



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

Item

Public

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

**DRAFT NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON 20 JUNE 2013
7.00 PM – 9.45 PM
AT
WORTHEN VILLAGE HALL**

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Charlotte Barnes Bishop's Castle (Chair)

Nigel Hartin Clun

Heather Kidd Chirbury & Worthen

Town/Parish Councils

Ian Owen

Valerie Whately

Andrew Beaven

Evelyn Bowles

Stuart Scott-Goldstone

James McVicar

John Croxton

Jonathan Roberts

Andrew Semple

Antony Wilkinson

Bucknell Parish Council

Bettws-Y-Crwyn Parish Council

Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council

Bishop's Castle Town Council (substitute)

Chirbury with Brompton Parish Council(substitute)

Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn

Clunbury Parish Council

Clungunford Parish Council (Vice Chair)

Myndtown Combined Parish Council

Worthen Parish Council

Officers Present:

Mathew Mead, Community Action Officer

ACTION

1. Election of Chairman

Nigel Hartin was elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

He welcomed all present to the meeting, particularly new members of the Committee.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from

3. Appointment of Vice Chairman

Jonathan Roberts was appointed as Vice Chairman

4. Disposable Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

The following Members left the room during the discussion of the following items:

SpArC Arts Grant Application:

Valerie Whately, Charlotte Barnes, Heather Kidd, Nigel Hartin

Kings Head Pub Application: Charlotte Barnes

Community First Responder application: Ian Owen

Applications from Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council:

Andrew Beaven

Application from Myndtown Combined Parish Council:

Andrew Semple and Heather Kidd

5. Note of the Previous Meeting

The note of the meeting held on 14 February 2013 was confirmed as a correct record.

6. Emergency Services

The Chairman explained that each of the Emergency Services had been asked to attend the meeting and provide a briefing covering provision of services in the LJC area, including response times; the current budgetary situation and any implications for services and an explanation of how the services work together in the area.

6.1 Inspector Rob Thomas, West Mercia Police

Inspector Thomas circulated a briefing note at the meeting (a copy is attached to the signed minutes or available from the Committee Officer).

His briefing covered: the provision of policing in the LJC area; external support available; an explanation of the grading of calls and response times; how there is sometimes a need to break off from a current incident to respond to a higher graded incidents or attend resource intensive events outside of the LJC or West Mercia area.

The note also explained the measures that West Mercia Police were taking to meet efficiency savings of about £20 million following the government's comprehensive spending review. These included some Local Police Officers being redeployed mainly to response teams leaving current staff to cover larger geographical areas. Locally some response officers would now be working from Leominster and others from Shrewsbury but would continue to patrol the LJC area and respond to calls 24 hours a day.

In conclusion he reiterated that the LJC area, in common with most of West Mercia, was amongst the country's safest places in which to work and live.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Thomas for his briefing and invited questions from members of the Committee and public

Q What time do the police give to get to know their rural communities; why are PACT meetings during the day

Local Police Officer PC Ann Gutteridge developed her knowledge of the area on a constant basis and at PACT meetings and through identifying community concerns. That engagement was viewed as very important. Views and comments on timing of PACT meetings were always welcomed.

Q Although response to urgent incidents is usually satisfactory, sometimes people do not report minor crime as they think 'what's the point' Sometimes police did not arrive at an incident when they had been expected, it is important to let people know, rather than leaving them waiting.

Non attendance could happen if a level 1 incident occurred in the meantime. The communication around this was something Inspector Thomas felt could be improved.

Help is sought from the community in crime prevention. (A crime reduction information sheet was circulated).

Q Do Special Constables have the same powers as regular officers

Special Constables have the same powers and authority but are less experienced

Q Surely response times would be longer if response officers would be working from Leominster and Shrewsbury

These officers would continue to patrol the LJC area and respond to calls 24 hours a day. It was necessary to meet the needs of high demand areas but rural areas had not been forgotten and would not be forgotten.

Q Residents are concerned about speeding. Will CSOs and Special Constables be trained to use speed cameras?

Special Constables will be trained. A Much Wenlock based team work around the county. Consideration is also being given to adding to the powers of CSOs.

Inspector Thomas was thanked for the briefing and answering questions and he thanked all present for their interest.

6.2 John Redmond, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

A note of the contents of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer's briefing was circulated following the meeting by e-mail. A copy is available from the Committee Officer.

Issues Facing the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service included:

- A predicted 25% reduction in funding between 2010 – 2020
- The service has already stripped out almost £4 million but the remaining between 2015 and 2020 meant the need to look at the possibility of removal of fire engines or closure of fire stations
- An impact exercise was being conducted on 60 options including closure of some 'on call' fire stations such as Clun
- If the closure option was agreed, a full impact assessment exercise would take place including the public, Parish Councils and Local Joint Committees

The Committee received details of provision at Clun Fire Station, Bishops Castle Fire Station and Minsterley Fire Station and the areas they served. For each of these stations, the number of properties located outside of the 15 minute response time would increase dramatically, in some cases more than double if the Station were to close.

In terms of performance, details are included in the briefing sheet circulated. The Committee heard that:

- The aim was to ensure a fire engine arrived with a crew of 4 within 15 minutes on 87% of occasions
- On the occasions where this target had not been met this was

- due mainly to distance to incidents of snow, ice or flooding
- In addition to dealing with emergencies, the main focus was prevention

The Chairman thanked Officer Redmond for his briefing and invited questions from members of the Committee and public.

Q Why has Clun Fire Station been selected for possible closure?

Clun Fire Station had been selected using a risk assessment approach including numbers of premises in the area, areas of high risk in the area (eg presence of hazardous material). Clun was the area assessed as being of lowest risk.

Work was also being carried out on what neighbouring Fire Services were planning as part of the impact assessment.

Q Have the options for reduction in back office functions been exhausted?

Yes, 25% has already been taken out, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service now had the least proportion of non uniform staff out of the 46 Services in the country.

Q Are there any plans to change shift systems

Changes to shift patterns is one of the 60 options being assessed for impact.

Q What is the position with provision of safety checks and free smoke alarms – are they still available. Is the fire service able to provide replacement batteries for smoke alarms that have been installed for some time?

Government funding had allowed this work and checks for thousands of vulnerable people are still performed each year. Responsibility for replacing batteries fell to the home owner following installation.

6.3 Darren Fradgley, West Midlands Ambulance Service

Mr Fradgley explained that although funding was being maintained at the current level there was an increase in demand of 15% year on year so there was a need to operate more efficiently.

This had involved a review of the estate and changes to the way operations were run from local stations. For example, Craven Arms Ambulance Station had been replaced with Community First Responder Provision. The Ambulance Station rarely had an ambulance in it, once it was called out there was no cover at all.

The Community Model scheme had been developed to address the

needs of rural areas and local paramedic schemes were backed up by ambulances. This allowed 24 hours cover at Craven Arms.

There were usually between 90 and 120 calls a month on the LJC footprint. 60% responses had been by ambulance, 20% response by cars and 15% of responses had been local community responders. Back up was provided by helicopter and special assets.

There had been a deficit in Shropshire of £1 million for some time and problems with turn around times at accident and emergency.

Q Our concern is that response time averages are quoted by the Ambulance Service. Craven Arms is 30 minutes away from Shrewsbury and Ludlow 40 minutes. The division of Chirbury was particularly poorly served and Powys Service was not filling the gaps. The Primary Care Trust had said that an extra £1 million would be made available.

The extra £1 million had unfortunately not materialised from the PCT. The Service already knew that it fell outside its target for long runs to rural areas and this was why there was so much focus on creating community based solutions.

Crews coming on duty appeared to have to collect their kit from the new Shrewsbury depot and return there to resupply which represented a waste of time and fuel.

Craven Arms and Ludlow will now have controlled drug safes which will address this issue.

6.4 **Emergency Services Working Together**

Inspector Thomas reported on how the services worked together operationally across the LJC area.

This included:

- Training together, including preparation for major incidents
- Monthly meetings where medium to long term issues are dealt with in partnership
- Working alongside each other particularly for road traffic collisions, or significant incidents with command determined on the ground
- Capacity to work from the same radios when dealing with an incident
- Locality Commissioning Project in Church Stretton – to see if delivering services in a different way could lead to savings
- Work on establishing where vulnerable households might be to allow targeting of preventive measures
- Strategic planning through Police Commissioner, Fire Authority

and Health Authority

7 Community First Responders (CFRs)

Dawn Bush, Divisional Co-ordinator for the Shropshire area explained how the 130 volunteers in the area worked.

- Volunteers from local communities were taught how to deal with cardiac arrest, strokes, diabetes and trauma
- This meant a comprehensive handover could be made on arrival of an ambulance
- CFRs were not permitted to use blue lights or break the speed limit whilst travelling
- The Clun Valley AED Scheme had raised funds for 16 defibrillators in the area and training was available to members of the public who wished to be trained in their use.

Ms Bush wished to correct some errors about the CFR Scheme which had appeared recently in the local press which she was concerned might put some people off from volunteering. She emphasised that there was at least one full kit for each scheme and every consumable item was replaced as needed by the Ambulance Service.

Q Do CFRs attend road traffic accidents as it appears that this has been the case on occasion

CFRs are not sent to road traffic accidents. If this has happened it was likely to be due to a misunderstanding of the nature of the incident. However if a CFR happened to go past an accident they would stop and give assistance.

Mr Fradgley emphasised that the Ambulance Service and Community owed a massive debt of gratitude to Community First Responder Volunteers whose services were greatly valued.

Q Why are Community First Responders seeking funding for a vehicle, and who would pay the costs of maintaining it?

Some CFRs use their own cars but some schemes decide they want to raise money for a 4 x 4 vehicle. This meant they would be driving an easily recognised vehicle which would provide access to incidents that could not otherwise be reached, eg through floods, fords, snow and steep hills, and would also be fitted with a radio and gps system. Maintenance costs would be met through fund raising activity.

The Committee expressed its gratitude to Inspector Thomas, John Redmond and colleagues, Darren Fradgley and colleagues and Dawn Bush for attending the meeting and answering questions.

8 Public Question Time

Items raised by the public included issues with roads, drains, potholes, emptying of gullies and the performance of Ringway. It was confirmed that Chris Edwards, Area Commissioner, South was aware of these issues.

9. Issues Update from Around the LJC Area

Attention was drawn to the following:

Broadband

A meeting on Broadband had been arranged for Thursday 27 June at 7pm at Clun Memorial Hall. BT Officers would be present and it was hoped they would give an indication of intentions and progress. Concerns around provision for very rural communities and communities on the borders of Shropshire would be aired at the meeting.

SpArC

Concerns over changes to the SpArC Centre's opening hours were raised

10 Funding Report – Grant Applications

The following decisions were made on grant applications received by the Committee:

19.35 Lentwardine and Bucknell Community first Responders - New Vehicle. Requested grant award £2,500. AMOUNT REQUESTED AGREED

19.41 Kings Head Pub, Bishop's Castle - Creation of attractive and safe point of entry to commercial centre of Bishop's Castle. Requested grant award £1,750. APPLICATION TURNED DOWN

19.45 Clunbury Village Hall - Replacement chairs for the hall. Recommended grant award £500 AGREED

19.46 Pentabus Arts Ltd - Women and Landscape arts project at the Stiperstones. Recommended grant award £1,500 AGREED.

19.47 Hightown Community Room Clun - provision of disabled toilet. Recommended grant award £1,500. AGREED.

19.48 SpArC Arts - SpArC Theatre, a sustainable future. Requested grant award of £2,500 APPLICATION TURNED DOWN

19.49 Worthen Village Hall and Worthen Pre-School - refurbishment of former medical practice into purpose built pre-school. Recommended grant amount £1,500. AGREED

19.50 Bishop's Castle Youth Club - Duke of Edinburgh Award. Recommended grant award £2,000. AGREED

19.51 Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council - Parish Publicity Leaflet. Recommended grant award £500. AGREED

19.52 Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council - Big Dig Project. Recommended grant award £500. AGREED

19.53 not considered - application form not submitted

19.54 South Shropshire Housing Association & Grange Road Residents Group. Extension of Community Centre Recommended Grant Award £1701. AGREED

19.55 South Shropshire Young Engineers Group - Transport to Young Engineers Event. Recommended grant award £500. AGREED

11. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10 October 2013 at 7.00 pm

The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting concluded at 9.45 pm.

Chair: _____

Date: 20 June 2013