

MEOLE COLUMN & SUTTON LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE COMMENTS & SUGGESTION RESPONSE:

Anti-Social Behaviour – Reabrook Fields	Response
<p>A resident has highlighted that PC Jane Cowan and CSO Maria Chattington-Lowe deserve praise for the exemplary way in which they have dealt with anti-social behaviour on Reabrook Fields. Gillian Burvill, Environmental Maintenance, Shropshire Council has been proactive about cleaning up glass, rubbish etc and the Countryside Unit has also been very helpful.</p> <p>Will the co-operation between the police, Shropshire Council and the community continue into the future so as to address anti-social behaviour on Reabrook Fields.</p>	<p>All agencies are committed to working together and proactively addressing anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Praise has been passed on the Gillian Burvill and other members of the Team.</p>
<p>Can the seat to the picnic bench by the copse of trees be repaired.</p>	<p>The bench was originally put in as a memorial bench. This means that any repairs or maintenance should be carried out by the person who originally paid for the bench. Whilst this has been carried out on a few occasions the vandalism of this particular bench seems very frequent. Coupled with its secluded position and the issues with litter and anti social behaviour around the bench the Countryside Unit believe it may be better to remove it rather than repair it. As there is another picnic bench only a few metres this will not impact on the user's convenience on the site</p>
<p>Can plans be developed to encourage young people to take an active interest in life skills such as bee keeping.</p>	<p>The Local Joint Committee has allocated funding to youth projects including the Belle Vue Youth Club, a new youth club at the Trinity Centre and replacement furniture at Meole Brace Scout and Guide Group. The Committee is also looking to allocate funding to the Mereside Youth Club.</p> <p>West Mercia Police plan to continue to organise activities for young people.</p>

Road Safety and traffic issues in the narrow part of Sutton Road	Response
<p>Can a 20mph speed limit be imposed from Wenlock Road junction to Laundry Lane? Has the conservation area status been considered?</p> <p>Could some form of refuge or island be installed at the Wenlock Road/Sutton Road junction?</p> <p>Could the speed ramps be steeper? Is there a national specification?</p> <p>Has an independent review of traffic and road safety issues in Sutton Road been considered?</p> <p>Why has the speed monitoring exercise been conducted in a section of road that does not reflect the true speed of motorists? What is the legal position if an accident occurs after the removal of the build out?</p>	<p>There have been no accidents in this section of Sutton Road in the last 3 years and the mean speeds are below the 30 mph limit and we cannot justify the expenditure needed to traffic calm this section of Sutton Road and reduce the speed limit to 20 mph. The Council's current policy is that 20mph limits will only be considered in town centres, outside schools as part of a safer routes to school initiative or at locations where there is a recorded accident history.</p> <p>Following the LJC in October the Council has undertaken a further traffic survey of Sutton Road. This was undertaken north of the Stonehurst Drive junction as requested by residents. The survey between 11th and 18th December indicated the average (mean) speed of traffic travelling north to be 25.7 mph. The corresponding figure for southbound vehicles was 26.7 mph. These results together with surveys in September 2009 and June 2009 show good compliance with the 30 mph speed limit.</p> <p>Prior to any traffic calming having been introduced in May 2003 the average speed was 29 mph in both directions and in March 2005 the speeds were 29.15 mph and 28.08 mph. The results indicate that the current raised plateaus have been effective at reducing speeds.</p>

Wider Issues	Response
<p>How will LJCs ensure that when dealing with local issues active debate and participation about wider cross-county issues, such as museum provision or historic building conservation, is not discouraged.</p>	<p>Whilst Local Joint Committees aim to deal with local issues any item can be raised at the LJC and then referred to the appropriate individual / organisation.</p> <p>LJCs can also be used as a mechanism for consulting on wider issues such as the Shropshire Council Budget or Sustainable Community Strategy.</p>

Buses	Response
Why are off duty Arriva buses allowed to use Sutton Road as a short cut?	Officers have been liaising with Arriva, however, Arriva are a private company running a commercial service so Shropshire Council is unable to require them to take a specific route when out of service. Currently, there are no traffic orders which prevent buses from using this section of Sutton Road. Highways are to investigate the possibility of a “no buses” sign which would require a traffic order.
Not enough bus shelters	Locations for bus shelters could be looked at as following changes to bus routes some shelters may need relocating. Details of particular locations where bus shelters are required should be sent to Hugh Dannatt, Highways, Shropshire Council.
Information has been removed from stands at Bus Station	Due to budgetary constraints the electronic real time information on bus times is not currently being provided by Shropshire Council. The Council budget strategy for 2010/11 includes this item as a budget saving.
Route maps following changes to Arriva bus routes	<p>Arriva printed a limited number of timetables including route maps following the change of services in September. Arriva are currently reviewing their services and will not print additional timetables/route maps until this review is completed. Shropshire Council are currently working with Arriva to produce a Shrewsbury route map.</p> <p>The X5 Telford to Shrewsbury bus now stops at every bus stop and the last bus is at 5.20pm</p>

Approval of Planning Application for a Chip Shop at Mereside	Response
<p>Concern was raised that having a chip shop in the street could lead to anti-social behaviour and CSOs were request to deal with any problems that arose.</p>	<p>This planning application had been refused by Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council's Development Control Committee however it had been granted on appeal. This was outside the Council's control. There was little that the Local Joint Committee could do. It was understood that its opening hours would be restricted to 8pm.</p> <p>The Shropshire Council Street Scene Supervisor has been asked to monitor the situation and see if there was adequate bin provision. If additional bins are required the shop will be requested to purchase rather than being funded from the public purse.</p>

Unitary Authority	Response
<p>Concern was raised that the transition to Unitary Authority had not delivered the promised savings in staffing costs and it was queried how many jobs had been lost. Concern was also raised at the high proportion of public sector money going towards Officer pensions.</p>	<p>If the community wished to receive a range of services, this had to be paid for from somewhere. The Officers and Police in attendance at the Local Joint Committee meeting were there to ensure that the best services were provided within limited resources.</p> <p>The transition to a Unitary Authority had delivered the savings in staffing costs outlined in the business case. The LJC on 20th January 2010 will include a budget consultation on the Councils proposed budget for 2010/11 and residents will be invited to vote on the budget proposals.</p> <p>Less than 4p in every £1 paid in council tax goes to pay for the local government pension scheme. There are proposals to further increase the contributions made by employees into the pension fund to meet increased longevity and reduce the cost to the taxpayer.</p>

Environmental Health	Response
<p>Concern was raised about pigeon droppings and perching on bay windows and flat roofs leading to blocked drains etc</p>	<p>This had been a problem in other areas and Environmental Health are currently developing a policy to deal with pigeons. The information has been passed on to the Environmental Health Manager who arranged for a pest control officer to visit the area.</p> <p>Environmental Health have advised residents that they should disturb the roosting patterns of the pigeons using light and noise. Whilst this may be a long process it would be cheaper than any proofing methods which would be required to be paid for by the residents. Shropshire Council does not have a legal obligation to control pigeons on non Council properties.</p>

Maintenance of Footpath	Response
<p>A query was raised as to whether the footpath from London Road to Wenlock Road by the Cricket Pitch had to be maintained to the same standard as other footpaths.</p>	<p>This is a public right of way but not an adopted highway. Shropshire Council do not therefore have a duty to maintain this footpath. However, Shropshire Council do monitor the footpath and did some remedial works a year or two ago. The Council also gets the hedges cut back from time to time. The local Highways Inspector has been asked to include the path on his inspections of the Mereside highways. Whilst Shropshire Council are not in a position to formally take the financial responsibility for maintenance of the footpath the Council will see if there are any works that we can reasonably assist with should that be necessary. The Rights of Way Team will be informed if the Council are unable to assist and take up any issues with the respective landowners.</p>

Other Highways Issues	Response
Speeding on New College Road / Speed limit signs on Otley Road give no distance to slow down.	Following the meeting the Group Manager has requested the police enforce speeding on New College Road. Highways are looking into the positioning of speed limit signs on Otley Road.
Parking on zigzags and blocking road in Children's Way	West Mercia Police have been working with the school on road safety and have been encouraging parents to park in a safe location. The school have issued guidance to parents on where to park safely in their newsletters.