

Henley & Studley Community Forum

Thursday 13 August 2009

7.30pm Wootton Wawen Village Hall, Alcester Road

Members in Attendance: Stephen Thirwell
George Atkinson
Mike Perry
Hazel Wright
Paul Beaman
Tony Dixon
Martin Barry

There were 28 parish representatives, members of the public and support officers in attendance.

Apologies were received from Councillors Marshall, Hobbs, Horner, Weddell and Paul Cowley from WCC.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The current Chair Stephen Thirwell welcomed everyone to the Community Forum meeting and announced that the election of Chair and Vice Chair would be deferred to the next meeting. Consequently he would continue as Chair until then.

ACTION: To be included on next agenda

2. Update and Matters Arising from the meeting held on 25 June 2009

The Chair related to issues which had been raised at the previous meeting on 25th June 09 and updated the Forum on progress to date (see attached lists of actions taken since last time).

- Library Consultation – 4,223 responses to the survey, results will be used to inform the review of the Library Network and further engagement with communities. Elected members will consider the results later in the year. Further details available on the WCC website

ACTION: Further feedback when more information available – lead Steve Smith

- Smart Water Scheme – Sgt Bob Shaw stated that this was a low prime area and focus was on those areas most at risk
- CCTV – Awaiting costing for a change in plan, once received from ADT advice can be given the Parish Council on the new solution and get things

moving.

ACTION: Dave Webb to monitor

- Can Neighbourhood Watch have indicators for new types of crime – Sgt Bob Shaw advised that Neighbourhood Watch leaders will have an input into both cannabis factories and anti-terrorism – meeting on 30th September.
- Better maintenance of grass cutting in Pettiford Lane - (includes letter from Mappleborough Green subsequently received) – Response from Paul Cowley read out to the meeting which included checking the standard of the third cut in the summer. Carol Matthews from the Parish Council reported that there were still issues. The discussion identified other grass cutting issues across the locality, including Henley and Wootton Wawen. In Henley the Parish Council had received 7 calls and had contacted SDC. Given that there seemed to be a widespread problem, Stephen Thirwell agreed that the whole issue of grass cutting, including local authority and contractors responsibilities, would be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The relevant representatives from both District and County Council were instructed to attend

ACTION: WCC officers to include on next agenda and coordinate item for discussion

- New road signage for Pettiford Lane not yet erected – The forum was advised that the sign had been erected earlier in the day.
- Response for railings In Henley & Studley -
In respect of Studley, the response from Chris Burrows confirmed that he is awaiting formal consent from Tesco's to move bollards nearer the kerb. When consent has been given he will ask County Highways to program the works. Councillor Paul Beaman commented that a meeting had been arranged to discuss this further but officers from both County and District failed to turn up. Stephen Thirwell asked for this to be investigated.

ACTION: WCC officers to investigate and Chris Burrows to be invited to the next meeting to clarify

In respect of Henley, Chris Burrows had carried out a site visit and confirmed that he did not think railings were appropriate in that environment and that any railings would be detrimental to this location.

- Request for additional evening per week at Henley Youth & Community Centre and Studley Youth Centre – Steve Smith advised that a formal response from Peter Hatcher had been sent to Laurence Marshall as follows: *"I understand that at the last Henley and Studley Locality meeting an enquiry was made regarding whether or not an additional evening of*

youth provision from Henley Youth Centre could be funded – and the a similar request regarding Studley Youth Centre

Unfortunately the simple fact is that we have limited funding available that enables us to fund 2 evenings per week for teenagers at each of our centres across the county. Some manage to provide more through local fund raising and applications for grants from local sources because we do recognise that a good youth centre open several evenings and at times on the weekend may well be able to offer more for young people to do and therefore positively contribute to other local issues. We are all facing even greater financial challenges in the coming year so it would be wrong of me to build up any hope for increases paid for by WCC at this time.

I hope this helps answer your enquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.”

- Pathway being obstructed by tables & chairs outside Studio 54, Henley – It was confirmed that the offending table and chairs have been removed from the footway.
- Switch over to digital and is it justified?.
A response form Andy McDarmaid was read out a copy of which is attached to these notes

3. Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team

Presentation by Sgt Bob Shaw.

Data Protection Notice read out.

Community priorities were identified as follows:-

- House Burglaries.
- Speeding on A3400 Wootton Wawen.
- Nuisance motorcycles Node Hill Studley.
- House Burglaries - Agreed policing activity was 10x4 hour patrols. Since the last Forum on 26th June 2009 the Police have carried out 13 patrols to specifically target house burglary offences. During those patrols they stopped many vehicles and used stop and search powers on 12 occasions, these searches resulting in 5 street warnings for cannabis possession. When stopping vehicles the Police also consider road traffic offences and often carry out breath tests where appropriate

- Speeding on A3400 Wootton Wawen - Agreed policing activity was 6x2 hour speed checks. The area has been visited 6 times since the last forum, each time a speed check of approximately 2 hours has been carried out. The Police have sent out 66 warning letters, verbally warned five drivers and issued one fixed penalty notice.
- Nuisance motorcycles on Node Hill Studley - Agreed policing activity was 18 visits to the area. The police have visited the Node Hill area a recorded 18 times since the last Forum, only one report has been received regarding nuisance vehicles in that time. Two youths were found using cannabis on one visit and another youth was visited following reports he had been using his motorcycle in the Node Hill area and advised.
- Other matters of interest: - The promise of a new PCSO for the team has unfortunately been put on hold for the time being following a requirement in a higher priority location on the district for the particular officer. There is an opportunity for residents to volunteer as a special constable. Further details were given in the presentation.

4. SNT Priorities

A vote was taken on the list of issues put forward to determine 3 priorities for the Safer Neighbourhood Team. They were as follows:-

- Equal 1st – Continued publication of local Police newsletter – Bob Shaw to make a representation to the relevant unit within the Police service. Cllr Barry will convey the Forums wishes to the Police Authority
- Equal 1st – Parking in Arden/Castle Road junction in Henley. Bob Shaw agreed that the Police would undertake 24 visits by the next forum, giving advice initially and issuing fixed penalties where appropriate.
- Antisocial behaviour in fields adjacent to Wickham Road Studley, beside the river. Bob Shaw agreed that the Police would undertake 30 visits by the next forum.

5. Have Your Say

- Small wheelie bins

A resident asked if there was any progress on delivery of small wheelie bins

ACTION: Dave Webb to obtain current position to feed back at the next meeting

- Information on Website

Paul Beaman advised the meeting that he had not been able to find information relating to Community Forums on the Stratford District Council or Warwickshire County Council website.

ACTION: Lizzie Price to review the website links between the two webpages and report back to the next meeting

- Fire Service Review

Councillor Hazel Wright asked why discussions about the future structure of the fire service were being done confidentially when there was overriding public interest. Stephen Thirwell read out a statement from Paul Fuller Warwickshire's Chief Fire Officer which confirmed that consultation meetings were to take place in the autumn. The outcome of these meetings will be debated by WCC members in December prior to any decision in the New Year. This item will be included in the agenda of the next forum.

ACTION: WCC officers to find out the answer to Cllr Wright's question and to bring item back for public consultation in due course.

- Speed on the Warwick Road – Overhanging trees obscuring views – WCC Highways requested to look into this

ACTION: Paul Cowley to investigate

- A435 Mappleborough Green – insufficient warning of speed reduction

ACTION: Paul Cowley to look into additional signage

- Grass cutting – need for all organisations to coordinate activities, including cross boundary. Also lack of hedge cutting in Preston Baggot and the lack of enforcement action on the landowner. These items to be picked up in grass cutting item at next Forum.

- Poor attendance by residents at the Forum – Stephen Thirwell confirmed that the number of residents attending this forum was better than previously. It was also confirmed that extensive advertising of Forums is taking place.

- Re-surface of roundabout in Studley

Concern was raised regarding the surfacing of Studley roundabout. Paul Beaman advised that the roundabout has been left at the request of Studley in Bloom for planting.

6. Affordable Homes – presentation by Phil Ward Rural Housing Enabler WRCC

Phil Ward Rural Housing Enabler explained the definition of affordable housing, his role and the process of bringing forward affordable housing schemes in rural areas. There was a lack of affordable housing coming though. Phil explained the Planning Policies which were helping to provide opportunities for new

affordable housing. Success depended upon the assistance of parish councils and the development of Parish Plans and Housing Needs Assessments. Questions from the floor included; the impact of the housing moratorium, local connection criteria, getting community 'buy in' rent levels and the cost of building new units.

7. Empty Homes – presentation by Carol Roberts, Empty Homes Officer SDC

Carol Roberts explained the work being undertaken to bring empty properties back into use which included the availability of grants. Successful projects had taken place in Studley. In addition she outlined the work of the Private Sector Housing Team. Those present were asked to help identify empty properties and to contact Carol with information which could lead to further action being taken and the property ultimately being used again.

ACTION: Parish Council to advise Carol of details of empty homes in Henley

8. “Parish Pump” – Information Sharing

- Local Transport Plan 3 - Steve Smith and Jenny Murray (WCC) introduced this item. The plan covers all modes of transport and residents have the opportunity to have their say by completing a questionnaire. Response deadline is 25 September 2009.
- Place Survey 2008 – Dave Webb (SDC) gave some background as to the origin of the Place Survey and related some key findings identified by residents living in the Henley and Studley area. Copies of the Place Survey were made available to those attending the forum and a request to highlight any issues arising from the survey as future agenda items.
- Community Cash Back – Jenny Murray advised the Forum of a Community Cash Back scheme which is a new scheme in England and Wales which gives local people a say in how £4million of recovered criminal assets (for example confiscated cash or property) should be spent in their communities. Members of the Forum were asked to consider whether there were any projects which may benefit from this scheme. Contact details were given.
- Councillor Paul Beaman advised the Forum that Studley was now identified as an Air Quality Management Area. The survey on public perception was accepted by the Government and taken forward as a model for others. Thanks were given to WCC/SDC officers.

9. Items for future meetings

- Health issues in the Forum area.

- Review on progress Re: Parking
- Whitley Hill speeding

10. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

Thursday 12th November 2009 – Henley Memorial Hall

Thursday 11th February 2010 – Studley Village Hall

