

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON
9th SEPTEMBER JULY 2021**

Present: Councillors Sarah Boad (Chair), Will Bryce, Mubarik Chowdry, Judith Clarke, Bill Gifford, Jennifer McAllister, Jade McGhee and Susan Rasmussen.

Officers: Stephen Marks, Town Clerk

24. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A Boad (Cllr J McAllister substituting) and Cllr L Radice

25. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gifford declared a personal interest as a member of Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council in relation to items 7 and 8.
Councillor S Boad declared a personal interest as a member of Warwickshire County Council.

26. Public Forum

There were no representations from members of the public.

27. Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 07th July 2021 (Report No.4) are confirmed as a correct record.

28. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The agreed response to WCC's Cycling & Walking infrastructure consultation was submitted.

Concessionary parking days – the Christmas Lights switch on event is due on 7th November. Further discussion with WDC and BID will take place regarding the other proposed date of 4th December.

Further information had been received from Warwick District Council in relation to the costs of the Lillington by-election in 2019 and will be reported to the Town Council.

29. Climate change

The committee considered report number 6. It was noted that WDC had recently revised their climate change ambitions in light of the further work done and that they plan to publish a revised climate action plan / programme in the coming months.

It was noted that as well as seeking to minimise its own emissions, the Town Council can seek to influence partners and support the wider community to address climate change. It was noted that we should also promote the little things that we do / that can be done.

It was noted that we could include regular messaging about climate change and environmental issues in the Town Council communications.

Resolved:

- i) That the committee notes the information provided in the report.
- ii) That the committee reviews and updates the Town Council's Climate Change Action Plan once the South Warwickshire Climate Change Action Programme 2021-2025 is published by WDC, including incorporating the important element of the Town Council's role as an influencer and promoter of positive climate action.
- iii) That the Town Council and its committees consider the climate change implications of all relevant decisions.
- iv) That the Town Council continues to identify and take opportunities to influence and work with external partners to address climate change.

30. Bus service improvement plan

The committee considered report No. 7 regarding the current Warwickshire County Council Bus Service Improvement Plan consultation.

The improvement plan will set out Warwickshire's ambitions for bus service improvements and help secure a proportion of the funding being made available by the government to improve bus services in England.

Following a wide ranging discussion regarding key issues in relation to encouraging the uptake of bus services, the committee

Resolved

- i) that a response be made to the Bus Service Improvement Plan consultation identifying the following issues:
 - 1. Faster, more reliable services are required.
 - 2. More comprehensive services are required – to enable a genuine shift from current non bus users.
 - 3. Better integration of bus services is required (i.e. better connections between services)
 - 4. Greener buses should be introduced – electric or other zero emission buses.
 - 5. Much better bus journey information is necessary (including real time information at bus stops).
 - 6. Cheaper fares are required to achieve a genuine shift in bus usage. Fares are too expensive, particularly for families.
 - 7. Better accessibility to services is required – particularly for those who have mobility issues.

8. We would like consideration to be given to creating a clear bus / transport hub or focal point in Leamington Spa to assist the use and take up of bus services.

9. We note that in many cases private bus service provision has not resulted in a high-quality service. WCC is asked to consider delivering some bus services directly, to help achieve a higher quality service.

ii) That it be recommended to the Town Council that:

'The Town Council calls upon Warwickshire County Council to investigate and implement revisions to the University bus services (frequency every 8-10 minutes) with the aim of rerouting off the Parade to reduce both pollution and congestion through the town centre, and passenger congestion around bus stops between residents and students, particularly at the top of the Parade'

31. **Road safety strategy consultation**

The committee considered report No 8 regarding the current consultation on the draft Warwickshire Road Safety Strategy.

Resolved that a response be made to the current consultation with the following comments:

The Strategy seems to use professional / technical language in many parts and is seemingly written for a professional audience rather than being aimed at the public.

Welcome the focus on creating an environment which will encourage active and sustainable travel. Safety and the perception of safety can be an important factor in achieving this and too often pedestrian / cyclist safety is not addressed effectively in road design.

Agree with the long term ambition of 'Vision Zero.'

Feel the target should be 'at least' a 50% reduction in road deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

Support this approach (safe system working groups) assuming the work of the groups is effectively joined up and therefore doesn't work in 'silos'.

We support the proposal to try to take a more system wide approach to road safety. We should seek to design safe road environments as well as supporting and encouraging road users to behave in a safe way. However in trying to design safe environments it is important to achieve a balance between that objective and providing good access.

We wonder whether an alternative name to a 'road safety strategy' could be considered to acknowledge the wider scope of the strategy.

There is no reference to managing / reducing traffic and its speeds.

Concerns were raised regarding road signage being kept visible and obstacle free.

