

Notes from the Alcester and Bidford Community Forum meeting held on 9th February at the Graftons Village Hall Temple Grafton.

Attendance: 7 Parish and Town Councillors, 5 WCC/ SDC Officers and 17 members of the public.

Welcome from the chair

It was noted following a complaint from the floor that the agenda did not refer to the start time of the Forum to be 7pm but from 6:30 pm.

Local Policing Update

Sgt Wild reiterating previous Community Priorities

- Anti Social Behaviour in Alcester
- Anti Social Behaviour in Bidford
- Speeding Cars

Sgt Wild stated there had been work done on these issues but they also have to work on other priorities. Warwickshire Police priority is to protect communities from harm and although they have one of the lowest crime figures in the country they do not rate highly in confidence surveys.

Sgt Wild confirmed the actions that were taken to address this including shared surgeries with Parish Councils, weekly street briefings, mobile surgeries and newsletters. He also outlined steps that had been taken targeting Anti Social Behaviour and Speeding.

Sgt Wild continued with a presentation. He also stated that vehicle crime had been identified by his inspector as a priority.

Further questions from the floor included parking issues particularly by schools, Burglaries in homes and allotments and regarding bridges the public can report the registration details of lorries breaking the load restrictions.

The 3 new Community Priorities were

- Vehicle Crime
- Antisocial Behaviour at Hopkins Precinct Alcester
- Anti Social Behaviour at Bidford

Warwickshire Police Budget 2010-11 (Brought Forward)

Councillor Hobbs gave a presentation, key elements included the make up of the Police Authority, the policies and priorities the police have to follow e.g. Prevention of Serious Crime, Sexual Crime prevention, Domestic Violence and encouraging people to come forward and the use of PNT's and Reactive Policing units.

The Budget this year was to be capped at 2.04% also using reserves to solve pension issues.

Questions were raised from the floor including how the police authority was funded, 3 ways Central Government, Business Rates and Council Tax. How many officers were there in Warwickshire, 980 plus 139 PCSO's? Would front line services be hit, what would happen to PCSO's once their budget runs out, will retired officers be replaced. No guarantees were made on each issue.

Concerns were also raised on confidence particularly with older people who were more vulnerable and wanted to see more uniformed officer presence.

Merging with other Police Authorities was also considered, but not thought to be an acceptable option, but despite a lot of concerns the consensus was to support the police budget.

NHS Trust Foundation Trust Status

Janet White gave a verbal presentation on behalf of UHCW who were applying for NHS Foundation Trust quoting the following advantages:

- Based on 5 year old models
- Still employ NHS staff
- Still give free NHS Care
- Builds on Success promoting good leadership
- More independent from government
- Members hold Board to account
- Performance monitored by independent regulator
- Reports are laid before parliament
- Gives more financial flexibility
- Want to encourage people to be involved
- Want to invest in the right services
- Want to be a membership organisation

Various questions were asked from the floor including managing deficits, PFI debts, transportation and parking issues. Janet stated there was a greater freedom to work in Partnership and she invited people to put themselves forward.

Winter gritting

Statement from Forum Chairman Kim James: The recent severe weather problems have again highlighted the issues with winter gritting practices that were brought up one year ago at Bidford and have apparently not been addressed.

Bullet points from a brief policy summary from County Councillor Richard Hobbs, standing in for the portfolio holder:

- Average 45-52 gritting runs per winter with up to 20 grammes per sq. metre (variable according to conditions)
- Audit Commission stock levels of no more than 6 days
- WCC stock up to 79 runs
- This winter WCC had done 54 runs at full 20 gr/sq m up to 10 days ago
- When it became critical nationally government created 'salt sell' but WCC was not getting new supplies as it had 10 days stock
- WCC policy is to maintain main traffic routes and main urban areas and single routes into villages
- In prolonged weather conditions some secondary routes are not gritted
- WCC Policy on Grit Bins is that local communities or Parish Councils should provide them and WCC will fill them, however prolonged weather conditions and shortage of grit sometimes does not make this possible

Bullet points from community members:

- Observations and enquiries show different policies on the provision of grit bins
- There is great concern for vulnerable people such as older residents and very young sown by the increase in injuries at hospitals due to falls putting strain on the NHS
- In some areas Health Authorities have invested in gritting to avoid the extra expense of treating falls
- Parish Councils have bought Grit Bins, eg. Bidford, but nothing is done in pedestrian areas once they become empty

- Bus routes are not all being gritted and the request last year was to ensure gritting was taken all the way up to schools at least.
- People are frightened to clear the pavements in front of their properties due to the risk of litigation if falls occur as a result. This seems unacceptable and needs clarification from Central Government.

Summarising the Chairman wanted clear guidelines on how authorities can work in partnership and improve the situation with sufficient grit for instance for local needs, emphasising this is one issue that benefits the whole community, and hoped that WCC as the lead provider will take on board the issues raised by the forum.

Supporting Carers

A verbal presentation was given by Gill Russell on behalf of the South Warwickshire Carers Service with the following points being made

- The 'Care in Confidence' project is being done in 50 sessions to over 200 carers
- Very important to get 'Hidden Carers' on board for help
- Each session is 3 hours with refreshments
- It is done in a structured way
- It truly makes a difference
- Warwickshire has 53000 informal carers including 1500 under 18 carers
- Very important to recognise the importance of carers
- In the UK there are 6000 new carers every day
- They would be sending out leaflets to each council advertising the scheme.

Warwickshire LINK

A verbal presentation was done by Claire Cardus, the local Community Engagement Officer stating the following main points

- Started in 2008 as PPI Forums
- They look at Health and Social Care
- Policies and Procedures are set up to meet Warwickshire Community's needs
- 9 other LINKs across the country
- Main aim is to get people to have their say
- Main reason is to get local people involved to meet local needs
- Suggestions for change can be received by freepost, telephone, interactive web site
- Individuals can join and receive a bi monthly newsletter
- People can also get more involved as a member
- LINK is accountable to local people
- Experiences have to be recorded to improve Health and Social Care
- Use the questionnaire to feed back
- 2 projects running on GP out of Hours and Mental Health
- Really important surveys are filled in.

General Description

Richard Hood (SDC Officer) re Gaydon Digital Challenge promoted on the website and Pilot scheme on subsidised transport in the district for £2, with some new routes in the Henley and Shipston areas.

Mike Gittus (WCC Councillor) re Money has been released for the Flood Alleviation Scheme in Alcester which is estimated to cost £1.1 Million. Lobbying has also resulted in a Severn Trent Scheme of £1 Million to upgrade Sewage Plant and Equipment.

Amanda Wilson Patterson (WCC Officer) re Local Transport Plan 3 consultation taking place setting out the Transport Strategy with questionnaires to be filled in. Review of Speed limits is not included though.

Theme for the next meeting

Richard Hood (SDC Officer) outlined ideas for developing an Action/Locality Plan for 2010/11. He stated that a place survey had been completed from 1800 plus questionnaires giving information on the following issues

- Influencing Decisions
- More Community Involvement
- Local Public Services
- Anti Social Behaviour
- What is important e.g. Crime Levels, Health Service Issues, Access to Nature, Clean Streets, Affordable Housing
- What needs improving e.g. Activities for Teenagers, Road Repairs.

At the next meeting it was planned to break out into groups to discuss action plans etc. and future issues and challenges. It was suggested we should encourage more residents to come along

Dates for Future Meetings

The date for the next meeting was agreed to be 22nd June, Venue to be confirmed.

Protecting our communities together

Alcester and Bidford Community Forum

9/2/10



Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood
team
Contact number: 01789 444816
Sergeant: PS 753 Stuart Wild



Data Protection notice

When discussing members of the public, all agencies and individuals will agree to respect their confidentiality. The disclosure of information outside this meeting, should not occur unless there is a legal basis for a disclosure.

Policing Pledge

The policing pledge sets out how:

You can expect to be treated by Warwickshire Police

Local policing priorities will be addressed

We will deal with emergencies and non emergencies within agreed times

We will keep you informed of progress if you`ve been a victim of crime.

It is a commitment that we will work with you and local partners to protect you from harm and increase your confidence in services.

Visit www.warwickshire.police.uk for further information

Community Priorities

Warwickshire Police is obliged to protect communities from harm in line with the '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 the panel.



Warwickshire Police Priorities 2009/10

To reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured

- *Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured through road traffic collisions compared with last year*
- *Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured as a result of violence compared with last year*
- *Detect 45% of crimes where someone is killed or seriously injured*
- *Increase the number of serious sexual offences we detect compared with last year*
- *Reduce the number of victims of aggravated burglary and robbery compared with last year*
- *Identify and charge 15 members of organised crime groups whose activities harm communities*

To reduce the number of homes burgled and vehicle crimes committed

- *Reduce the number of homes burgled and vehicles stolen by three percent compared with last year*
- *Reduce theft from vehicles by five percent compared with last year*

To improve trust and confidence

- *Local Safer Neighbourhood teams will deliver 100% of agreed policing activity that protects people from harm and supports Community Forum priorities*
- *Increase the number of victims of serious sexual offences who report crimes to us compared with last year*
- *Ensure 85% of victims are satisfied with the overall experience they receive*
- *Increase confidence (measured by survey)*

Other Agency Work – [consultation]

Sharing a surgery with Alcester Town Council

[First Saturday of month Church House Butter St]

Use of mobile police station outside shops

Weekly street briefings

Regular contact with Parish and Town Clerks

Mobile library

Trading standards

Agreed priorities from 23/6/2009

Location	Patrols	Comments
1. ASB High St and Surrounds after 10pm	13	23 hrs patrol.No assaults.6 alcohol confiscations.2 drunk adults and one minor dealt with.10 damage, two dealt with.8 pub watch bans.
2. Speeding Aston Cantlow Rd Wimcote	6	6 checks completed. 4 hrs patrol time. 19 warning letters sent, 2 cautions
3. ASB Marleigh Park, Bidford.	12	2 incidents recorded,generally quiet.8 interventions from other areas and alcohol confiscation. Graffiti removal and planting.

Work done –

Visits to schools and groups to give talks re internet safety

Work with Conway Fields Stakeholders

Liaison with Pub Watch

Operations Kirby/Harrismith

Involved in Alcester youth committee

Policing events

Domestic violence support

41 crime investigations

Safer Neighbourhoods



Speeding issues

Location	No.of days	Comments
Alcester	1	2 warning letters
Great Alne	1	3 warning letters

Alcester South Daily Crime Figures

Serious Violent Crime:	0.15
Homes Burgled and vehicles stolen:	0.22
Vehicle Crime:	0.37

ASB Figures

	2008/09(total)	2009/2010(to date)
Alcester	173	207
Bidford	56	84
Bardon	17	6
Aston Cantlow	5	5
Welford	6	8
Kinwarton	20	12

Crime Overview Alcester South

Comparison of crime 2008/09 with 2009/10

• Serious Violent crime	65	47
• Serious Violent crime detections.....		44.7%
• Domestic burglary.....	35.....	38
• Theft of vehicle.....	10.....	20
• Vehicle crime.....	86.....	117
• Criminal Damage.....	187.....	153

Alcester South
Safer Neighbourhood Team

Sgt 753 Stuart WILD

PC 1647 Tony HALL

PCSO 6093 Becky MORRIS

A/SO 3273 Pete JOHNSON

PC 94 Steve MONCKTON

PCSO 6060 Martin SANFORD

SC 3770 James STANLEY

PC 885 Doug JOHNSON

PCSO 6179 Peter GROOM

SC 3646 John McKAY

PCSO 6206 Ally STREATFIELD

PCSO 6236 Andy HYMAN

Thank you for your time.

Please contact the team should you have any queries
or concerns.

Tel: 01789 444816

Email: alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

Web: www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk

**Welcome to the
Alcester and Bidford
Community Forum**

9th February 2010

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 1

Speeding Traffic in Wixford (ongoing issue – priority raised at June meeting)

OUTCOME

Police checks were reported back to the forum in November. This issue was raised at SDC's West Area Committee and officers within the Road Safety Unit, WCC are also aware

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 2

Use of speed awareness apparatus

OUTCOME

WCC still working very closely with the parishes to implement this equipment

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 3

Increase awareness of Back & 4th's group transport services for the benefit of sports teams travelling inside or outside Stratford District to attend matches, events

OUTCOME

An agreement was reached with CSW Sport on 6 Jan 2010 that they will include a flag on the CSW Sport E-Update with a link to full information about Back & 4th on the County Council's community transport webpage. The CSW Sport E-Update is at <http://www2.cswsport.org.uk/enews/editions129.html>

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 3

Increase awareness of Back & 4th's group transport services for the benefit of sports teams travelling inside or outside Stratford District to attend matches, events

OUTCOME

Back & 4th are currently preparing copy for inclusion in Stratford District Council's In2Sport Newsletter March 2010 and are negotiating for an allocation of space to advertise in the District's annual Sport's Directory

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 4

Facilities for the youths update

OUTCOME

Multi Use Games Area started yesterday (8th February) and will come to fruition by the end of March

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 5

Bidford Bridge Weight Limits

OUTCOME

Ongoing issue – Sgt Wilde to update in SNT presentation