

Community Forum for Arbury and Stockingford

Held at **Stockingford Sports and Social Club,**
Arbury Road, Nuneaton, CV10 7NJ

on **24th July 2017**

Present:

Cllr Chris Watkins (Chair)
Cllr Barry Longden
Cllr Caroline Philips
Cllr Patricia Elliott
Cllr Gwynn Pomfrett
Mike Slemensek (WCC)
Chris Florance (WCC)
Tamsyn Keyte (WCC)
PC Andy Morrissey
Approximately 10 members of the public present

Apologies:

Cllr Golby

1. Welcome and Introduction

1.1 Cllr Watkins introduced the councillors and officers present and welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Reshaping Children's Centres Consultation

2.1 County Councillor Caroline Phillips introduced the topic by saying that Warwickshire County Council is proposing significant changes to how they work with children between the ages of 0-5 years. She said that there is a consultation currently taking place and asked that as many people as possible complete the online survey (www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask) before 11th September. There is also an event taking place on Wednesday 2nd August from 7.30 to 9.00pm at Our Lady of the Angels Church Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton, CV11 5UA.

2.2 Cllr Phillips went on to say that the proposals would mean the closure of our 9 Children's Centres and that these would be replaced by 3 family type of hubs. She was particularly concerned by the proposed closure of Riversley Park Children's Centre, which has particularly undertaken very good work with families and children with specific needs. It has also very successfully engaged with families within ethnic minority communities.

2.3 Cllr Patricia Elliott said that Riversley Park Children's Centre was particularly good with SEND children for example developing special Stay and Plays for children with Autism. She was also concerned that a reduction in centres would mean that more families would not engage and get the support they might need as the centres would not be convenient to where they lived. She went on to say that Children's Centres were set up to stop tragedies, such as Victoria Climbié happening again.

- 2.4 Cllr Phillips said that Children's Centres were also initially developed to break the cycle of deprivation. She went to say that the first 1000 days of a child's life are crucial to their wellbeing and development. Cllr Barry Longden said that there is evidence that the work undertaken by children's centres over the years has meant that there have less social problems than there used to be. He went to say that under the current proposals 40 out of 60 Family Support Workers will lose their jobs. Cllr Longden also said that he was concerned about the extension of the age group to the proposed family hub to 19 years. This could raise some safeguarding issues and having vulnerable young adults in the same setting as pre-school children could be problematic.
- 2.5 Cllr Elliot said that the proposals are for the whole of Warwickshire, but that the areas of greatest need are in Nuneaton and Bedworth. She also said that other areas of the county will have very active communities who will complete the survey. She also wants as many people as possible in Nuneaton to complete the survey. She also went on to say that Nuneaton has the highest teenage pregnancy levels in Europe.
- 2.6 A member of the public asked whether the councillors reached out to social media. Cllr Elliott said that there was a 'Save Our Children's Centres' Facebook page.

3. Police

- 3.1 PC Andy Morrissey gave an update on the crime statistics for the local neighbourhoods. The highlights were:

Arbury

- There have been reports of prostitution in areas of Bermuda, but the police as yet have not found any evidence.
- There are several ongoing issues of people inhaling Nitrous Oxide and littering the area with the used canisters. As well as being unsightly it can also be a problem for dogs and wildlife, particularly if swallowed. Please report all incidents to the police.

Kingswood

- The increase in violent crime may be a result of more, and older domestic incidents have been reported and recorded. PC Morrissey was keen to say that there are not more incidents of people being attacked in the streets.

General

- There are ongoing parking issues outside all the schools in the area and that the PCSOs have visited schools. The police are taking photographs of cars and people are *being ticketed*.

- 3.2 A member of the public asked about the increase in illegal motorbike riding in the area, particularly in the Grove Farm area later in the evenings. PC Morrissey said that is likely to be special 'off road' operations during August. You can text him directly via 07870 163291 to give details of incidents taking place with registration numbers of the bikes involved. Do continue to report incidents via 101.

4. WCC Updates

- 4.1 Councillor Grants – There have been some changes to the Councillor Grant scheme this year. Each County Councillor still has a pot of £5,000 available to community organisations to apply to for projects and initiatives that benefit local people. Wherever possible applications should now be made online and there is a deadline of 9th October for the first round. There will be a funding workshop in Nuneaton on Thursday 14th September at 6.00pm at the Newtown Community Centre, Newtown Road, CV11 4HG. Further information, booking on to the funding workshop and an application should be made via: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/councillorgrants. You can also contact northernareateam@warwickshire.gov.uk or call 01926 737767.
- 4.2 Community Computers Scheme – This scheme will be open again in September, when used WCC laptops will be made available to community organisations. More information will be available shortly.
- 4.3 An update was given on the county-wide project to upgrade Broadband reception.

5. Chair's Updates

- 5.1 The Chair, Cllr Chris Watkins gave an update on local matters he had been involved in. This included:
- 20mph speed limit for Haunchwood Road,
 - Unadopted roads
 - Greenmoor Road / Croft Road junction
- 5.2 This led to discussion and suggestions as to how to take these matters forward. Cllr Watkins and Cllr Phillips will be liaising with the County Highways team going forward. Cllr Watkins reported that the WCC has adopted the cobbled areas of Brendon Way. A further update will be given by Cllr Watkins at the next forum.

6. Issues and Questions from the Floor

- 6.1 The following issues were raised:
- Tree and Brambles near Roy Will's house – Cllr Phillips to follow up
 - Trees touching window of 46 Arbury Road – Cllr Phillips to follow up
 - Pruning on pavements probably need following up generally
 - Cyclists riding on pavements along Arbury and Ansley Road
 - Can the opening times of CJs Pub and Restaurant be looked at. People are outside talking noisily until 1 or 2 in the morning. Cllr Longden advised the questioner to contact licensing at the Borough Council to report this issue.
 - Question (following on from email sent to chair before meeting) regarding speeding along Ansley Road, Astley Lane. Asked whether speeding could be monitored by the Police.

6.2 These matters will be taken away for action as shown and the police noted the speeding issues raised.

7. Meeting Closure

7.1 The meeting was closed by Cllr Watkins and all participants thanked for their contributions to the meeting. The next meeting date will be announced as it soon as it is known.