

Bishop's Castle, Chirbury and Worthen and Clun Local Joint Committee Community Action Officers Report June 2011

Shropshire Council Bus Strategy 2011-2016

Shropshire Council has been consulting with existing and potential passengers over proposed changes to the bus network in Shropshire.

Shropshire Councils Cabinet met on 11 May 2011 to review the consultation. As a result of local views and renegotiation of the contract the 552/553 (Bishop's Castle – Minsterley – Shrewsbury) service will remain unchanged between Monday to Saturday. However Sunday services on this route, run by Arriva Midlands, will be withdrawn.

The consultation also highlighted the potential for the Shropshire Link services to be tourists visiting the area. In consultation with local tourism groups the following stops have been added to the Shropshire Link booking software, and are available for journeys on the days listed. Journeys on the Shropshire Link need to be pre-booked and are subject to availability, but these stops may be of interest to walkers who wish to undertake a linear walk from these stops back to Bishop's Castle.

1. Pentreheyling - Opposite Blue Bell PH - - stop reference 10130 (Available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Bishops Castle)
2. Offas Dyke/Kerry Ridgeway Crossing at Crowsnest - stop reference 17019 (Available Monday to Saturday)
3. Newcastle - In centre of Village near pub - stop reference 10194 (Available Monday to Saturday from Bishops Castle)
4. Blockwood car park picnic area at Ceri Wood Car Park - stop reference 17018 (Available Monday to Saturday from Bishops Castle)
5. Bridges - Horseshoes Inn - stop reference 10220 (Available Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from Bishops Castle)
6. The Bog visitor centre - stop reference 10408 (Available Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from Bishops Castle)

For more information on the Shropshire Link or to book a journey simply call 0345 6789068* the booking line. Bookings must be made at least 24 hours before you wish to travel and a maximum of seven days in advance. All bookings and connections are subject to availability.

Lines open:

- Monday and Thursday - 8am until 8pm.
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 8am until 6pm.
- Saturday - 9am until 1pm.

Rural Challenge Fund Applications

Rural Challenge is part of Shropshire Council's Market Towns Revitalisation Programme (MTRP).

Rural areas outside Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Market Drayton, Whitchurch, Ludlow and Bridgnorth along with the remaining market towns are eligible to submit applications

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for between £7,500 and £40,000 of capital funding for projects that will kick start new economic growth. The deadline for applications is 30th June 2011.

As part of the application process projects are asked to make their Local Joint Committee aware of their applications and ask for their support. In this area the following applications are being put forward.

1. Upgrading of workshops at Enterprise House, Bishop's Castle.

This project will refurbish and re-let 7 workshops and one office at the rear of Enterprise House, formally used by Embry's. The new units will be available to local businesses and will meet a demand for such units identified by the local business network. The total cost of the works will be £33,000 and they will be requesting a grant of £23,000 from the Rural Challenge Fund

2. Improved facilities at Clungunford village hall

This project will complete the 3rd phase of work to upgrade the village hall, which includes building a new exterior wall and improving the insulation. The savings made by the reduced energy use in the building will be used to provide subsidised hire of the hall during the day, so that local tourism businesses can use the hall for meetings, promotional events and activities. The total cost of the works will be £51,000 and they will be requesting a grant of £38,500.

3. Tourism promotion in Snailbeach and Stiperstones

This area of Shropshire has a number of tourist attractions including the Snailbeach mines, The Bog Visitor Centre, Tankerville Pottery and the Stiperstones National Nature reserve. While the attractions are individually popular they do not currently link together to promote themselves. This application will see the development of a website to promote the area; installation of brown tourist signs to the area; new disabled toilets at the Stiperstones Inn and Snailbeach village hall, and new benches for the all ability trail at the Stiperstones. The total cost of the project will be around £20,000

4. New accommodation units at The Horseshoe Inn at Ratlinghope

This pub has been popular with tourists and local people for many years, and has recently been brought by the Three Tuns Brewery from Bishop's Castle. They plan to renovate and modernisation of the building, to turn it into a hub for tourism in the area, and create up to 40 jobs relating to the activity at the pub. They are applying to the Rural Challenge fund for £40,000 to help meet the costs of upgrading out buildings at the site into holiday accommodation for up to 15 people. The costs of the work are around £100,000.

All four projects are supported by the local Shropshire Councillor for the area. The LJC Committee are also asked to give their support to these projects.

The applications will be assessed during the summer and a decision made on the applications by September. If the Rural Challenge Funding is successful further

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funding rounds maybe opened in the future. For more details of the fund please contact Mathew Mead.

Community Games 2011 and 2012

The Community Games project aims to bring the inspiration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic to the West Midlands through a series of "Community Games". Across the West Midlands they aim to run 500 events and involve 100,000 people. The project in Shropshire is being run by Energise Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

The aim in Shropshire is to hold 88 events across the county, and involve 21,000 participants in a wide range of activities. These could be linked to sports clubs, but also the organisers are keen to get communities across Shropshire to think about what "community games" they can run in 2012 to mark the Olympic games. The only real stipulation for a group to take part is that they must hold an opening and closing ceremony. Some ideas of events are:

- Taster sessions run by existing sports or arts groups to offer people a chance to try new sports or activities.
- Photography or arts competitions within a sheltered housing scheme
- "Its a Knockout" style events on a village green.
- "Battle of the Bands" involving youth groups
- Events celebrating local food such as a cake baking competition and

They are particularly keen to involve groups who don't normally take part in these events, and to work with community groups and community facilities, to bring long term benefits as a result of the games.

If you are interested in holding a community games event in your community please contact Alison Evans for more details.

Alison Evans - Energise Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

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www.communitygames.org.uk

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