



Committee and Date  
Bayston Hill Local Joint  
Committee

15 July 2010

7.00 p.m.

Item

**7**

Paper

## UPDATE ON PARISH PLAN AND REPORT ON FUNDING PROPOSALS

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### Summary

To report back on progress to updates the Parish Plan Action Plan following the extensive consultation of households over the Winter. Specific funding recommendations are made within this report.

### Recommendations

The LJC is asked to agree:

- (1) Spending of up to £2000 in respect of improvements to the Parade, to include funding towards the demolition of the garages at the side of the shops.
- (2) Spending of up to £4000 in respect of a campaign to target the problems of dog fouling.
- (3) To ring-fence a sum of £5000 for the siting and maintenance of a Vehicle Activated sign at three locations within the village.
- (4) The costs of producing and printing an update of the Parish Plan up to a maximum of £1000.
- (5) Responsibility for authorizing the final payments (provided they do not exceed the maximum figures given above) shall be delegated to the Council's Lead Officer for the LJC, in consultation with the Chair.

## REPORT

### Background

1. The LJC decided at its very first meeting last year not to award small community grants but rather to focus on larger projects determined following a extensive process to update the Parish Plan Action Plan.

2. To undertake this process, a detailed questionnaire was carefully developed at a meeting last Autumn. This was printed and delivered to every household in Bayston Hill over the New Year period.
3. 630 completed questionnaires were returned and a detailed analysis was fed back to the LJC at its last meeting in March. Following this, an Action Plan has been worked up by a working group of local councillors and other interested individuals. This Action Plan is attached as Appendix 1. We do not intend to go through this in detail at the meeting as it would take too long but copies will be available for those attending. Rather, it is intended to focus on the top priorities as far as local people are concerned. These are as follows:

- (1) Issues at the Shopping Parade
- (2) Speeding Traffic
- (3) Dog fouling
- (4) Irresponsible parking
- (5) Keeping Bayston Hill distinct from Shrewsbury

## **Dog Fouling**

- 4.1 Tim Sneddon, Head of Environmental Maintenance will be attending the LJC meeting to give a presentation on proposals for dealing with the dog fouling concerns of local residents. He plans to make a number of suggestions. Views will be sought from the audience as to which suggestions are likely to be most effective.
- 4.2 Continuing with our overall theme we want to engage with pupils at Oakmeadow School. This will involve visits by the Education and Enforcement Officer and possibly the local police officer and the Dog Warden as appropriate. The number of visits will be determined following discussions with the Head Teacher. It might be that there are two or three, pitched slightly differently to the different age groups within the school. At the meetings the team will explain what responsible dog ownership is, health and nuisance impacts of dog fouling, possible penalties for dog walkers failing to pick up and how and where to dispose of dog waste. At these sessions there will be:
  - A poster making competition. The designs selected by the classes will then be reproduced as properly produced, screen printed, ridged signs for placement around the Bayston Hill area. It might be appropriate for the successful design to be displayed on the Parade for a few days - giving the public chance to see them before they are put up.
  - Statistical surveys, linked to the National Curriculum, where groups will be taken out to determine any fouling "hot spots" before the campaign. This will be repeated afterwards to determine the effectiveness of the campaign.
  - Identify if additional signs or litter/dog waste bins are required at specific locations.

- Possibly interview dog walkers to see what they feel they need to help them clean up after their dogs. This could be education and advice, such as which bin to put waste in, more bins or free bags.
- The Dog Warden and the Education and Enforcement Officer, possibly with the support of the Local Regeneration Officer would patrol the area and interview people to establish where problems are and the time of day that those walkers, who fail to clean up, walk their dogs.
- In light of the above information any additional bins required (likely to be in the region of 5 or 6) would be installed and signs put up. The campaign would then begin. It will not just be about enforcement but rather promoting the message of "Bayston Hill - A Village to be Proud Of". The Dog Warden would visit the area at times identified above to try and catch walkers as they take their dogs out, provide them with free dog bags, possibly in a pack with a paper flyer based on the poster design from the school.
- Press releases will be made available for the media.
- A reward programme would be established where responsible dog owners are recognised, possibly with a picture of them walking their dog put up in a local shop or notice board. This would be changed on a weekly basis through out the campaign period.
- There would be active promotion of the Environmental Maintenance contact details and we will respond within a working day to remove dog mess reported. It is proposed that this campaign would take 6 to 8 weeks.
- Following the campaign there would be a return revisit to the school and undertake a further survey to determine the effectiveness of the campaign and to see if "hot spots" had moved to other areas.

### Costs

- 4.3 On average there are some 0.48 dogs per household in England. With 2200 properties in Bayston Hill there will be approximately 1058 dogs. It is therefore recommended that 1000 packs of dog waste bags to distribute. These packs are provided in a bag with a flyer, a bag dispenser that clips to a lead/collar and two rolls of 50 bags cost us £1.20 each. The total cost will therefore be £1200.00
- 4.4 Litter bins cost £250.00 each. If the Committee agreed to purchase four this will be a total cost of £1500.
- 4.5 Further, it is recommended that at least £500.00 is agreed for producing the signs based on the school competition.
- 4.6 Whilst there is flexibility in the hours worked by the officers there might be some additional overtime costs for the Dog Warden to patrol outside normal

working hours if this is identified as a problem and we want to do much more than we could reasonably expect. It is recommended that £500.00 should be allowed for this.

In total it is recommended that a total of £4000.00 should be allocated by the LJC in support of the campaign. There will be no additional costs in terms of officer time at the school, day time patrols, responding to fouling reports or emptying additional bins as this is something Shropshire Council does anyway.

## **Speeding Traffic**

- 5.1 Following the PACT at the previous meeting, PC Ray Foster intends to undertake a series of speed awareness measures in the village over the summer.
- 5.2 Shropshire Council operates a Vehicle Activated Sign ("VAS") policy (a copy of which is attached as Appendix 2). In preparation for the meeting some preliminary work has been undertaken by the Shropshire Council Road Safety Team to check the speed of traffic on Lythwood Road and Lyth Hill Road, two of the highways identified as having speeding problems in the questionnaire.
- 5.3 The speeds that have been recorded on Lythwood Road showed average speeds of 25 and 26mph (in the respective directions) and on Lyth Hill Road of 30 and 27 mph. These figures suggest that it might be a perception of speeding traffic that it is the problem, though they may, of course, mask the occasional car going much faster than the average.
- 5.4 Under the Policy, these recorded speeds would mean that the Parish Council would have to pay for 100% of the funding for a sign and its ongoing rotation and maintenance. However, given the clear priority concern for local residents it is recommended that the LJC trial the signs for a period of six months.
- 5.5 Under the Policy any sign must be rotated in three different locations for periods of two to six weeks. If, for example two locations were identified in Bayston Hill, it would be necessary to share the sign with another area. This, will not be necessary though as the Road Safety Team have identified the following possible locations:
  - Lythwood Road
    - one next to the bus shelter outside the Beeches Pub for downhill/eastbound vehicles (it does not matter that it is on the "wrong" side of the road)
    - one at the rear of the footway on the Glebe Road junction outside the Library for westbound vehicles

- Lyth Hill Road
    - at the rear of the wide footway on the Eric Lock Road junction for downhill vehicles
- 5.6 The costs of erecting the permanent anchor posts and the signs rotation and maintenance are set out in the Policy. For three sites there would be one-off cost of £1500.00 (3 x £500) and then a weekly cost of £60 for the sign itself.
- 5.7 It is recommended that that the system is trialled for a period of six months with the sign rotated between the three locations every four weeks. This will involve a cost of £1560.00 (26 weeks x £60).
- 5.8 The total cost for six months would therefore be £3060 but it is recommended that funding of up to £5000 should be agreed:-
- (1) to pay for any maintenance that might be required, and
  - (2) allow for a further period of six months should the initial period prove to be successful.
- 5.9 The sign remains the property of Shropshire Council and if at the end of the six month period it was decided not to continue with the scheme the unit would be returned to the Council. At any time when the vehicle activated sign is not located on a particular post, it will be replaced by a blue sign indicated that it is a speed check area.

### **Shopping Parade**

6. It is clear that there have been recent significant improvements at the Parade but one issue that remains an on-going concern is the parking arrangements. Some of the problems of cars reversing out onto Lansdowne Road would be alleviated by demolishing the garages to the side of the Parade. Negotiations are on-going and not at a stage where any definitive plans can be put forward. It is suggested, however, that £2000 is ring-fenced to assist in those negotiations to be spent, if appropriate in contributing towards the costs of any agreed demolition. In addition the Lead Officer should prepare a report for the next LJC explaining progress and making further recommendations.

### **Irresponsible Parking**

7. It was clear from the response to the questionnaire that parking contraventions were causing some residents concerns in Bayston Hill. There has already been a meeting between the local Parking Enforcement Supervisor with the police to discuss what actions Shropshire Council can take with enforcing traffic orders and the powers the police have (Road Traffic act) to enforce highway obstructions etc. It is a constant frustration amongst local residents that it seems unclear as to who should take responsibility for irresponsible parking. I can confirm that in some areas the police and CSO's

continue to have the delegated powers to issue fixed penalty notices for the Council.

At previous LJC's some frustration has been voiced by the audience that it is not always clear who should take the lead for dealing with cars park irresponsibly. Both local PC Foster and Parking Enforcement Officer will be in attendance at the meeting to make a presentation on the issue.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

**Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The Recommendations in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act.

**Environmental Appraisal**

If approved the Recommendations should enhance the local environment.

**Risk Management Appraisal**

There is a risk that if progress is not demonstrated with the Action Plan the effectiveness of the LJC will be questioned.

**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

Extensive consultation has taken place with local households.

**Member Champion**

Cllr Gwilym Butler

**Local Member**

Cllrs Ted Clarke, Liz Parsons and Jon Tandy

**Appendices**

1. Action Plan
2. Shropshire Council Vehicle Activated Signs Policy, November 2009.