



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Bayston Hill Local Joint Committee
21 October 2010
7.00 p.m.

<u>Item/Paper</u>
3
Public

**NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON 15 JULY 2010 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL,
BAYSTON HILL**
7.00 – 9.30 p.m.

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Mr Ted Clarke

Mrs Liz Parsons

Bayston Hill Parish Council

Mr James Hindson

Mrs Hazel Jones

Mr Alan Parkhurst

Mr Keith Barrow, Leader of Shropshire Council, was in attendance for agenda item 8.

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Tim Collard, Lead Officer, Bayston Hill Local Joint Committee

Nicola Fisher, Community Regeneration Officer

Anne Cousins, Committee Officer (Notes)

Tina Dubell, Youth Worker (agenda item 6)

Laura Rowley, Director of Resources (agenda item 8).

West Mercia Police:

PC Raymond Foster

CSO Mark Barnes

There were approximately 50-60 members of the public present at the meeting.

ACTION

1. Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and duly **RESOLVED** that Mr Ted Clarke be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

2. Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Jon Tandy, Shropshire Council.

3. Appointment of Vice Chairman

3.1 There were two nominations for Vice Chairman, Mr Alan Parkhurst and Mr James Hindson.

3.2 On being put to the vote, Mr Alan Parkhurst was elected Vice Chairman.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Notes

RESOLVED: That the notes of the last meeting, held on 23 March 2010, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. Feedback on Changes to the Arriva Bus Service

6.1 Arising from the notes of the last meeting, the Chairman gave a brief update on the situation with the Arriva bus service between Bayston Hill and Shrewsbury.

6.2 The two principal difficulties were the temporary stop in Lansdowne Road opposite The Parade, and the lack of a bus route from the top end of the village to the shops/doctor.

With regard to the Lansdowne Road bus stop, the Chairman said he was hopeful that the route could be changed, so that the bus went along Berwyn Drive and made use of the bus lay-by on Lythwood Road by The Parade.

Another change to the route was under consideration to serve the top end of the village. It had been proposed the bus went along Glebe Road, Beeches Road, then turned left up Lythwood Road to re-join the original route.

It was hoped more information would be available at the next meeting.

**Lead
Officer**

ACTION

- 6.3 Members of the public raised other issues, e.g. the difficulty accessing supermarkets with the current route; having to catch the bus from St Mary's Street not the bus station; the 544 service. The Chairman reassured everyone that Arriva had been made well aware of these issues and he hoped to make progress with them one step at a time.
- 6.4 A man raised the issue of the bus stop outside his daughter's property, which was causing great concern. The buses waited at this stop for several minutes but did not switch off their engines, causing vibration and noise. People waiting for the bus sat on his daughter's wall and rubbish had been strewn in the garden. The Chairman confirmed he was aware of this problem and agreed this particular stop was not acceptable.
- 6.5 The Chairman suggested anyone with any complaints about the bus service should channel them through him in the first instance.
- 6.6 Finally, the Chairman referred to the new zebra crossing on Lythwood Road, which had now been completed as part of the Safer Routes to School campaign, a matter which had been discussed at the January meeting.

All

7. Presentation by Young People

- 7.1 Nicola Fisher, Community Regeneration Officer, Jackie Burnell, local resident, Katie Cross, Zone Youth Group at Christ Church and Tina Dubell, Shropshire Council Youth Worker talked to those present about the work they were doing with young people in Bayston Hill.
- 7.2 Nicola Fisher and Jackie Burnell spoke about the pod voting exercise which had been carried out at Oakmeadow CE Primary School, seeking the pupils' views about Bayston Hill. This information would complement the responses received from the residents' questionnaire which was distributed to all households in the winter. It was reported that most children liked living in Bayston Hill and 65% of them used the play areas. Some children felt it was too daunting to go alone to use the facilities at the top pitch. A majority of children (67%) felt cars and lorries went too fast in Bayston Hill. The idea of having an Internet Café in Bayston Hill was welcomed by 66% of children and the school were now looking at developing such a facility. Another suggestion was to have an adventure playground for older children.
- 7.3 Katie Cross, of the Zone Youth Club at Christ Church, gave a short presentation. Zone was open to children of secondary school age (11-16 years) and attracted approximately 45 members every Friday evening. Some of their suggestions for improvements included having seats at top pitch, more bike jumps on the BMX track, improving the park at Longmeadow and changing the booking arrangements for the Astro Turf to make it easier to access. Another suggestion was cheaper bus fares.

ACTION

7.4 Finally, Tina Dubell, Youth Worker, gave a short talk about the work of the Youth Service in Bayston Hill. She explained she ran a youth club every Thursday evening for young people aged 13-19 years at the Youth and Community Building at Lythwood. This was currently attracting approximately 13 young people and advertising was underway to encourage greater attendance. The young people worked towards accreditation in various subjects, e.g. first aid, arts awards. She invited anyone interested to come along, including adults interested in volunteering.

7.5 Jackie Burnell then spoke about the importance of the Local Joint Committee in bringing everyone together and making things happen in Bayston Hill, which she said was a great opportunity for everyone. She welcomed the Local Joint Committee's decision to consult with residents before making any decisions on spending its budget. With regard to young people, they now had a lot of feedback about what young people thought about Bayston Hill and how it could be improved. She therefore wished to propose that a proportion of the Local Joint Committee budget be ring-fenced for young people and that a working party could decide how best to spend this money.

7.6 The Chairman agreed this was something the Committee could consider. A parish councillor added that it could perhaps be considered in conjunction with Parish Council Development Fund.

8. Shropshire Council's Budget Consultation

8.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr Keith Barrow, Leader of Shropshire Council and Laura Rowley, Director of Resources, who were in attendance to discuss the Council's financial situation.

8.2 Mr Barrow set out the main difficulties facing the Council at the present time, which were to make £10 million of savings in the current financial year, and find savings totalling £60 million over the next three years. Mr Barrow stressed this was a huge challenge. Some savings could be made by internal efficiencies, but this was not enough. It was not possible to raise council tax and therefore the Council had no option but to look at services.

The Leader described the transformation programme which the Council was undertaking, which was looking at different ways of delivering services. The Council was also in discussion with other local public services to see if savings could be made by working more closely together. He said the Council would not be afraid to take unpopular decisions, but added a wide consultation process was underway. He urged everyone to make their views known, either by contacting their local councillors or responding on the Council's website.

All

ACTION

8.3 There followed an hour-long debate which covered a range of topics, including:

- Why the local newspaper was describing cuts now before the consultation had been completed.
- Using reserves, instead of cutting services.
- How much the Council charged to schools to buy in their services.
- How many staff earn more money than the Prime Minister?
- Suggestion that staff should take a 5% pay cut.
- Gold-plated final salary pension scheme took too much money.

The Leader explained the reason for cuts being announced now was because the government had already cut specific grants for services and the Council had to find a way of managing this reduction in income. The Council had set aside £2 million to protect services when setting its current budget in February and this had been used to reduce the impact of the government cuts.

It was explained that the general reserves were ½% of the gross budget, which was the minimum level. All statutory requirements for delegating funding to schools were complied with and schools could buy in services at cost.

Staff costs: only one member of staff (the Chief Executive) earned more than the Prime Minister and the salaries of all senior staff had been published on the Internet. The Council was very prudent with regard to pensions and had a sum of money invested to pay for them. Pensions were not “gold plated” – the average pension payment for a male worker was £4,400 p.a. and for a female worker was £2,600 p.a.

8.4 There was then discussion about the future of Local Joint Committees, as a Cabinet report to be considered the following week was proposing that Bayston Hill Local Joint Committee and its local budget should be merged with other Local Joint Committees, either in Shrewsbury or with another rural area. A question was asked about the budget for Bayston Hill and whether or not this would be preserved if there were to be a merger of committees.

8.5 In response, the Leader reiterated that no decisions on this matter had yet been taken. The idea of having one Local Joint Committee for Shrewsbury was under consideration, but if this were to happen, each community would have its own Neighbourhood Committee and the Leader suggested that, in practice, there would not be much difference.

The Director of Resources confirmed there would be no cuts to Local Joint Committee delegated budgets and no cuts to any brought forward budgets.

8.6 Jackie Burnell asked about the professional support provided by Local Joint Committees, e.g. the Community Regeneration Officers, and asked if this was likely to be reduced. As a volunteer in the community, she said she relied heavily on this professional support. The Leader

said there were no plans to reduce Community Regeneration Officers, but the way in which they worked might change.

ACTION

- 8.7 The Chairman asked all those in favour of retaining the Local Joint Committee as it was to give a show of hands and this clearly demonstrated that those present wished Bayston Hill Local Joint Committee to stay in its current form.

He thanked the Leader and the Director of Resources for their time.

9. Update on Parish Plan and Report on Funding Proposals

- 9.1 The Chairman reminded everyone about the residents' questionnaires and explained the next stage was to draw up a new Action Plan to the Bayston Hill Parish Plan, based on the questionnaire responses. It was hoped this could be published in 2-3 months' time and the Parish Council would then formally adopt it. The Local Joint Committee could earmark funding to bring the Action Plan to fruition. One issue raised in the questionnaires was dog fouling and he invited Tim Sneddon, Head of Environmental Maintenance (Central) to speak about the plans to combat dog fouling in Bayston Hill.

- 9.2 The Head of Environmental Maintenance described specific, targeted proposals to deal with dog fouling in Bayston Hill, as set out in the report (item 7). This included working with pupils at Oakmeadow CE Primary School on responsible dog ownership and having a poster making competition; identification of any 'hot spots' or problem areas; review of signs and number of litter/dog mess bins; more pro-active enforcement. An application for match funding had been made to Keep Britain Tidy for the promotion and advertising costs associated with this campaign.

Environmental Maintenance Team

- 9.3 It was suggested that patrols at 11.00 p.m. would catch dog owners who allowed their pets to foul the footpath.
- 9.4 It was suggested more dog mess bins were required at the top playing fields and at the community woodland. A lady living close to the Glebelands complained of the amount of dog fouling there, even though bins were available. It was confirmed dog mess could be put in general litter bins and it was suggested bins needed to be spread out better and not duplicated.
- 9.5 The Head of Environmental Maintenance explained that packs of dog mess bags could be provided, printed with an appropriate message and all suggestions were welcome.
- 9.6 The Vice Chairman proposed the recommendation in the report to spend up to £4000 on these measures be agreed.
- 9.8 Tim Collard, Lead Officer, then moved on to another issue of concern to residents – speeding traffic. He explained proposals to combat this.

ACTION

Lead Officer

It was proposed that a vehicle activated sign could be purchased, together with permanent anchor points to enable the sign to be moved around between different locations in Bayston Hill. Two roads of particular concern were Lythwood Road and Lyth Hill Road. The costs of the sign, anchor points and maintenance for a trial period of six months would be just over £3000 but it was recommended to ring-fence a sum of £5000, which would allow for a further period of six months if the initial period proved to be successful.

Chairman

Lead Officer

Lead Officer

9.9 A member of the public suggested a speed activated sign by The Beeches pub on Lythwood Road would be ineffective, given that the new zebra crossing was there now. A road traffic investigator in the audience expressed grave concerns about the safety of Pulley Lane. A question was asked about whether or not the vehicle activated sign recorded how many times it flashed. If so, this would provide evidence about its effectiveness.

9.10 The Chairman referred to the main issue identified in the questionnaires – the state of The Parade shopping centre. One idea was to improve the parking arrangements by demolishing the garages at the back of the shops, but this would require careful negotiation with the owners and lease-holders. Discussions were at an early stage and it was suggested that £2000 was set aside as a contribution towards the costs of demolition. Finally, the Chairman referred to the recommendation to spend £1000 on the costs of producing and printing the updated Action Plan.

9.11 The following recommendations in the report were **RESOLVED:**

(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.

An additional recommendation was also **RESOLVED:**

(6) That the Lead Officer consider the feedback from the presentation on young people's views and produce appropriate funding proposals at the next meeting of the Committee.

ACTION

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

10.1 Pc Ray Foster reported that crime levels were still low – 3 burglaries this month and no theft of, or from, vehicles. He confirmed he would be carrying out speed monitoring in the village.

Police

10.2 Mrs Jones, Bayston Hill Parish Council, said residents tended to go to the Parish Office and complain about police matters. She always advised residents to contact the police directly at the time an incident occurred. PC Foster supported this view and gave out the contact number of 0300 333 3000. A resident said she had received an excellent response when she complained to the police about rowdiness in the early hours.

All

11. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 21 October 2010, 7.00 p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall. It was confirmed that reports of these meetings would be put in The Villager.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....