

Behind the Scenes

YOUR COMMUNITY FORUM September 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:

Wednesday 5th December at Salford Priors Village 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 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 WCC Targeted Youth Support, VASA, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue and Act on Energy

Forum held 11th Sept 2012

The forum met at St Benedict's Catholic High School, Alcester and the topics included NHS Worcestershire – the future for the Alex, WCC Targeted Youth Support and Alcester Fire Station update. The Chair, Cllr Daren Pemberton, welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Neighbourhood Policing Team (PC Pete Essex, PCSO Ally Streatfield and PCSO Andy Hyman) started the meeting with their update on the last 3 months' neighbourhood priorities and listed the priorities for the next quarter (details on page 3).

Anna Stowe, Senior Practitioner Targeted Youth Support for Warwickshire County Council, gave a brief update on their work in both Alcester and Bidford areas with those young people who are most in need of support. Their work is aimed at reducing the number of NEETs (not in education, employment or training), reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system and work with young parents. Youth workers are currently doing weekly detached sessions to get to know young people and establish their needs.

Then, Station Commander Paul Morley from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue gave the forum an update on the current status of Alcester and its transformation into a full-time station. The issue of Young Firefighters was raised and it was explained that the current situation was that there is a current shortage of instructors in Alcester, although there is still an active YFA in Bidford.

Simon Hairsnape, Chief Operating Officer for Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group, Sian Sansum from the Joint Services Review Communications team and Andrew Stone, consultant from NHS Worcestershire came to inform and update the meeting on the current stage and proposed models for changes to Worcestershire's A&E and maternity provision, including the possible of closure and relocation of these services to other hospitals in Worcestershire. The current information and the opportunity for residents to have their say can be found at: <http://www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk/joint-services-review/>

A lively discussion followed the short presentation and concerns around distances that would need to be travelled in order to reach A&E units elsewhere in the county if A & E/maternity services at the Alex were re-located were expressed by attendees. It was stressed that there were various options that were being considered and the public were invited to give their views on the Review and that no decisions had yet been made. A member of the forum stated that he was under the impression that the whole of the Alex was to be considered for closure; this is not the case. However, Andrew Stone advised the meeting that the current status of acute hospital services could not be sustained. It was agreed that NHS Worcestershire would return to the next forum in December, to update residents on the current situation. A full public consultation would begin in November. It was also agreed that communication between NHS Worcestershire and local residents needs to be improved.

There then followed an information sharing item, which included a short briefing from Elisabeth Uggerloese from Bidford Parish Council, who told the meeting about "Destination Stratford" which is an initiative to encourage visitors to spend time in Stratford district rather than focus attention on Stratford upon Avon alone. Elisabeth asked for details of events/attractions/points of interest from residents and Parish Councils in the local area in order to promote them to visitors.

Daren then thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

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/ Anti-social behaviour at Hopkins Precinct, Alcester
- 2/ Anti-social use of vehicles in Great Alne
- 3/ River Bridge at Bidford weight limit enforcement



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 **December 2012** Community Forum include: **NHS Worcestershire Joint Services Review update, loan sharks, Affordable Housing**



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:

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

alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.police.uk
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*** IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999 ***

County Councillors

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**Vice-Chair of Forum

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Citizens Advice Bureau

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