

**Committee and Date**

Albrighton Area Local Joint  
Committee

5 February 2014

**Item**

**2**

Public

**NOTES OF THE ALBRIGHTON AREA LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 2013, AT 7.00PM  
VENUE: THE RED HOUSE, HIGH STREET, ALBRIGHTON.**

**Responsible Officer** Ann Almond  
e-mail: ann.almond@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 252363

**Committee Members Present:**

Shropshire Council	Malcolm Pate
Shropshire Council	Stuart West
Albrighton Parish Council	David Beechey
Boningale Parish Council	David Thomas
Donington with Boscobel Parish Council	Fred Shelley (substitute)
Tong Parish Council	Peter Mycroft

**Shropshire Council Officers present:**

Community Action Officer	Andrea McWilliams
Committee Officer	Ann Almond
Highways Manager South	Graham Downes
Principal Engineer Road Safety	Alice Dilly

There were approximately 20 members of the public present at the meeting.

**ACTION****1 Election of Chairman****RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Malcolm Pate be elected as Chairman of Albrighton Area Local Joint Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

**2 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Peter Hurlstone, Donington with Boscobel Parish Council (substitute: Fred Shelley).

**3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman****RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Stuart West be appointed as Vice-Chairman of Albrighton Area Local Joint Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

**4 Notes and any matters arising**

The notes of the meeting held on 21 November 2012 were signed by

the Chairman as a correct record.

## **5 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.

## **6 Partners and Communities Together (PACT)**

### West Mercia Police Authority

PC Nick Allbutt and Sgt Richard Bailey were in attendance for this item and provided the following figures relating to incidents reported within the Albrighton area for the period between 16 April and 2 July 2013.

Vehicle nuisance – 2 calls (1 abandoned, 1 with no tax)

Assault – 5 calls

Burglary – 5 calls, 1 arrest made, person released on bail whilst investigations take place

Thefts – 14 calls

15 April person had vehicle taken at knife point

Fish taken from local primary school pond

Any problems call 101

Any emergency's call 999

## **7 Police and Crime Commissioner**

Barrie Sheldon, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), was in attendance for this item and provided a general update, during which the following points were noted:

- The role of the PCC was to represent the people of West Mercia, to ensure their voices are clearly heard;
- £10million savings had already been made since the election of Bill Longmore, and a further £21million savings were required by 2015-16;
- The PCC aimed to preserve front line staffing, to ensure visibility and access to the public, shift patterns had been altered and technology had allowed for improvements to police vehicles that would enable Police Officers to work more from their vehicles;
- Consultation on the Police and Crime Plan took place early in the year, approximately 80 replies had been received from Council's and other bodies, all of which contributed to shaping the Plan that was put into place from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013;
- The Police and Crime Plan outlines 11 Objectives, including working with neighbourhood watch teams, trying to reinvigorate those that have disbanded and working with key partners and the community to tackle anti social behaviour, alcohol and drug

related crimes;

- Other objectives look to work with partners to help support victims, witnesses and vulnerable people;
- Other objectives look to work with the community and the Safer Roads Partnership, possibly looking to reintroduce community speed watch;
- Another objective will be looking at working with partners to help support rehabilitation of offenders, potentially using prisoners in the community;
- As the PCC is the voice of the people, another objective looked to develop a community engagement survey;
- Another objective will be to implement a business crime strategy, as reports from the British Retail Consortium indicated high levels of loss to businesses from criminal damage; discussions would be taking place during September with Worcestershire Business School and Harper Adams University to develop a strategy; and
- West Mercia's local policing teams will be known as safer neighbourhood teams, there being 82 safer neighbourhood teams to cover the West Mercia area, and it was understood that Malinsgate would be the police response hub for this LJC area.

In response to questions raised, Barrie Sheldon made the following comments:

- a. West Mercia Police Authority was one of the best performing in the Country, concern was with other areas;
- b. Although there was some evidence that crime was not being reported, crime figures were down – a lot of work was being undertaken with partners including community safety partnership to monitor;
- c. CSO Jacqui Fletcher covered both the Shifnal and Albrighton areas and would patrol if the need arose, but also covered other areas and it may be that her presence was currently required in other areas;
- d. Policing visibility had improved, access had improved, and Police were directed to areas where the demand was;
- e. The Prison Service was responsible for notifying witnesses of any release dates;
- f. Vehicle checks were being undertaken with VOSA, DVLA;
- g. Still have an unmarked police vehicle that patrols the area; and
- h. The road safety partnership works with 17-18 year olds, providing education days to improve their driving skills.

## 8 Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

Councillor Stuart West provided a brief update, during which the following points were noted:

- Some stories had recently been published in the press

regarding closures of stations, which was misleading and untrue, and advised that currently there were no plans to close Albrighton Fire Station, but looking further into the future, closures of Fire Stations were not known;

- Partnership working with the Police involved attending workshops at Telford and Shrewsbury Colleges of Arts and Technology, showing results of accidents to the students;
- Collaborative work was being undertaken with Hereford and Worcester Fire Services; and
- The fire risks associated with Chinese Lanterns was a issue that was currently being reviewed.

## 9 Broadband

Copies of a written update from Chris Taylor, Shropshire Council's Broadband Manager, was available for those present.

## 10 Highways

Alice Dilly and Graham Downes provided an update, during which the following points were noted:

- A new Road Safety Policy framework was introduced from February 2013, that superseded five previous policies;
- The Policy will cover a 3 year programme of road safety measures taking into account accident data and community concerns;
- Members of the public were encouraged to contact their town or parish council with their concerns;
- Town or parish councils would submit, to Shropshire Council, a prioritised list of up to five road safety concerns, submissions could be made throughout a year, but would be considered at specific times during a year, February, May and September;
- Site investigations were underway at the pedestrian crossing along the High Street; and
- Funding was available for vehicle activated signs, and had already had one covering this LJC area, the sign could be moved and fixed to appropriate posts.

In response to concerns regarding restoration of the highway following works undertaken by utility companies, Graham Downes advised that a utility company would need to comply with the Street Works Act, and it was noted that a fine of up to £130, a day, could be applied.

Graham Downes then provided a brief overview of the schemes for the Albrighton area, including Old Worcester Road, Kennel Lane, Elm Road, Harriotts Hayes Lane and Beamish Lane.

**11 Funding Applications Summary****RESOLVED: that the following applications be approved:**

<b>Application</b>	<b>Amount from remaining budget (£3,187.00)</b>
Albrighton Arts & Heritage Forum	£500.00
Albrighton Trust, Moat & Gardens	£700.00
War Memorial	£500.00
Total amount	£1,700.00
Remaining budget	£1,487.00

<b>Application</b>	<b>Amount from Community Chest (£2,000.00)</b>
Albrighton Sports Complex	£250.00
RAF Cosford Youth Club	£250.00
Total amount	£500.00
Remaining Community Chest	£1,500.00

**RESOLVED: that the following applications be refused:**

Albrighton & District Civic Society - Fencing at Station (£800.00)  
 Albrighton & District Civic Society - Community website (£600.00)

**12 Future Agenda Items**

In response to a query regarding Portfolio Holder decision making, Councillor Pate commented that Shropshire Council had made substantial savings, but would need to make more and the authority had been looking at ways to work smarter. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Keith Barrow had looked at streamlining the decision making process with Cabinet Members being given more delegated powers to get things done quicker.

Further information about how the decision making process will work can be found on Shropshire Council's website.

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/news/2013/06/council-to-speed-up-decision-making-process/>

Or read the report that Councillor Keith Barrow, Leader of Shropshire Council has written.

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/488181/Delegation-Report.pdf>

**Suggested Agenda items:**

- Parish Place Plan timetable;
- A list of local Schools that were considering becoming Academies; and
- Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing (STaRH) representative to be present and answer questions.

Contact Andrea McWilliams, Community Action Officer, with any other suggestions for potential agenda items for consideration at future meetings of this Committee.

**13 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meetings**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday Wednesday 5 February 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

Andrea  
McWilliams

The Chairman thanked those present for attending.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

**Signed.....(Chairman)**

**Dated.....**