



Committee and Date
Bayston Hill Local
Joint Committee

15 July 2010

7.00 p.m.

Item/Paper

3

Public

**NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON 23 MARCH 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 Noel Oakley

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Jonathan Hayes, Team Leader – Public Transport, and Matt Johnson, Senior Public Transport Officer (agenda item 4)

Tim Collard, Lead Officer, Bayston Hill Local Joint Committee

Nicola Fisher, Community Regeneration Officer

Anne Cousins, Committee Officer (Notes)

West Mercia Police:

PC Raymond Foster

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service:

Steve Cox

There were approximately 55 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 12 January 2010, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Changes to the Bus Service between Bayston Hill and Shrewsbury

4.1 The Chairman welcomed Jonathan Hayes, Team Leader – Public Transport and Matt Johnson, Senior Public Transport Officer, Shropshire Council. The Team Leader explained his team dealt with subsidised bus routes, marketing and publicity, ShropshireLink buses and wider public transport issues. He explained there were two types of bus services – services operated commercially by bus operators and bus services subsidised by Shropshire Council. In the case of Bayston Hill, the bus service was run as a commercial service by Arriva, therefore, Shropshire Council had very limited powers. He invited comments and questions, however, and assured all present that these would be reported back to Arriva.

4.2 There followed an hour-long discussion on the changes to the bus service between Bayston Hill and Shrewsbury implemented last September. The main points were:

Bus route

- There were requests for the buses to use the bus station on their way back through town, as had previously been the case. For any passengers catching two buses (e.g. to/from Royal Shrewsbury Hospital) it was now necessary for them to make their own way from the bus station to the nearest stops by the railway station or St Mary's Street on the return journey. This was difficult for elderly or disabled passengers.
- St Mary's Street was not a convenient place for passengers to wait for buses as there was inadequate shelter.
- Glebe Road was now a bus route but had not been gritted in the recent icy weather.
- Parked vehicles in Glebe Road meant buses had to weave between them, which was dangerous.
- The lack of a circular route through the village needed to be addressed. For example, residents in the Overdale Road/Pulley Lane area could get to the shops by bus, but could not get back.
- It was suggested the buses could go along Glebe Road, turn right into Beeches Road, then up Lythwood Road.
- There was support for the route to be changed to go along Berwyn

Drive, which would allow buses to use the bus lay-by on Lythwood Road, near The Parade.

- It was suggested the 544 bus could be re-routed through the village.
- It was very difficult to get to the local supermarkets by bus. The previous route had used Old Potts Way which had been convenient for Asda and it was suggested this route could be used again.
- The change of route to go along Glebe Road was welcomed as it served a large area of the village.
- It did not make sense for buses to use the busy Lyth Hill Road/A49 junction.

Bus stops/shelters

- The position of the bus stops in Glebe Road needed to be reviewed as residents in the Beeches Road area were a considerable distance away from a stop.
- A resident explained why she was pleased one of the bus stops in Glebe Road had been removed, because it had been outside her property. Buses stopping outside her home until late at night had caused a nuisance.
- The bus stop opposite The Parade in Bayston Hill was considered to be very dangerous and not a suitable place for buses to sit idling, as happened on occasions. It was suggested the bus lay-by on Lythwood Road would be a more suitable stop for The Parade (see also above, bullet point 7).
- There was a clash with the fourth bus stop in Glebe Road and the pick-up point for school buses in the mornings, which was a danger.
- There were a number of abandoned bus shelters as a result of the changes.

General points

- Since the changes were made, the buses were unreliable and did not keep to the timetable.
- There were too many buses and most of them were empty.
- There had been very little consultation, either with Shropshire Council or Bayston Hill Parish Council, before the changes came into effect.
- The customer care provided by Arriva was very poor as there was no response to correspondence and it was difficult to contact the company by telephone.
- In response to a question, it was confirmed the electronic information at bus stops had been discontinued, as a result of Shropshire Council having to make budget savings.
- It was suggested that bus drivers could assist visually impaired passengers more e.g. by telling them the number of the bus.

ACTION

MJ

- 4.3 Matt Johnson, Senior Public Transport Officer, undertook to look at the issues raised regarding bus stops and bus shelters. He explained the process which could lead to the position of bus stops being changed, which involved a period of consultation before a decision could be taken.

ACTION

JH

MJ

JH/MJ

4.4 The Team Leader confirmed the 544 service was subsidised by Shropshire Council and assured those present that this service would be looked at again, in light of the evening's discussion.

4.5 In response to a question about timescales, the Team Leader informed those present that it had been expected that Arriva would review their changes after three months, but this had not yet happened.

4.6 The Senior Public Transport Officer spoke of the wide range of public transport options on offer, such as Dial-a-Ride and community cars, which meant that there was a full network of services for people with dedicated transport needs. He welcomed the suggestion that bus drivers could assist visually impaired passengers more and undertook to consider this further with the Council's compliance team, who were responsible for tenders, and local bus operators.

4.7 The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and confirmed that a further update on buses would be provided at a future Local Joint Committee meeting.

5. Bayston Hill Residents' Questionnaire

5.1 Nicola Fisher, Community Regeneration Officer, thanked residents for returning the questionnaires, which had been delivered to every household during December and January. 2,200 questionnaires had been delivered, of which 635 had been returned – a response rate of 29% which was pleasing. A summary of the hard data had been circulated at the meeting (copy attached to signed minutes).

5.2 The Community Regeneration Officer then gave a presentation which provided a snapshot of some of the recurring themes that had emerged from the comments written in the questionnaires, including the following:

- There was consistency about what people liked about Bayston Hill – local amenities, proximity to both town and countryside, Lyth Hill, low crime rate.
- Issues which residents felt could be improved were the state of The Parade; dog fouling, litter.
- There were a number of issues regarding roads and traffic, with particular concern about speeding cars and parking on pavements.
- The Community Regeneration Officer explained a separate piece of work needed to be done with young people to seek their views, as very few young people had responded to the questionnaire.
- 80% of respondents wanted the Oakland school site to be retained for community use.
- There was appreciation of the work done by the Parish Council to improve the open spaces in Bayston Hill.
- A majority were interested in evening classes and activities, such as film shows.
- 80% agreed an annual event to celebrate village life would be a good idea and a summer fete was the most popular suggestion.

- The top five priorities for Bayston Hill were: improving The Parade; speeding and traffic calming; dog fouling; irresponsible parking and to limit development between Bayston Hill and Shrewsbury.

- 5.3 The Community Regeneration Officer concluded by explaining that a draft action plan would be drawn up based on the questionnaire results. This would be presented to the Parish Council for consideration and comment before coming to the Local Joint Committee for adoption and implementation.
- 5.3 The Chairman read out a statement from Shropshire Council about future plans for the Oakland school site (copy attached to signed minutes) which explained there was a desire to retain the site to develop education, training and advisory services for children and families, possibly in partnership with other service providers, but that no plans had yet been drawn up. The views of local residents would be sought to inform future decisions.
- 5.4 One issue which had emerged from the questionnaire was that there was a need to publicise all the activities which were currently available. The Chairman explained the Village Association was in the process of creating an on-line directory of the many groups, societies, and events happening in Bayston Hill.
- 5.5 There was then an opportunity to discuss the findings of the questionnaire and there was general agreement that there was a need to address issues such as speeding, parking on pavements and dog fouling.
- 5.6 The Chairman concluded by saying the questionnaire results would help the Committee to decide how best to spend its £17,000 budget. It had been agreed at an earlier meeting that all the budget would be used for service enhancement, rather than giving out grants to community groups.
- 5.7 A member of the Parish Council suggested that a proportion of the budget could be used to allow community groups to bid for funding, provided that their projects met the goals in the action plan.
- 5.8 The Chairman thanked the Community Regeneration Officer for her presentation and undertook to report back on progress at the next meeting.
- 6. Police Report (PACT – Partners and Communities Together)**
- 6.1 This item was introduced by PC Raymond Foster, the new police officer for Bayston Hill and Haughmond. PC Foster provided feedback on the issues raised at the last meeting on speeding, dog fouling and parking on pavements. He also explained that the police surgery had now been discontinued. The police were conducting face-to-face surveys at various locations around Bayston Hill and these were proving successful.

ACTION

- 6.2 There was discussion about parking on pavements and PC Foster explained parking had been decriminalised and was the responsibility of Shropshire Council's enforcement officers. It was only a police matter if the pavement was totally blocked. The enforcement officers had been made aware of the issues in Bayston Hill and had been advised to come and investigate.
- 6.3 PC Foster confirmed that the local policing team consisted of himself, a full-time police officer, and the two Community Support Officers, Lyn Birch and Mark Barnes. In response to a question, PC Foster also confirmed he worked shifts which included evenings.
- 6.4 A Parish Councillor regretted the loss of the police surgery and suggested a monthly surgery would be useful because residents needed to know when and where they could contact the police. PC Foster advised residents to look on the website or on the notice-board at The Parade.
- 6.5 A member of the public thanked PC Foster for coming along and listening to the complaints made. He said the police service was good, considering the size of the area.
- 6.6 Steve Cox, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, then addressed the meeting and informed those present that the Fire and Rescue Service would come and fit free smoke alarms and give advice on fire safety. He left Freepost cards which residents could complete to arrange this. He also confirmed the Fire and Rescue Service would replace the batteries on smoke alarms when necessary. It was not possible for householders to do this themselves as the batteries were in sealed units.
- 6.7 He reported the statistics from the Fire and Rescue Service for the Bayston Hill area for the period 1 April 2009 to date which were: 20 incidents – 6 primary (property, vehicles) and 6 secondary 5 road traffic collisions (on A49 between Dobbies Island and Condoover)
- 6.8 The Chairman thanked PC Foster and Mr Cox for their contributions.

All

7. Public Question Time and Future Agenda Items

A member of the public raised the issue of funding being required to repair the stage at the Memorial Hall. The Chairman was able to confirm that there was an on-going programme of improvements at the Memorial Hall, for which grant funding had already been obtained. This work included improvements to the stage.

8. Local Joint Committee Evaluation Forms

All present were encouraged to complete and return the evaluation forms.

ACTION

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 May 2010, 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, Lansdowne Road, Bayston Hill.

The Chairman also invited everyone to the Annual General Meeting of Bayston Hill Parish Council, which would take place on Monday 17 May 2010, 7.00 p.m. at the Memorial Hall.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....