

**Committee and Date**

Albrighton Area Local Joint
Committee

25 January 2011

Item

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Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALBRIGHTON AREA LOCAL JOINT
COMMITTEE HELD ON AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT
THE RED HOUSE, HIGH STREET, ALBRIGHTON.**

Responsible Officer Adrian Dean
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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Malcolm Pate
Stuart West

Parish Councils

Paul Lusk (Substitute for 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
Ian Kilby, Head of Development Management
Rob Mills, Southern Area Manager
Alice Dilly, Principal Engineer
Martin Stephens, Head of Integrated Youth Support Service

There were approximately 52 members of the public present at the meeting.

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33. Welcome and Introductions

- 33.1 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and said that this was an opportunity for those present to say anything about Shropshire Council services. He apologised that Brian Bennett was not able to be at the meeting but welcomed Alice Dilly who was responsible for some of the issues being raised. He also apologised that Nick Taylor was unable to attend as he had to attend an urgent meeting in another part of the County. He introduced said that Ian Kilby and Rob Mills who would be able to answer questions regarding the planning system.

34. Apologies for Absence

34.1 Apologies for absence were received from David Beechey.

35. Declarations of Interest

35.1 The following prejudicial declarations of interest were made:

Member	Interest	Reason
P Lusk	Report 12 concerning grant application by Shifnal & Albrighton Youth for Christ	Chairman of applying organisation
D Murray	Report 12 concerning grant application from Albrighton Civic Society	Member of Albrighton Civic Society
M Pate	Report 12 concerning:	
	1. Grant application by 'SPLASH' Albrighton and District Swimming Club	1. Wife is involved with Albrighton and District Swimming Club
	2. Grant application from Albrighton Civic Society	2. Member of Albrighton Civic Society
F Shelley	Report 12 concerning application by 'SPLASH' Albrighton and District Swimming Club	President of Albrighton and District Swimming Club

35.2 In accordance with the declarations listed above, each member left the room during the consideration and voting on those items.

36. Notes

36.1 The notes of the meetings held on 12 July 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

37. Comments, Questions and Suggestions from the meeting held on 12 July 2010

37.1 The Chairman introduced Alice Dilly (Principal Engineer, Shropshire Council).

37.2 Alice Dilly said that she would shortly be relocating to the Bridgnorth office and would be taking responsibility for traffic management in

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the area. Would be working alongside Brian Bennett and that the changes would improve local delivery.	
37.3 The Principal Engineer said that resurfacing to High Street, Albrighton would be carried out later in October 2010. She also reported on progress on other projects in Shaw Lane, Kingswood Road, on the Bushfield estate and Bredon Close.	
37.4 A question was asked regarding work undertaken by Severn Trent Water in Woodland Close who have installed two new drains but have removed rear gullies. The questioner said that it was important that the gullies were reinstalled as they were installed to prevent flooding. Alice Dilly said that she would confirm whether these gullies would be reinstated.	Alice Dilly
37.5 An issue was raised regarding the zigzag lines that had been painted on Newhouse Lane and had then been covered up. Alice Dilly said that she thought that a traffic order was required and would enquire as to when this might be in place and when the zigzag lines could be reapplied.	Alice Dilly
37.6 A further issue was raised about the poor quality of some of the road surface in High Street, Albrighton. It was indicated that Brian Bennett had carried out a survey of the road and the potholes some months ago but that the road surface remained in a very poor condition. Alice Dilly said that she would enquire about this and would report back. It was also reported that Albrighton Parish Council had a budget for this and had given authority for their Clerk to request that the works proceed.	Alice Dilly
37.7 In response to a question regarding the use of spray paint on roads in the area, Alice Dilly said that she would find out who is responsible for its removal.	Alice Dilly
37.8 A further questioner referred back to the comments, questions and suggestions that were answered at the March meeting. He said that the vegetation that was supposed to have been removed from street lights in Cross Road/Elm Road had not been removed although the reply said that it was to have been carried out within a few days of the meeting. Alice Dilly said that she would follow this up.	Alice Dilly
37.9 In reply to a question regarding signs at the junction of Cross Road and the A464 which obscure the view, Alice Dilly said that there were no plans to change the road layout for 2010/11.	
37.10 Another person said that at a previous meeting it had been agreed that further investigations would be carried out to assess the feasibility of increasing parking provision in Albrighton. He expressed his concern that no progress appeared to have been made. The Chairman said that although the Local Joint Committee had said that it wanted to see this work undertaken, that did not	MM

<p>mean that the work would be carried out. He added that car parking is an important issue for Albrighton and that clarification is required of where the request is at present.</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p>37.11 Another resident said that previously reported weed growth in Station Road at its junction with the A41 had not been cleared and that a similar problem existed across the A41 from this junction.</p> <p>37.12 The Chairman said that Shropshire Council would have to make £60m of cuts in expenditure and that there would be an effect on services. A member of the public said that this should not be used as an excuse to do nothing.</p>	<p>Alice Dilly</p>
<p>37.13 Another issue raised at a previous meeting was raised again. The issue concerned the difficulties in parking in Ashgrove and an update was requested.</p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>37.14 A resident suggested that a register of issues raised be kept and that this be updated each meeting and reported back. In relation to the issue raised at 37.10, the Lead Officer said that there was a data base that contained over 10,000 projects that had been put forward. He added that there were around 200 changes to that list each week. He said that this is a Countywide solution for work planning and work control. The Chairman said that an annual report should be provided to show what has been requested.</p>	<p>MM</p>
<p>38. Public Question Time</p>	
<p>38.1 In response to a resident's question regarding the Core Strategy and the location of the proposed Doctors Surgery, the Head of Development Management said it was about making sure that the right development took place in the right places.</p>	
<p>39. Partners and Communities Together (PACT)</p>	
<p>39.1 PC Rod Salt said that he reminded everybody that he held a surgery on a monthly basis.</p>	
<p>39.2 PC Salt said that problems of anti-social behaviour on Abney Avenue play area had been tackled. He said that following a meeting with local residents and multi-agency involvement that the situation had been much improved. He said that Police patrols had been increased that when any youths had been caught drinking and were under age that the Police had written to parents. He said that although this had been a success it would continue to be monitored.</p>	
<p>39.3 PC Salt said that further speed checks had been undertaken on Newport Road and that a number of drivers had been caught exceeding the speed limit.</p>	

40. Skateboard Park

40.1 The Chairman said that a public meeting had been arranged for Friday 8 October 2010 at The Red House, Albrighton and that Martin Stephens (Head of Integrated Youth Support Service) would be in attendance.

40.2 In response to a question that no one new anything about the meeting, Martin Stephens said he had brought with him some posters that would be used to publicise the meeting. He also added that he needs to sharpen up on what the public want from this facility. He added that some say the park is open when it should be closed whilst others say it is closed when it should be open.

40.3 A resident said that those who open and close the skateboard park are volunteers and that if a volunteer is on holiday that this can be a problem. Rob Mills, the Southern Area Manager (Planning Department Representative) said that he would check to see if there had been any breach of the conditions of the planning permission.

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41. Market Towns Revitalisation Programme – Update

41.1 The Chairman announced that Shropshire Council had launched a £3.5m Market Towns Revitalisation Programme which aims to secure the long-term sustainability of Shropshire's towns by improving services, helping businesses to thrive, protecting towns' heritage and promoting high quality housing. He added that smaller towns and rural villages including Albrighton will be able to bid for a share of a further £1m (£500,000 from the Market Towns Capital Challenge Fund and £500,000 from the Shropshire Council Community Fund).

42. The Hollies Development – Overview of the Planning System

42.1 The Chairman said that although the item on the agenda referred to a specific site that he was willing to allow any question relating to planning issues.

42.2 Rob Mills said that when the application at The Hollies had been considered, the safety of children had been considered. He said that the committee had visited the site.

42.3 A local resident said that he and others had encountered a number of problems with planning development control and processes and procedures. He said that they were not focussing specifically on the Hollies development. He said that the processes and procedures should be fair to all parties and the committee report should be fair and impartial. He added that decisions must be in the interests of local people and organisations including Parish Councils and Civic Societies should be treated with respect and should be kept

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informed before and after decisions have been taken. He said that the views of Town and Parish Councils appear to carry little or no weight. He also gave examples of practices which he claimed should not be tolerated.

42.4 In reply Ian Kilby said that each planning application was bound by policy management charter. The charter covered the processes and procedures to be followed for each planning application received and included how to deal with committees, site visits and public speaking at committees. He said that 90% of planning applications were dealt with by officers under delegated powers. He said that there are various triggers that would cause an application to be referred to committee for determination. He said that all planning applications together with all other relevant information can be viewed on the Council's website.

42.5 Another resident said that he had commented to the planning department regarding a notice that should have been displayed outside a site where an application for planning permission had been submitted. He said that he was disappointed that even though he had informed the office that the notice was firstly, not displayed and then secondly displayed in the wrong location.

42.6 Rob Mills said that in some instances that it was the responsibility of applicants to ensure that appropriate notices are displayed correctly. He said that if they are not displayed correctly, the application may not be valid.

42.7 Other residents complained that applications were not always on the website when they should be and that copies of the applications and plans had not been available at Westgate either. Ian Kilby said that he was aware that in some instances letters had been sent out before the applications had been scanned but thought the issue had been resolved. He said he would check this with the validation team. He also said that there was also an issue with the DX postal service between Shirehall and Westgate which needed to be resolved.

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42.8 Another resident said that in respect of one planning application that a further submission had been made which was received after the 21 day deadline for submissions. He said that the applicant had all the aces and the objectors only received the information at the committee meeting.

42.9 Rob Mills said that no permission was required for the trees on the Hollies site to be felled. As there were no Tree Preservation Orders, the owner had done nothing wrong.

42.10 Concern was expressed by a number of speakers with regard to the development that had occurred opposite The Horns of Boningale. There were concerns that more development was taking place. Rob Mills said that he would check this out.

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42.11 It was suggested that information regarding the planning process including how long people have to make representations and contact telephone numbers for Planning Officers be provided for the Albrighton Parish Magazine.

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42.12 Residents also asked for more information about The Croft Clinic. It appeared to be dispensing drugs and according to the Chairman was not known to The Primary Care Trust. There was general confusion as to what the premises were being used for. The planning officer was asked to investigate and report back on any change of use of the premises.

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42.13 The Chairman thanked Ian Kilby and Rob Mills for their attendance at the meeting.

43. Shropshire Playing Field Association

43.1 The two projects that the Shropshire Playing Fields Association are currently promoting were noted.

44. Funding Applications

44.1 RESOLVED:

(a) That the following grants be awarded from the large grants budget:

1. 'SPLASH' Albrighton & District Swimming Club – to enhance facilities - £1,576.00.
2. Shifnal & Albrighton Youth for Christ – Provision of Panna cage - £1,000.00
3. Tong Parish Hall – Re-fit kitchen at Parish Hall - £1,000

(b) That the following grant be awarded from the Community Chest:

1. Donington Pool Management Committee – Repairs to fencing - £250.00

(c) That the application from Albrighton Civic Society for a grant from the Community Chest be refused as applications for grants towards administration costs are not allowed and by charging more for membership these costs would be defrayed.

44.2 Having declared their interests in the application referred to at 44.3 (a) 1, Mr M Pate and Mr F Shelley left the meeting during its

consideration.

44.3 Having declared his interest in the application referred to at 44.1 (c), Mr M Pate and Mr D Murray left the meeting during its consideration.

44.4 Having declared their interests in the application referred to at 44.1 (a) 3 Mr M Pate and F Shelley left the meeting during its consideration.

45. Items for consideration at future meetings

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

1. Presentation from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service on the Fire Service budget.
2. Albrighton Parking
3. Housing Repairs
4. Update on the future use of RAF Cosford

46. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

46.1 Adam Matthews from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service introduced himself and said that he had replaced Dave Dickens. He said that he was based at Bridgnorth Fire Station and that he also had responsibility for Albrighton. He said that he was looking to recruit retained fire fighters who would be available between 9am and 5pm on work days and gave a brief update on the number of recent incidents in the area.

47. Local Joint Committee

47.1 The Chairman said that as part of the review of Local Joint Committees that Albrighton would not be joining up with Shifnal. He added that the number of meetings for the LJC would be between 2 and 4 each year. He also said that there was likely to be a reduction in the amount of money available for grants.

47.2 The Chairman also said that local access to Shropshire Council services would be improved with the opening very soon of a one-stop-shop at the Albrighton Parish Council offices.

48. Date of next meeting and deadlines for grant applications

48.1 It was noted:

- (a) that the next meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 25

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January 2010 at The Red House, High Street, Albrighton.

- (b) that the deadline for grant applications is Friday 10 December 2010.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date: