

Henley & Studley Community Forum

Wednesday 18th February 2009

7.30pm Studley High School, Crooks Lane, Studley

Members in Attendance: Stephen Thirlwell
Mike Weddell
Mrs Helen McCarthy
Trevor Russell
Paul Beaman
Mrs Hazel Wright
Richard Hobbs
George Atkinson

26 Members of the public and support officers from SDC and WCC
Apologies were received from Laurence Marshall & C. Neilson.

1. Welcome from the Chair, Stephen Thirlwell to the Community Forum meeting.

2. Update and Matters Arising from the meeting held on 26th November 2008

- Parking in Henley High Street: Covered in SNT presentation.
- Parking on the pavement along Alcester Road, Studley: Update from Cllr Mrs Helen McCarthy WCC – Chris Latham has undertaken a site visit. Not happy that parking bays should be installed on the A435 which is a very busy A. road. Bob Shaw of the Safer Neighbourhoods Policing team urged everyone to report any obstruction caused and tickets will be issued.
- Parking outside Tesco, Studley: Report from Mrs McCarthy that Capital Grant money has been put aside to provide railings to prevent inappropriate parking. Hopefully will be ratified at the next Joint Area Committee.
- Studley Swimming Pool Access: Briefing note by Rob Walsh (SDC) presented by Dave Webb – It may be possible to identify gaps in the programming at Studley Pool but in order for Studley Swimmers to make a block booking and assess their operation further information has been requested by SDC similar to that required of other bona fide organisations. SDC are still awaiting this information.
- Studley Library: Cllr Mrs Ann Wade of Studley Parish Council informed the Forum that a consultation of the future of the Library started two weeks ago. However, forms can only be accessed from the Library which has limited opening hours. Mrs Wade felt that it was an underhand way of conducting this review and that it should be more accessible to the public. Mrs Helen McCarthy is to look into the situation in Studley and other areas

and report back to the next meeting. Steve Smith to report to the Library Service as the consultation period will end mid March.

3. Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team

Presentation given by Sgt Bob Shaw. Main points raised were as follows:-

- Important that everyone get in touch with the police concerning inappropriate parking on A435
- Issues concerning criminal damage and Anti-Social Behaviour in Henley on going. Extra policing Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Undercover police car January and February found more youths with alcohol.
- 44 recorded officer visits to Henley Skate Park since last Forum meeting. Money is being spent on fencing to bring it up to a better state of repair.
- Local speeding checks carried out in:
High Street, Henley – 5 warning letters issued.
Stratford Road, Wootton Wawen- 10 warning letters issued.
Station Road, Claverdon – 15 warning letters issued
The Common, Earlswood – 3 warning letters and 1 fixed penalty notice issued.
- Operation Faringdon was a local ASB initiative run over 4 weeks. Alcohol and cannabis seized and 11 arrests made. Damage figures in Henley are down for the year.
- Operation Oundle was an initiative to combat vehicle crime prior to Christmas. Vehicle crime reduced.
- Reduction in Anti Social Behaviour figures in most areas but an increase in Sambourne and Tanworth. 2 pubs on Redditch Road in Studley have been closed which should help reduce figures in Studley. Reduction in Henley is due to co-operation between residents and the police. Need to phone and report all crime.
- Have continued with Community work with road safety talks, visits to vulnerable, NHW, liaising with Truancy Services, support for domestic violence incidents and youth services and schools.
- Drug testing in toilets of licensed premises to identify use of drugs such as cocaine. 10 out of 13 pubs had traces of cocaine. Sniffer dogs are also being used.
- Responses to questionnaires show increased satisfaction.
- Tanworth still a problem concerning response times as only 62.11% within 20 minutes.

4. Shakespeare Rail Line upgrade

Presentation by Tom Pierpoint, Transport Planner for WCC. Main points as follows:-

- The line was identified as having growth potential
- At present hourly service to Birmingham, 2 hourly services to London. There are poor facilities at stations and poor evening service.
- In partnership with the Rail Industry the upgrade is aimed at improving accessibility and rail network to move away from the use of the private car.

- There has been significant investment.
- Upgrade comprises of:
 - (1) Improvements to Stratford on Avon Station including a new ticket office, platform and main building facilities, passenger information and access. Improvements to be delivered before 2012.
 - (2) Service enhancements – Pursuing improvements to evening and London service. 2 trains per hour on Saturday seen as an incremental step to delivering 2 trains per hour Monday – Saturday.
 - (3) Development of a Bus/Rail interchange on the cattle market development in Stratford.
 - (4) Development of Stratford Parkway Station, adjacent to Park and Ride site next to A46 and A3400 as close to strategic road network
 - (5) New Rolling stock- Class 172's will be introduced June 2010.
 - (6) Station travel plans at all stations in line in Warwickshire
 - (7) Improvements at Henley in Arden – Potential improvements being investigated includes extension to the station car park, CCTV and CIS, access improvements. Small improvements to the existing car park will take place as part of the redevelopment of existing station building.
 - (8) Station Travel Plans will be completed for all stations
 - (9) Station improvements to other smaller stations to be completed by 2010/2011.
 - (10) Network Rail are committed to undertake track and signalling works scheduled for 2010 which will increase the capacity and journey times to Birmingham.
- Question from the floor concerning improvements at Henley asking if the access at Henley Station could be brought forward to enable it to comply with the DDA Act, as Henley needs access for all. Should be a priority. Improvements in three tranches. Work at Stratford will be done first as station has more users.
- It is good to see improvements to the railway but concern from a resident that budgets are being cut from schools. Cllr Richard Hobbs reiterated by Mrs McCarthy stated that funding was coming from Capital budget not Revenue Budget, which is where money for schools comes from. School money is ring fenced and budget has not been cut by WCC.
- Chair Stephen Thirlwell thanked Mr Pierpoint for his presentation.

5. Stratford on Avon Sustainable Community Strategy.

Presentation by Trevor Russell. Main points as follows: -

- The strategy is a vision for the district until 2026 and identified key challenges based on forward evidence and key actions to deliver services.
- The strategy is a key document which sits above all other plans including Corporate Strategies developed by District and County Council, Police etc.
- Opportunities to comment can be made by the end of February

- An on line questionnaire can be found and completed on Stratford District Council's website.
- The audience was advised that when completing the questionnaire they should pick those actions which are most important to them and include any action that is not mentioned.
- Comments should also focus on the district and not specific areas within it.

Comments from the floor: -

- Cllr Mrs Hazel Wright commented that one of the actions was quality of life and to get vitality back into towns and villages. This included actions to create a thriving environment for shops. This was currently not the case in Studley and it was difficult to see how this could happen unless there was an up turn in the economic climate.
- Trevor Russell confirmed that the vision projected a picture for 2026. It was up to the partners to deliver actions which would fulfil the vision and allocate resources accordingly.
- It was appreciated that there could be a possibility for direct conflict especially if residents in an area give priority to pay less Council Tax. It would be incumbent on the partnership to use depleted resources on delivering services. They will need to explain why not delivering.

6. Locality Profile

Presentation by Steve Smith, Warwickshire County Council. Main points as follows: -

- The locality profile is a statistical document, a piece of evidence with an overview of facts and figures of the similarities between towns and villages in the Alcester, Studley and Henley areas.
- There is a broad range of data with comparisons and rankings with the County average.

Key issues arising from the profile included: -

- In 2006 25.7% of the Studley and Henley area population of 19, 248 were over retirement age compared with 19.9% in the rest of the County.
- Fewer households did not own a car i.e. 12.2% compared with 19% in Warwickshire. In addition, the average income was also £1700 per household higher.
- 1.1% of the population were claiming Job Seekers Allowance compared to 1.9% in Warwickshire.
- Pupils with 5 or more GCSE's including English and Maths was 13.9% higher. There were also fewer 16-74 year olds with no formal education.
- It is also a safer area to live with 58.3 crimes per 1,000 population. Vehicle crime is also lower.

- Sambourne and Tamworth are amongst the top 10% nationally regarding barriers to housing and services.
- 83% of people are also satisfied with the area as a place to live.
- Further and more details and information about the Locality Profile can be found on Warwickshire County Council website www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Air Quality Management

Presentation by Robert Weeks Stratford District Council. Main points included: -

- Studley were already aware of the air quality issues in the area but Stratford District Council had undertaken Air Quality Control across the District. There are similar problems of air quality in both Henley and Stratford as well as Studley.
- SDC formally recognises contaminants in the air and have to look to work together to alleviate problems as traffic was the main cause.
- Studley Parish Council and SDC are in a more advanced stage and already trying to solve problems. Slow moving traffic is the main cause through Studley and there was a need to get it moving through more quickly. WCC is a key partner who will hopefully deliver when suggestions are made.
- Questionnaire to be delivered with the next Studley Parish Council newsletter. Residents urged to complete it and get it back as soon as possible.
- Robert Weeks agreed to return to the Community Forum meeting in 3-4 months time to provide an update.

7. Representatives for the Stratford District Partnership

This item was presented by Martin Gibbins, Warwickshire County Council

- There was an opportunity for representatives from each Community Forum to sit on SDP Core Group.
- There are 6 meetings a year.
- This opportunity provided a two way link with Community Forums. Only one representative was permitted from each Community Forum. However, Cllr George Atkinson suggested that a representative should be allowed from each area, i.e. Studley and Henley. Martin Gibbins agreed to see whether this was feasible and report back to the next Community Forum meeting.

8. Have Your Say

- Anna Stowe, Studley Youth Club Re: Parking on private road by Studley Village Hall. As this is shared road between WCC and Studley Parish Council double yellow lines cannot be enforced. The situation will continue to be monitored. Anna is to pursue further.

- Parking at Somerfield/One Stop in Henley still causing a problem. 3 incidents of people parking on Pedestrian crossing. Railings required.
- Disabled Car Parking in Henley time limit changed – To be discussed at next Forum meeting.
- Residents were still not aware of the Forum meetings. Officers will review publicity measures. Recommendations for publicity at next meeting.
- Problems on Station Road and Crooks Lane, Studley from rowdy and drunken youths as well as criminal damage. Bob Shaw to speak to the residents after the meeting.

9. Parish Pump – Information Sharing

- Studley Cinema showing 'Mary Poppins', Saturday 21st February 7pm

10. Items for future meetings

- Stratford on Avon Sustainable Community Strategy update – 4 months time.
- Sustainable Schools.
- Library Service.
- Flood Alleviation within the Community
- Highway Maintenance

11. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

Thursday 25th June 2009 – Henley. Venue to be confirmed

Thursday 13th August 2009 – Studley Village Hall

