



Wyken Ward Forum

7.00 pm on Thursday, 18th February, 2016

Wyken Croft Primary School, Coventry, CV2 3AA

Wyken Ward Forum includes people who care about their neighbourhoods! At a Ward Forum meeting you'll meet local Councillors, council staff, police, community and voluntary groups and - most importantly - local people.

At the meeting, there will be an opportunity to raise any issues you want to discuss. If you are able to come along we'll make sure you feel welcome. If you would just prefer to listen to discussions and plans, that's fine...if you want to join in and help us to get things done, that's even better!

At this meeting we're planning to:

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Councillor Thay, Chair

2. Local Plan Consultation

Rob Haigh, Planning, Coventry City Council

3. Combined Authorities Update

Verbal Update

4. Local updates

Sgt Phil Horton, West Midlands Police





Agenda

5. **Open Forum** (Pages 3 - 10)
 - a) Update on actions raised at previous forum meetings
 - b) Opportunity for residents to raise new issues

The meeting will end by **9pm** at the latest.

For dates and locations visit www.coventry.gov.uk/wardforums or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/coventrycc/ or Twitter [@CoventryCC](https://twitter.com/CoventryCC).

If you want to know what is going on in the city, or want an opportunity to raise an issue with us or the police, the Ward Forum is the ideal place to raise it.

It's easy to get involved – all you have to do is turn up on the night!

To find out more

The Chair of your Ward Forum is: Councillor Robert Thay You can him on 024 7683 1545 or email robert.thay@coventry.gov.uk

You can also contact contact **Helen Shankster** (Support Officer) on **024 7683 4371** or helen.shankster@coventry.gov.uk about any issue concerning Wyken Ward Forum.

Hearing loops will be provided, but if you'd like a British Sign Language interpreter to be at the meeting please contact the Support Officer at least a week before the meeting so we can provide this service for you.

If you wish to start/stop receiving information relating to Ward Forums, please email bsccouncilhouse@coventry.gov.uk or call 024 7683 1604 giving your details and requesting that you are added or removed from our mailing list.

Coventry City Council is always looking at reducing the amount of paper we produce and send out. If you have an email address and would prefer to be emailed all Ward Forum documentation, please contact me using the details above.





Wyken Ward Forum

Held on Thursday, 16 July 2015

Who was at the meeting?

Residents

| | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| P Pittaway | Diane Hardiman | Rod Hardiman |
| Allan Huxtable | Alan Marcham | W Bridges |
| HJK Spencer | M Andrew | Mark Taylor |
| Chris Smith | Gill Dawkins | Miss M Hood |
| Mr Makepeace | Mrs Makepeace | Tash Dhansam |
| Les Fawcett | Mrs S Cable | Paul Herbert |
| Total Residents: 21 (including 3 not signed in) | | |

Officers and Partner Agencies

| Name | Representing |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Councillor Robert Thay | Coventry City Council – Ward Councillor (Chair) |
| Councillor Faye Abbott | Coventry City Council – Ward Councillor |
| Councillor Hazel Sweet | Coventry City Council – Ward Councillor |
| Sgt Phil Horton | West Midlands Police |
| Lincoln Dawkin | University Hospitals Coventry & Warks NHS Trust - Director of Estates and Facilities |
| Mark Godfrey | Coventry City Council – Senior Support Officer |
| Helen Shankster | Coventry City Council – Support Officer |
| Coventry City Council: 5 | Partners: 2 |

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Councillor Thay welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Ian Lewis were noted.

Councillor Thay read out the annual canvass statement, encouraging all residents to ensure that they check /register for the electoral role so that it is accurate and those who are eligible can vote.

He also read out a progress report from Ian Lewis about PinchPoint road improvements. It is anticipated that these will be completed by the end of the year.



2. Updates on road and traffic issues at Universal Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire (UHCW)

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| <p>Discussion</p> | <p>Lincoln Dawkin provided an update on actions being taken to address road and traffic issues in and around the hospital site. He explained that community representatives from Healthwatch had been involved in designing the scheme, which is addressing congestion, car-parking, traffic flows in / out of the hospital and emergency vehicle access.</p> <p>Improvements include installing more efficient barriers and pay-by-card ticket machines, creating a second entrance, building a decked car-park, better signage for drivers to find car-parking spaces, a blue-badge only car-park, increasing capacity for the bus interchange, phasing clinic times and emergency vehicle improved access.</p> <p>Much of the road infrastructure work is completed and the hospital is working alongside the Council to optimise flows of traffic on and off the site by phasing traffic light changes. Steps are also being taken to minimise staff car use through car-sharing schemes etc.</p> |
| <p>Conclusion:</p> | <p>A number of points raised by residents and addressed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any complaints about the way buses are driven should be reported directly to the bus operator • The hospital site re-design ensures that blue light vehicles can get through regardless of site congestion • Red route markings that are faded will be re-painted following road resurfacing • The hospital is replacing stolen wheelchairs with a type that are harder to steal • The use of automatic number-plate recognition cameras by Councils is severely restricted by law, and cannot be used for cars parked illegally (e.g. on Wimborne Drive) |

3. Combined Authorities

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| <p>Discussion:</p> | <p>Mark Godfrey presented information about proposals that are being developed for a West Midlands Combined Authority. The government's Cities Devolution Bill aims to transfer powers from Whitehall to areas of England to boost local growth. Government will hand some of their powers to councils in regions working together to deliver improvements in economic development, regeneration and transport.</p> |
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Anticipated benefits include:

- Decisions currently made in Whitehall by national politicians and civil servants would be made in the West Midlands
- All councils have an equal voice and one vote each in deciding what works best across the West Midlands to deliver economic growth
- Big projects and initiatives – like NUCKLE south scheme (extending railway line from Coventry station to Stratford) can be delivered more quickly
- We can develop our own solutions to particular problems – like making sure apprenticeships and training courses meet the manufacturing skills gap we have in Coventry and across the West Midlands
- Major schemes that need big cash injections to get off the ground – similar to Friargate – can be financed by the combined authority

The Combined Authority **would not** mean:

- A merger with Birmingham (or anywhere else)
- Moving council services outside Coventry
- Changing the way Coventry councillors make decisions
- Losing current powers and authority to Birmingham (or anywhere else)
- Sharing or moving council budgets

All decisions about local council services will still be made by Coventry councillors with no changes to boundaries, the civic role of the Council or the city's sovereignty over its own affairs

During the discussion a number of views were expressed by residents, which will be fed into the public engagement exercise:

- Concern that the Combined Authority (CA) would contradict decisions made by Coventry City Council
- Concern that Birmingham would get Coventry's share of funding
- Concern that there is a danger of re-creating a West Midlands Council or regional development agency
- When all the information is assembled will we have a referendum?
- How many councils would be included in the CA?
- Would it be inevitable that we would have an elected mayor?



- Coventry people voted against an elected mayor
- The House of Lords is seeking the requirement for CAs to have an elected mayor
- Concern that the democratic process is unclear – who would I approach if I wanted to lobby on an issue that is under the CA?
- What does economic analysis show us about the costs and benefits of a CA
- Concern that as there are seven councils in the CA it means an awful lot of power is invested in a small number. Are we going to be certain that our leader will represent the interests of 320,000 people in Coventry?
- It is looking as though the Government will insist on an elected mayor
- Concern that one council that is in debt could take money away from Coventry

In response, ward councillors and officers provided the following information:

- It is decisions that are currently made by national government that would be made by the CA not those already taken by Coventry City Council
- Leaders of all councils in the CA would discuss how funding is used across the region, this would help to ensure that things like skills training are focused on areas that need them, which is better than a one-size fits all solution as it is now
- Being part of a CA would mean Coventry has better access to funding to attract inward investment e.g. through promoting the whole area as a good place for new employers to do business
- All councils in the CA would get one vote each, including Birmingham
- The Chancellor of the Exchequer has said that a referendum is not needed nor desired by government. Legislation does not require a referendum. It would not be feasible to design a question suited to a referendum because there is not a single yes/no issue that could be asked about. The cost of this would be in the region of £150,000 for a postal vote or £500,000 for a poll.

- There are currently seven councils interested in being part of the CA, with 13 invited to consider joining
- The Council's preference is not to have an elected mayor
- Manchester CA is based on historic close working between local councils and it is seeking maximum devolution, for which the Government requires an elected mayor
- Under the democratic model being proposed the leaders of the member councils will be held to account and the persons that could be lobbied.
- Any debt held by a local authority is the responsibility of that authority alone.
- Information about the CA is being updated on the website daily

Conclusion:

The timetable for developing the Combined Authority is:

- **July to September** - engagement with Coventry residents at ward forums, drop-in sessions, digital and social media, leaflets, citizens panel
- **1 August to 7 September** – engagement across wider West Midlands to businesses, universities and key partners.
- **September** – proposed scheme finalised
- **October** Full Council debate and decision on whether to proceed and submit scheme to the Secretary of State for consideration.
- **Autumn** – Secretary of State carries out consultation in the West Midlands including with neighbouring local authorities; Coventry residents, businesses, universities and key partners.
- **April 2016** – establishment of new combined authority (if granted)

Residents were encouraged to find out more and share their views on the proposed combined authority. Further information can be found at:

www.coventry.gov.uk/combinedauthority

[West Midlands combined authority website:](http://www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk)

<http://www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk>

City centre drop-in sessions are being organised – watch out for more details in local press, online, social media. Residents can also take part in an online survey or through Facebook and Twitter



4. Police Update

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| Discussion: | <p>Sgt Horton provided an update on recent crime trends in Wyken, which include a slight increase in the number of crimes reported compared to the same period last year. This could be due to a new build houses and the new retail park attracting crime. The policing team is focussing on being at the right place at the right time.</p> <p>He informed residents that a review of policing is underway and that the findings will help decisions about how to reshape the West Midlands Police force in order to make it fit for 2020. The force needs to save an additional £27million per year. This includes examining how IT systems can be improved.</p> |
| Conclusion: | <p>Residents were urged to look for further information about the review on the police website.</p> |

5. Open Forum

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| Discussion: | <p>Residents were invited to raise issues of concern or interest, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about a house that was infested with rats. The occupant did not respond to enforcement notices requiring a clean-up. The resident is concerned that, whilst it will deal with the rats, the Council has no money to clean it up, including an overgrown hedge that is blocking the pavement. It is possible that the resident is vulnerable and in need of support. • Concern about a large number of cars speeding along the Ansty Road. The Council is working with the police to try to resolve this issue. There are safety concerns about pulling vehicles over on a red route and causing a crash. Cllr Lancaster has agreed to re-examine the situation with a potential to redesign the layout and slow down the traffic. • Concern about the sequencing of traffic lights on the crossing at the junction with Norton Hill Drive, which are causing cars to pull out early. |
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| Conclusion: | | |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| Action | Lead | Deadline |
| Contact Marcus Fothergill to ensure that the resident in the infested house is supported if needed. | Mark Godfrey / | Completed |
| Check what action the Enforcement Team is taking to require the hedge to be cut back | Cllr Sweet | Completed |
| <i>Update – the Council's Streetpride Team has cut the hedge back</i> | | |
| Request that the problem with the pedestrian crossing be investigated and fixed | Cllr Sweet | Completed |
| <i>Update – a fault in the stop line detector was found and has now been fixed, resolving the problem</i> | | |

Cllr Sweet thanked Mark Godfrey, who is leaving the Council, for all his support to the forum.

6. Date of next meeting: to be confirmed

If you would like to find out the most up-to-date progress on the action notes above please call Councillor Robert Thay 02476 831039 or email robert.thay@coventry.gov.uk or visit www.coventry.gov.uk/wardforums

If you wish to start/stop receiving information relating to Neighbourhood Forums, please email michelle.rose@coventry.gov.uk or call 024 7678 3266 giving your details and requesting that you are added or removed from our mailing list.

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Useful Information for Residents:

a) **Neighbourhood watch** – to find out more contact:

Pete Sturgeon, Community Partnership Officer

Ring the non-emergency number: 101 then dial extension 8316004

p.sturgeon@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

b) **Police** - to contact West Midlands Police:

For non-emergencies (may take a day or two for a reply):

- Phone 101 the non-emergency number
- Via the web <http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/your-local-police/coventry/your-neighbourhood/index.aspx?id=50>

For emergencies (will be answered at any time on any day) Dial 999

c) **West Midlands Fire Service** - to book a Fire Safety Visit:

- Call Free phone Helpline: 0800 389 5525
- Or book online at: www.wmfs.net/Stay+Safe/Free_Home_Fire_Safety_Check/