

BOWBROOK, COPTHORNE AND RADBROOK JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTION STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2011 IN OXON OLD HALL SCHOOL, SHREWSBURY 7.00 P.M. – 9.00 P.M.

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak
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Committee Members Present:

Councillor Peter Adams (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)
Councillor Peter Nutting (Chairman) (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)
Councillor Keith Roberts (Vice-Chairman) (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)

Officers Present:

Gwyn Bevan, Community Regeneration Officer
Amanda Holyoak, Committee Officer
Martin Withington, Head of Transportation

There were approximately 25 members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies from members of the Committee.
Apologies for absence were received from several members of the public.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Adams declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in the application for a grant from Gains Park Community Centre as he was a Trustee of the Community Centre. Mr Roberts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application for a grant from Meole Brace Scouts and Guides as his wife was involved in this Group. Both left the meeting whilst these items were discussed.

3. **Note of the Previous Meeting**

ACTION

- 3.1 The note of the previous meeting held on 14 October 2010 was confirmed as a correct record.

4. Report from Police

- 4.1 PC Dulson, officer for Porthill and Bowbrook drew attention to the new crime mapper system available from www.police.uk. He reported that there had been an increase in reported crimes mainly due to thefts from vehicles and sheds. This was a trend reflected across the whole of Shrewsbury and he encouraged members of the public to be vigilant and not to leave valuables in cars.
- 4.2 In response to a request at a previous LJC for crime detection figures, he reported that of 52 crimes reported in Bicton Heath since October, seven had been detected. Many were still under investigation. Of these 52, 17 had taken place at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Shelton Hospital sites.
- 4.3 He reported that the Police had invested in matrix board equipment which could plug into speed guns and be used on the road to highlight speeds of drivers. This helped raise awareness of speeds people were driving at but was not enforceable. He asked if there were any suggested locations for its use.
- 4.4 Those present suggested the following locations for use of this equipment: Radbrook Road, Gains Park Way, Shelton Road, and Racecourse Lane. PC Dulson invited people to contact him directly with any further suggestions.
- 4.5 Members of the public raised concerns regarding the number of incidents and cost of police visits to a property in Larkhill Road. These problems were long standing but appeared to be getting worse in recent times. Some members of the public also understood that residents living in this property should not be tagged but some did appear to be. PC Dulson said he would look into this.

**PC
Dulson**

Fire Service

- 4.6 Phil Davies from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service reported on recent activity in tackling refuse and waste, particularly in the town centre and on industrial estates. This along with another project had helped reduce frequency of deliberate and anti social fires.
- 4.7 Bonfire Night projects had gone well including encouraging the use of clean burn materials and a trial imposing a curfew at 10pm.
- 4.8 A briefing from the Fire Service was attached to the agenda in relation to the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Service could still offer home fire safety surveys but smoke detectors could now only be installed free of charge to vulnerable people and not anyone as before.

- 4.9 Two members of the Committee were members of the Fire Authority and pointed out that Shropshire Fire and Rescue was one of the smallest services in the country but had received one of the biggest reductions in funding. There were no reductions planned for front line services but moves were underway to save back room costs through working with brigades in Hereford and Worcester and Cheshire.
- 4.10 The Chairman thanked PC Dulson and Mr Davies for attending the meeting.

5. Speeding and Parking

- 5.1 The Chairman introduced Martin Withington, Head of Transportation, Shropshire Council and invited members of the public to identify areas experiencing problems with speeding traffic.

- 5.2 The following areas were highlighted by members of the Committee and members of the public:

Oak Lane onto Gains Park Way, especially at night.
Cophorne Road
Mytton Oak Road
Radbroke Road
Bank Farm Road
Bicton Village (outside the LJC area, but noted)

Members of the public referred to rumours that 30 mph speed limits were to be introduced on some roads in the LJC area.

- 5.3 The Head of Transportation explained that the Council's Urban Speed Limit Policy had been agreed in the previous year and set out criteria for 30, 40 and 50 mph limits. All towns across Shropshire had been reviewed and discrepancies identified. Unfortunately the funding available in 2010/11 had not stretched far enough to deal with Sommerby Drive, Welshpool Road and Little Oxon Way which had been identified as having incorrect speed limits.
- 5.4 The draft new Local Transport Plan identified a safety and speed programme over two years and Shrewsbury had been identified as a priority.
- 5.5 The Chairman referred to an application further on in the agenda to part fund vehicle activated speed signs and possible locations for these were discussed. These would probably stay in fixed positions for six months at a time. Suggestions included the locations already mentioned in 5.2 above but also Gains Park Way, Welshpool Road, just before the Co-op heading into town, and the Mount by the Garage. The 30 mph in Radbrook Road had not been extended yet as there were issues to address regarding a mini island which had been proposed by the police.

- 5.6 The Head of Transportation said that speed and safety management would be a focus in the Local Transport Plan as this had had been identified as the number one concern for 66% of respondents to a recent police questionnaire. In terms of timing he thought that the speed limit modifications could be made next year.

Parking

- 5.7 Both Members of the Committee and members of the public raised issues regarding parking particularly in the following areas: Swiss Farm Road, the hospital end of Crowmeole Lane, the Racecourse Lane end of Carlton Road, Well Meadow Road, Napoleonic Drive, Carlton Close and Westhope Avenue.
- 5.8 The Head of Transportation said he was aware of issues and problems on all roads around the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and on some roads double yellow lines had been added to junctions to address safety issues. The problems of addressing hospital parking in a way that would not be detrimental to local residents were discussed. A single yellow line restricting parking times during the day time was a possible option and members suggested that even doing this on one side of the road might help. However finding a solution favoured by all would be challenging and it was important that talking took place within communities on possible options.
- 5.9 It was agreed that a general letter being sent to the Chief Executive of SATH pointing out the problems and asking that staff be reminded to park considerately in residential areas.

AH

6. Local Transport Plan/Bus Strategy Consultation

- 6.1 The Head of Transportation explained that financial pressures on the budget for provision of supported local bus services meant that money available would have to be targeted at bus services essential in enabling people to go about their daily lives.
- 6.2 One suggestion in the draft bus strategy was that subsidy be removed from supported evening services and Sunday services. The consultation currently underway sought opinion on that and feedback on what the direct impact would be on people.
- 6.3 Members of the Committee and members of the public raised concerns around Service 1 to the hospital as visiting time finished at 8.30 pm. It was felt essential that a bus service should fit with hospital visiting hours.
- 6.4 The Council had already decided that from 1 April 2011 concessions would be removed from Shrewsbury Park and Ride and also from pre 9.30 am services. National funding for concessionary travel did not

cover this. The impact of this would be monitored and it was expected that people would now drive into town more.

- 6.6 A member of the public questioned the end of concessionary fares on Park and Ride. The Head of Transportation referred to other services into the town centre that could be used.

- 6.7 The Bus Strategy formed part of a wider Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Shropshire which covered all aspects of transport and highways. Details of how to participate in the consultation on the LTP and its area strategies were reported and further information was available on both the Bus Strategy and the LTP consultations from www.shropshire.gov.uk/transportconsultation

7. 2011 Census

- 7.1 Alistair Bates, Census Area Manager, Shropshire explained the arrangements for the 2011 Census and emphasised the importance of completion and return of forms as all sorts of decisions were taken based on census statistics, including funding for local authorities.

- 7.2 He emphasised that the form was not as complicated as it might appear as although it contained 32 pages, an individual need only complete four of these. A helpline was available for those requiring help with completion or collection. Mr Bates asked people to please help get the message across that it was worthwhile filling it in. He offered to attend any community groups or local organisations to explain more.

- 7.3 The Chairman thanked Mr Bates for the information.

8. Local News and Information

- 8.1 Mr Adams reported on the locations of the new dog mess bins in the Gains Park area. He also reported on a lease signed recently for extension of the allotments at Bowbrook.

He also reported that 250 dwellings were being built on the hospital site of which 35% would be affordable housing. The new Shelton Hospital should open next year with up to 100 extra jobs on site.

- 8.4 Mr Roberts reported on issues relating to the new crossing point on Mytton Oak Road which was proving controversial. He also referred to parking problems in Falcons Way and the five additional dog waste bins which would be installed around the Radbrook Pool area and Torrins Drive.

- 8.5 He referred to the two very sad recent deaths at Radbrook Pool and hoped that the community could move on from this.

- 8.6 Mr Nutting reported that efforts towards a new Community Centre Scheme in Copthorne were ongoing.

He also referred to the extension of allotments at Bowbrook and land close by to these where it was hoped to establish some football and cricket pitches particularly as both Shelton and Beacon cricket clubs needed more space. This would be a slightly longer term project as funding would need to be secured from a number of sources and there would be access and highway issues to address.

- 8.7 Mr Nutting also referred to the current Hospital Services consultation and expressed concern regarding issues of access for people living in the south and west of the county and in Wales. His view was that it was easier to move services for adults rather than those for children.

9. Update from Community Action Officer

- 9.1 Gwyn Bevan, Community Action Officer, reported that he was aware of issues related to anti social behaviour on Larkhill Road and would be following this up. He reminded those present that part of his role was related to tackling crime and anti social behaviour and he invited people to contact him if there were any problems.

- 9.2 He referred to the improved BMX track on Shorncliffe Drive which was extremely well used. Funding had been accessed to complete it and one more bin was needed by the gate.

- 9.3 Funding available to the LJC would be reduced next year and he encouraged anyone with projects or initiatives for community benefit to make contact with him to see if the Committee might be able to help.

- 9.4 The Community Planning Survey had now been analysed and the Planning Group continued to meet on the last Wednesday of every month. This would enable an action plan to be drawn up, including one on developing sport and community facilities. It had been a strong piece of community work providing a solid evidence base.

10. Council Budget Update

The Chairman referred to the serious financial position facing Shropshire Council. The Head of Transportation reported on the £70 million which needed to be saved by 2014 and drew attention to the ring fencing of protected grant eg for education. This meant that in a lot of service areas cuts faced could be as much as around 20 - 30%.

11. Public Question Time

- 11.1 A member of the public queried the levelling of Council tax

throughout the county following establishment of a unitary authority. The Chairman confirmed that the intention was to equalise Council tax by levelling downwards, rather than upwards as originally intended.

- 11.2 A member of the public commented that LJC meetings were excellent but felt that there should still be an opportunity for the public to meet with Shropshire Council to ask questions. It was confirmed that on 28 April 2011 there would be a Shrewsbury wide LJC meeting on the same night as the Shrewsbury Town Council and there would be an opportunity for the public to air views and ask questions.

12. Grant Applications

Gwyn Bevan introduced a report on grant funding applications made to the Committee (a copy is attached to the signed note of the meeting)

The Committee considered the applications and **RESOLVED**

- A Radbrook Community Association - approval of £147 grant towards purchase of Boccia bowls and arranging three evenings of multi age activity at the Community Centre
- B Shrewsbury Dial A Ride - approval of £1000 grant towards improvement of IT to make the service more efficient
- C Barnabas Centre - approval of £500 towards Cage Football on condition that it can be deployed with the youth clubs in the Bowbrook and Radbrook areas and utilised at a fun day on Shorncliffe during a school holiday
- D that the approval of funding of £2700 towards an Architects structural survey and feasibility report for Gains Park Community Centre be referred to Cabinet for approval, as the Committee was not quorate for this decision as Mr Adams had declared a personal and prejudicial interest and withdrawn from the meeting.
- E that the approval of a grant for £2284 towards refurbishing the Meole Brace Scout and Guide Hut Kitchen be referred to Cabinet for approval, as the Committee was not quorate for this decision as Mr Roberts had declared a personal and prejudicial interest and withdrawn from the meeting.
- F Shrewsbury Town Council-approval for £3200 for 50% funding of four vehicle activated speeding signs.

13. Date of Next Meeting

First meeting of Shrewsbury wide LJC :
Thursday 28 April 2011 time tbc at the Guildhall.

Next meeting of Bowbrook Copthorne and Radbrook LJC:
Thursday 7 July 2011 at 7pm at Radbrook Primary School

Chairman:.....

Date:.....