



Committee and Date
Bayston Hill Local
Joint Committee

16 May 2011

7.00 p.m.

Item/Paper

5

Public

**NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2011 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL,
BAYSTON HILL**

7.00 – 9.10 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 Keith Keel

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Tim Collard, Lead Officer, Bayston Hill Local Joint Committee

Nicola Fisher/Lucy Roberts, Community Regeneration Officers

Anne Cousins, Committee Officer

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Shaun Baker

Cameron Taylor

Census

Alistair Bates, Census Manager for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

West Mercia Police

PC Ray Foster

There were approximately 70 members of the public present at the meeting.

ACTION

23. Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Dr James Hindson, Bayston Hill Parish Council. Mr Keith Keel substituted for him.

24. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25. Notes

RESOLVED: That the notes of the last meeting, held on 21 October 2010, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26. Funding Proposals

- 26.1 Tim Collard, Lead Officer, introduced the report, which provided an update on spending agreed to date, together with two funding proposals for consideration by the Committee.
- 26.2 A decision had been taken at a previous meeting to set aside £2000 for improvements to The Parade. The Chairman reported negotiations were on-going with the owners and agents of The Parade to progress with the demolition of the garages, which would enable improved car parking to be provided for shoppers. He added that some legal obstacles remained concerning leases and therefore there had been no expenditure to date.
- 26.3 Nicola Fisher, Community Regeneration Officer, gave a short presentation on the progress being made to reduce dog fouling in Bayston Hill (£4000 LJC funding had been set aside for this). She reported pupils at Oakmeadow Primary School had produced posters to discourage dog fouling and were involved in a mapping project to identify where dog fouling occurred. The best of the posters would be used on signs around the village. In addition, enforcement signs were already in place, which meant any dog owners who allowed their pets to foul footpaths could be fined. More bins would also be provided, after consultation with residents to identify the most appropriate sites.
- 26.4 The Lead Officer reported on progress towards having a Vehicle Activated Sign within the village. He explained posts were due to be installed by mid-February. The Chairman clarified the sign would be moved around between three sites, which were at the junction of Lythwood Road and Longmeadow; by the library at the junction of Lythwood Road and Glebe Road; and in Lyth Hill Road, at the junction with Eric Lock Road.
- 26.5 The Chairman said the improvements to the BMX track had been welcomed by many young people in Bayston Hill and efforts were underway to start a BMX club.

ACTION

26.6 The Lead Officer then outlined two additional proposals for spending. The first was for £500 for the Memorial Hall for wireless microphones and to re-site a control box, which would complement previously agreed funding for a projection screen and hearing system. The second was for up to £1000 to re-print a popular leaflet on Bayston Hill Walks.

26.7 The Lead Officer added that the Memorial Hall Committee had obtained additional funding from Arts Alive which, together with the LJC funding, had enabled them to put in an enhanced sound system.

26.8 There were requests from the public to ensure that the walks leaflet contained the most up-to-date information, in particular to include the new walk across Sharpstones Hill, and officers undertook to ensure this was done.

26.9 In response to a question from a Member about how much money was left in the budget, the Lead Officer confirmed the Committee had spent just over £30,000 of its £34,000 budget in the past two years. The money not spent would be carried forward into the next financial year. The combination of money carried forward, plus the budget of £8,500 for 2011-12 (50% reduction) meant the LJC would have approximately £12,500 in its budget for the forthcoming year.

26.10 A member of the public asked if other spending proposals had been considered and went on to say she had put forward a proposal for an internet café to be set up at the local primary school. The Chairman said the Committee was only dealing with proposals arising from the revised Parish Plan and he was not aware of outstanding proposals.

26.11 The following recommendations were **RESOLVED:**

(1) That the progress on the various items of expenditure agreed to date in the current financial year be noted.

(2) That a sum of up to £1000 be agreed towards the re-printing and issuing of a leaflet dealing with walks in Bayston Hill. The final decision to make the payment, following receipt of three quotes, to be delegated to the Lead Officer in consultation with the Chairman.

(3) That a sum of £500 be agreed for the Memorial Hall Committee towards three wireless microphones to complement the projection screen and hearing system and to contribute to the re-positioning of the screen/sound control box.

**Lead
Officer**

**Lead
Officer**

27. Census 2011

27.1 Alistair Bates, Census Manager for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, spoke about the importance of the Census 2011. He explained that most funding for public services was based on census data and therefore it was important to ensure the data was as accurate as

possible. At the last census, in 2001, there had been a 97% return rate. Although this was good, it still meant approximately 9000 people had not completed their forms.

ACTION

27.2 The Census Manager went through the process involved and reassured the audience that it was a simple procedure, even though the form was large. Census forms could be completed on-line or via the post. Help was available from a telephone helpline, and from drop-in centres based at libraries and other public buildings between 27 March (Census Day) and 6 April. It was agreed that it would be helpful if Bayston Hill Library could be one of the sites for this service.

27.3 The Census Manager explained there was a legal requirement to complete the census form and individuals could be fined for failing to do so. There were even greater fines for anyone who passed on data from the census. The Census Manager reassured those present that census data was secure for 100 years. After that time, it had a critical role to play in historical research.

28. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

28.1 Shaun Baker, Group Manager for the Central Region, gave an overview of the funding situation facing Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, which faced a £4 million cut in funding over the next four years. He explained that only one other fire authority in the country had received a greater budget cut than Shropshire and that, for some reason, Shropshire had been classified with the metropolitan authorities. This situation was being challenged by the Chief Fire Officer to ensure no error had been made.

28.2 The Group Manager went through the actions the authority had taken since 2010 to reduce expenditure, which included a 10% reduction in the workforce and changes to the way specialist vehicles were deployed. The aim was not to affect front-line services and to continue to offer an emergency service at all times.

28.3 Although Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service was committed to fire safety and would still offer free fire safety advice, the provision of free smoke alarms would in future be targeted at vulnerable groups.

28.4 In response to a question, the Group Manager confirmed the cuts were front-loaded, with £3 million of the £4 million coming into effect in the first two years.

28.5 A member of the public asked if the Local Joint Committee could take any action. In response, the Group Manager encouraged people to write to the local MP asking why Shropshire, a small rural service, had been affected disproportionately.

28.6 As a large majority of those present were concerned about these cuts, the Chairman proposed the Local Joint Committee took this matter further and this was agreed unanimously.

Chairman

- 28.7 Cameron Taylor, Watch Manager in Shrewsbury, then introduced himself as the local fire officer with responsibility for fire safety. He explained he was happy to offer advice on fire safety in the home and could provide smoke alarms to those meeting the new criteria. In conclusion, he emphasised that Bayston Hill was a low-risk area. In the past nine months, there had been only two primary fires (resulting from anti-social behaviour), no secondary fires and four other fires.
- 28.8 The Chairman read out a question received from a resident, who had asked how the Fire and Rescue Service could lose 60 employees without this having any impact on services. He felt this had already been answered by the Group Manager.

29. Shropshire Council Budget 2011-12

- 29.1 The Lead Officer gave a short presentation on the key messages arising from the Shropshire Council budget for 2011-12. He contrasted the situation this year to that of last year, when there had been an extensive consultation process. As a result of government spending reductions, Shropshire Council had already taken a number of difficult decisions to deal with its reduced funding and the situation was changing frequently. The Council had already agreed savings of £10 million for the current financial year (2010-11) and just over £30 million for 2011-12. The final budget for 2011-12 would be set at Council at the end of February. A further £46 million of savings would then need to be identified over the next three years.
- 29.2 In the ensuing discussion, concerns were raised about Bayston Hill Library, with residents worried it may face closure. The Chairman informed those present that he had heard nothing about this. A decision had already been taken to merge the Reference Library with the lending library in Shrewsbury. He added that, as the Council faced year on year cuts, it was difficult to predict which services might be at risk. One resident suggested that introducing charges for IT services at libraries would be preferable to closures.
- 29.3 In response to a question about consultation with residents, the Chairman explained the Council was not in a position to undertake consultations, due to the timing and scale of the cuts, and the only option was for the Council to make decisions.
- 29.4 There was discussion about how Council decisions were communicated to the local population. The Chairman commented that all Council meetings were open to the press and public and, in practice, the press were expected to publicise Council decisions. He also agreed it was difficult to direct people to information about the savings. Although reports detailing savings were in the public domain, the reports were very lengthy and it was not always easy to find the information.

ACTION

29.5 A resident asked about Council reserves. The Lead Officer informed those present that Shropshire Council currently had £2 million in reserves and that this was not judged to be a sufficient amount. A more realistic figure would be £13 million.

29.6 In response to a question about how Bayston Hill would be affected by savings and whether this could be included at a future Local Joint Committee meeting, the Chairman commented that he expected that Local Joint Committees would increasingly become involved in looking at services in future rather than giving grants.

30. Draft Local Transport Plan and Draft Bus Strategy

30.1 The Chairman explained there was a consultation underway on changes to bus services. The main impact for Bayston Hill if the changes went ahead was the loss of the evening bus service. He drew attention to questionnaires, which had been circulated, and encouraged residents to complete and return these. It was also possible to complete the questionnaire on-line.

30.2 Although some residents wished to comment on recent changes to the bus routes around Bayston Hill, the Chairman explained he wished to concentrate exclusively on the current consultation process in the Draft Bus Strategy at this time. He assured everyone he was in regular dialogue with Arriva about the Bayston Hill bus service.

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

31.1 PC Ray Foster introduced this item. He reported Bayston Hill was a low crime area, with an average of 2 crimes a week. The current police priority was speeding motorists and police were currently using speed cameras around the village.

31.2 In response to a question, PC Foster confirmed all speed enforcement on the A49 was the responsibility of the Highways Agency.

31.3 Other issues raised by residents were speeding in Lyth Hill Road; parking on pavements causing an obstruction; and cycling on pavements. PC Foster confirmed the police were aware of these issues and they were being addressed.

32. Public Question Time

32.1 The Chairman read out a written question he had received, which referred to the need to upgrade and repair the highways and pavements around the village and asked how this would be done when the budget for this was being cut significantly.

All

Police

ACTION

- 32.2 The Chairman explained he had discussed the very poor road conditions in Lansdowne Road and the top end of Lythwood Road with officers and had been assured the surface treatment was under warranty. Remedial work would be undertaken later in the year, once the danger of frost was over, and it was hoped a new procedure would be more successful in binding the road surface. This would be done at no cost to the local authority.
- 32.3 Several residents agreed the road surface was in a very poor state. There were also complaints about the state of the pavements which were covered in chippings in places and not cleaned often enough.

33. Dates of Meetings in 2011-12

Dates of meetings in 2011-12 have not yet been confirmed, but dates and venues will be published in The Villager once agreed.

**Ctte
Officer**

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....