

# Behind the Scenes

## YOUR COMMUNITY FORUM December 2011

What is the point of coming to YOUR Community Forum? Would you like to know more? Regular editions of 'Behind the Scenes' will give you the answers.

For more information get in touch with the Stratford Team on 01789 260134 or e-mail [stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk)

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Rural Transport – the future for the locality,  
Community Speed Watch, Local Policing Priorities,  
NHS Public Health Annual Report,  
Police Authority News

### What, When and Where is the Community Forum?

Community Forums are local informal meetings for residents to come along to. They offer you a straightforward way to raise your views and concerns about things that matter to you. Your Community Forum meets at least 4 times a year, at venues chosen by you. All the meetings start with a half hour **drop-in surgery from 6.30pm** with the Forum starting at 7.00pm. During the surgery you can drop in to chat to officers from your Neighbourhood Policing Team, your local Councillors and Council Officers and have a cup of tea.

The area covers the parishes of: Alcester, Arrow with Weethley, Great Alne, Kinwarton, Aston Cantlow, Billesley, Binton, Exhall, Haselor, Luddington, Old Stratford & Drayton, Temple Grafton, Wilmcote, Bidford On Avon, Clifford Chambers & Milcote, Dorsington, Salford Priors, Welford On Avon, Weston On Avon, Wixford

#### **The Dates for 2012/2013 are:**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 6.30pm at Crawford Memorial Hall

### What Happens at the Community Forum?

The **Neighbourhood Policing Team** give an update on the priorities that you agreed at the last meeting and you are given the opportunity to vote on the new priorities for the following 3 months for your area.

There is a "**You Said, We Did!**" Presentation that tells you what we have done about all the issues you raised last time.

There is a **Have Your Say** session where you can raise any issues of concern and you can suggest topics for discussion at future meetings

County, District & Parish/Town Councillors and representatives from NHS Warwickshire, The Police Authority, VASA (Voluntary Action Stratford-on-Avon), come to the meetings to keep you updated on any new developments that may be of interest or concern to you.

## Local Surgery

Immediately before each Forum there is an opportunity for local residents to speak informally with local Councillors, Council Officers and members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

These surgeries run from **6.30pm** for half an hour and allow concerns to be expressed in confidence or be passed on to the appropriate agency for action.



## Market place

Community Links Transport aims to help all residents of any age, wherever they may live in the district, who are stuck for transport to get to local destinations on weekdays between about 9.30am and 2.30pm. The scheme is a door to door service aimed at those who:

- Have a genuine need for local transport; **and**
- Cannot access public transport because of mobility problems or other issues; **or**
- Live in an isolated location with no other form of transport available to them

## Forum held 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The forum met at St Benedict's Catholic High School and the main theme was the continuing debate about Rural Transport in the locality and what the future holds for communities.

### **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

The evening kicked-off with a short presentation from PC Sally Rolfe about Community Speed Watch. This is a community forum driven initiative that enables local communities, supported by Warwickshire Police, to become involved in reducing harm and fear arising from inappropriate traffic speed on local roads. Around 6 volunteers, together with one volunteer co-ordinator are identified, vetted and trained by Warwickshire Police in the use of the equipment. There are currently 8 sets of equipment available to borrow. Sally confirmed that parish councils could also approach the Speed Watch co-ordinators with a list of volunteers so that the vetting and training can be processed quickly according to the availability of equipment. Further details can be found on the following website: [www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk).

### **LOCAL POLICING UPDATE**

PC Pete Essex, PCSO Andy Hyman and PCSO Pete Groom gave the NPT update on the last three neighbourhood priorities that were identified at the September forum and voting took place to identify the three priorities for the next quarter (details on page 3). A copy of the presentation can be found at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/alcesterforum](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/alcesterforum).

### **POLICE AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Cllr Richard Hobbs gave the Police Authority update; the alliance with West Mercia Police is progressing; elections for the new Police and Crime Commissioner, which will replace the Police Authority, will take place on November 2012. The candidates have yet to be identified and the vote will not necessarily be along party lines. This will be an important decision and, as a result, it was agreed to bring this issue to a future forum in 2012.

John Bunting asked Cllr Hobbs why the police station in Alcester was to be closed when £1 million was spent only recently to refurbish it. Cllr Hobbs replied that the policy was to put available resources into people not premises with mobile communications.

Cllr Nina Knapman asked if funding for the provision of PCSOs would be continued. Cllr Hobbs confirmed that the Police Authority is committed to keep PCSOs but not necessarily in the same numbers.

### **HAVE YOUR SAY**

Have Your Say: Derek Spencer of King's Coughton spoke about the issue of street lighting and asked if it would be possible to switch them off at night between midnight and 5am. He believed that, rather than increasing the incidence of crime, switching off street lighting at night actually reduces crime. Cllr Mike Gittus advised the forum that a consultation to decide where switch-off takes place was underway at the moment concerning this very proposal. Cllr Nina Knapman proposed that this decision should be made independently by local people, rather than a "one size fits all" approach.

Kathryn Millard (NHS) gave details of the Public Health Annual Report, compiled by John Linnane (Director of Public Health for Warwickshire). Copies of this report are available on their website:

[www.warwickshire.nhs.uk](http://www.warwickshire.nhs.uk).

### **RURAL TRANSPORT**

Cllr Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways, was invited to speak about the budget cuts and discuss their effect on the local communities in the locality. £1.6 million was cut from the Transport budget so rationalisation had to take effect immediately. The withdrawal of the Number 29 bus service during the evening meant that shift workers in Stratford could not return home. There is anecdotal evidence of people losing their jobs as a result. Julie Styles (Alcester TC) stated that Alcester Youth Council had identified lack of evening buses was preventing young people from attending after-school clubs, evening sport events etc.

Q: Why have Sunday Services been stopped completely?

A: WCC had to target some areas, concentrating on getting people to work as a priority. There is a limit on how much can be subsidised.

Q: Is it not true that there are fewer opportunities for people in rural areas so a bus service that adequately serves the local community is necessary?

A: South Warwickshire is seen as an affluent area and there are others who are more disadvantaged. This assumption was challenged by Malcolm Simmons (vice-chair of Aston Cantlow Parish Council) who quoted WCC's Locality Profile data which stated that Aston Cantlow was ranked within top 10% most deprived areas nationally as far as Barriers to housing and services were concerned.

Q: What ideas are there to "fill the gaps"?

A: There are voluntary schemes (Community Links included) that provide solutions for people without access to their own transport and it is certainly evident that people in South Warwickshire are more willing to become volunteers than in other areas of the county.

David Tucker, who is a member of the Coventry & Warwickshire LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) stated that a key concern was access to employment for 18 – 24 year olds. An initiative being trialled in other parts of the West Midlands is loaning 18-24 year olds (subject to qualifying criteria) a scooter in order to get to work.

The Transport Group of the LEP is currently putting together a list of projects, large and small, to support economic activity in the sub region. One issue is access in rural areas, the largest of which is South Warwickshire. The Group would welcome input from local communities in South Warwickshire by March 2012 in order to identify potential transport projects to support those communities.

## Policing Priorities

Out of a number of issues brought to the forum, the following three were voted as being the most important.

- 1/ Theft of drain covers.
- 2/ Speeding along Bearley Road, Aston Cantlow.
- 3/ Theft of lead.



## Future Forum Agenda Items

We agree topics at the previous meeting and you are asked to suggest topics for discussion. Occasionally, items of particular importance to the area happen between meetings and where possible we try to ensure that these can be included. This might include major consultations on local developments or services

Potential items for the **March 2012** Community Forum include: **Street Lighting Consultation and Police and Crime Commissioner Election update.**



## What happens Next?

Between each meeting of your Community Forum, a group of people meet at a planning meeting to take forward the actions agreed at the meetings. These discussions are led by the Chairman, Cllr Kim James with the support of officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, VASA, NHS Warwickshire, Warwickshire County & Stratford District Councils.

All Parish & Town Councils, County & District Councillors are invited to have input into the process and a representative from the local parish council where the meeting is to be held is invited to attend the planning meeting to highlight any specific issues relevant to the area or village concerned



## Community Forum meetings:

### The Dates for 2011/2012 are:

5th March 2012, 6.30pm at Crawford Memorial Hall, Bidford

### The dates for 2012/2013 are:

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – Aston Cantlow Village Hall

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012 – venue to be arranged

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012 – venue to be arranged

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Mar 2013 – venue to be arranged

If you would like to raise an issue for discussion at a Community Forum or would like to suggest an agenda item for a future meeting, please contact the Stratford Area Team

[stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk)

or call 01789 260133

Full details for all Community Forum meetings can be found on the Warwickshire County Council website. For further information about this meeting or Community Forums in general please visit:

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums)

Have you got any comments about the Community Forum, the way we publicise the Forum's work, or this newsletter?

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

[stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## Community Forums and Locality Working

Stratford Area Team – Tel 01789 260134:

[stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk)

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums)

## Local Police Issues

Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team – Tel 01789 444816

[alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.police.uk](mailto:alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.police.uk)

[www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk](http://www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk)

**\* IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999 \***

## County Councillors

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\*\*Vice-Chair of Forum

## District Councillors

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## Police Authority

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## VASA

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## Citizens Advice Bureau

Telephone Advice Line: 0844 8552322

[www.stratforduponavoncab.org.uk](http://www.stratforduponavoncab.org.uk)