



Committee and Date
Bishop's Castle, Chirbury &
Worthen and Clun LJC

16 June 2011

7.00 pm

Item

5a

Public

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

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD
ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2010,
7.00 P.M. – 10.00 P.M.
AT
THE PUBLIC HALL, BISHOP'S CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE**

Responsible Officer Penny Chamberlain

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

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

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
Keith Mansell	Myndtown Combined Parish Council
Eddie Jones	Newcastle on Clun Parish Council
Brian Ince	Worthen with Shelve Parish Council

Shropshire Council Members/Officers Present:

Jake Berriman	Support Officer
Frances Hall	Community Regeneration Officer
Mathew Mead	Community Action Officer
Penny Chamberlain	Committee Officer (Decision Notes)
Chris Fisher	Area Highways Manager
Gary Jones	Senior Highways Technician

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

ACTION

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 The Chairman, Heather Kidd, welcomed everyone to the meeting and each member of the Committee introduced themselves.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 The following members declared their personal and/or personal and prejudicial interests in the items set out below:

Nigel Hartin – Note 8 (Schools – Funding Formula and Reorganisation) – Personal interest in relation to the schools funding formula and Reorganisation reports as his wife was a governor at St Mary's Primary School, Bucknell.

Jane Carroll – Note 13 (Grant Applications 2010/11 – Fourth Round – Decision Report) – Personal and Prejudicial interest in relation to the application from Bishop's Castle Tourism Community Interest Company due to her being the applicant. She indicated that she would leave the room should consideration of, and voting take place, on that individual item. (As the application was not discussed, she remained in the room.)

Brian Ince – Note 13 (Grant Applications 2010/11 – Fourth Round – Decision Report) – Personal and Prejudicial interest in relation to the application from Worthen with Shelve Parish Plan Group as a member of Worthen with Shelve Parish Council. He indicated that he would leave the room should consideration of, and voting take place, on that individual item. (As the application was not discussed, he remained in the room.)

Eddie Jones – Note 13 (Grant Applications 2010/2011 – Fourth Round – Decision Report) – Personal and Prejudicial interest in relation to the application from the Clun Valley Automated External Defibrillators Project being the applicant for the project. He indicated that he would leave the room should consideration of, and voting take place, on that individual item. (As the application was not discussed, he remained in the room.)

3. Decision Notes of the LJC Meeting Held on 28th September 2009

- 3.1 The Decision Notes of the Bishop's Castle, Chirbury & Worthen and Clun Local Joint Committee held on 13th October 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman/
Committee
officer

4. Police Report

- 4.1 The Community Support Officer for the Bishop's Castle area, Ross O'Neill, updated the Committee on recent police activities within the overall LJC area. He drew attention in particular to the secondment of the police officer from Church Stretton (PC Bailey) on a part-time basis in order to help cover the workload of the area's usual police officer who was currently off on long term sick leave.
- 4.2 In response to questions he confirmed that speeding offences were a priority within the area and that Community Support Officers were now being trained to use the speeding gun equipment.
- 4.3 He also confirmed that Inspector Jamie Dunn, based in Ludlow was the most appropriate person to contact to register any concerns regarding the police staffing levels in the area, albeit advising that close contact was maintained with colleagues in the north of the county, particularly at Pontesbury. Subsequently, it was **agreed** that the Chairman would write to Inspector Dunn on behalf of all members expressing concern about the area having to share an officer with Church Stretton, both of which were very large areas to cover.
- 4.4 In response to concerns voiced about the lack of progress in introducing a reduced speed limit outside the primary school in Bucknell, Chris Fisher of Shropshire Council advised the parish representative to write to him on the matter and he would look into it and respond back thereon.

Chairman

Bucknell
parish rep

5. Winter Highways Maintenance and Gritting Issues

- 5.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr Chris Fisher, Shropshire Council's Highways Manager and Mr Gary Jones, Shropshire Council's Senior Highways Technician who had been requested by the Committee to attend in order to respond to any winter highways maintenance and gritting issues raised by members and the public.
- 5.2 They answered questions on a number of issues, including the following:
- The successful filling of approximately 600 grit bins which required considerable resources and whilst some members might feel more should be provided, the officers explained the need to prioritise actions within existing resources.
 - The noting of a suggestion that grit bins be placed at the top of hills to aid spreading, albeit recognising the difficulty at times at reaching the summit in the first instance, including gritting vehicles.
 - The gritting of the entire network on 50 occasions already this year and the constant replenishment of grit supplies by the

Council.

- The improvement in keeping main roads open this year compared to the previous year, and the need for more resources to be provided to keep the back roads open in future.
- The addition of £1 million by Shropshire Council into the severe weather budget to help deal with any winter conditions next year.
- Reference was made to difficulties being experienced at Cody Bank due to a lack of grit and running water on the road.

6. Hospital Proposals

6.1 The Chairman welcomed Dr A Fraser, RSH, Mrs V Morris, Trust Chief Nurse/Director of Quality and Safety and Mrs J Thornby, Director of Corporate Affairs, Shropshire County PCT to the meeting, following which they gave a presentation on the proposed hospital changes. They explained the aims of the proposals, the reasons put forward for them, together with the 4 options which had been considered and developed by both clinicians and the public. Copies of the consultation document “Keeping it in the County – Securing the future of hospital services in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin” were also circulated to all present.

6.2 During the ensuing discussion, points were raised by the public and members as follows:

- Any moving of facilities from the Shrewsbury to Telford would be to the detriment of residents in the south and west of the county, particularly given the lack of public transport in the region and the fundamental difficulties which would be caused by any extension of journey times from the RSH (Shrewsbury) to the PRH (Telford).
- The need to ensure services for stroke sufferers continued to be made available at Shrewsbury.
- The continuance of the Air Ambulance Service could not be guaranteed into the future, with any cutback or withdrawal in service exacerbating any extended journey times from Shrewsbury to Telford.
- The issues arising from the Air Ambulance not flying at night or during winter periods when such a service was most in demand.
- The problems caused by poor ambulance response times in the south and west of the county which would be seriously exacerbated by any extended journey times from Shrewsbury to Telford.
- How did proposals for Ludlow hospital fit into the proposals for the Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals along with the other matters being put forward for the NHS.

- The detrimental impact upon the car community schemes arising from a corresponding reduction in mileage and increase in petrol costs.

6.3

In thanking the health representatives for their attendance and responses to the matters raised, the Chairman reminded everyone of the special Cabinet being held on 9th March to consider Shropshire Council's response to the consultation.

7. Census – March 2011

- 7.1 With the agreement of the Chairman, Mr Ian Grace gave a short briefing to the Committee on the Census being carried out in March.

8. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

- 8.1 Following on from the last meeting, a Briefing Note prepared by the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service updating LJC members about future changes and priorities of the Service, had been appended for information to the agenda papers. Nigel Hartin, a Shropshire Council representative on the Fire and Rescue Authority spoke to the Note.

9. Schools – Funding Formula and Reorganisation

- 9.1 In view of the linkages between the 2 Cabinet reports, the Chairman proposed that they be considered together. She then drew particular attention to the proposed consultation on the school organisation changes as they related to the LJC area, namely, the suggested closures of Lydbury North and Stiperstones primary schools and the proposed federation of Newcastle, St Georges, Clunbury and St Mary's (Bucknell) primary schools. Both reports were due to be considered by Cabinet on 15th February 2011.

- 9.2 During the ensuing discussion the following points were made by members of the public and Committee:

- The adverse effect of any school closures upon local communities which were already suffering from losing other facilities.
- The benefits to be gained from local schools working together in federation, including the sharing of resources, expertise and staff.
- Campaigns had already been begun to try and ensure schools were not closed in the county.
- Numbers were forecast to rise in primary schools in the near

future in Shropshire.

- The importance of surplus places in assisting with parental choice.
- Many of the schools concerned had been rated as “Good”, with above average results and were without any education issues.
- The Committee should call for a special meeting to be held to consider the matter in more depth.
- The possibility of Lydbury North applying to become a “Free School” and the procedure to be followed.
- The lack of natural connections between the schools proposed for closure and the schools suggested for the transfer of pupils.
- The proposed closure of a religious school (Church of England) and the lack of an alternative nearby.
- Use should be made of savings made through the unitary process to keep local schools open.
- Details had been requested of the community and environmental impact studies carried out.

9.3 It was **agreed** that, in light of the support shown at the meeting for keeping the 2 primary schools open and in the event of Cabinet approving the proposals in the report, a special meeting be held, unsupported if necessary, of the Committee to discuss the matter further.

ALL

It was also **agreed** that, in the interim period before Cabinet, the Portfolio Holder for Rural Affairs should be requested to make a rural case for keeping the schools open in the LJC19 area and to abstain, at the very least, from voting on the proposals.

PC

10. Joint/Locality Working

10.1 The Chairman indicated that she had originally asked for this matter to be placed on the agenda in order to speak about the joint initiatives being undertaken by five primary schools in the area and how this approach might be extended to other areas between the parishes in the future. She explained that she hoped to progress the matter further through the parish clerks and chairmen, but in the meantime asked that members relay this thinking back to their respective councils.

Chairman

11. Shropshire Council Budget – Implications for LJC19 Area

11.1 In introducing this item, the Chairman referred members to the attached series of slides outlining the key messages relating to the Council's Revenue Budget for 2011/12 and future years together with a paper prepared by the Committee's Community

Regeneration Officer setting out some of the implications for the Library Service in the LJC19 area. She commented that very little specific information was available on how the budget would affect the LJC19 which was vital to enable members and the public to take part in the consultation process and sought views on the matter.

- 11.2 During the ensuing discussion, members expressed concern about the effect on communities of any closure of public conveniences should the parishes not be minded to take responsibility for their upkeep and also the manner in which this consultation had taken place with the parish and town councils on the issue.

- 11.3 Reference was also made to the adverse effect of either any amendment to, or the withdrawal of rural bus services. It was therefore **agreed** that a letter be sent as part of the bus strategy consultation process expressing the Committee's concern about the implications of the budget upon rural bus services, particularly in the LJC19 area. It was agreed, amongst other things, that mention be made to the possible risk to the Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle route, the proposed changes to hospitals services and the resulting difficulties in accessing facilities at the PRH either as patients or visitors, the difficulty in accessing employment opportunities in Wolverhampton and the disappointment voiced about the proposed withdrawal of concessionary fares on the Council's Shrewsbury Park and Ride routes and the removal of the Pre 9.30 am concessions.

PC

- 11.4 It was also **agreed** that a letter be sent to the Leader and Chief Executive of Shropshire Council expressing disappointment at the way in which the budget consultation had been carried out for 2010/11 and asking that for future years an Executive Summary be prepared setting out the implications of each year's budget, together with the provision of more detailed information to aid consultation.

PC

12. Issues Update from around the LJC Area

- 12.1 The Vice-Chairman expressed further concern about the way in which the consultation process had been carried out by Shropshire Council on the proposed closure of public conveniences unless the parishes concerned were willing to take on responsibility for the maintenance and operation of them in their respective areas. Similar concerns were also voiced by the representative for Worthen with Shelve Parish Council who stressed the importance of retaining the conveniences in Snailbeach being adjacent to a children's play area and heritage site.

- 12.2 The representative for Newcastle on Clun Parish Council thanked the Committee's Community Regeneration Officer for her

assistance with their Parish Plan which was almost completed. Confirmation was also given that Myndtown's Parish Plan was being reviewed.

13. Shropshire Council Consultations

13.1 It was noted that the following items were included on the Shropshire Partnership's Consultation Portal:

- Bus Strategy for Shropshire 2011-2016; and
- Local Transport Plan for Shropshire Consultation.

ALL

14. Grant Applications 2010/2011 – Fourth Round – Decision Report

14.1 Members considered a report by the Committee's Lead Officer on an assessment of the applications which had been received during the fourth round for funding from the annual budget allocation of £49,000. The Committee was also asked to approve future funding arrangements for 2011/2012.

14.2 RESOLVED:

- (a) That, the proposed budget applications as set out in the report by the Lead Officer be accepted, namely:

Committee
Officer

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Decision</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marches Housing Charitable Trust 	Approved funding of £400.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House on Crutches Museum Collection Trust 	Approved partial funding of £500.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop's Castle PCC 	Approved partial funding of £650.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clun Tourism Group 	Approved funding of £343.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lydbury North Village Hall Management Committee 	Approved funding of £289.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop's Castle and Clun Area Festival Officer 	Refused funding as the project had been awarded £3,000 in 2009/2010 and it was not considered a prudent use of funds to offer another grant this year as the project had not achieved sustainability.

- Clun Valley AED Scheme Approved partial funding of £3,405.
- Worthen with Shelve Parish Plan Group Approved partial funding of £1,000.
- Worthen Village Hall and Recreation Group Committee Approved partial funding of £500.

(b) That, the following recommendations be approved for the allocation of funds in 2011/2012:

- A Community Chest Scheme totalling £10,000 be established, the maximum amount of grant to be awarded to each successful applicant to be £500, no match funding required.
- A Match Funding Scheme be established, the range of grant to be awarded to each successful applicant to be from a minimum of £501 up to a maximum of £2,500, with at least 50% cash match funding to be required, no voluntary time “in-kind” contributions to be included within the match funding.

Community
Action
Officer

15. Development Management Review Note

15.1 Reference was made to a briefing note prepared by the Head of Development Management, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, on the outcome of the recent review of the Development Management Service. The Note outlined proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation and the Role and function of the Planning Committees.

15.2 During the ensuing discussion, mention was made to the linkages between parish plans, hubs and clusters, and possible investment opportunities, with particular reference being made to the Community Infrastructure Levy which the Council wished to have in place by September 2011, in order to assist meeting community aspirations. Following representations made about the withdrawal of the committee referral by parish and town councils, the Committee's Support Officer and Head of Strategy and Policy indicated that he would speak to the Head of Development Management advising him of their concerns that the new scheme needed to be more locally based.

JB

16. Public Question Time

16.1 Reference was made to the recent management restructuring

which had taken place at Shropshire Council and members were asked if they were aware of the increase in the level of salaries recently awarded to the senior management team. In response, the Shropshire Councillors present referred to the transformation process currently underway at the Council and indicated that they would look into the matter further given the concerns raised by the 2 members of the public at this meeting.

The LJC's
Shropshire
Councillors

17. Future Agenda Items

17.1 It was **agreed** that an item on potholes be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Committee
Officer

17.2 It was also **agreed** that a special "unsupported" meeting be held of the Committee to discuss schools reorganisation

ALL

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting

18.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee was provisionally scheduled to be held at 7 pm on Thursday, 16th June 2011.

ALL/
Committee
Officer

Signed.....
Chairman

Date: 16th June 2010