- Consult with local people about policing in their area and set policing priorities and targets and how well the police perform against these targets.
- They publish a three year Policing Plan to tell local people what can be expected from their Police service and report achievements each year to ensure people get 'Best Value' from the service as well as overseeing complaints against the Police.
- The Authority has a duty to consult the public and are committed to listening to your views which allows decisions to be made that reflect the thoughts and feelings of Communities in Warwickshire.
- 57.6% of people surveyed in South Warwickshire agree that the police and local council are dealing with anti – social behaviour and crime issues that matter
- 89.7% are satisfied with police actions, 97.5% satisfied with their treatment and 86.9% satisfied with the whole experience.
- We live in a low crime area but always seek to obtain more confidence in the police. Feed back is always useful to improve confidence.
- The Authority can be contacted via their website warwickshirepa.gov.uk or email policeauthority@warwickshire.gov.uk or telephone 01926 412322. The address is 3, Northgate Street, Warwick CV34 4SP.
- Cllr Perry stated the perception of crime is often a threat as rural police are not as visible as those in a town.
- One resident had a bad experience when it took three days to visit following a report and two months on despite giving them information the offender is still at large.
- In Studley trouble often starts late at night. PCSOs and local officers do a really good job but when anyone gets in touch with the call centre it is very impersonal and the service not so good.

5. Mark Stizaker – Warwickshire Fire Service Area Risk Team

- Attending all Forums and the aim is to supply every home with smoke alarms and a home fire safety check. It is all free of charge, therefore if anyone has not got a smoke alarm let the Fire Station know. Advice is given how to stay safe and avoid having a fire in your home. The will also advise on how to make an Escape Plan.

- Everyone is eligible and to take up this offer you can contact Stratford Fire Station on 01789 262139 or 01789 293271.

6. Young People of Henley

- Henley Hub is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. They also have a lunchtime group and parenting sessions.
- Looking into doing more work with schools and the Health Service.
- Youth Centre to be refurbished especially the kitchen area.
- Not much more in the way of income but usage has improved.
- Over the last 12 months many useful projects have been undertaken.
- In April/ May 2009 Driving project which proved to be very popular.
- June 2010 Camping project and outdoor activities including a Climb to Survive rock climbing project.
- World Cup project.
- The young people also took part in the County wide Home Alone project a Big Brother style event which focused on budgeting etc. It was enjoyed by everyone and they learned the value of looking after themselves.
- Took part in the 'Old Persons' scheme and undertook work for pensioners including painting houses.
- With a grant from Orbit Housing arranged a five a side football competition.
- Other projects involved in was the Awareness project for disabilities such as asthma, deafness etc as well as the Graffiti Arts.
- The young people have been very busy throughout the year and are always looking for new members especially throughout the summer period.
- DVD shown to the forum showing the various activities undertaken throughout the year.
- The Chairman of the Youth Centre Management Committee told the forum that Henley Youth Centre is one of the highest performing groups in the County. The leaders work very hard but with grants drying up it may be difficult in the future to arrange certain activities. With the cuts in funding leaders are often put into administrative jobs. People who make decisions should make the right ones.
- Survey undertaken in Henley of the young people results said that the best thing about living in Henley – Young people and good friends, was a close community, good 'chippy', skatepark but this should be enlarged, Youth Club but that was not open enough. The worst thing about Henley – Nothing to do, boring, adults always blaming the young people, no good shops, park 'rubbish', need more to do, no jobs, expensive, too many drugs and old people.
- Thank you from the Chairman to all the members of Henley Youth Club who came to the meeting together with the leaders and Rob McCluskey. Very interesting presentation.

7. You Said, We Did – Update on Actions since last meeting

- **Issue 1 – Henley Youth Service: Outcome** – Presentations given at this evening's meeting and Studley at the next meeting.
- **Issue 2 – Library Consultation : Outcome** – At last meeting Sorrell Clements gave out a lot of information. There was a meeting with Sorrell and the Police following vandalism to the library in Studley and quotes being sought for Security shutters. Steve Smith is on the board and the key issues are the usage of buildings owned by WCC not only in Studley but elsewhere in the District. Need to have value for money. No indication as yet what is happening but will keep the forum updated.
- **Issue 3 – ASB Grant Money : Outcome** - Sgt Bob Shaw advised the money they received has been spent on Overtime and 2 cycles have been purchased. Money also went to Youth Service. Cllr Hazel Wright confirmed the money given to Studley Improvement Partnership was used on Environmental Cleanup on footpaths etc around Studley. There is some money left which will be used for further work. Environmental Health has also helped pubs with problems.
- **Issue 4 – Progress Action Plan: Outcome** – Agenda item at tonight's meeting to help and consider forum priorities.
- **Issue 5 – Grass cutting schedule: Outcome** – There has been no take up for any of the parishes in Henley and Studley following the offer made by Stratford District Council.

8. Looking to the Future – Plan of Action for the Forum

- Steve Smith has looked at the Locality profile following the meeting in February. May need to look at Young people, congestion and transport and take the actions forward.
- Issues to be debated, notes taken and try and see what can be done to change things.
- There is good public transport in Henley including buses and trains and there is a good range of shops.
- In Studley the A435 from Alcester through Coughton, Studley and Mappleborough Green too heavily used especially following an incident on either the M5 or M42. Need to start looking to see if the congestion can be eased.
- Lorries parking in the lay bys in Mappleborough Green also posing a problem.
- Because the A435 is part of the Strategic Lorry Route difficult to impose traffic calming measures. Perhaps removal of signs on M42 could be one answer.
- Provision of affordable housing for medium sized villages should be supported to prevent them from becoming dormitory villages.
- Perception of vandalism in Studley on Friday nights is a continuing problem. The Youth Club is not open as rented out. WCC more engrossed in letting the

building and raising funds rather than opening the Youth Club. Friday night is often the highlight of a young persons week.

- Both Henley and Studley suffer from Air Quality issues. Already work has been done but issues have slipped probably due to funding, but this needs to be addressed. Easing traffic congestion would help.
- Activities for teenagers. Youth Club approached, looking to build relationships with the Community.
- Studley Baptist Church willing to run a drop in centre perhaps in one of the empty shops in the High Street in Studley to provide somewhere for teenagers to go. It would be supervised and Studley Churches Together would like to discuss a plan with someone. To get back in three months. It is a good idea and perhaps the existing Youth Club building could be used. Appraisal by WCC of usage of buildings owned by WCC being undertaken. Perhaps could be used.
- No mention of business or tourism. Need to look at businesses. Local shops need more help.
- Warwick is the principal hospital for everyone. Difficult to get to by public transport. Can take up to 1 ½ hours for the journey.
- New parkway station later night trains if visiting Stratford or Birmingham if going to the theatre etc.
- Lots of people from Studley, Tanworth use Redditch Hospital. After care package difficult due to relationship between Worcester and Warwickshire. – Health Authority problem.
- Loss of use of Redditch tip by Studley, Sambourne and Mappleborough Green residents.

9. Police Priorities for next 3 months

1. Anti Social Behaviour problems Friday and Saturday from 10pm
2. Anti Social Behaviour problems Friday and Saturday from 10pm
3. Speeding issues Earlswood Common. Hope to do 8 activities.

10. Have your Say

- Cllr Richard Hobbs representing Bearley Village presented a petition to the Chair to be given to Graham Fitton at Warwickshire County Council re: Traffic speeding through the village and overgrown hedges.
- Mrs Ann Wade Governor of Studley Infant School concerned that an Ambulance could not find the school when a child collapsed. School sign very small. Post code covers a number of properties on High Street. Contacted WCC to see if School Zone could be marked on road and 20mph not a priority. Would like some investigation. **Action for next meeting.**

11. Information Sharing

- Recycling Roadshows are taking place across the District at local village and town events.
- Recycling in Stratford District doing very well. Query by member of the public concerning the green waste turned into compost and why SDC cannot sell it back. Rob Weeks stated that Biffa deal with the production of compost and used commercially. WCC have soil improver available from Burton Road.
- Mini Roadshow at next Community Forum if Agenda allows.
- Lottery Grant fund available – Community spaces can view on www.community-spaces.org.uk
- Local Transport Plan 3rd version out for final consultation. Comments by 27th August. Can view on line at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ltp
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan. County wide review of public rights of way network on WCC site www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rowip

12. Citizens Advice Bureau – Sue Green

First Forum that they have attended. Looking at whether there is a need for an outreach advice centre in Studley and the most appropriate venue. There seems to be a particular need as residents of Studley either had to go to Redditch which is no longer a viable option or Stratford which is not very convenient if they have not got transport. Questionnaires given to residents of Studley attending the Forum to complete.

Reminder to those attending the Forum of the State of the District Debate to take place in the Town Hall, Stratford on 2nd July 2010 10am to 12 noon.

Query as to why no sign to the High School in Henley as some found it difficult to find.

13. Action Plan – The Results

- a) Update on Air Quality Action Plan for Henley and Studley
- b) Ongoing problems – Studley Youth
- c) Studley Library

Stephen Thirwell welcomed all the new County and District Councillors to the Community Forum meeting

14. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

Thursday 7th October 2010 – Studley Youth Centre

Thursday 16th December 2010 – Henley

Thursday 23rd March 2011 - Studley

