

Notes of Alcester/Bidford Community Forum – 7th December 2010, Great Alne Memorial Hall, Great Alne

A total of 23 people attended the Forum

Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman, Cllr. Kim James welcomed all to **YOUR** Community Forum. He added that, although for administration purposes it would still be known as the Alcester/Bidford Forum, it had been agreed to make it more inclusive and rename it **YOUR** Community Forum

Police Update and Setting Priorities for next 3 Months

Sgt.. Moss reported back on the 3 priorities as chosen at the previous meeting, namely:

- Speeding in Welford-on-Avon
- Speeding in Luddington
- Contravention of Sec. 59 of the Road Traffic Act 1988

The 3 priorities set at this forum were:

- Anti Social Behaviour in Alcester
- Anti Social Behaviour in Bidford-on-Avon
- Acquisitive Crime (burglary, car thefts, etc.)

Sgt. Moss added that there was an increase in the theft of items for scrap metal

ACTION:

- Police to monitor the priorities
- Members of the public to be alert to scrap metal theft
- Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch Teams to promote the use of “Smart Water” as a deterrent to theft.

Cllr. Richard Hobbs, Community Safety Representative

• **Police Authority Budget Update**

Cllr. Hobbs made a verbal report – broad outline:

- The 33 Safer Neighbourhood Teams will remain; however, the same number of officers per team could not be guaranteed.
- They would concentrate on policing, not investigating. ~This would be carried out by countywide dedicated detecting units. This will free the reactive forces and allow them to return to the beat.
- The shift system would change from
 - 4 days on and 4 days off – to
 - 5 days on and 2 days off: similar to a normal working week
- Backroom staff will be reduced:
 - Directorates reduced from 4 to 2
 - Section leaders from 9 to 7
- There had been a 27% reduction in all crime
- Changes in police stations are being revised to offer best use of front door – example is Alcester where it is now at Globe House
- Looking to work with neighbouring forces in such issues as IT, training etc.

District Commander Inspector Warren Ayres was also in attendance and

answered questions in relation to operational issues.

- **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Improvement Plan**

- False alarm response from automatic fire alarms has been implemented. Business were kept advised of the changes
- Better training is taking place, including hot fire training exercises
- New breathing apparatus
- New appliances (x 2) with extendable ladders, CCTV cameras etc.
- Increase in the number of Home Fire Safety checks are being carried out in partnership with other agencies such as the Police, Social Services etc. The checks include, electric blankets, fire guards, smoke alarms etc.)
- Station closures:
 - Brinklow and Warwick to close in Sept. 2011
 - Alcester will be commissioned in 2013 (full time and retained)
 - Studley will close in 2013, once Alcester has been commissioned.
- Neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services have been advised on the changes and are satisfied

You Said We Did - follow up action from the last meeting

The 'You Said We Did' presentation is on our website
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums

Mark Harris – NHS Warwickshire Manager had sent his apologies. An up to date briefing note can be found on our website www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums

Alcester Vision Group update

Richard Hood gave a verbal report which is attached hereto.

Peter Bones WCC Flood Risk Manager – local flood issues

Peter Bones had been invited by the Forum to attend this meeting and give an update on the current situation with regards to flood policies. His detailed report is attached hereto.

As the Lead Local Flood Authority (Flood Risk Regulations 2009) and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010) WCC is in the process of obtaining as much information as possible from all areas to enable it to have a strategy for local flood risk.

He stated that he had received great support from Stratford District Council and Dave Tiley in particular, who had supplied him with the detailed report SDC had put together following the 1998 floods.

Action:

- Peter Bones/Mick Potter to email a questionnaire to Parish Council Clerks to be completed by the local community to provide WC , the Lead Local Flood Authority, with an up to date picture of the area.

Mick Potter, WCC Emergency Plans – Exercise Watermark

Mick gave a short presentation on Exercise Watermark, which is already well underway with some 30 Parish/Town Councils participating in a number of ways. WCC is very excited about this which it believes will be a very useful exercise that will show up any problems, local or countywide, and help draw attention to them.

Short report attached hereto.

Action

- Participating councils will soon be sent their scenarios
- Be ready for the event which is taking place between 4th – 11th March nationwide.

Where the Axe should fall

A chart showing 14 services offered by County and District Councils was presented and attendees were asked to put markers against which services they thought should be

- Increased
- Reduced
- Remain the same

The results are as follows:-

Education	-	Remain the same
Social Care	-	Increase
Transport Planning	-	Remain the same
Highways	-	Increase
Environmental Services	-	Remain the same
Sports & Leisure	-	Increase
Consumer Protection	-	Decrease
Planning	-	Even vote
Waste Disposal	-	Remain the same
Housing	-	Even vote
Parking	-	Remain the same
Small Holdings & Libraries	-	Remain the same
Benefits	-	Remain the same

Looking Ahead – a chance to help shape the future of your community – draft Locality Plan/Action Plan

A report was presented with recent developments – attached hereto.

Action

All these are issues in progress and developments will be reported as and when Parish/Town Councils to carry out or update Parish Plans and/or affordable housing requirements: this is especially important as the new Local Development Framework : Core Strategy is in process.

Information Sharing:

- You Choose' budget simulator/Facing the Challenge
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/budgetsimulator

Closing date is Friday 17th December

Facing the Challenge – WCC Leaflet available

- Gritting route maps available
- Current consultations www.warwickshire.gov.uk link form homepage
- Community Computers and Community Development fund awards
List of successful applicants to both was read these out at the meeting

- VASA Sustainability Roadshows – leaflets available

Dominic Momcilovic from VASA will be in attendance to introduce these items

VASA A copy of the latest issue of The Arden in PDG format is available here:

<http://www.vasa.org.uk/news/article/the-arden-latest-issue/>

Printed copies will be distributed. If you would like to receive a print copy and

are not currently on our mailing list, please contact Dominic at dominic.momcilovic@vasa.org.uk or 01789 298102

VASA Sports & Leisure Gateway – leaflets available

- Katherine Long, Chair, Alcester Fairtrade Town Committee – re: location and type of permanent signage

Background:

- January 2009 – Alcester Town Council Town had approved the Fairtrade Town
- August 2009 – it received the official Fairtrade Town approval
- January 2010 saw the official launch with 20 local business joining.

The request is for a Fairtrade Town signs at the 4 entrances, however Eric Payne of Alcester Town Council has replied that it would prefer the existing signs to incorporate the Fairtrade logo into the existing signs, to be financed by the Town Council so it would be considered for the next financial year.

Whilst the Alcester Fairtrade Town Committee accepted this would be a better long term solution, it does not want to lose the momentum, and would like permission to add a sign now.

Action

Support was given by the Forum to the suggestion that a strip signs be added under the current entrance signs as an interim temporary measure as it agreed it was important for the success of Fairtrade that the momentum be maintained in order to keep the local businesses on board

Items for Future Meetings:

It was suggested by the representative from Wilmcote Parish Council that the forum should debate the:

- Localism and Decentralisation Bill
- Big Society

Dates and venues of future meetings

Next meeting is 8th March 2010 @ the Crawford Memorial Hall, Bidford-on-Avon

Tuesday 21st June 2011

Tuesday 13th September 2011

Thursday 8th December 2011

Monday 5th March 2012

Action

Available venues within the forum area to be proposed for future event. Details to be sent to Amanda Wilson-Patterson (amandawilsonpatterson@warwickshire.gov.uk), Richard Hood (richard.hood@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or the Clerk at Bidford on Avon (info@bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk)

The meeting concluded at 9:10pm

Exercise Watermark

Exercise Watermark is a national exercise being held between the 4th and 11th March 2011. The exercise is in response to the recommendations contained in the Pitt Report into the 2007 flooding and will test the Country's ability to respond to all aspects of severe wide area flooding. The Environment Agency will be delivering the exercise nationally on behalf of DEFRA.

The exercise will involve government ministers, departments and agencies, category 1 & 2 responders, professional bodies and associations, critical infrastructure organisations (e.g. utilities and transport), voluntary organisations and local communities.

In Warwickshire we are concentrating on exercising at local community level through Parish and Town Councils. Some 30 parishes have now signed up to participate and various activities will be undertaken by them. These range from simple call out exercises to activation of parish emergency plans to deal with a developing scenario. In addition, some will be setting up their village halls as rest centres and several are holding Flood Fairs.

The facilitation of the exercise within Warwickshire is being undertaken on a multiple agency basis with representation from the emergency services, environment agency, local authorities and Coventry University. These will all be involved in delivering the local elements of the exercise

Much work has been undertaken by the Chair of Warwickshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Training and Exercise Group, alongside Nick Rushall from Warwick District Council and Laura Palmer from the Environment Agency in setting up arrangements for the exercise to happen. The Chair and District/Borough Emergency Planning leads have been involved in visiting most of the parishes to discuss issues with them and to gather local information to help in working up individual exercise scenarios.

There will be a national media campaign leading up to and during the exercise and we will be linking a local campaign in with this. The exercise will present an opportunity for any organisation or group of people to participate during the event as there will be a national website set up for them to 'plug and play' – to perhaps look at aspects of their own BCM plans or whatever.

There is also a national exercise website where more information can be obtained and organisations can register their interest and obtain an exercise pack <http://www.exercisewatermark.co.uk/en/homepage.aspx>

Detailed work will begin next week to produce the local information/scenarios required for the exercise.

Mick Potter
Assistant manager, Emergency Planning Unit
Chair LRF Training & Exercise Group

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

7th December 2010

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 1

Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service Improvement Plan – details on the implementation of the approved plan going before Overview & Scrutiny

OUTCOME

Cllr Hobbs has provided this update

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 2

Locality Plan – draft plan to be produced and brought to December meeting for comments and progress

OUTCOME

Draft plan produced and on the agenda for comments

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 3

Locality plan – flooding. Peter Bones & Mick Potter from WCC to be invited to the next forum meeting

OUTCOME

Peter and Mick are in attendance and on the agenda

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 4

Release of S106 funds from St Modwens for camera enforcement equipment for Bidford and Welford bridges

OUTCOME

Work has yet to start on the site so no funds have been released

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 5

Good news stories – to be circulated to all
Parish & Town councils within the locality
area

OUTCOME

Circulated 26th September

Community Forums briefing paper for NHS Warwickshire managers
December 2010

“Fast, slow or stop” on some hospital procedures

NHS Warwickshire supported by the county’s GP leaders has agreed to stream referrals for some hospital procedures into “fast, slow or stop”. This is in the face of spiralling hospital admissions which have risen by 30% or more in some specialisms, and the impending onset of winter which annually places intense strain on fracture and other services.

The plans will influence about 1p in every £1 that NHS Warwickshire spends over the year, and mainly affect orthopaedics and a limited range of low priority procedures including acupuncture.

- Fast: Emergencies, cancer related procedures, and other clinical cases which cannot wait will be given ‘fast’ priority. For fractures, this is expected to speed up treatment as winter approaches.
- Slow: Some elective procedures which can reasonably be delayed without harming the long term health of the patient will not be scheduled until April 2011.
- Stop: Procedures where there is little clinical evidence of likely health benefit, such as acupuncture, will no longer be conducted.

There will be a full exception procedure for cases which might fall into the slow and stop category but where there is an overriding clinical need. (See attached flyer for patients which gives details of the procedures affected).

Consultation on North Warwickshire’s Intermediate Care and Bramcote Hospital

NHS Warwickshire has launched a consultation on the provision of intermediate care in North Warwickshire and the future of Bramcote Hospital. The consultation, was originally to run until 14th December 2010, and has now been extended until 7th January 2011. It asks the public’s views on where NHS Warwickshire should invest its funds in North Warwickshire – running a community hospital or providing more healthcare in people’s homes.

The consultation offers members of the public three options to consider:

Option 1 – Bramcote Hospital continues in its current use

20 beds in Bramcote Hospital used for orthopaedic and medical rehabilitation.

Or

Option 2 – Bramcote Hospital is used for admission prevention and rehabilitation

20 beds in Bramcote Hospital used to prevent patients being admitted into an acute hospital and for rehabilitation.

Or

Option 3 – Intermediate Care services are provided in the community and the Virtual Ward is extended across North Warwickshire

- Expanding the Intermediate Care Service by providing nursing and therapy support for patients in their own home or in nursing homes. Nursing care between 8.30am – 10pm, 7 days a week and therapists between 8.30am – 6pm, 7 days a week.
- Providing up to eight nursing home beds for patients needing 24 hour care.
- Extending the Virtual Ward to cover the whole of North Warwickshire by adding an extra 100 virtual beds.

Option 3 would require the closure of Bramcote Hospital in order to resource the expansion of the services proposed.

To take part in the consultation and obtain a copy of the consultation document visit <https://consultations.warwickshire.nhs.uk> email consultations@warwickshire.nhs.uk or call PALS 0845 423 8903.

Rugby Urgent Care consultation

Following a three month public consultation, NHS Warwickshire's Board has agreed a change to a 24 hour emergency nurse practitioner led urgent care service at the Hospital of St Cross.

The change will see the combining of the current Walk-in Service and Accident and Emergency service into one 24 hour emergency nurse practitioner-led service. The Board's decision mirrors the response to the public consultation which saw a slight majority favour the 24 hour nurse-led option over an 8am to 10pm service with medical back-up.

We estimate that 95% of patients that are currently seen at St Cross will still be able to attend the new urgent care service in Rugby. Only patients with emergency and life-threatening injuries and illnesses will need to go to University Hospital in Coventry, where the Accident and Emergency Department and other specialist services will be better placed to treat them.

We will be working closely with University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, the NHS Trust that runs the Hospital of St Cross, to establish when the new service will be up and running. We will also be working with the Highways Agency to look at changing the road signs around Rugby so that the service is signposted accurately both for Rugby residents and those travelling through the town.

During the consultation, a number of different names were suggested for the service including: Casualty Clinic, Minor Injuries Unit, Minor Accident Unit, Urgent Care Centre and Urgent Care Service. With no clear favourite amongst the public, it was agreed to seek Department of Health guidance on the choice of name as national standards for the naming of health services are currently under development.

NHS White Paper

A White Paper outlining the future strategic position of the NHS has been published. The full document can be found on the Department of Health website www.dh.gov.uk

The concept of the paper is to put patients and the public first. The principle will be "no decisions about me without me". The new health system will be driven by patients. Patients will have access to any information about the NHS that they want to know in order to inform these choices.

This vision involves a significant change to the way the NHS is structured and the role clinicians have to play in service design and delivery locally.

Strategic Health Authorities will be abolished during 2012/13 and Primary Care Trusts will be abolished in 2013. They will be replaced with a new structure focussed around patients and clinicians, with GPs at the heart of this.

GPs will be expected to form consortia in order to undertake the commissioning role that Primary Care Trusts currently undertake. NHS Warwickshire will be working closely with GPs over the coming months to shape the future of the NHS in Warwickshire to the requirements of clinicians and patients.

The national consultation on the paper has now closed and we await the results.

Public Health White Paper

The Public Health White Paper, Healthy Lives, Healthy People sets out how funding from the overall NHS budget will be ring-fenced for spending on public health. The majority of public health services will be commissioned by Local Authorities from their ring-fenced budget, or by the NHS, all funded from the budget of a new organisation, Public Health England.

Public Health England will be created as a service that gives more power to local people over their health, whilst keeping a firm national grip on crucial population-wide issues such as flu pandemics. Early estimates suggest that current spend on areas that are likely to be the responsibility of Public Health England could be in the range of £4 billion.

For the first time in a generation, central Government will not hold all the purse strings. The majority of public health services will be commissioned by Local Authorities from their ring-fenced budget, or by the NHS, all funded from Public Health England's new public health budget.

The White Paper can be downloaded from www.dh.gov.uk/healthypeople

NHS Warwickshire Carol Service

NHS Warwickshire will be celebrating the work of the NHS in the county and remembering those that have received healthcare in 2010 through its Annual Carol Service to be held on Thursday 16th December at 2pm.

The service, which will be held at the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Old Square, Warwick, CV34 8RA, is open to members of the public and will also be attended by NHS staff from around the county and NHS Warwickshire's Active Members.

Coffee and mince pies will be available to the congregation after the service. A collection will be held during the service in aid of Healthlink Malawi.

DoctorTweetment tweeting on Warwickshire's health this winter

NHS Warwickshire's virtual employee DoctorTweetment will be tweeting about health issues and services in the county this winter.

The Twitter campaign will give daily facts and figures about the impact of winter on health services as well as top tips on how people can stay healthy over the winter

period. The campaign is just one way of alerting members of the public to the pressures being faced by the health service in Warwickshire this winter and how local people can help the NHS by choosing the right service or making changes which will improve their health.

Follow DoctorTweetment on Twitter by visiting:

<http://twitter.com/#!/DOCTORTWEETMENT>

Vision for Alcester

Ongoing Project Review

27 November 2010

1. Outdoor Sports Facilities

a. Football

Although the lease for the new Stratford Road ground has yet to be signed due to slow-moving solicitors, the landowner has given permission for initial ground improvements to be carried out and these are progressing well.

Match funding of £6,000 from WCC Community Development Fund and £5,000 from Church Street Property has complemented VFA's £6,250 to provide for the ground improvements and legal fees. Alcester Town FC themselves have increased their fund raising activities and are contributing to the next stages of the development.

b. Cricket

Alcester & Ragley Cricket Club has recently completed the first stages of the practice facilities. VFA's £2,500 has helped generate a further £22,500 in match funding to provide these facilities.

2. Conway Fields – Youth & Community Facilities

Following confirmation of funding of £100,000 from Norton Foundation and £75,000 from Youth Opportunity Fund, work is scheduled to start on the youth club in January with ATC as the supervising contractors. A project plan is currently being developed and the detailed work of identifying interior design requirements will start shortly.

Vision funds are paying for costs of preparation and planning, for both youth and community facilities.

Members of the VFA Steering Committee are supporting Alcester Youth Project group, which will play a key role, with its partners, in youth liaison and management of the youth club.

3. Arrow Fields & Heritage Trail

The final geophysical surveys (for the fields west of Bleachfield Street) have been completed and ArchaeoPhysica's report received and approved by English Heritage and Warwick Museum. The surveys confirm that the urban streetscapes found to the east continue in this area.

The next stage of archaeological work was intended to complement progress on the Event Car Parking area, but this has been delayed by Severn Trent's flood defence project, which will use part of the intended car park. Discussions are being held with Severn Trent and their archaeological consultants to explore whether they might include our survey work in their brief.

Proposals have been made to SDC to transfer the balance of allocation on this project to other approved Year 3 projects.

4. Event Car Parking

As reported above, this project is currently on hold following advice from Severn Trent that the proposed location is being investigated as a preferred option for flood attenuation tanks. Proposals have been made to SDC to transfer the balance of allocation on this project to other approved Year 3 projects.

5. Riverside Walk / Better Welcome

Although we last reported that the many problems this project had met had been overcome, last month WCC announced that their cutbacks were likely to include the Countryside Recreation team and this would be confirmed in January.

We are therefore dependent on the diversion orders being approved in December. We are currently unable to prepare alternative plans, but understand that other WCC resources may be able to cover the duties of the Countryside Recreation team, although there may well be delays.

Subsequent stages of the path can only be planned when the diversion orders are confirmed.

6. Town Information System

The system initially installed in Select & Save is being extended to other town centre locations and it is anticipated that the project will be completed by 31 December 2010.

7. Youth Council

VFA funds are providing for three newsletters and the development of a website to support the establishment of a Youth Council in the town. A second newsletter is expected shortly and work will start on the website in December.