



Committee and Date

Brown Clee and Highley Local
Joint Committee

Highley Zone

26 February 2014 - 7.00pm

Item

4

Public

BROWN CLEE AND HIGHLEY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

HIGHLEY ZONE

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2013

7.00 pm – 8.40 pm

Responsible Linda Jeavons

Officer

e-mail: linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252738 Fax 01743 252713

Committee Members Present:

Councillor D Tremellen

Shropshire Council

Councillor D Bache

Highley Parish Council

Councillor R Broome

Highley Parish Council

West Mercia Police:

Barry Sheldon – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Sgt Richard Bailey

CSO Ben Harris

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service:

Dave Jennings, Officer-in-Charge

Officers present:

Julie Jones, Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council

Linda Jeavons, Democratic Services, Shropshire Council

There were approximately 12 members of the public in attendance

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and all Members and Officers introduced themselves.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Roy Broome be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Robert Tindall Shropshire Council
Bill Longmore Police and Crime Commissioner

4. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

With reference to the funding application for Highley Severn Centre, Councillors Dave Tremellen and Roy Broome explained that as they would both have to declare a pecuniary interest on this item and therefore this and any future meetings of the Brown Clee and Highley Local Joint Committee (Highley Zone) would be inquorate, they had both been granted a dispensation to vote by virtue of Section 33 Localism Act 2011 (Section 31(4) of the Act).

5. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED : That the decision notes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 6 March 2013, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Mr Barry Sheldon, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner was in attendance. He explained that West Mercia was currently undergoing major organisational change in order to make necessary savings. The Alliance formed between West Mercia and Warwickshire Police prior to the elections of the Police and Crime Commissioner had been fully supported by both the Commissioners of West Mercia and Warwickshire. They were now moving towards a new look policing regime, and re-organisation was underway and would be fully implemented by 1 October 2013. Provisional proposals were announced in February this year and as a consequence of consultation with local communities amendments to the proposals had been made.

BS explained that West Mercia had to make savings of £31m by 15/16, and £10m off this had been saved prior to the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Home Secretary had now announced further cuts to policing to be made in 15/16, and it was anticipated that a further £0.6m of savings would need to be found.

Prior to November last year reductions had been made to the number of Police Officers. Since the election of the PCC no further reductions had been made to the numbers of Police Officers, and a recruitment process to increase the number was currently underway. There had been plans to lose 100 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO); however, because they were highly valued in the community this had now been reduced to 51, and following reorganisation they would join Safer Neighbourhood Teams. 11 Strategic Hubs would be located across West Mercia, and in Shropshire these would be located at Oswestry, Market Drayton, Shrewsbury, and Malinsgate. Leominster would cover South Shropshire.

In response to concerns regarding response times, he explained that when Officers were deployed from Malinsgate they would be allocated either Cleobury Mortimer, Highley or Bridgnorth. Response times would be maintained and in an emergency they would expect a Police Officer to respond within 10 minutes in the town and within 20 minutes to a rural area. In the hope that these response times would be improved, Police Officers would be provided with mobile data technology so that they could report crimes without the need to return back to a police station. Control Rooms would monitor and be aware of the location of every police patrol, and following a request for assistance, the nearest patrol would be deployed to an incident.

The number of Safer Neighbourhood Teams would be reduced. In the past the number of SNTs had been based on wards, and they would now cover slightly larger areas and the number would be reduced. 20 areas of high need had been identified, and these areas would have an increased level of resources. However, each area, including Highley, would be allocated a SNT and would consist of PCs, PCSOs and, for the first time, Special Constables (SC).

He hoped that the number of SCs would be increased by 100 by 2015, and he anticipated that they would be recruited from the local area.

A full-time Sergeant would be recruited to stimulate Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

They planned to reviewing speeding and safer roads strategies and to re-introduce the Community Speed Watch scheme. SCs would be trained in the use of speed guns – and there would be four SCs in each territorial division who would respond to requests from communities re speeding.

A Community Engagement Strategy, and Business and Rural Crime Strategies would be developed.

The Annual Report was due to be released, and would probably be made public after the 26 July.

A question and answer session followed.

In response to questions from the floor BS and Sgt Bailey explained as follows:

- Technology would negate the need for Police Officers to return to the station and therefore could remain and increase their visibility within the community;
- Sophisticated performance measures were in place and any 'dip' in performance would be acted upon;
- As from April 2015 the remit of the Probation Trust would change, and up to 70% of their work would be outsourced;
- Drug crime/usage was a priority for West Mercia Police;
- Contact numbers for the Police were publicised on the website and at all Police Stations;
- A costing and review of all police buildings was being undertaken; and
- It was likely that further savings would have to be made in 2016/17.

7. UPDATE FROM SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Dave Jennings, Officer-in-Charge, had been in attendance prior to the meeting and was invited by the Chair to provide an update on the work of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). He referred to a previous meeting when concerns had been expressed that a fire appliance would not be able to gain access in an emergency because of parked cars, and explained that on 13 April 2013 he had visited Highley to assess the situation. He confirmed that he had driven around all the streets in Highley at approximately 7 pm, and although there were cars parked on corners and pavements he was confident that a fire appliance would be able to gain access.

In response to a question DJ confirmed that he had not visited the caravans/chalets near to The Ship. He explained that access to caravan parks was covered by separate legislation, but if anyone had any specific concerns they should be reported to the Fire Safety Department (01743) 260260.

DJ further explained that on top of the initial savings made and the additional £1.1m of savings made on top of the initial savings, the Fire Service would now need to make even more savings.

In conclusion, he explained that SFRS had become extremely busy as a result of the hot weather, and warned all about the dangers of discarded cigarettes, unattended bonfires and barbecues, and, more importantly, swimming in the river.

8. FEEDBACK FROM FUNDED PROJECTS

Feedback for previously funded projects was given and noted from the following:

- Highley Miners Welfare Bowling Club - A representative from Highley Bowling Club was in attendance and expressed the Club's thanks for the funding.
- GP Referral Scheme – Julie Jones reported that since commencing the programme in April Jon Rogers had completed three mandatory units (out of 30), namely:
 - i) Roles and responsibilities of the referral instructor;
 - ii) Roles in the exercise referral process; and
 - iii) Instructing exercise and physical activity with referral patient's

Jon was now undertaking the module "Exercise Referral for Specific Controlled Conditions". The current estimated completion date for Jon to complete the course was December 2013/January 2014.

9. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

RESOLVED: That the funding application for Highley Severn Centre for the replacement of pool side (interior) tiles, totalling £1,950, be approved.

10. SHROPSHIRE BROADBAND UPDATE

RESOLVED: that the update paper on the Connecting Shropshire Broadband Project be noted.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions

12. IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Fire Service to discuss how further cuts would be implemented.
- Ambulance Service (Michelle Brotherton) – to include response times

Cllr Dave Tremellen agreed to contact Severn Trent and report back with regard to the serious concerns expressed at the meeting relating to an odious smell that was emanating from the drains. **DT**

13. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates and venues for future meetings were noted:

Highley

Wed, 2 April 2014 – Severn Centre, Highley

Brown Clee

Wed, 24 July 2013 – Chetton Village Hall

Wed, 12 Feb 2014 – Cleobury North Village Hall

Chairman: _____

Date: _____