



Henley Ward Forum

7pm, Tuesday 22nd July 2015

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

Who was at the meeting?

Paul Collett
Jen Corrigan
Margaret Davoll
Mandy Gee
Peter Howells
Y. Howells
Diane Jones
Lillian Lucas
Mo Mortlock
Jan Phillips
Ann Rafferty
Martin Smith
Rose Tyrell
Alan Tyrell
Dennis Walford
Sandra Watts
Philomena Aherne
Michael Aherne
Donald Masson
Mary Groom
David Seaman
Rod Mortlock
Apologies : Elizabeth Flowers
Graham Randle
Pam Randle
No of Residents: 22





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
Nigel Clews	Coventry City Council – Senior Support Officer
Sarah Elliott	Coventry City Council – Senior Support Officer
Sgt David Langston	West Midlands Police
Coventry City Council: 5	

1. Actions from previous meeting

None.

2. Agenda Items

(a) Combined Authorities

Discussion:

Nigel Clews delivered a presentation outlining the context and reasons for agreeing in principle to join a combined authority with a preferred option of councils from Coventry and Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth with councils from Greater Birmingham and Black Country LEP areas.

Q – During the presentation it was confirmed that each authority would have one representative on the board. It was asked who this would be?

A – It was confirmed that the representative for each authority would be the leader of the Council; Ann Lucas for Coventry.

Q – If there is a project to regenerate areas within Coventry will we have to lobby other authorities to get their agreement to allocate funding?

A – There would be criteria for projects to meet such as economic benefits but ultimately the seven authorities would have to agree to allocate funding as is currently the case with the Coventry and Warwickshire partnership.

Q – Would organisations such as Centro be removed as part of this?

A – Transport is a complicated area. An integrated transport authority would consider transport across the West Midlands and could provide additional help in more isolated areas where transport links are poor. It should improve connectivity.



Q – How much is it costing to set this up?

A – The cost at the moment is minimal. It is recognised that costs will increase and this is part of the negotiation with central government to ensure that we are not worse off for doing it.

Q – How will the recently announced 40% cuts affect this?

A – It is expected that the combined authorities will contribute towards this saving by devolving powers to local authorities who can deliver local services more efficiently.

Q – Will privately funded training providers such as academies and free schools be included?

A – There are no details yet but local delivery of services should help to improve consistency at a local level.

Q – What will the impact be on the LEP?

A – There is no intention to remove the LEP as it provides an important role for businesses in the region.

Further information and frequently asked questions can be found at:-

www.coventry.gov.uk/combinedauthority

(b) Traveller Encampments

Discussion:

Nigel Clews delivered an update on traveller activity in the Henley Forum area and across Coventry.

Since the problems last year at Sowe Common, Pandora Road, Wyken Croft and on the village green improved physical defences such as extra trenches and stronger gates had been considered. Ground staff have attended meetings to discuss further improvements and the water at the cemetery has been turned off to discourage travellers.

It was confirmed that although it was impossible to totally guarantee that there won't be further problems the amount of time taken to legally remove illegal encampments has reduced from 2-3 weeks last year to 5 days.

Greater coordination with the police and the use of their section 61 powers where criminal activities are identified has also reduced issues.

A City wide injunction is not considered possible as it would be necessary to specifically name the families who would be covered by the injunction.

A transit site would also be required and it may be necessary to identify possible sites within Coventry.



Q- Is the water back on?

A- The tap has been moved into the chapel to prevent access. There is a water butt outside for visitors to use.

Q- Is it true that most encampments are related to the horse fairs?

A- No. We don't really know why it happens as no overriding reason has been identified. They may come for work due to the amount of infrastructure taking place or for medical reasons at the hospital.

Q- Could something be put in the local paper encouraging residents to be vigilant and report traveller activity to the council?

A- Residents should not attempt to deal with issues themselves and should report any antisocial behaviour, language or damage to the police through 101. Information can also be reported to the Henley police website at:-

Henley@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Q- What is the difference between private land and council land?

A- Local authorities and the police have to adhere to the equality act and must assess the needs of the travellers to ensure that they are not discriminated against. A needs assessment must be completed followed by a court order and notice to leave (min 5 days).

Private land owners need only get a notice from the court (2-3 days).

Q- There used to be a transit site at Siskin Drive which was destroyed. What happened to it?

A- It is still there. Currently trying to find an alternative site for the residents so that it can be rebuilt.

Q- Travellers recently went onto the War Memorial Park. How can you put their needs and feelings above the ex-service men?

A- The Memorial Park is rarely targeted. This was turned around quickly with removal on the same day using section 61 powers.

Q- One of the biggest problems is the human excrement left behind and the health hazards it presents.

A- Council staff are usually on site within 24 hours to clear up any waste left behind. Serious health hazards could be considered under section 61.

Q- Can any more be done to prevent them getting on (e.g. bollards)?

A- Will continue to identify options. Travellers are aware that it takes longer to remove from public land so it will always be a target.

Q- There was supposed to be a meeting to discuss the problems on the village green. Why didn't this happen?

A- Cllr Ruane has written to residents.

Q- Is it expensive to go to court to get an order for removal?

A- Approximately £600 plus clear up costs.





Action Notes

(c) Annual Canvass

Discussion:	Nigel Clews delivered an update on Annual Canvass. Opportunities are available to earn extra cash by helping to complete the 2015 Annual Household Registration process. Anyone interested in becoming a canvasser this year should contact Mathew Rossi, Electoral Services Operations Team Leader at:- Matthew.rossi@coventry.gov.uk
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(d) Police update

Discussion:	Sergeant Dave Langstan gave an update. There has been an increase in burglary in garages and sheds particularly in Walsgrave and Potters Green. Two key suspects have been arrested. Crime prevention advice is being given at surgeries across the Ward. Full details of surgeries can be found on the website. Vehicle crime has reduced by 30% since the arrests mentioned above! Small items such as sat navs are being targeted so people are advised to ensure that they are not left in site. There has been a decrease in the number of buses being targeted. Police are considering the use of a decoy bus to catch offenders. Shoplifting has reduced by 12.7%. The main issues at the moment are:- Antisocial behaviour – dangerous dogs Off road motorbikes Residents are encouraged to keep reporting issues. Photographs help to identify offenders where it is safe and possible.
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Discussion:

Pinchpoint Scheme

Residents are concerned that no information or updates are being sent. The number provided no longer works.

UPDATE

Clifford Bridge Road

Works have been completed on the carriageway and signals for the new junction. Additional traffic signs are to be installed, however these will be installed off-line and therefore not requiring additional lane closures or traffic management. The signals are still being monitored remotely and the CCTV camera has now been made a permanent addition to the junction.

Ansty Road Roundabout

The Council has been in long discussions with Severn Trent Water to attend site and start works on the diversion and moving of the hydrant and valves. They should have attended on site on the 17th August which did not happen. This was taken up at a more senior level and a date for attendance was agreed as 7 September, to which they only attended yesterday, 9th September. These works are programmed for a week and during this time the contractor will be continuing to work to install the drainage and ducting for the new signals. We are still pushing for completion in November.

Exploratory works have been undertaken for the standalone toucan crossing north of the River Sowe Bridge. We are currently waiting for a National Grid Gas inspector to attend site and check their apparatus before we proceed with work on this crossing.

Woodway Lane

The contractor was required to change the programme of works to suit local traders which did cause a minor delay to the works, however this has now been rectified and works are continuing on the junction. Advance works to the traffic signals have been undertaken on the junction to allow for the completed signals works to be commissioned sooner. A CCTV camera is due to be installed and connected back to the Council's control room which will allow for long term monitoring and remote intervention on the signals should they need it.

The works to the central section of the A4600 are being moved along as priority but are limited to 9:30-4pm time slots due to traffic conditions and we are working to reduce any delay and impact on the traffic and pedestrian movements.



Action Notes

SEVA School

Residents asked if there was any progress on protecting the green bund at the SEVA school?

Cllr Maton confirmed that the Coventry local plan is going to cabinet in October with a review of the greenbelt policy. The report will identify any changes to Greenspace in the city and the green bund between the proposed SEVA school and the adjacent housing is included as green space. It is therefore protected and cannot be built on.

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 call 024 7683 3111 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 Neighbourhood Forum Documentation, please contact me using the details above.



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