



# Action Notes

**Henley Neighbourhood Forum**

**7pm, Wednesday 24th February, 2016**

**At St Phillips Church, Potters Green (Church of England) Ringwood Highway, Coventry, CV2 2GF**

**Who was at the meeting?**

## **Residents**

<b>Name</b>
<b>Lilian Lucas</b>
<b>Tom Terrance</b>
<b>Susan Field</b>
<b>Andrew Jackson</b>
<b>Edna Lucas</b>
<b>Dennis Walford</b>
<b>Chris Hastie</b>
<b>D. Jones</b>
<b>Kelly McBride</b>
<b>Ann Rafferty</b>
<b>Joan Hill</b>
<b>Larry Arnold</b>
<b>Lynn Lloyd</b>
<b>Rod Mortlock</b>
<b>Mary Groom</b>
<b>Jan Phillips</b>
<b>Peter Howells</b>
<b>Yvonne Howells</b>
<b>Sandra Watt</b>
<b>Margaret Davoll</b>
<b>Ruth Smith</b>
<b>Beth Wiltshire</b>
<b>Jen Corrigan</b>
<b>Gary Yates</b>
<b>Rob Walsgrove</b>
<b>Kelly McBride</b>
<b>No of Residents: 25</b>





# Action Notes

## Officers and Partner Agencies

Name	Representing
Councillor Kevin Maton	Coventry City Council – Ward Councillor
Councillor Ed Ruane	Coventry City Council – Ward Councillor (Chair)
Councillor Patricia Seaman	Coventry City Council – Ward Councillor
Sarah Elliott	Coventry City Council – Senior Support Officer
Karen Tyler	Coventry City Council – Support Officer
Chris Berry	Coventry City Council – Planning (Local Plan)
Olivia Childs	Coventry City Council – Coventry Recycling Club
Ryan Simms	Coventry City Council – Coventry Recycling Club
Sgt Chris Pearson	West Midlands Police
<b>Coventry City Council: 8</b>	

1. Actions from previous meeting

None.

2. Update from the police service

Discussion:

Sgt Chris Pearson gave an update on local police issues.

Criminal damage has increased particularly in the Henley Green area mostly due to vehicle damage. An arrest has been made and this will hopefully reduce the issue.

Antisocial behaviour can be a problem in some areas. Two families have been evicted from Henley Green and a further three additional families are also in process.

Following burglaries in Potters Green and Walsgrave an arrest has been made. The culprits are currently on remand awaiting trial. As a result crime in the area has reduced significantly.





# Action Notes

Buses continue to be targeted by youths across Henley. The Safer Travel Operation carried out by officers is helping.

Shed breaks and bicycle theft have increased in the Wood End area. Residents are asked to be mindful of the problem and ensure that sheds are secured.

Suspicious callers to elderly residents in the Walsgrave area have been reported. Residents are advised that if they are not sure to just say no and not let them in.

There has been an increase in complaints regarding off road motorcycles. Anyone with information should be reported. Police will attend where possible but if not the information is still useful in helping to build a picture of what is happening.

Police have powers under section 59 allowing them to restrict what they do and seize vehicles if they reoffend.

Information should be reported to the Henley police website at:-

[Henley@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Henley@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

Q. Where did the two families that were evicted go?

A. If they had children they would have been rehoused. This does not resolve the issue and is a last resort but it does break up networks and groups where they are stronger.

Q. Are you aware that there are individuals stopping people in the street and asking them for money?

A. Yes, this is a Nationwide problem. My advice is never to give them money and point them towards other means of support. If you feel threatened call the police. It is usually a scam and they move on.

Q. Can someone please speak to the large group of 12-14 year olds that are egging cars in Manfield Avenue, Walsgrave?

A. Yes, we need to deal with this quickly to prevent it escalating further. Will pass the details to John Ward who is responsible for the area.

Q. There are still problems with lorries driving up Ringwood Highway. Can anything be done?

A. This is a long standing issue of vehicles using the road to go to the business park. Signage has been put up but it is difficult to police. Will discuss with Chris Booth and ask him to raise awareness with local businesses.





# Action Notes

Cllr Ruane confirmed that the Council would send a letter to all businesses in the area to further highlight the issues. A formal request will also be sent to the police requesting that they address the issue.

### 3. West Midlands Combined Authority

#### Discussion:

Sarah Elliott delivered an update on the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

Q. Will the potential benefits of joining the WMCA be confirmed?

A. Yes. A detailed plan outlining what the partnership will achieve over the next 10 years is currently being produced. Other benefits will be detailed as they become apparent over the next few months.

Q. This has been done before. Is this going to be any better?

A. Yes. One example is the local transport network. Bus companies and routes are currently not publicly owned. The WMCA will give local authorities more control over how local buses operate. Warwickshire County Council have now signed up along with Nuneaton and Bedworth and Stratford. This is good news in transport terms to build better links for local routes.

No powers currently held by the Council will be lost.

Q. There is currently no direct link to the hospital from Henley Green after 7.00pm meaning that it is not possible to return after visiting hours. I would like to see more / later buses available.

A. The powers provided through the WMCA should make resolving these kinds of issues easier and help address local needs. There may be opportunities for communities to run their own services. This has proved to work well in rural areas in other authorities.

Q. Will the WMCA be able to operate its own bus company?

A. Hopefully not. This has been done before and there were a number of issues. The main benefit comes from the planning of the services. A similar system to the Oyster card in London could be considered allowing easier travel across the WMCA region.

Q. A meeting about the buses was supposed to be arranged around 2 yrs ago but never happened. Can this be rearranged?

A. Yes, happy to facilitate another meeting.





# Action Notes

## 4. Coventry Recycling Club

Olivia Childs delivered a presentation on the Coventry Recycling Club which is an online incentive scheme to reward residents within the city for recycling. Funding is available to local community groups and charities by residents allocating points received when recycling increases in their area.

Q. I live in a flat and can't recycle. Are there any plans to introduce recycling at flat sites?

A. A project is currently being undertaken to assess the suitability and requirements for introducing recycling to flats. Subject to suitability it is hoped that eventually residents within flats would have the same access to recycling services as other residents in the city.

Q. How is recycling performance measured?

A. All recycling collected is weighed. Comparisons are made to the previous year figures and points allocated in line with the increase between the two figures.

Q. Where has the recycling bin on Asda car park gone?

A. Recycling bring sites provided by the Council across the city have been removed over the last 12 months. Their use has reduced significantly since the introduction of the comingled kerbside service and this along with problems with misuse and flytipping resulted in the decision to remove them.

Q. I disagree strongly. The bins at Asda were well used.

A. These bins were not on council land. Asda can choose to replace the containers as is the case with some other Supermarkets.

Q. Have these containers been removed to save money?

A. The only costs associated with the bring sites was the continual cost to clear up the flytipping and excess items left around the containers. This along with their reduced use and concerns from people living close to them that they encouraged antisocial behaviour were some of the factors considered.

Q. I live in a flat and since the recycling sites were removed I can't recycle. What can be done?

A. The project is considering what space is available for the containers required to allow recycling in communal areas.

Q. Cllr Ruane asks if there is any information available to community groups who might be interested in becoming a good cause.





# Action Notes

A. Yes. There is lots of information and guidance on the council's website. Olivia and Ryan will also be available at the end of the meeting for anybody requiring more information.

Q. Why don't we have the blue lidded bin collected every week?

A. This has been considered before and continues to be explored. It is difficult to justify additional collections of the blue bin whilst in some areas people still put the majority of their waste into the green bin.

We currently only recycle around 34% of our waste which is significantly lower than some of our neighbouring authorities. There are large areas of the city where participation in the service is low. Schemes such as the Coventry Recycling Club are in place to increase participation and address the issue of materials that can be recycled or composted being sent for disposal.

Q. Have you considered using bar codes on the bins to make the information more specific to each individual property?

A. The additional costs of providing the technology to allow this kind of detail to be recorded would be substantial and therefore no feasible.

Further information on how to become a member of the Coventry Recycling Club or to learn more about becoming or supporting good causes in your area can be found at [www.coventry.gov.uk/recyclingclub](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/recyclingclub)

## 5. Local Plan

Discussion:

Chris Berry delivered a presentation highlighting the key issues and policy proposals being set out in the both the Local Plan and the City Centre Action Plan.

Q. Has the lease purchase for Elms Fields Farm gone through yet?

A. No. It won't happen until approved planning permission is in place. Likely to happen within the next 6 months.

Q. Misleading information is being provided in the Telegraph suggesting that the Windmill Village Hotel is to be built on. I have spoken to the owner who has advised me not to take any notice. Who is telling the Telegraph this? Is it the council?

A. No. I can't speak for the Telegraph or confirm where they get their information. I can confirm that the owners of the golf course at the site have approached the council for the land to be considered for housing.





# Action Notes

Q. Have the Council circulated requests to local land owners asking them to volunteer their land for housing?

A. It is a legal requirement as part of the process to contact local land owners. The golf course has been put forward by the owners and will now be assessed along with all other sites being considered. The Inspector will make the decision if an application is to be submitted. This does not mean that this site will be developed.

Q. Is Walsgrave Hill Farm being considered and is it on the flood plain?

A. No it is not on the flood plain. The site was on the previous plan (2001) but was never developed. It will be carried forward and the Inspector will decide how or if it will be utilised in the future.

Q. It doesn't make sense for Warwickshire to provide the additional housing that Coventry cannot? Would it be more sensible to move the boundary?

A. No. This would not be an option.

Q. Could the formulation of a Combined Authority affect the boundaries of the city?

A. No. Boundaries may be considered from time to time but will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

Q. Will local facilities suffer in developments close to our boundary where residents to not pay council tax to Coventry (Ansty)?

A. The Local plan aims to create sustainable communities by ensuring that sufficient infrastructure is provided. We will work closely with Rugby Borough Council and other neighbouring authorities to ensure infrastructure is agreed regionally and meets the requirements of all areas. The LEP has committed to drawing up a joint infrastructure plan to ensure a joined up approach.

Q. Where does the 150 houses on Elms Field Farm come from? The area already suffers with problems due to insufficient space to park vehicles and this would cause further problems.

A. This is an indicative figure based purely on the size of the land available. A full planning application would identify specific details around access and parking and the land would only be sold once this had been agreed and approved.

Q. There is a rumour that Grace Academy playing fields are going to be developed. Is this true?

A. No. The farm land next to the academy is being considered. The school playing fields are protected educational land and cannot be developed.

Q. There is a rumour that the Eburne School site is to be developed. Is this true.





# Action Notes

A. This land is jointly owned by the Moat House Trust and the City Council and is being considered as a possible location for community led housing.

Q. Do you need to be the owner of the land to apply for planning permission?

A. No. Anyone can apply for planning permission but if you don't own the land you can't do anything. Ownership is key for actual development but anyone can apply.

Q. The Local Plan allows for land to the east up to the M6 to be green space. This area includes land covered in the Seva School application. What will happen?

A. This land is identified as local green space within the plan and could therefore be considered for educational playing fields.

Q. The topography of the site would mean that the playing field would be at 45 degrees. If they were to buy the land would they be able to destroy the bund?

A. The application submitted only covers a small area and does not affect the mound.

Q. Will it be a whitewash like the development of the school? They knew there were no playing fields when they bought the site. Will they end up walking away?

A. We have offered support and consultancy to allow better communication with residents. This is not our decision and is not in our hands.

Q. The Council has a duty of care to residents to protect the quality of life. Lights from playing fields would be a problem and should not be allowed.

A. It has been made very clear what processes need to be undertaken to reduce the concerns of local people. We are very aware of the importance of the bund and have given it further protection by allocating it as green space.

Q. Regarding the walkway at the rear of existing businesses. If the school apply to build on the bund would the Council find it difficult to refuse permission? If residents took it over could they have more powers to stop?

A. This is not something that has been considered. Anything that detracted from the purpose of the bund could be stopped. Not sure of the legal implications.

The closing date for comments or objections is 7th March.





# Action Notes

## 6. Any Other Business

Discussion:

Q. When the post office on Hinckley Road moves has anyone considered the access and parking issues?

A. The council did object to the move and this didn't make any difference. The post office confirmed that they are not obliged to provide parking.

Q. When will the resurfacing of Lillington Road commence?

A. This is one of the worst roads in Coventry and the lead member for highways has been contacted to ensure that the work is added to the programme of work.

Kelly McBride and Beth Wiltshire from the Democratic Society informed residents of their project working with the Council to engage with residents and partner agencies to improve communication.

Henley is one of six areas selected to improve how services are delivered by encouraging the local community to identify what things should be considered in the project.

**If you would like to find out the most up-to-date progress on the action notes above please call Sarah Elliott on 024 76 83 3024 or visit <http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=598>**

***If you wish to start/stop receiving information relating to Neighbourhood Forums, please email [michelle.rose@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.rose@coventry.gov.uk) call 024 7683 3111 giving your details and requesting that you are added or removed from our mailing list.***

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