

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER**

11TH JULY 2007 (6.00PM)

PRESENT:

Councillors: Mrs F M Oborski (Chairman), Mrs H E Dyke (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, G H Eeles, Mrs J Greener, Mrs P V Hayward, M A W Hazlewood, W G Jones, M B Kelly, D J Millis, Ms T L Onslow, M Price, M J Shellie and J C Simmonds.

OBSERVERS:

Councillor J-P Champion, Leader of the Council,
Councillor Mrs A T Hingley, Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Rural Affairs

CAR.15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

CAR.16 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

No substitutes were appointed.

CAR.17 COMPOSITION AND ATTENDANCE OF PANEL

AGREED:

The attendance of the Panel, as per the Attendance Record Sheet appended to the Agenda be noted.

CAR.18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor D J Millis declared a personal interest in agenda item number 11 regarding the establishment of a review panel to look at the land use implications of the Wyre Forest Schools review because he had worked on the Wyre Forest Education Review in the past and may do so again in the future.

Councillor Mrs F M Oborski declared a personal interest in agenda item number 11 regarding the establishment of a review panel to look at the land use implications of the Wyre Forest Schools review because she sat on the Wyre Forest Schools Review Board.

Councillor Ms T L Onslow declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item number 11 regarding the establishment of a review panel to look at the land use implications of the Wyre Forest Schools review if looking at secondary schools because her

property backed on to the King Charles High School site.

CAR.19 **MINUTES**

AGREED:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAR.20 **CAIRO DEMONSTRATION**

Members received a brief demonstration from the Committee Officer on the CAIRO committee administration system, which will ensure that Members are able to access Scrutiny reports and information more easily.

AGREED:

The information be noted.

CAR.21 **OLDINGTON AND FOLEY PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD PATHFINDER PROJECT PRESENTATION**

The Committee considered a presentation from the Neighbourhood Manager regarding the Oldington and Foley Park Neighbourhood Pathfinder Project. (The Slides to the presentation are attached at appendix 1 to the minutes).

Members were informed that the final year of the programme was 2011 – 2012. Members were concerned about the exit strategy and whether it would be sustainable without funding and without there being paid staff. The Neighbourhood Manager explained that there were plans to leave a legacy of an extended school which was also a community facility and a place where Partners would work together under the same roof. It was also important to ensure social capital was developed to ensure residents would know how to tackle problems with different agencies and ensure that things would not go back to the way they used to be.

Members were concerned that the Pathfinder project team had been engaging with first school and middle school children but not so much with teenagers at the local high school. The Neighbourhood Manager explained that by starting to engage with children at a young age, it was an opportunity to encourage young people to participate and influence things. Young children had been involved with consulting with the police and the health authority and by starting to do this at a young age, it would lead to cultural change where young people would realise that it was good to be involved. It also raised young people's aspirations which would encourage learning, seeking better jobs and could be seen to reduce teenage pregnancies.

A Member mentioned that in London, there were mentoring schemes for teenagers and asked whether this had been done or would be done at Oldington and Foley Park. The Neighbourhood Manager explained that Home Start supported families having difficulties with parenting but that there were also mentoring schemes. High school children acted as mentors to younger children at primary schools. This gave young adults more responsibility.

The Neighbourhood Manager told the Committee that by working together with partners, there had been positive changes at an early stage. One example was street cleaning where the commitment and ability of Angela Preece, the Council's Street Scene Supervisor to look at working practices with the Community Housing Group, had resulted in considerable improvements to cleanliness of the area.

A Member pointed out that although Oldington and Foley Park was an area of deprivation, not all residents were problematic and many already realised their potential. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed and pointed out that if you walked around the area, you would see many pleasant and well cared for gardens.

Regarding Members' questions concerning empowering residents and sustaining it, the Neighbourhood Manager explained that it was important to improve both the place and the people. It was not only about making the place tidier and safer but also about helping people to find work and do better in life.

The Neighbourhood Manager informed the committee that now, 80% of Oldington and Foley Park residents thought it was a good place to live.

The Chairman thanked the Neighbourhood Manager for his interesting presentation.

AGREED:

The information be noted.

CAR.22

**WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY (WMES) REVIEW 2006
– 2007 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STRATEGY**

Members considered a briefing paper from the Economic Development and Tourism Manager, which updated Members on the review of the West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES) and set out proposed responses to the latest round of consultation.

The Regeneration and Economic Prosperity Manager informed the Committee that the WMES Review Strategy was a twenty year strategy covering the West Midlands region and provided a framework for planning in years ahead. There had been earlier rounds of consultation and the Prosperity Policy Panel had previously put forward a response to the Policy Choices consultation earlier in the year. The Consultation on the Draft Strategy would be the final opportunity to put forward representations on the preparation of strategy and the deadline was at the end of July 2007.

The key issues were based on three key areas which Advantage West Midlands had developed and explored. These issues were business, place and people.

The Regional Spatial Strategy set out the framework for warehousing and employment use so there was a clear need for the Regional Spatial Strategy and the West Midlands Economic Strategy to be linked.

Historically Bewdley and Stourport had benefited from being targeted as a 'regeneration zone' but Kidderminster had not. Because of the District Council's

earlier representations, and Kidderminster was now identified within the strategy as a “secondary spatial focus”. This did not necessarily mean that Kidderminster would automatically receive funding but it would be recognised regionally that it was in need of regeneration assistance. Stourport and Kidderminster could continue to be supported through the Market Towns Initiative. At the next meeting of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Members would consider a Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus which would clarify what regeneration was needed in Kidderminster

Members considered the appendices to the report. They were informed that Appendix 1 part 1 contained the formal response to submit to Advantage West Midlands and that Appendix 1 Part 2 contained more detailed comments and analysis and would be submitted to the Worcestershire Partnership for their information..

Members felt that it was excellent that Kidderminster had been recognised as a focus for regeneration.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet:

The responses to the consultation questions as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be submitted to Advantage West Midlands and the Worcestershire Partnership

CAR.23

THE WOLVERLEY CONSERVATION AREA – RESULTS OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Members considered a briefing paper from the Conservation Officer, which informed them of the results of the public consultation on the proposed Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals for the Wolverley Conservation Area.

The Committee was informed that there had been a consultation in May and June 2007 and there had also been a public meeting with the Parish Council in May 2007. Three responses to the consultation had been received. Members were informed that the consultation documents had been sent to approximately 600 people who lived in the conservation area.

There had been no major alterations to the recommendations in the appraisal or the management plan.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet:

The proposed Management Proposals be adopted.

CAR.24

UPPER ARLEY CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Conservation Officer which informed Members of the Conservation Area Appraisal for the Upper Arley Conservation Area, and the proposed arrangements for public consultation.

The Conservation Officer explained that the consultation on Upper Arley was purely a conservation area appraisal but there was no management plan for it because it was not perceived to be essential. It was hoped that a consultation would be carried out and the results would be reported back to the Committee later in the year.

The consultation would go to all owners in Upper Arley and there would be a presentation to the parish council there. When asked why the consultation did not extend to the whole of the village instead of just the conservation area, Members were informed that there were statutory national guidelines for consultation and the Council was complying with these guidelines. The consultation would also be available on the Council website and there would be a press release, displays at Worcestershire Hub and all documents would be available for downloading.

A Member pointed out that living in a conservation area was restrictive and had many implications which affected their day to day living. Therefore, it was appropriate that the consultation would only go to those living in the conservation area rather than including those who did not live in the conservation area.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet:

A public consultation be undertaken to gauge the opinion of all affected persons, with a report back to Members at the end of the consultation period, to indicate the level of public support for Character Appraisal.

CAR.25

REVIEW PANEL TO LOOK AT THE LAND USE IMPLICATIONS OF WYRE FOREST SCHOOLS REVIEW

The Committee set up a review panel to look at the Land Use Implication of the Wyre Forest Schools Review.

The Chairman explained that the Review Panel would not be considering the high school sites because there had been a delay in the special schools review and the review of high schools would be further in the future.

The Review Panel would be looking at the potentially vacant first and middle school sites, which included Arely Common First School, Birchen Coppice Middle School, Lea Street School, Stone First school, Chaddesley Corbett First School, Wribbenhall First School, Tan Lane First School and Lickhill first school.

The review would not be starting until September but Members agreed that there should be a visit to each of the sites on the morning of Friday 27th July 2007. It was agreed that a minibus would be organised for the visit and the Cabinet

AGREED:

1. A review panel be set up to look at the land use implications of the Wyre Forest Schools Review comprising the following Members:

- **Councillor J Aston**
- **Councillor Mrs J Greener**
- **Councillor Mrs P V Hayward**

- Councillor M A W Hazlewood
- Councillor W G Jones
- Councillor D J Millis
- Councillor Mrs F M Oborski
- Councillor Ms T L Onslow
- Councillor M Price
- Councillor M J Shellie

2. A mini bus trip be organised for the morning of Friday 27th July 2007 to visit the school sites across the District.

CAR.26 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members reviewed the work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.

The Chairman told the Committee that the Review Panel which had been set up to review the licensing and operation of licences of caravan sites was no longer going ahead. The Committee was also informed that the Annual Leisure Tour would be taking place but that there would not be a report back to the Committee regarding the tour.

AGREED:

The work programme for the current municipal year be noted.

CAR.27 **PRESS INVOLVEMENT**

Members agreed that at this stage, there were no items for scrutiny that might require publicity.

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm.