

**Committee and Date**

Bayston Hill Local  
Joint Committee

8 October 2009

7.00 p.m.

**Item/Paper**

**3**

Public

**NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING  
HELD ON 15 JULY 2009 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, BAYSTON HILL**

7.00 - 8.30 p.m.

**Responsible  
Officer**

Anne Cousins

e- anne.cousins@shropshire.gov.uk  
mail:

Tel: (01743)  
252743

Fax (01743)  
252713

**Committee Members Present:****Shropshire Council**

Mr Ted Clarke

Mrs Liz Parsons

Mr Jon Tandy

**Bayston Hill Parish Council**

\*Mrs Chris Hitchcock

Mrs Hazel Jones

Mr Alan Parkhurst

\* = substitute

**Shropshire Council Officers present:**

Tim Collard, Lead Officer

Lezley Picton, Support Officer

Nicola Fisher, Community Regeneration Officer

Anne Cousins, Committee Officer (Notes)

**West Mercia Police:**

Sgt Darren Smith

There were approximately 10 members of the public present at the meeting.

**1. Election of Chair**

It was proposed, seconded and duly resolved that Cllr Ted Clarke be elected Chair for the ensuing municipal year.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Jason Manley, Bayston Hill Parish Council. Mrs Chris Hitchcock substituted for him.

**3. Appointment of Vice Chair**

It was proposed, seconded and duly resolved that Cllr Alan Parkhurst be appointed Vice Chair for the ensuing municipal year.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the first meeting of the Bayston Hill Local Joint Committee, which he explained was a successor to the Let's Talk meetings held annually for the past few years. The Committee had a small budget of £17,000 and the power to hold the Council to account over local services. He introduced the Members of the Committee and the support officers from Shropshire Council.

**6. Constitution of Local Joint Committees**

- 6.1 Tim Collard, Lead Officer, gave a brief explanation of the Constitution of Local Joint Committee, which was a separate legal body able to make decisions independently of both Shropshire Council and Bayston Hill Parish Council. It could decide how to spend its money and it could request Council officers to attend meetings as required. Although the Committee had to have a formal Constitution, the aim was to have meetings which were as informal and inclusive as possible.

**7. Key Current Policing Issues – PACT (Partners and Communities Together)**

- 7.1 Sgt Darren Smith, West Mercia Police, introduced himself. He explained there was currently a vacancy for a local police officer in Bayston Hill which he hoped would be filled in the near future.

He went on to give a brief explanation of the PACT process. He explained PACT meetings gave people the opportunity to raise any issues of concern with the police and the top priorities raised were then dealt with. He emphasised the importance of the public raising specific issues, e.g. speeding or anti-social behaviour in a particular

location. PACT meetings were a partnership between the police and other agencies and the issues raised could be matters such as housing, bin collection or highways which would be then dealt with by the appropriate authorities. Sgt Smith suggested the PACT meeting could take place within the Local Joint Committee meeting.

**ACTION**

- 7.2 It was agreed that PACT meetings would take place within future Local Joint Committee meetings. The Chairman suggested the process should be as seamless as possible.

**ALL**

## **8. Parish Plan Presentation**

- 8.1 Nicola Fisher, Community Regeneration Officer, introduced this item and complimented all involved in the production of the Bayston Hill Parish Plan in 2006. She noted the Parish Plan had a robust Action Plan and said it was probable a number of these actions had already been completed. It was also likely new aspirations had arisen over the past couple of years.

- 8.2 The Community Regeneration Officer suggested carrying out a piece of work to update the Parish Plan which could be done by producing a newsletter, distributing to all residents, and using the feedback as a basis for a new Action Plan. She said it was important that the newsletter distinguished between the Parish Council and the Local Joint Committee and explained how they complemented each other. She informed those present that a £500 grant was available from the Community Council of Shropshire to refresh Parish Plans. There were a range of other ideas where the views of the public could be sought, such as arranging public events (Christmas Fairs, community barbeques etc) and seeking views there or producing postcards for public comments.

- 8.3 It was proposed that a small working group be set up to carry out this piece of work. It was suggested that Anne Chalkley, Parish Clerk, should be included in the working group, together with representatives from the Parish Council and those who were involved in the production of the original Parish Plan. A member of the public expressed an interest in joining the group, which was warmly welcomed.

**Chair/  
TC/NF**

## **9. Local Joint Committee Funding Priorities and Grant Application Process**

- 9.1 Tim Collard, Lead Officer, introduced this report which informed Members the budget available to the Committee was £17,000 and that this could be used for enhancing local services and for giving out grants to community groups. It was suggested Members may wish to set a limit on how much of the budget they wished to set aside for community grants. The recommendation in the report was to use £2,000 for community grants and the remaining £15,000 for service enhancement.

9.2	The Chair expressed his preference for the money to be used to enhance local services, such as youth provision or a Sunday bus service, rather than community grants as there were other sources of grant funding in the village already.	ACTION
9.3	Members expressed the hope that the budget could be increased by using it as match-funding to obtain further monies from other sources. Members were also keen for the budget to be used for completely new projects and services in Bayston Hill.	
9.4	A member of the public suggested using all the money for services and not having any set aside for grants. The Lead Officer felt this would be a bold decision to take at the first meeting of the Committee, as grant applications had been a feature of the pilot Local Joint Committees in other areas over the past couple of years. This meant there was an expectation that Local Joint Committees would continue to invite applications for funding.	
9.5	Members discussed the proposal to use the entire budget for service enhancement. It was felt this would be a good way forward to make the most of the money available to the Committee. The exercise to refresh the Parish Plan would provide opportunities to identify areas of need which could then be addressed by the use of the budget.	
9.6	<b>AGREED:</b> It was unanimously agreed that all of the £17,000 budget should be allocated to funding local services and that no grant applications would be considered at this time.	
10.	<b>Public Question Time</b>	
10.1	The issue of the future use of the site of Oakland School was raised.	NF/ Parish Plan Task Group
10.2	The Lead Officer said he had already spoken to the relevant officer at Shropshire Council about this and had been told there were no long-term plans at this stage. The school will continue to be used for the next two years, while the new primary school in Bayston Hill is being redeveloped.	
10.3	It was suggested the site was ideal for community facilities, such as improving library provision or youth provision. Members felt the Local Joint Committee would want to be included in any discussions or decisions about the building. It was further suggested that this could be included in the update to the Parish Plan. The Community Regeneration Officer advised that a question could be included in the consultation and the responses collated and this was agreed.	
10.4	Another issue raised was the safety of the junction of the A49 with Lyth Hill Road and The Common. It was recognised that the A49 was the responsibility of the Highways Agency, whereas the other roads were the responsibility of Shropshire Council. The Chair suggested this should also be included in the questionnaire and the responses could then be used to lobby the appropriate authorities.	
		NF/Parish Plan Task Group

## **11. Dates of Future Meetings**

## **ACTION**

- 11.1 It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on Thursday 8 October 2009, 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, Bayston Hill.
- 11.2 There were a number of negative comments about publicity and posters. It was generally felt that this meeting had not been sufficiently well-advertised and it was noted that few members of the public were present. The Chair undertook to encourage greater attendance for the next meeting, more in line with previous Let's Talk meetings. The Lead Officer agreed to promote the next meeting more widely although he pointed out this would have to be done within the corporate resources available.
- 11.3 It was suggested that an explanation about the purpose of the Local Joint Committee was required in future publicity and it should also be made clear that these meetings had replaced the Let's Talk meetings.
- 11.4 Mr Gwilym Butler, Shropshire Council Cabinet Member for Community Working, introduced himself and said he was hoping to visit all 28 Local Joint Committees over the next few months. He reminded those present that this was a new way of working for everyone and provided another opportunity to obtain funding which would not affect either council tax or the parish council precept. In response to the comments about the posters, he said this was already being addressed as one Local Joint Committee was going to pilot the idea of designing its own posters.

## **ALL**

**Signed.....Chairman**

**Date.....**