



Committee and Date
Albrighton Area Local Joint
Committee
3rd July 2013

Item

4

Public

**NOTE OF THE ALBRIGHTON AREA LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2012, AT 7.00PM
VENUE: THE RED HOUSE, HIGH STREET, ALBRIGHTON.**

Responsible Officer Karen Nixon
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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council	Malcolm Pate (Chairman)
Shropshire Council	Stuart West
Boningale Parish Council	David Thomas
Donington with Boscobel Parish Council	Fred Shelley
Tong Parish Council	Peter Mycroft (Vice-Chairman)

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Community Action Officer	Andrea McWilliams
Committee Officer	Karen Nixon

There were 13 members of the public present at the meeting.

46 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

A warm welcome was also extended to new member Peter Mycroft, Tong Parish Councillor, who had replaced Mr Nick Smith on the Committee (Mr Smith resigned from the LJC during the summer).

Arising thereon; the Chairman alerted everyone to the fact that the Railway Bridge in Albrighton would be closed on 13 January 2013 for one week, in order for removal and/or refurbishment works to take place. He assured everyone that he would monitor this, which was noted.

47 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Machlachlan, Albrighton Parish Council representative.

ACTION

48 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate. None were declared.

49 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Malcolm Pate, seconded by David Thomas and duly

RESOLVED: that Peter Mycroft be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Albrighton Area Local Joint Committee for the ensuing year.

There were no other nominations.

50 Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 23 May 2012 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

51 Partners and Communities Together (PACT)

West Mercia Police Authority

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Rob Thomas (South Shropshire and Bridgnorth area) to the meeting who gave a verbal update on local policing in the area generally and the future of policing following the recent PCC election.

Generally he was pleased to report that across West Mercia area general crime rates were down on average by 10%. This was largely due to the good work of police officers in partnership with local communities. Anti social behaviour crime was also down which was pleasing.

In setting the scene Inspector Thomas said that due to the Comprehensive Spending Review West Mercia Police had to save £30 million by 2013. In order to achieve this West Mercia had recently joined in an alliance, with Warwickshire Police Authority. Following this merger it was estimated that between the two authorities around 100 posts would go over the next 5 years.

Previously the Police had worked with the Home Office and the Police Authorities but this had ceased and had been replaced by the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC); a newly created post whereby the incumbent was elected. The newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Bill Longmore, would take up his post on 22 November 2012. He would be responsible for writing a Crime Plan and working with the Chief Constable. The budget would not be

known until around April 2013.

The main focus for the force was to reduce burglaries, robberies and violent crimes.

Excellent crime reduction information was to be found on the web;
www.westmercia.police.uk
 then go to Get Involved tab > Watch Schemes > Sign Up for Emails.

N.B.

For anyone not on-line, they can Telephone 01743 237417 for more information about crime reduction.

Local PC Nick Allbutt introduced himself and then gave a verbal update on incidents and crimes reported for the Albrighton area for the period 20/07/12 to 21/11/12;

- Anti Social Behaviour - 24 calls received, 11 crimes recorded as a result of these calls and no arrests made.
- Vehicle nuisance - 4 calls, 3 of which were regarding parking.
- Assault - 6 calls, 3 crimes raised and 3 detections.
- Attempt criminal - 2 calls and no crimes/arrests.
- Burglary - 7 calls, 6 crimes, 1 dwelling and 5 outbuildings. No arrests or detections.
- Criminal Damage - 4 calls, 2 crimes, no arrests.
- Deception - 6 calls, 1 crime no arrests.
- Making Off Without Payment (MOWP) - 16 calls, 9 crimes and 1 arrest/detection.
- Robbery - 1 call, 1 crime, no arrests to date (the Budgens robbery on 20/11/12).
- Theft - 26 calls, 18 crimes, no arrests/detections.
- Vehicle crime - 4 calls, 3 crimes no arrests.

Newhouse Lane, Skate Park - Police records checked from 01/01/12 until 21/11/12 and ONE incident reported relating to the skate park on 31/05/12; damage to 3 panels of fencing.

Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

Neil Grove, Station Manager, for the Shifnal and Albrighton area introduced himself and Warwick Fletcher, Crewe Manager, Albrighton, to the meeting.

Mr Grove alluded to the difficult financial times everyone was experiencing. He confirmed that the Fire Service were not immune and that they too had had to make significant reductions whilst trying to not affect the service being provided.

Albrighton was a retained fire station and currently had vacancies for retained fire-fighters. He urged anyone present who may know of anyone local that may be interested in applying, to come forward. Prospective candidates were always welcome to visit the station,

ACTION

come and have a look around and ask questions. Officer Grove expanded on Community Safety initiatives offered by the service such as safety checks, escape planning and safety alarm awareness.

In response to a question about the ability of existing vehicles to navigate roads in flooded conditions, officers confirmed that crews could get around this, but it would inevitably add to response times.

A further question was asked about whether replacement vehicles would be able to navigate the railway bridge on Station Road when work to reduce the height was completed. Mr Grove confirmed that he would look into this and check after the meeting.

Neil Grove

52 Bowling Green Lane, Albrighton

Mr John Bulmer was not present and therefore it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

In the interim, it was noted that updated plans and latest proposals had been circulated to the Chairman and Albrighton Parish Council by Alice Dilly, Principal Engineer, showing proposed passing areas and structural patching to be undertaken to improve Bowling Green Lane.

However, the general consensus by those present was that the proposals were inadequate and not acceptable. The Chairman referred to a recent meeting between David Austin Roses and Alice Dilly. These proposals were the best they could agree on within Shropshire Council's limited resources.

Mr Peter Leigh noted this but said in his view it was still unacceptable. Bowling Green Lane needed to be made safe and patching and passing places was not a solution.

In conclusion, it was agreed that Alice Dilly, Principal Engineer, be requested to attend the next LJC meeting to discuss the issues further.

Alice Dilly

53 SAMDEV Update

The Chairman introduced and amplified the SAMDev Position Statement: October 2012 - approved by the Local Development Forum (LDF) Member Group on 23 October.

Briefly, this set out that in 2013, public consultation on SAMDev will be in two parts; the first in February/March will focus on approximately 20 development management policies expanding and clarifying the 'policy directions' consulted on earlier this year. The second will be a further stage of consultation on any suggested changes to preferred sites for housing, employment and minerals extraction when there will also be an opportunity to comment on any revised figures for new housing in market towns and Hubs/Clusters.

This second consultation will take place in June/July next year, following the local elections.

54 Parish Council Update – Neighbourhood Planning/Parish Planning and Place Plans Update

The Chairman highlighted that due to the new SAMDev timetable and its emphasis on avoiding settlement specific issues until after the May 2013 elections, it limited discussion on any village specific issues. However, it did allow for the Neighbourhood Plans to come to the fore, which was welcomed locally. Questionnaires were currently being circulated to all residents in the area and thanks were conveyed to Mr Thomas for distributing them within the Boningale patch of the LJC area.

It was important to get responses back and the Chairman encouraged everyone to complete and return their forms as far as possible. He also urged younger people to add their voice to responses and mentioned the Workshop being held in early December where young people would be encouraged to give their feedback.

55 2012/13 Finance Report, Including Update on Funding Requests for Consideration

Members considered the funding report and agreed the following grants:

From the remaining Large Grant budget:

Albrighton Patients Group - a project to support the travel costs for members and to help re-establish a Carers Support Group within the village - £1,000

Tong Parochial Church Council – a project to help towards the cost of upgrading the clock within the church tower - £1,000

Donington & Albrighton Local Nature Reserve Management Committee – a project to obtain site and storage container to house tools and materials for the nature reserve - £698

Albrighton Short Mat Indoor Bowling Club – a project to help towards the replacement of the old mat - £320

From the remaining Community Chest budget:

Albrighton Traders' Association 2012 Christmas Extravaganza Evening – an event for the village - £250

Albrighton Fayre Committee – a project to support the successful Albrighton Fayre in 2013 - £250

West Mercia Police – to provide replacement Tag Rugby kit for local school children whilst taking part in the local policing team's after school programme - £134

It was also agreed that the remaining balance of £1,035, be ring-fenced towards a project to provide spot lighting for shows such as the Operatic show, at The Red House Community Centre.

56 Update on Market Towns Projects

Rural Challenge – Albrighton Traders Association Signage Project

It was reported that brown signs had been finalised for four locations around the village.

Work also continued on interpretation panels at RAF Cosford and David Austin Roses; the wording was being looked at.

Market Towns – Red House Extension Official Opening

The official opening had been a great success and everyone welcomed the refurbished, much improved facility. It was hoped the community would take full advantage of these amenities.

Concern was expressed at the disabled ramp at the front of the Red House – there was no barrier at the end to prevent anyone falling off and this was considered dangerous. The Chairman believed this was a matter for the Management Committee of the Red House to look into.

Subject to the foregoing, all comments were duly noted.

57 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) Elections

It was reported that Mr Bill Longmore had been elected as the first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for West Mercia, covering Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire. This was a new role. Mr Longmore was responsible for securing the maintenance of the police force within West Mercia and ensuring that it was effective and efficient.

The Chairman announced that he was a member of the Police and Crime Panel; a body which whose job it is to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Commissioner. Duties will include;

- Requiring the PCC to respond to any concerns they have.
- Making recommendations on the crime plan and annual reports.
- Confirming or vetoing the PCC's appointment of chief constable and the level of local tax (the precept level).

ACTION

The Panel will not scrutinise the performance of the force. That is the role of the PCC.

Those present agreed that it would be a good idea to invite the Mr Bill Longmore, the new Police and Crime Commissioner to their next Parish Council AGM in April 2013.

Parish Council

Failing this, it was agreed that he be invited to the next LJC meeting in 2013 (date to be confirmed).

**AMcW/
KN**

58 Albrighton Traders Christmas Extravaganza: 29 November 2012

This had been a great success last year and everyone was urged to support this great event as far as possible, this year.

59 Public Question Time

It was agreed that parking in Albrighton be put onto the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

**AMcW/
KN**

60 Discussion of Further Items for Future Meetings

Parking in Albrighton

61 Dates of Future Meetings in 2013

Two meeting dates in 2013 were to be agreed by Members. Due to the forthcoming elections in May 2013, it was unlikely that the LJC would meet much before June/July time and therefore it's second meeting would be held later in the year, around October/November 2013 time or maybe later if members so wished.

**Karen
Nixon**

The public were urged to look at the Council's LJC web page to see the latest news regarding LJC meeting dates in 2013.

Chairman:

Date:

The meeting finished at 8.45 pm