

**Committee and Date**

Bayston Hill Local  
Joint Committee

23 March 2010

7.00 p.m.

**Item/Paper**

**3**

Public

**NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING  
HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2010 AT CHRIST CHURCH, BAYSTON HILL**

7.00 – 9.15 p.m.

**Responsible  
Officer**

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

Mr Ted Clarke (Chairman)

Mrs Liz Parsons

Mr Jon Tandy

**Bayston Hill Parish Council**

Mrs Hazel Jones

Mr Alan Parkhurst (Vice Chairman)

Mr Alan Reynolds

**Shropshire Council Members and Officers present:**

Mr Keith Barrow, Leader of Shropshire Council, and Laura Rowley, Director of  
Resources (agenda item 4)

Alison Kennedy, Infrastructure Manager, Cycle Shrewsbury (agenda item 6)

Tim Collard, Lead Officer, Bayston Hill Local Joint Committee

Nicola Fisher, Community Regeneration Officer

Anne Cousins, Committee Officer (Notes)

**West Mercia Police:**

PC Cheryl Hare

PC Cheryl Henley

There were approximately 35 members of the public present at the meeting.

## ACTION

### 1. Apologies and Substitutions

There were no apologies.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Notes

**RESOLVED:** That the notes of the last meeting, held on 8 October 2009, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 4. Shropshire Council Budget 2010/11 Consultation

4.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr Keith Barrow, Leader of Shropshire Council, and Laura Rowley, Director of Resources.

4.2 The Director of Resources presented a brief overview of the proposed Shropshire Council 2010/11 Budget. She explained that over £10 million of savings had already been delivered as a result of the creation of the unitary authority. Further savings of £7.1 million were required as the authority was expecting a reduction in government grant in future. An increase of 1.3% in council tax for Bayston Hill residents was proposed. The presentation also covered:

- Present levels of spending and how these were funded.
- Examples of service priorities which would continue, such as concessionary fares and improvements to street cleansing.
- Budget pressures for 2010/11, e.g. Looked After Children and home to school transport costs.
- Key Projects for 2010/11, e.g. extra care housing units, including facilities for the elderly mentally ill

4.3 In response to a question by a member of the public, Mr Barrow explained how all the public services in Shropshire were working closely together to identify ways to improve joint working arrangements and thus save costs.

4.4 There was discussion about the need to meet the Decent Homes Standard. Mr Barrow explained the unitary authority was now responsible for housing stock in Oswestry and Bridgnorth, which would cost approximately £30-40 million to bring up to the required standard.

4.5 The costs of highway maintenance, particularly in the current icy conditions, were raised.

4.6 Another area of concern was education spending. The Director of Resources explained that in the current year there was no budget gap in education, as a result of a greater inflation allocation from government and the redistribution of other grants. This situation was only short-term, however, and would worsen in future years. Mr

Barrow added that all political parties were working together to find a positive solution to this issue.

4.7 The Vice Chairman asked for an assurance that these budget pressures would not have any impact on the extension and refurbishment of the new Oakmeadow Primary School and the Director of Resources confirmed this.

4.8 A question was asked about the Council's future plans for the Oakland Primary School site, which would become redundant once the new Oakmeadow CE School had been completed. The Director of Resources undertook to report back on this matter.

4.9 Residents expressed concern about the amount of money spent on school transport. Reassurance was given that the cheapest forms of transport, such as buses, were always used whenever possible. One resident suggested all parents should pay towards transport. It was explained, however, that it was a statutory requirement that all children who lived more than three miles from the nearest school were entitled to free transport, whereas children who lived less than three miles received no financial assistance towards school transport costs. These costs were particularly great in Shropshire because of the rural nature of the county.

4.10 There was then an opportunity for those present to participate in an interactive voting session on the proposed Shropshire Council Budget. The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions.

## **5. Police Report (PACT – Partners and Communities Together)**

5.1 PC Cheryl Hare and PC Cheryl Henley, local police officers, introduced themselves and explained the local policing team consisted of two police officers and two community support officers and covered nine parishes in the Bayston Hill and Haughmond area. Bayston Hill was the largest parish in the area and it was estimated the team spent 50% of their time there.

5.2 Residents heard that Bayston Hill was a low crime area. The police were aware of residents' concerns raised at the last meeting about boy racers in the village; anti-social behaviour outside the Parade and dog fouling. The police officers explained they had spoken to the boy racers. The youths outside the shops would not be moved on unless they committed a crime. Although dog fouling was not a police priority, the Community Support Officers were able to issue enforcement notices if they witnessed an incident of dog fouling.

5.3 The arrangements for the police surgery, which used to take place on Tuesday evenings, had now changed. Surgeries were being held during the day and the police were also planning to hold face-to-face surveys in the street in the evenings. These changes had been advertised in the village magazine. There were mixed views about these new arrangements and residents suggested the police could try a variety of times and locations for the face-to-face surveys.

**ACTION**

**Local  
policing  
team**

5.4 Residents were concerned about parking on pavements, which created a hazard for pedestrians. Another concern was the speed of the cyclists on the Parade and the danger created by cyclists in winter wearing dark clothing and not using lights.

5.5 It was agreed the police would report back to the next meeting on:

- The alterations to the police surgery arrangements.
- Speeding.
- Parking on pavements.
- Dog fouling.

**6. Safer Routes to School**

6.1 Alison Kennedy, Infrastructure Manager – Cycle Shrewsbury, gave a short presentation on the proposed Safer Routes to School scheme for Oakmeadow CE Primary School.

6.2 The plans included a pedestrian crossing on Lythwood Road and there was discussion about whether the proposed site was in the best place. Residents were encouraged to fill in the questionnaires on the tables. There were also changes proposed to the Overdale Road/Lythwood Road/Glebe Road junction and improved signage for cyclists in Pulley Lane.

6.3 Residents suggested a 20 mph speed limit in Lythwood Road. It was also suggested there should be a crossing on the A49, for children who lived on The Common and surrounding area. It was explained that the Highways Agency was responsible for the A49.

6.4 There was considerable discussion about the need for improvements to the cycle route from Bayston Hill to Meole Brace School.

6.5 The Chairman thanked the Infrastructure Manager for the presentation and suggested that the general principle of a pedestrian crossing and other traffic calming measures in Lythwood Road were welcomed, but more discussion was needed on the detail of the scheme. There was also general agreement on the need to look at the cycle route to Meole Brace School. The Chairman noted the Parish Council was due to discuss the proposed scheme in the near future.

**7. Community Working Update**

7.1 Nicola Fisher, Community Regeneration Officer, encouraged everyone to fill in and return the Residents Questionnaire, which had recently been delivered to every household. Spare copies were available at the meeting. There was a Freepost envelope to return the form, or they could be taken to either of the two school sites, the library, Deli5 on the Parade or the Parish Council office in Lyth Hill Road. The results from the questionnaires would be used to update the Action Plan to the Bayston Hill Parish Plan.

**ACTION**

7.2 The Chairman added that the questionnaire results would also assist the Local Joint Committee to identify spending priorities for its £17,000 budget.

**8. Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items**

There were post-it notes on all the tables for residents to fill in suggestions for future agenda items.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23 March 2010, 7.00 p.m. at Christ Church.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....