

Behind the Scenes

YOUR COMMUNITY FORUM June 2012

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

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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 marketplace from 6.30pm** with the Forum starting at 7.00pm. During the marketplace you can drop in, have a cuppa and chat to officers from your Neighbourhood Policing Team, your local Councillors and Council Officers plus a selection of local organisations and agencies.

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 Date of the next Forum is:

Tuesday 11th September 2012 at St Benedict's Catholic High School, Alcester

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 an update from the last Forum where needed which tells you what we have done about the issues raised last time.

There is ample opportunity for you to **Have Your Say** 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, members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team and local organisations and agencies.

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

Between 6.30pm and 7.00pm, we are aiming to improve our market place to include various information stands which will be of interest to local residents.

At this forum we were pleased to have representatives from Alcester Town Council, WCC's Street Lighting Consultation, SDC's State of the District stand, Trading Standards and your local Neighbourhood Policing Team. We would welcome additional representatives from local voluntary organisations/Parish Councils etc to our next and subsequent forums.

Forum held 27th June 2012

The forum met at Aston Cantlow Village Hall and the topics included **Trading Standards, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and SDC's State of the District update.**

The proceedings began with election of Chair and Vice Chair. Cllr Daren Pemberton was re-elected as Chair and Cllr Mike Gittus was re-elected as Vice Chair. Daren thanked Aston Cantlow Parish Council and community for hosting the forum and asked the representatives from the village of Barton to raise their issue with HGVs and speeding through their village. Kaye Atkins from Barton explained how dangerous the situation had become and asked for police enforcement and signage to be introduced to actively discourage HGVs from travelling through Barton and surrounding villages. Mike Gerrard explained that signage was something that was needed at Chipping Campden, but this would need to be done in conjunction with agencies such as English Heritage and the Environment Agency. A representative from Temple Grafton also stated that their village and surrounding areas were used as a rat run by speeding vehicles and it would only be a matter of time before someone was injured or killed. Also, attendees also raised the issue of excessive speed of some coaches. PC Pete Essex asked if the company name and possibly registration number could be noted and given to the police for further action to be taken. This was followed by the Policing Team's update from the last 3 months and they gave their priorities for the coming quarter, which included speed patrols in the rural villages. The full list of Police priorities are given on Page 4.

Simon Cripwell from WCC Trading Standards gave a very information presentation about their work and how they can help local residents who have a concern about product quality, scams, doorstep caller, rogue traders etc. This was followed by a talk by two GPs from Warwickshire, Dr Sukhi Dhesi and Dr Richard Lambert about the future work of the Clinical Commissioning Group (replaces the PCT from April 2013) and how community engagement and consultation will make sure the patient voice is heard throughout the organisation. After the presentation, questions were asked around the difference that this new CCG would make to individual patient choice. Dr Lambert explained that once the CCG was in place, patients and carers would be able to voice their opinions and influence future public health decisions. A related issue was raised around the Joint Services Review in Worcestershire and a request was made to invite a member of Worcestershire NHS to advise the meeting about the options available, with specific concern about the possible closure of A&E at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch.

District Cllr Gill Roache then gave an update on the State of the District. This is an annual consultation with the public to gather opinions on what is good about living in the locality and what can be improved. Cllr Roache presented a series of slides giving up-to-date information on population and areas of multiple deprivation, the highest scores for which is Alcester North & Conway (24.47), the lowest being Bidford West & Wixford (6.19). A view was expressed that Kinwarton should be included in the figures for Alcester. The latest figures show that local people like education in the area but feel that affordable housing and local transport need to be improved. SDC will return to the forum in the Autumn with issues raised and proposed actions.

Neighbourhood Planning will play a very important role in deciding where and what type of development, houses, business, shops etc should happen in a local area.

Daren then told the meeting that WCC Area Committees have now been abolished and more emphasis would be placed on developing the community forums in order to give a voice to local communities. He also gave details of the forthcoming Community Grants scheme. Each County Councillor will be given £5000 to benefit local projects, the qualifying criteria was being worked on at the moment but the scheme will be open for applications from 3rd September until the closing date of 26th October. It was suggested that there may be a case for combining allocations to provide larger grants to projects that would benefit more people. The community forum would certainly be able to play a part in identifying local projects for funding. Cllr Gittus confirmed there would be a degree of flexibility and that the annual Transport Seminar would continue.

The meeting concluded with information sharing; handouts giving the summer/Olympic events in the area were made available to take away, together with the VASA (Voluntary Action Stratford on Avon) newsletter.

Daren thanked everyone for coming along and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Policing Priorities

The following three priorities have been identified as a result of intelligence-led information gathering and local surgeries held in the last quarter:

- 1/ Speeding through rural villages
- 2/ Anti-social behaviour around Jubilee Court, Alcester
- 3/ Anti-social use of off-road motorbikes in Alcester and Broom



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 **September 2012** Community Forum include: **Street Lighting and Alcester Fire Station and Service 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 Daren Pemberton with the support of officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, VASA, NHS Warwickshire, Warwickshire County & Stratford District Councils. We always welcome suggestions for topics from ALL residents in the locality. Just call Ali Mainey on 01789 260134 or 07557 565783 or email to alisonmainey@warwickshire.gov.uk

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.



Useful Information

Community Forum meetings:

The dates for 2012/2013 are:

Tuesday 11th September 2012 at St Benedict's Catholic High School, Alcester

Wednesday 5th December 2012 at Salford Priors Village Hall

Tuesday 12th March 2013 at Crawford Memorial Hall, Bidford on Avon* (*Please note this is a change to the previously publicised venue)

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

**call 01789 260134
or 07557 565783**

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

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

Community Forums and Locality Working

Stratford Area Team – Tel 01789 260134:

stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums

Local Police Issues

Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team – Tel 01789 444816

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

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**Vice-Chair of Forum

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Citizens Advice Bureau

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www.stratforduponavoncab.org.uk