



Committee and Date
 Bishop's Castle, Chirbury & Worthen and Clun LJC
 28th September 2009
 7.00 pm

Item
2(a)
Public

BISHOP'S CASTLE, CHIRBURY & WORTHEN AND CLUN LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
 7 JULY 2009, 7.00 – 9.00 P.M.
 AT
 PUBLIC HALL, BISHOP'S CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE**

Responsible Officer Penny Chamberlain
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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Nigel Hartin Clun
 Heather Kidd Chirbury & Worthen
 Peter Phillips Bishop's Castle

Town/Parish Councils

Trevor Hughes Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council
 Valerie Whately Bettws-y-Crwyn Parish Council
 Jane Carroll Bishop's Castle Town Council
 Andrew Craig Chirbury with Brompton Parish Council
 Colin Pendry Clun and Chapel Lawn Parish Council
 John Croxton Clunbury Parish Council
 Jonathan Roberts Clungunford Parish Council
 Llewellyn Morgan Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council
 Jackie Williams Lydbury North Parish Council
 Anthony Haighway Mainstone with Colebatch Parish Council
 Keith Mansell Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope and Wentnor Parish Council
 Eddie Jones Newcastle on Clun Parish Council
 Brian Ince Worthen with Shelve Parish Council

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Claire Porter, Lead Officer
 Jake Berriman, Support Officer
 Frances Hall, Community Regeneration Officer
 Penny Chamberlain, Committee Officer (Notes)

West Mercia Police:

PC Nick Williams
 CSO Ross O'Neal
 CSO Sheena Jones

Teme Leisure:

Peter Williams
 Lee Hassan

There were approximately 30 members of the public present at the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman

It was resolved that Councillor Nigel Hartin be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Appointment of Vice Chairman

It was resolved that Councillor Colin Pendry be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Peter Phillips declared a personal interest in item 8 (Scrutiny – Teme Leisure) as a user of SpaRC and item 10 (Urgent Item – Withdrawal of Rural Bus Services) as a holder of a bus pass.

5. Chairman's Welcome and Constitution of Local Joint Committee

- 5.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including members of the public, the Committee and invited guests, and gave a brief explanation and background about the purpose and powers of the meeting.

Each member of the Committee introduced themselves.

6. Annual Budget and Application Process

- 6.1 Claire Porter, Lead Officer, introduced her report on the funding (£49,000) allocated to the Local Joint Committee for the first year, 2009/2010 and suggested members consider how much of this sum, they might wish to allocate to a Community Chest Scheme and then how they might wish to deal with the outstanding balance.

- 6.2 Application forms for funding were available from Frances Hall, Community Regeneration Officer, or the Shropshire Council website (www.shropshire.gov.uk).

- 6.3 It was **agreed** that:

- A Community Chest Scheme should be established and £20,000 allocated to the scheme.
- The maximum amount of grant to be awarded to each applicant should be £500 subject to the discretion of the Committee, no match funding required.
- Applications would be appraised by the members of the Committee following assessment by the Community

Regeneration Officer.

ALL

- 6.4 It was also **agreed** that the remaining sum of £29,000 should be used as match funding, with no specific limit being set for the amount of money that could be applied for. The Committee would consider any requests for funding received in due course, which could include the enhancement of services in the area.

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7. Partners and Community Together (PACT)

- 7.1 PC Nick Williams, West Mercia Police, introduced his colleagues from the local policing team and gave a brief explanation of the PACT process. The next PACT meeting was due to be held at 5.30 pm on 10th August in the Town Hall, Bishop's Castle. Details of the local policing teams, PACT meetings and surgeries were advertised on the Internet, local shops and included in parish newsletters.

8. Scrutiny – Teme Leisure

- 8.1 The Chairman welcomed Peter Williams and Lee Hassan of Teme Leisure, who were in attendance to assist with the discussion and invited Councillor Peter Phillips to introduce this item.
- 8.2 Councillor Phillips drew attention to the email sent to him by Marie McLeish, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting, in which she expressed concern that gym sessions lasting half an hour were no longer available at the centre. Mrs McLeish was present and explained that this change meant many parents were therefore unable to take advantage of the facility whilst their children were engaged in activities elsewhere at the centre. In submitting a petition she asked that Teme Leisure take into account the wishes of parents who had limited time for their own activities and reconsider the position.
- 8.3 In response Peter Williams explained that the fees, charges and sessions had been agreed by the Advisory Committee in February prior to Teme Leisure taking on the management of the centre in April. He stressed however that the Group was very willing to listen to comments from the local community and that he would submit the matter for review back to the Advisory Committee. He also agreed to look into two issues raised by Councillor Phillips in relation to the cost of the centre's club card and an alleged dispute about car parking during the day. Following several comments on the importance of ensuring strong local community representation, he also agreed to raise the issue of the Advisory Committee nominating a person to serve on the Board of Teme Leisure and also the possibility of a Town Council representative being included in the membership of the SpaRC Advisory Committee. The success and demand for over 50s activities at the centre was highlighted by a member of the public and in taking this on board, he agreed to consider enhancing the provision.

**Teme
Leisure**

8.4 The Chairman asked Teme Leisure to report back to the Local Joint Committee in due course on the items raised that evening.

9. Switch Off – Analogue Radio

9.1 Councillor Peter Phillips introduced this item and referred to the copy of his motion to Shropshire Council on 16th July as follows:

Council urges the Government not to confirm the 2015 date suggested by Lord Carter until:

1. Full consultation with the public has been undertaken.
2. The proposals have been submitted for Rural Proofing to the Commission for Rural Communities and/or the Rural Advocate.
3. Proposals have been brought forward to alleviate financial hardships which will be inflicted on:
 - (a) poorer households who have to replace all their radio sets; and
 - (b) households in hilly rural areas who will have to install satellite dishes and sockets in every room.
4. Proposals have been brought forward to deal with the disposal of 100 million redundant radio sets.
5. Carbon footprint implications have been examined in the context of current DAB radios consuming some 4 times as much electric power as traditional transistor radios.

9.2 Members of the Committee and public were generally supportive of the motion.

10. Urgent Item – Withdrawal of Bus Services

10.1 The Chairman indicated that he had placed this item on the agenda for discussion as an urgent matter once he had learnt that several bus services in the Bishop's Castle and Clun areas were to be withdrawn by the operator, Horrocks, from 22nd July. He explained that although the services were not presently subsidised by Shropshire Council, the bus routes could be funded by the local authority if it wished.

10.2 During the ensuing discussion, members of the Committee and the public expressed their concerns about the withdrawal of services and the implications for the villages in the rural areas. It was pointed out that Clun was the sixth largest settlement in south Shropshire and many residents preferred to travel to Newtown rather than Craven Arms for services which was a route not covered by the Shropshire Link. Dissatisfaction was also expressed at the lack of prior warning

and publicity given to the withdrawal of the services.

10.3 Those present were requested by a Committee member to sign the petition, before they left the meeting that evening, which would be submitted to Shropshire Council. They were also urged to email the Portfolio Holder, Martin Taylor-Smith and the local Shropshire Councillors expressing their concerns about the withdrawal of services.

ALL

10.4 It was **agreed:**

- that the Chairman should write in the strongest terms to Shropshire Council asking for a subsidy to be given in order to keep the services going until the issue could be resolved.
- That an item be placed on the next agenda relating to the Shropshire Link service.

**Nigel
Hartin**

ALL

10. Public Question Time

10.1 Issues raised by members of the public included the following:

- Eco-friendly allotment scheme in Bucknell which required further land and funding.

Members of the Committee suggested that contact be made with the Community Council of Shropshire to see if their proposal would be eligible for funding under the Grass Roots Scheme and that they submit an application for funding to Frances Hall for their future consideration.

- Payment of funds. The member of the public queried whether payment would be made in advance or on receipt of invoice.

Confirmation was given that payment would be made in advance.

11. Future Agenda Items/Current Issues from the Parishes

11.1 Issues raised by members of the Committee and the public included the following:

- Unauthorised raves being held in the rural areas from Easter through to the end of October and the resulting noise, litter and speeding issues.

Pc Williams agreed to discuss the matter in more detail with the person concerned at a later date when he could be provided with further information.

**PC
Williams**

- The inappropriateness of the posters advertising the meetings.

In response officers advised that 12 posters had been prepared to reflect the varied nature of the 28 Local Joint Committees and that any one of them could be chosen to publicise the meetings. Shropshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Community Working, Gwilym Butler also confirmed the matter was currently being reviewed and he would take on board the concerns raised during the consideration.

- The availability of Shropshire Council workshop units and comparison with private workshop units.

Frances Hall undertook to look into this further and contact the representative from Bishop's Castle.

- The advertising of planning applications, it was suggested they be displayed in local shops.

**Frances
Hall**

11.2 It was **agreed** that the following items be considered at the next meeting of the Committee in September:

- Shropshire Link;
- Health matters; and
- Core Strategy.

ALL

12. Dates and Time of Next Meeting

12.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in Newcastle Community Centre at 7 pm on Monday, 28th September 2009.

ALL

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....