



Committee and Date:
Harlescott and Bagley Local
Joint Committee
27th July 2010
7.00 p.m.

Item

4(i)

Public

HARLESCOTT AND BAGLEY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH MAY 2010 AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE GRANGE YOUTH CENTRE, GRANGE SCHOOL, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, SHREWSBURY

Responsible Officer: Ken James

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Committee Members Present:

Councillor Beverley Baker (Shropshire Council)
Councillor Vernon Bushell, Chairman (Shropshire Council)

Shropshire Council Officers Present:

Steph Jackson, Lead Officer
Ruth Houghton, Support Lead Officer
Steve Cunningham, Senior Community Regeneration Officer (Central)
Julie Dickenson, Senior Youth Worker
Ken James, Committee Officer (Notes)

West Mercia Police Officers Present:

PC Mike Sanders
PC Cheryl Hare
CSO Daniel Firth
CSO Steven Mellor

There were approximately 37 members of the public in attendance.

ACTION

1. Quorum

Councillor Vernon Bushell reported that unfortunately due to absences there were insufficient Committee Members present to hold a valid meeting for the purposes of taking formal decisions. However, it was agreed that the meeting should proceed on an informal basis.

2. Chairman for the Meeting

It was agreed that Councillor Beverley Baker be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

3. Apologies for Absence

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Farmer (Shrewsbury Town Council).

4. Chairman's Welcome

- 4.1 Councillor Beverley Baker made an introductory statement welcoming everyone to the meeting with the main purpose of looking at issues affecting young people in the LJC area.

5. Declarations of Interest

- 5.1 No declarations of interest were received.

6. Notes of the Previous Meeting

- 6.1 It was agreed that the notes of the meeting of the Harlescott and Bagley Local Joint Committee held on 4th March 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.
- 6.2 The content of the Comments, Questions and Suggestions Action Sheet, including the update circulated at the meeting was noted.

7. Partners and Communities Together Meeting (PACT)

- 7.1 PC Mike Sanders of West Mercia Police provided an update on the priority matters and initiatives being pursued in the Harlescott area as follows:

- Little Harlescott Lane and the Playing Field - incidents of anti-social behaviour.
Increased police patrols had reduced the gatherings and incidents.
- Face to Face surveys
These had been conducted with passengers on buses into town. The results were being appraised for reporting to the next meeting – parking on pavements had been one of the main issues raised.
- Street Briefings
These would be conducted in the Harlescott area from 6.00 pm on Thursday 20th May at a location to be selected and in Kynaston Road from 9.00 am on Monday 7th June. The street briefings would provide an opportunity for face to face discussions with residents.
- Friday Night Football
The sessions were continuing to prove a success and an approach would be made to the Football Association to get involved in the coaching.

- 7.2 PC Mike Sanders then invited members of the public to identify any issues of concern, which the local policing team would pursue as a matter of priority.

The following issues was raised:

- Young children roaming around the streets late at night around the Community Centre at Kynaston Road, the top of the Grange Estate and Whitemere Road.

- Community Support Officers not being seen on patrol.
PC Mike Sanders explained that the Local Policing Team for Harlescott, comprising himself and 2 Community Support Officers, had a very large area to cover including the residential areas and the Battlefield Industrial Estate. 75% of their time was spent on visible patrol but this included time that they might be inside peoples houses or buildings attending to queries. The team worked in shifts and each of them covered 9 miles on foot each shift.

- The high turnover of Community Support Officers.
PC Mike Sanders stated that this continued to be the case. Funding for the posts was provided by Government, separate from the police funding, and it was hoped that this would continue to be maintained. A member of the public referred to the community wardens that operated in areas of Birmingham in support of the police. The community wardens were local citizens who watched over/patrolled a certain street or area to assist the police with the lack of Community Support Officers. Councillor Beverley Baker stated that the Committee might be able to look at using some of its funding budget for the appointment of community wardens if it was felt to be needed. PC Mike Sanders indicated that although the powers of Community Support Officers were limited they did link into all police information He was unsure how any community wardens could do the same and this would need to be explored.

PC Mike Sanders continued to state that all the members of the Local Policing Team for Harlescott were relatively new to community policing and had expressed a wish to continue in the role and receive all the training required to fulfill its requirements.

- Bullying of young people in school.
PC Mike Sanders indicated that the police would only get involved in specific cases at the school's request and as a last resort.
CSO Daniel Firth indicated that the Community Support Officers would be visited the schools soon to give talks on the matter.

**Local
Policing
Team**

**Local
Policing
Team**

7.3 PC Cheryl Hare of West Mercia Police introduced herself and stated that she had been in the role of the Local Community Police Officer for Bagley for about 6 weeks and was working with CSO Sue Tomlinson who had moved over to the Bagley area from Harlescott. She then provided an update on the priority matters and initiatives being pursued in the Bagley area as follows:

- Parking and littering issues
These had been addressed by the police.
- Herongate Estate – incidents of anti-social behaviour
This had been addressed by the police, with an order placed on a group to deal with the nuisance being caused.
- Street Briefings
These had been conducted in the Bagley area. Information provided from face to face discussions with residents was used in confidence so nobody had to reveal who they were. All information supplied was followed up b the police. The next street briefing would be held at Round Hill Green from 6.30 pm on 27th June.

- Lighting on path from Falstaff Street to the railway bridge and the clearance of unwanted trees from land to the left of the entrance to Falstaff Street

Councillor Beverley Baker indicated that both matters had been referred to the Town Council for attention and were included on the Comments, Questions and Suggestions Action Sheet.

Town Council

8. Youth Issues in Harlescott and Bagley

8.1 Shropshire Youth led a session looking at issues affecting young people in the LJC area. There were around 15 young people present for this session.

8.2 At first, the meeting split into groups to undertake an exercise on the facilities available for young people in the Harlescott and Bagley area that were free for under 11's and over 11's and the facilities that had to be paid for. The groups were also asked to estimate the cost of the bus fare into town and list the facilities available in town that were free and those that had to be paid for. The object of the exercise was to show that there were very few facilities that were free. At the end of the session each group fed back to the meeting and the sheets completed by each group were collected for Steve Cunningham, Senior Community Regeneration Officer, to collate all the input from the groups for submission to the next meeting.

SC

8.3 The way in which the information from the session could be distributed to young people in the LJC area was discussed. Steph Jackson, Lead Officer, suggested that the Grange Youth Club could look at designing a leaflet for this that could be put out in shops and youth clubs for which the Youth Club could apply for funding from the LJC budget.

8.4 Councillor Beverley Baker then invited the young people present to put questions and raise any issues of concern, during which the following matters were raised:

- The need to improve the amount of lighting around the Ashfields Road area to make it easier to get to the playing area at the rear.

SJ

- Use of the Grange School playing field.
Mrs. Thomas, Head of Grange School, confirmed that due to an insurance issue the school playing field could not be used unsupervised.

Steve Cunningham indicated that use of the new Be Active leisure card scheme through the Grange Sports Centre was being explored and funding sought. Young People could swipe-in with a card as a user of the sports centre and use the playing field covered by the sport centre's insurance.

SC

- Provision of Multi Games Ball Park at the Grange Sports Centre
Steve Cunningham undertook to pursue the request as an opportunity using open spaces funding.

SC

- Grass left to grow too long on the playing field.

SJ

- Free use of the Grange Sports Centre facilities by local young people as it cost £1 a night and many young people used the sports centre every night so the cost mounted up.

- Supervision for local young people on the nights the Grange Sports Centre was closed due to lack of use.
Mrs. Thomas, Head of Grange School, indicated that the running of the sports hall was due to be transferred to the school from 1st September and this could be looked into at that time.
- The need to provide more litter bins in the area as there was too much litter around. The litter bins by the school gates were emptied only once a week and litter bins were being removed from the area causing a huge litter problem, with no bins now in Lancaster Road or York Road.
- The goalposts being taken down at Middlegate Recreation Ground.
Steve Cunningham explained that where teams played matches the goalposts were removed at the end of the football season to allow the grass to re-grow in the goalmouths. The posts were usually put back up across the pitch and he undertook to check whether this would be done.
- Claire McKenna thanked the Committee on behalf of the Grange Youth Club for the grant funding awarded for the provision of new computers.

SJ

SC

9. Community Working Update

9.1 Steve Cunningham, Senior Community Regeneration Officer, provided an update on several initiatives that he had recently been involved with. These included:

- Harlescott Community Centre
Steve indicated that he had provided support to the Management committee and had worked with a sub-group on a business plan looking at sustainability of the community centre through all aspects of its activity. A 20th anniversary celebration would be held on 27th October 2010. It was hoped to re-start the youth club and start a community café in the area too.
- Greenfields Bowling Club
Steve indicated that the internal decoration and external decoration had been completed. There was still a small amount of work remaining around the greens and floodlights lights.
- Patch Meeting
Steve indicated that Councillor Bushell, Severnside Housing, the Youth Service, Elim Church, the Sport Centre, the local Secondary and Primary Schools plus student representation had been looking at how we could all work more effectively together in a more co-ordinated way and how gaps in services could be plugged. As a result of the meeting the Grange Youth Centre had collaborated closely with the Grange Sports Centre on Summer activities and the Sports Centre's funding request had arisen as a result of the meeting and through the organisations co-ordinating their activities additional nights of provision could be achieved.
- Grants
Steve indicated that further funding applications were being worked on to bring forward to the Committee at the July meeting. A Reaching

Communities Grant and Changing Spaces Grant had been discussed with some of the key partners involved but would require more work and support from other community groups and local organisations. It was hoped that further details could be provided the next meeting.

- **Football at the Grange**
Steve indicated that he had been supporting a football project being led by Shropshire Council's Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service that was an extension of the Police's Friday Night Football at the Grange Sports Centre. The project not only provided football but also trained young people to become coaches and lead training sessions themselves as well as getting a qualification.
- **Football Goals**
Steve indicated that 'Samba' goals had been secured from Shropshire Council's Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service that could be used by young people on the school field with agreement of the Grange School and Grange Sports Centre,
- **Bagley Bowling Club**
Steve indicated that he had been providing support to the re-opened bowling club in Greenfields near the new Barretts housing development. Funding was being sought from Shropshire Council's Community Fund for a capital grant to provide access to and irrigation of the greens.
- **Job Club/Community Support**
Steve indicated that he had been discussing with Phil Briggs the possibility of the services delivered by Job Centre Plus, Adult and Community Learning (The Gateway), County Training and other voluntary and community organisations being delivered in Harlescott at the Riversway. A project plan had been written and the outcome of a request for funding for this through Shropshire Council's Worklessness Commissioning Group was awaited.
- **BMX Shropshire**
Steve indicated that he would be meeting with riders from around Shrewsbury tomorrow evening (12th May) at the Shirehall at 6.30pm. This was to speak to local riders about developing a regional level track in Shrewsbury, developing existing ones (7 in total) and developing Shropshire BMX as a group in itself.

9.2 Steve Cunningham stated that the above list contained some of the ways in which he could provide help and assistance to those living and working within the local community. Local residents were encouraged to contact him if they had any queries or wanted further information.

9.3 In response to an enquiry raised about the provision of a street running circuit in the area, Simon Evitts, the Grange Sports Centre Manager, who was present at the meeting indicated this was a specialist gymnastic style activity, nevertheless the possibility was being looked at by the Council.

9.4 Some of the young people at the meeting expressed the view that the Friday night football sessions hosted by the police at the Grange Sports Centre were finishing a touch too early. In response, Steve Cunningham undertook to take the matter up with the police.

9.5 A representative of Bagley Bowling Club invited the young people at the meeting to come and give bowls a try and he would liaise with the Grange Youth Centre on this.

10. Local News and Information

10.1 The Chairman reported to the meeting of the following items:

By-Election – Thursday 24th June 2010

Susan Taggart, who had been a member of this Committee, had moved away from Shrewsbury and therefore resigned from her seat as a Councillor for the Harlescott Ward of the Shrewsbury Town Council. Arrangements had now been made to hold a By-Election on Thursday 24th June to fill the vacancy. The new person elected would become a member of this Committee, so the Committee would be back up to full strength in time for the next meeting on 27th July.

Site Allocations and Management of Development - Consultation

Consultations had commenced on the next stage of the Shropshire Local Development Framework following the setting of the Core Strategy.

The new Site Allocations and Development Management document would allocate sites for various types of development and, to help deliver the vision and objectives of the Core Strategy, would set out further detailed policies to guide future development across Shropshire up to 2026.

The first key stage in the preparation of the Site Allocations and Management of Development was the 'Issues and Options' document which earmarked a wide range of potential sites for development across Shropshire.

Communities were encouraged to feed back their views to Shropshire Council on whether the sites earmarked were appropriate for development, or if other alternative sites were available.

The 'Issues and Options' document was now open to consultation until Friday 25th June and a local consultation event covering this LJC area would be held at The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury on Wednesday 19th May from 4.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

At the end of the consultation period a second Preferred Options paper would be produced towards the end of 2010, which would list the sites Shropshire Council considered appropriate for development. This would be influenced by the feedback received during the consultation. Therefore, it was important that parish and town councils, community groups and members of the public to make their views known in the consultations.

Greenfields United Church

Due to the under utilisation of the hall, which placed the facility under threat of closure, an emergency community meeting, open to all the public, was being held on Monday 17th May at 7.30 p.m.

Tesco

Leanne Sargeant, the Community Champion from the Tesco Extra Store on Battlefield Road, addressed the meeting about the strong links that

Tesco wished to forge with the local community and the support that the company could provide to local events with the possibility of financial support on occasion. She referred to the Community Board located just inside the entrance, which included her contact details and notices of events taking place in the area. In response to a request from Simon Evitts, Leanne agreed that the Community Board at the store could be used to promote events at the Grange Sports Centre.

11. Applications for Funding

11.1 Steph Jackson, Lead Officer, indicated that no formal decisions could be taken on the funding requests received due to the Committee being inquorate.

11.2 The applicants present addressed the meeting on their funding applications following which it was agreed that arrangements be made for a special meeting of the Committee to be held in the LJC area at a time in June 2010 when sufficient Members could attend to enable formal decisions to be taken on each funding request.

SJ/KJ

12. Public Question Time

12.1 The Chairman invited questions / comments from members of the public. Issues raised included:

- Dog mess in Hotspur Street and Wood Street and dog mess and littering around the shops along Ellesmere Road in the Greenfields area. Steve Cunningham indicated that an education in the community programme is usually undertaken as a first step to combat dog fouling and littering before enforcement action is commenced and he undertook to look into arrangements for this in the LJC area.

SC

- Details of the relevant Bye Law covering dog mess and littering.

SJ

- Bus Service from Harlescott to Sundorne

Steph Jackson, Lead Officer, indicated that the service would be provided in time for the opening of the new medical centre adjoining Shrewsbury Sports Village.

- The need for more low loading buses on routes in the LJC area.

SJ

- Phil Briggs of the Riversway Elim Church thanked the Committee for the grant funding awarded at the last meeting. He indicated that the works to convert the first floor space into a large community meeting room had commenced.

13. Future Agenda Items

13.1 A suggested list of possible future agenda items was circulated to all those present to indicate their preferences and return before leaving.

14. Feedback on the Meeting

14.1 All those present were asked to complete and return the feedback forms circulated before leaving.

15. Date of Next Meeting

15.1 It was confirmed that the next ordinary meeting of the Harlescott and Bagley Local Joint Committee would be held on Tuesday, 27th July 2010 at 7.00 p.m. at Bagley Bowling Club.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....