



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Albrighton Area Local Joint Committee
28 September 2010

Item
4
Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALBRIGHTON AREA LOCAL JOINT
COMMITTEE HELD ON AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 12 JULY 2010 AT TONG
PARISH HALL, HUBBAL LANE, TONG.**

Responsible Officer Adrian Dean
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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Malcolm Pate
Stuart West

Parish Councils

David Beechey – Albrighton Parish Council
David Murray – Tong Parish Council
Fred Shelley – Donington with Boscobel Parish Council
Bob Tummons – Boningale Parish Council

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Mike Morris, Lead Officer
Andrea McWilliams, Community Regeneration Officer
Adrian Dean, Senior Committee Officer

There were approximately 14 members of the public present at the meeting.

20 Welcome and Introductions

20.1 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

ACTION

21. Apologies for absence

21.1 Apologies for absence were received from George Edwards (Support Officer) and PC Rod Salt (West Mercia Constabulary).

22. Declarations of Interest

22.1 No Declarations of Interest were made.

23. Notes

23.1 The notes of the meetings held on 19 May 2010 and 16 June 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to it being noted that the decision taken at minute 14.3 on 19 May 2010 was a first step and the that apologies for absence be recorded for Stuart West for 16 June 2010.

24. Shropshire Council's Budget Consultation

24.1 Aggie Caesar-Homden, Shropshire Council, Cabinet member and portfolio holder for Children and Young People outlined the revenue budget 2011/12 and future years. A copy of the presentation together with the key messages was handed out at the meeting. Aggie Caesar-Homden and Val Beint, Director of Community Services from Shropshire Council answered questions on the issues raised.

24.2 A question was asked about salaries and pensions and whether there would be any redundancies. Val Beint said that unlike the civil service, local government pensions were funded and that it was highly likely that there would be redundancies.

24.3 The questioner responded by asking about the 1300 empty domestic properties there were in Shropshire and how these would be brought back into use. Val Beint said that two additional people would be recruited to take on this task. She also added that these would be recruited from within the Council's existing workforce.

24.4 Another person said that he lived in a Council property and was surprised that he had received two letters about work that was required to his central heating system and was concerned about the cost of this duplication. Another person said that she had a Council garage and that she had also received duplicate information.

24.5 A resident asked whether the cuts in expenditure that had been outlined in the presentation would be from the Council's revenue budget or capital budget. The chairman said that both would be cut, and that Albrighton had a policy of providing four play areas in the village. Aggie Caesar-Homden said that there was money left in this year's Play Builder Scheme that Albrighton Parish Council could apply for. She added that this would be the last year of this scheme.

ACTION

- 24.6 A member of the committee recalled using the budget simulator on the Council's website and asked how that would be used this time. Val Beint said that the simulator had been used last year but that it was not planned to use it this year.
- 24.7 Aggie Caesar-Homden in response to a question said that views can be made in a variety of ways such as through the website or in writing. She added that it was also hoped that a telephone line would also be set up to take calls regarding the Council's budget.
- 24.8 A resident also asked about the Building for Schools programme and whether any of the proposed schemes in Shropshire had been affected by the recent announcement of the withdrawal of funding. It was indicated to the questioner that this was not known and that a response would be provided if they left their contact details.
- 25. Comments, Questions and Suggestions from the meeting held on 19 May 2010**
- 25.1 The updated version of the Comments, Questions and Suggestions form was circulated at the meeting.
- 25.2 In reply to a question regarding an issue that had been raised at previous meetings the Chairman said that it is highly unlikely that the missing footpath in Elm Road would be carried out, but would be added to the list of works to be carried out. In addition, the Lead Officer said that there are various projects will have been highlighted and that this would remain as a pressing item. He also said that he would seek an assurance from the Director of Environment that this project will be added to the list.
- 25.3 Another resident complained that although there had been responses to the questions that had been raised regarding the skateboard park that there were issues of concern. She added that the skateboard park is not supposed to be open on Sundays but it is was and that it is also left unlocked on other occasions when it should be closed. She also said that despite the comments that had been made by the Head of Service Integrated Youth Support Service there was still a problem with litter, which people from the Civic Society had collected.
- 25.4 The chairman said that the Council's Head of Youth Service and a representative from the management committee would be asked to attend a future meeting of the committee.
- 25.5 A questioner referred back to a previous meeting where it had been reported that a tree in Cross Road was obscuring a street light. He said that although this had been reported and arrangements had been made for their inspection, works to cut back the vegetation had not taken place.

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MM

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25.6 It was also reported that a stretch of road in the vicinity of Elm Road/Cross Road had recently been resurfaced and the white lines reinstated before an anti-skid surface was added that covered up the newly painted lines meaning that they had to be repainted. The questioner asked what the cost was of this additional work.

MM

26. Annual Review and Progress Report 2009/10

26.1 It was agreed that part 2 of the report should be split into two sections, one listing issues that had been considered and resolved and the other listing those that had been considered but had not been resolved. It was suggested that reference to the missing strip of footpath in Elm Road should be made in the report as an item that had been considered but had not been resolved. It was further suggested that details of what steps had been taken and also what was required.

27. Funding Applications

27.1 The chairman said that two letters had been received from the Methodist Church thanking the committee for awarding them two grants.

27.2 **RESOLVED:**

(a) That the following grants be awarded:

1. Albrighton Football Club - Improvements to the drainage for the football pitch - £3,000.
2. Albrighton Trust - Replacement of outdoor furniture - £250.

(b) That it be noted that the following application had been withdrawn:

Albrighton Civic Society - Phase II of the plans to improve access roads to Albrighton.

(c) That consideration of the application from Albrighton Civic Society for help towards administration costs be deferred and the application be considered along side their application for support to improve the access roads to Albrighton referred to at (b) above.

28 Public Question Time

28.1 A resident said that the traders in Albrighton were suffering because of the lack of suitable parking. He said that there were 8 empty shops and that a Bank had closed and that parking was a key issue. He reminded those present that a suggestion to overcome the problems had been discussed at a previous meeting. He asked if

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	ACTION
Shropshire Council would pursue this idea.	
28.2 A resident said that she had noticed that there were a considerable number of weeds under the railway bridge and had noted that these had been left for several months.	MM
28.3 It was also reported by a resident about the very poor condition of the road surface in part of High Street. The particular stretch of road referred to was in the vicinity of the junction of High Street with Shaw Lane.	MM
28.4 The person that had earlier raised the issue of the duplication of correspondence said that on completion of the job he was asked to complete a questionnaire and he was curious as to why it was necessary for there to be a question about gender.	MM
28.5 A resident who rented a garage from the Council said that the roof of their garage leaked and that garages had not been maintained properly and suggested that the roofs should be painted with bitumen to solve the problem.	MM
28.6 Another resident said that she was disappointed to find that contractors who were carrying out work to her elderly mothers home had not contacted her mother to indicate the time they might arrive at her property. The Lead Officer said that this was something that should not happen.	MM
28.7 Comments were also made about the use of High Street by goods vehicles and it was suggested that if Shifnal can have a weight and time limit placed on some of its roads could Albrighton do likewise.	
28.8 It was commented that although the Local Joint Committee was using different venues for its meetings that the lower turnout for this meeting could be due to the inability of those with a walking disability to get to the meeting. On a show of hands, there was one Tong resident present.	
29. Partners and Communities Together (PACT)	
29.1 In the absence of PC Salt no report was made.	
30. Shropshire Fire and Rescue	
30.1 Dave Dickens, District Manager South, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service gave details about the number of appliances and staffing levels for the fire stations in his area of responsibility. He also gave details of the number of retained and full time fire fighters. He said that the main area that they were looking at was fire prevention. He said that they would visit homes to give advice and would provide smoke detectors. He added they also visit schools and other events in the area to get across the fire safety message.	

ACTION

30.2 Dave Dickens said that like Shropshire Council, the Fire Service would be expected to make reductions in spending. He said that 62% of the income to the Fire Service was from Council Tax and that like the Council, there was to be no increase in 2011/12. It was expected that there would be a reduction in the amount of grant funding but he did not know how much of a reduction there would be.

31. Items for consideration at future meetings

31.1 The following items were raised as issues to be considered at future meetings:

1. That Hugh Dannett or Brian Bennett be requested to attend the next meeting regarding the condition of the road surface, the roundabout in Shaw Lane, the use of High Street by HGV's and parking in Albrighton. **MM**
2. That Martin Stephens, Head of Youth Service be invited to a future meeting regarding the issues raised earlier about the continuing problems associated with the use of the skateboard park. **MM**

32. Date of next meeting

32.1 Following the comments made earlier in the meeting regarding the suitability of the venue it was decided that the next meeting be held in Albrighton, the date and venue to be confirmed.

32.2 It was noted that the deadline for grant applications to be considered at the next meeting is Tuesday 31 August 2010.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date: