

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 1 April 2003 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Doody (Chair); Councillors Byrd, Copping, Mrs Edwards, Harris, Kent and Mrs McFarland.

Mr George Dunkley (Warwick District Tenant and Leaseholders User Group).

Miss Rachel Hodgetts (Warwick District Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (Federation 2000)).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Boad (Housing Services Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Kohler (Customer and Community Services Portfolio Holder)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Shilton.

941. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute Number 943 - Rural Initiative Scheme - "Racing Ahead"

Councillor Copping declared a personal interest in this item because he was a Board member of the Council for Voluntary Service.

Minute Number 946 - Executive Agenda Item No. 12(A) - Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Councillor Doody declared a personal and prejudicial interest because he was a Board member of the Warwickshire Rural Community Council, and he withdrew from the room for this item.

942. GP REFERRAL UPDATE ON PACE SCHEME

The Committee considered a progress report from Leisure and Amenities on the GP Referral Scheme.

The GP Referral Scheme had operated within Warwick District Council Leisure Centres for ten years, and was aimed at encouraging members of the public with specifically diagnosed conditions to take up a more physically active lifestyle that would benefit their medical condition.

Since 1997, the local schemes had been included in the Warwickshire PACE Scheme with other referral schemes in the county. This had resulted in a more co-ordinated and professional approach to the management of the

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

schemes and set up an evaluation process that could draw on results from five schemes.

The Warwick District schemes were currently operating at Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre, Leamington Spa, and St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre, Warwick. Patients were being referred from Cubbington Road Surgery and Croft Medical Centre to Newbold Comyn and from Priory Medical Centre, Budbrooke Medical Centre and Lapworth Surgery to St. Nicholas Park Leisure Centre. Croft, Budbrooke and Lapworth practices were relatively recent partners and had helped to broaden the geographic scope within the district and consequently increase the number of patients able to benefit from it.

The impact of the scheme had also been increased some 18 months ago when the referral criteria were reviewed and extended to include people with diagnosed osteoporosis or with a medically proven high risk of coronary heart disease.

Work was ongoing to increase the number of practices involved in the scheme. Health Promotion officers from Warwickshire Health Service were leading on the recruitment drive and discussing the benefits to patients with local GP's and practice nurses. Members were reminded of the previous reluctance of Kenilworth practices to be involved in the local scheme. Work continued to bring these practices on board in the future.

Initially the scheme had been designed around exercising in the gyms of leisure centres. Based on feedback recently, it was recognised that this could deter some potential scheme members. The scheme was, therefore, revised to allow patients to choose swimming or another activity provided that they had completed the first three sessions in the gym where they could be closely monitored and supported by trained staff. They were encouraged to have one session per week in the gym to continue that support. It had been hoped that a supported "walking scheme" could be added to the scheme to provide further choice. This was included in the Sports Facilities Work Plan 2002 - 2004. However, no progress had been made to date due to lack of officer resources.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

943. **RURAL INITIATIVE SCHEME - "RACING AHEAD"**

A report was submitted by Policy Services following a request made at a previous meeting for background information on this project to be presented.

In January 2003, the Committee received a report due for consideration by the Executive at their next meeting relating to an application for funding from the Rural Initiative Scheme received from Racing Club (Warwick) FC for its "Racing Ahead" project.

Members were reminded that funding for the majority of the project had already been secured from the Countryside Commission in the sum of

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

£67,000, and that the balance requested from the Rural Initiatives Scheme amounted to £3,000.

Extracts from the funding application filed with the Countryside Commission were appended to the report. The project overview confirmed the broad details of the scheme and members noted the significant number of references to the intention to provide services to rural communities within the district.

Also included with the application were letters of support which made reference to the importance of the project's key aim of supporting residents in outlying rural areas. Correspondents writing in support included James Plaskitt MP, Warwickshire Rural Community Council, Warwickshire County Council, Warwick District Council, Warwick Town Council and Warwickshire College.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted
- (2) Racing Club (Warwick) FC be congratulated for developing this project
- (3) appropriate publicity material be made available to help ensure that the project's key aim of supporting residents in outlying rural areas is achieved.

944. EXECUTIVE MEETING - MONDAY 10 MARCH 2003

The minutes of the Executive on Monday 10 March 2003 which came within the remit of the Committee was submitted from information and scrutiny.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

945. WORK PLAN 2002/2003 AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER PRIORITY AREAS

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services updating the work plan for the year and monitoring the progress against the Portfolio holder priority areas. It had been agreed to consider the Committee's work plan as a standing item on each agenda. The current work plan, reflecting items raised by the Committee, was attached as an appendix to the report

The Executive had agreed priorities and work programmes for each Portfolio Holder at its meeting on the 25 June 2001. The relevant priorities and work programmes for the Portfolios covered by the Committee were shown in Appendix 2 of the report.

A schedule of matters considered by the Committee during the course of the current municipal year both in the form of items on the Scrutiny agenda itself and also matters coming before the Executive that fell within the remit of the Committee were attached at Appendix 3 of the report. An indicative

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Committee work plan for the coming year was attached at Appendix 4 of the report. It included a number of proposals that for the present remained loosely formed, but it was agreed that it be used as a living document for regular updating, amendment and development.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the Portfolio Holder priorities and work programme be noted
- (2) the schedule of items considered during the current year be noted
- (3) the Committee welcome the indicative timetable for the next municipal year, and whilst noting the potential impact of any action taken in respect of the Housing Options, offer the following as suggested matters for inclusion:-
 - a) e-government
 - b) one stop shops
 - c) Empty Property Strategy
 - d) Affordable Housing in relation to Planning policy

946. EXECUTIVE AGENDA

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 7 April 2003 which came within their remit. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive.

Agenda Item No. 2 - Service Plans 2003-2004

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 3 - Energy Management

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item No. 4 - Draft Programme for Best Value Reviews and Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Development

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, but felt it was important that members should be fully engaged in these processes.

Agenda Item No. 8 - Rural Initiative Scheme - Progress

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 9 - Rural Initiative Scheme - Applications for Grant

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Agenda Item No. 10 - Supporting People Government's Arrangements

The Committee supported recommendations 1.1 and 1.2 in the report, however felt that the nominations for the Members' Group should be deferred until after the elections.

Agenda Item No. 12(A) - Grants to Voluntary Organisations

(Councillor Mrs Edwards took the Chair for this item).

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 12(B) - Open Space at Hatton Park, Warwick

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 12(C) - Sustainable Communities - Building for the Future

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

(The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.)

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