



Committee and Date
Bishop's Castle, Chirbury
and Worthen and Clun Local
Joint Committee

13 February 2014

7.00 pm

Item

1

Public

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

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD
ON 10 OCTOBER 2013
7.00 PM – 9.15 PM
AT
THE EVEREST HALL, LLANFAIRWATERDINE**

Responsible Officer Mathew Mead

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Charlotte Barnes Bishop's Castle
Nigel Hartin Clun (Chair)
Heather Kidd Chirbury & Worthen

Town/Parish Councils

Jonathan Roberts	Clungunford Parish Council (Vice Chair)
John Croxton	Clunbury Parish Council
Valerie Whately	Bettws Parish Council
Georgie Ellis	Lydbury North Parish Council
Peter Gittins	Newcastle Parish Council
James McVicar	Clun and Chapel Lawn Parish Council
Gordon Lewis	Mainstone Parish Council
Tony Wilkinson	Worthen with Shelve Parish Council
Jonathan Roberts	Clungunford Parish Council – Vice Chairman
Andrew Beavan	Llanfairwaterdine Parish Council
Ian Owen	Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council
Jim Gaffney	Bishops Castle Town Council
Andrew Craig	Chirbury Parish Council

Officers Present:

Mathew Mead and Lisa Bedford, Community Action Officers

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from

Sandra Davies (Newcastle on Clun Parish Council) Peter Gittins attended as substitute/

2. 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

Item 9 – Funding report

19.63 – pecuniary interest Nigel Hartin, wife runs pre-school

3. Notes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the previous LJC on 20th June 2013

4. Police Update – Charles Naylor Crime Prevention Officer West Mercia Police (WMP).

Charles introduced himself as a former Police Officer from the Bishop's Castle who now advises on crime prevention in North Herefordshire and South Shropshire

It was explained that overall crime is decreasing national and at a local level, with burglary and theft down in the last three years. However rural crime is always an issue as criminals can see rural communities as “soft targets” and items such as livestock, plant machinery and equipment found in rural areas has a high value. Targets for criminals now include feed, lead, oil, machinery and even livestock.

WMP are working with rural businesses and organisations such as the NFU to keep ahead of criminal activity through networks such as rural and farm watches and using technology to fight crime.

In Herefordshire – ‘Stop that Thief’ campaign is being trialled based on a similar scheme in Dorset. WMP install technology in rural businesses that have been targeted previously to identify activity before the criminals break in. This has been funded by the PCC.

The first farm trialled, a fruit farm, had claimed over £80,000 last year for losses, which didn't include the loss of soft fruit. Since police intervention no further claims have been made. The technology is based on an Infrared beam, when the beam broken the farmer can see what has broken the beam then call the police.

New police staffing arrangements were implemented in the area from start of the month, as explained previously by Inspector Thomas.

South Shropshire response officers now work from Leominster. Staff are deployed out to predefined areas as soon as they start shift, they do not stay at the station. In

addition the local Safer Neighbourhood team is still based locally with one PC and now two CSO's covering the Bishop's Castle policing area.

If farms or rural businesses have been targeted by thieves, they can contact the Crime Risk Manager who will attend and provide them with advice. He can be contacted via the Police 101 none emergency number, or through the Bishop's Castle Local Policing Team.

In answer to questions Charles said that CCTV could be an appropriate tool in guarding rural properties against crime, but should be looked at on a case by case basis as it doesn't always provide the best deterrent. Working with the Police on a range of solutions would be best for rural businesses.

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service - Trevor Williams Clun Fire Station

Trevor provided an update on possible changes to the Fire Services as highlighted at the previous LJC meeting. Budget savings need to be made and there are currently twenty five cutback proposals, being risk assessed by senior officers and stakeholders at present. All options proposed would save £4 million, but only £1.9 million is the savings target at present, therefore not all of the proposals will go forward following assessment. The outcome will be known in February time.

Fire prevention remains an important part of the services work and a chimney fire campaign will be taking place over the coming months.

5. Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Paul Tulley – “A Call to Action”

An overview was given regarding “A Call To Action” which is national discussion regarding the future delivery of health services, through the NHS. It was emphasised that this exercise was not about privatisation, charging or what services to cut, but is looking at the challenges of maintaining a high quality services when life expectancy is increasing; the range of services provided by the NHS is widening and people are living with permanent medical conditions. There are also wider pressures on public finances which if they remain unchanged would leave the NHS with a large debt in future years.

In Shropshire there will be a two month of consultation, and the results will be presented to a large conference in November, with a 3 – 5 year Joint Services Strategy plan responding to the challenges to be published in January

It was acknowledged that there are health inequalities in rural areas and the statistics often hide the true extent of poverty and deprivation. In Shropshire one of the key challenges is balancing the need for high quality acute care, with the needs of the population to access services at two separate sites.

It was explained that clinical studies suggest a population of half million people is required to support a large acute general hospital. Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin has this level of population but the services are split over two sites which broadly try to provide the same level of services.

It was explained that A&E, ITU and Stoke Services are now to be consultant led services, but both hospitals are understaffed and unable to fill vacancies as the hospital provision in Shropshire does not provide an attractive prospect to newly qualified or training consultants due to the lack of a larger team to provide expertise

and new technology. Stroke care has also become more specialised and therefore only one unit can be supported within the county

Views are being sought and consultation forms were circulated with those present asked to complete and respond.

A number of questions and concerns were raised from the floor. This included questions on whether the sparse rural population of Shropshire was considered when compared to the relatively dense population in Telford; whether ambulance services and response times in South West Shropshire would be factored into the debate, and what impact cross border issues between Powys and Shropshire would have. Committee members also felt that living in a rural area like South West Shropshire made it harder to access general services due to poor public.

A number of those present gave examples of very slow response times for ambulances in the area, which had a significant impact on patients receiving care and getting to a hospital. The issue of cross border coverage of ambulances was also raised as an issue that needed consideration. These poor response times need to be factored into any discussions about services moving from Shrewsbury hospital.

Paul Tulley agreed that ambulance response times was an important issue, but didn't have sufficient data available to him at the meeting to make accurate comments on this. He offered to return to the next meeting to discuss this issue in more detail, and invite colleagues from the ambulance service to attend the meeting with him.

6. Presentation on Connecting Shropshire by Chris Taylor and Councillor Steve Charmley

An overview was given on the status of the Connecting Shropshire programme by Chris Taylor from Shropshire Council with portfolio holder, Cllr Steve Charmley also in attendance.

The Connecting Shropshire team had now been recruited and included a range of skilled officers to help deliver the programme. The Shropshire programme area covers 72,000 properties and the process of surveying how to improve broadband had been started and was progressing well. There would be an announcement at the end of October regarding some of the first areas to be upgraded. In January there will be an announcement for the whole year of activity. The programme will be rolled out in nine phases starting at three monthly intervals until Spring 2016.

Concerns were raised from the Committee and members of the public regarding the cross border issues locally, and it was explained that the responsibility for the provision of high speed broadband remained within the county in which the property is situated, not where the exchange is located. Questions were also asked over whether the new broadband speeds would be sufficient to accommodate new technologies such as internet TV from BT.

Communities in South West Shropshire had expressed concern that sparsely populated areas may not receive the improved broadband speeds until the end of the programme. These had been raised at a meeting with Chris Taylor, and Cllr Keith Barrow Leader of Shropshire Council and an agreement had been made to work together to make sure the programme addressed rural areas and that communities were kept informed of developments.

Steve Charmley said that the Council were reliant on partners to deliver the project, and this work was being done in stages, however the project was progressing well and upcoming announcements would provide more details of where the next stages of the rollout will occur.

7. Public Question Time

No questions were raised by members of the public

8. Issues and update from around the LJC area

Charlotte Barnes (Bishop's Castle)

There has been a theft from Enterprise House of a trailer.

Bishop's Castle Business Park will have its first businesses shortly.

SpArc Theatre is now managed by Enterprise South West Shropshire and has received funding to continue operation of the theatre for the foreseeable future. Attendances at events run by SpArc have increased considerably this year.

Heather Kidd (Chirbury and Worthen)

Local issues exist around planning permission for poultry sheds and the withdrawal of the Shropshire Link. People are being encouraged to come forward and volunteer to establish a Community Car Schemes in the area to help meet any gaps in provision.

Jonathan Roberts (Clungunford) – the parish has Cluster status, but it is felt that any potential for development has been stymied by the Community Infrastructure Levy and affordable housing contribution which was making it unviable for developers to consider building at this time.

Ian Owen (Bedstone and Bucknell) – Community First Responder vehicle has been ordered and will be funded by a grant from big lottery, and support from the LJC. The vehicle will be operational by mid-December.

9. Funding report – grant applications

The Community Action Officer gave an overview of the funding for the LJC. There is £13,031 remaining to be allocated this financial year. £500 small grant scheme where no match funding is required, and larger grants up to £2500 where there is the need to provide 50% match funding.

The projects listed below were all approved by the Committee. All projects were unanimously approved with the exception of project 19.69. The Committee voted 6 for and 3 against approving the project, with 5 abstentions.

Ref	Applicant	Amount Agreed
19.62	Bishop's Castle Town Hall	£962
19.63	Bucknell Preschool (Nigel Hartin left the room)	£2500 (Subject to confirmation of

		match funding)
19.64	Clun Walkers are Welcome	£541.00
19.65	Grange Rd Bike Club	£591.00
19.66	Kempton Village Hall	£720.00
19.67	Clun Tourism Leaflet	£0
19.68	Rectory Gardens Community Garden	£500.00
19.69	Shropshire Libraries – beyond the book	£1925.00 (Subject to confirmation of match and deadline for confirmation by start of February)
19.70	Bucknell community litter pick	£151.24
19.71	Clun Bowling Club	£1000.00
19.72	Newcastle children's centre	£500.00

The above allocations leave £3643 remaining in budget for the year.

10. Future agenda items

Paul Tulley will be invited to speak again about ambulance response times. Cross boarder ambulance service to also be discussed at the meeting

Ideas for other presentations to be sent through to the Community Action Officer for discussion at next planning meeting

11. Date of next meeting

Full meeting Thursday 13th February – SpArc Centre as preferred venue

Planning meeting Thursday 16th January - Lydham Village Hall preferred venue.
Committee agreed to hold planning meetings at 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chair: _____

Date: 10 October 2013