

# **MINUTES OF MEETING OF WHITTLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**12 JUNE 2017**

## **PRESENT:**

### **Members of the Committee:**

Councillors Sandison (Chair), Brader, Butlin, Douglas, Gillias, Lowe, Mrs O'Rourke, Roberts and Ms Watson-Merret

### **Also present:**

Councillor Lisa Parker (Environment and Public Realm Portfolio Holder)  
Nick Andrews (Rugby Youth Council)

### **Officers:**

David Burrows (Regulatory Services Manager), Verna Zinclair (Principal Environmental Health Officer), Claire Baldwin (Warden Supervisor) and Linn Ashmore (Democratic Services Officer)

## **4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 March and 18 May 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

## **5. APOLOGIES**

There were none.

## **6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

## **7. RUGBY YOUTH COUNCIL**

The committee received a verbal report from Nick Andrews on a mental health campaign he was organising. The key points were:

- The aim was to arrange a county wide mental health conference to be held at a central venue such as the Benn Hall.
- Invitations would be extended to all secondary schools, the CAMHS service, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Rugby Borough Council (RBC) members, portfolio holders and relevant Heads of Service.
- Service providers and agencies would be invited to bring stalls.
- The main aim of the event was to get all groups talking to each other and to share ideas and experiences.

- Young people, parents and service providers would be invited to speak.
- In the past a binary approach to tackling mental health issues had been taken and this was an opportunity for something different.
- Schools have a big part to play in tackling mental health issues.
- Young people often find mental health issues difficult to talk about and smaller groups or workshops would be preferable.
- Teachers should be able to provide signposting.
- Rugby Youth Council did not have funds to cover the cost of organising the conference and venue hire etc. They were currently looking into WCC and charity grants.
- There was an intention to write to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge asking for their support in connection with their support for the Heads Together campaign.

The committee were supportive of the scheme and Councillor Mrs O'Rourke, as the former Chairman of the WCC Adult, Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee offered her support. During discussion suggestions and comments included:

- An RBC grant could be applied for from the health and wellbeing fund.
- Signposting/contacts for John Linnane, Joint Director of Public Health in Warwickshire and contact details for the WCC commissioners for health services and the WCC Area Team based at RBC would be shared.
- During a recent review of homelessness members discovered that there was an increase in people aged between eighteen and thirty five suffering from mental health problems which had a direct impact on becoming homeless.
- The majority of mental health illness sufferers were not diagnosed until they were around twenty six years of age.
- Many young people were not being listened to because of their age. There were a number of pressures on young people of school age.
- The Peer Listening Scheme was a way for young people to access support through student ambassadors within schools.

The committee thanked Nick Andrews for his briefing and invited him to return to report back on progress at a later date.

## **8. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS**

The committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 4) concerning the progress of the review.

The Regulatory Services Manager reported that the current 4 Dog Control Orders had been in place for 4 years. During that time some success had been seen though not as much as hoped, as they require people to be caught by officers.

Changes in legislation meant that Dog Control Orders were replaced by Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's). PSPO's are issued for a period of 3 years and during that time they may still be reviewed or modified.

The use of PSPO's may also be used as a tool to address other behaviours.

The council has current PSPO's in place which prohibit the consumption of intoxicating substances in the town centre. These have been a success and have resulted in the Courts issuing Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

A number of local authorities across the country have PSPO's in place for a range of behaviours, with some being more controversial than others. The review could consider the work carried out by other councils as part of its evidence gathering.

Officers believed they were a useful tool and there was a range of possible examples of where PSPO's could be of value for members to consider.

There were two stages to the review. The first would be to carry out the review itself and the second later stage would be to have an overview of how successful any PSPO's put in place had been.

During further discussion the following comments were made:

- The review should result in measurable outcomes.
- It was important to engage with the community but care would be needed not to alienate them.
- A wide range of witnesses would be required.
- It would be helpful for the review to look at a list of issues and where they are located.
- The communications team should be involved.
- The review will support community wellbeing and would aim to address anti-social behaviour by modifying behaviours including drinking and substance abuse, which could also include smoking.

A call for councillors to volunteer for the task group was not successful so it was agreed that a scrutiny sub group would be set up to carry out the review. Councillors Douglas, Lowe, Mrs O'Rourke and Sandison offered to be included in the membership and the invitation would be extended to members of Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) A scrutiny sub group be set up to carry out the review of Public Spaces Protection Orders;
- (2) The Regulatory Services Manager, Principal Environmental Health Officer and Warden Supervisor be thanked for attending the meeting.

## **9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

The committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning the progress of scrutiny reviews and the overview and scrutiny forward work programme for 2017/18.

The committee noted the position regarding reviews and the work programme for the next municipal year.

### ***Town Centre Heritage Task Group***

The task group was made up of 7 members and the inaugural meeting was due to be held on 22 June.

The review would focus on increasing footfall in the town centre through the town's history and heritage, and increase its attraction as a destination to visitors and result in a positive impact on the town centre economy.

During discussion the following comments were made:

- St Andrew's Parish Church was due to carry out some improvements to its frontage and was a building of historical interest.
- The Economic Development Officer should explore engaging with potential heritage venues.
- Town centre business would welcome the opportunity to link to heritage events.
- Rugby First Limited was a potential partner.
- Evidence should include information from the Victorian Society as previously reported to Cabinet in 2010.
- It may be useful to explore useful elements from the original pedestrianisation scheme.
- The appearance of the Market Place area was an issue.
- There was no central point for the Town Centre Guides.
- The interpretation boards require updating.

### ***Future work programme***

During discussion the following points were made:

Whittle 11 September

- The newly appointed Principal Environmental Health Officer would attend the meeting with the Regulatory Services Manager for the air quality monitoring item.
- Government introduced Clean Air Zones to improve air quality. As part of the implementation a consultation exercise was carried out but RBC was not selected as a key area. Rugby falls within the Coventry and Nuneaton area.
- School transport was an issue. The production of transport plans by schools was voluntary but schools could be more pro-active in their approach to transport.
- Changes made by WCC to the school transport services meant that children were getting lifts to school and older students were driving their own cars.
- There was clear guidance from Government on air quality. Diesel engines were the biggest problem and changes to petrol or gas conversion engines were two alternatives. More focus was being placed on the use of electric vehicles in town centres and more charging points were needed.
- There were significant improvements in manufacturing and technology and the London Taxi Company were producing electric vehicles.
- WCC was the responsible authority for reducing air quality. The council's statutory requirement was to monitor air quality and action plans.

Joint meetings of Brooke and Whittle had been scheduled into the work programme as follows:

- 17 October 2017 – question and answer style discussion with the portfolio holders
- 29 January 2018 – discussion of performance and future strategy with the Leader and Executive Director

The next work programme workshop was scheduled for 7 March 2018. Members commented that details of the last workshop had not been well communicated

and discussions would be held with the communications team regarding a different approach for next year. Members also commented that the website should contain key messages and outcomes from scrutiny meetings.

Members noted that the conclusions from a previous agenda item relating to mental health services for young people were on hold pending the outcomes of the review of Homelessness carried out by a scrutiny sub group.

A suggestion was made that the ambulance service should be included in the consultation response to the Coventry and Warwickshire Stroke Service Reconfiguration. This item was carried over from the 2016/17 work programme but had not yet been assigned to a particular scrutiny committee.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report be noted.

**CHAIR**