



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee
19 July 2012
7.00 p.m.

<u>Item</u>
5
Public

BOWBROOK, COPTHORNE AND RADBROOK JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTION STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY 2012 IN OXON OLD SCHOOL HALL, WELSHPOOL ROAD, BICTON HEATH, SHREWSBURY SY3 5AH 7.00 P.M. – 9.15 P.M.

Responsible Officer Fiona Howe
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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)

Officers Present:

Gwyn Bevan, Community Regeneration Officer
Fiona Howe, Committee Officer
Alan Penton, Leisure Development Manager

ACTION

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillor Keith Roberts.

Apologies were received from local residents Mr Greaves and Mr Davies.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was made:

PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL MEMBER/OFFICER ITEM

REASON

Councillor Peter Adams	Minute	He was a Trustee of the of Bicton Health Community Centre Board
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16. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting of the Bowbrook,
Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee held on 7th July

2011 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

17. REPORTS FROM POLICE REPRESENTATIVES

PC Mike Dulson and CSO Jacqui Baldwin were in attendance and presented an update on the issues affecting the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook wards.

PC Dulson advised the meeting that reported crimes for Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook areas were below the average for the West Midlands, and included cases of criminal damage, house burglary, violent crime and theft, which had been investigated and dealt with.

It was noted that there had been a spate of burglaries during the summer, but to date this had reduced dramatically, and the Local Policing Team had undertaken a lot of work on crime prevention with the community.

In response to questions, officers provided the following information:

- Anti-social behaviour was a priority for police, and the local team would be monitoring areas where repeat offences were reported.
- Concern was raised over disruption to cover during forthcoming national events. It was noted that from 1 July to 18 September a zero leave policy had been implemented to ensure full cover, even with certain officers being seconded to the Olympics.
- A continuing issue was raised over inconsiderate parking by hospital staff and visitors on Swiss Farm Road, and others in the vicinity of the hospital. It was noted that local policing teams had issued leaflets previously advising drivers on how to park considerately, but indicated that they would carry out more patrols in the area and leaflet offending vehicles to help address the situation. It was also agreed that further correspondence be issued to the hospital's Chief Executive asking that they put in place some provision to address the issues affecting residents, including extending parking provision for visitors and staff, implement a one way system using the top and bottom exits, and reminding staff to park considerately.
- Concern was raised over increased vehicle speeds once works had been completed on Somerby Way. It was noted that enforcement would need to be undertaken, over an extended period of time, once the limits were returned to 30

**Local
Policing
Team**

**Committee
Officer**

**Local
Policing
Team**

mph.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their attendance.

18. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

The Leisure Development Manager was in attendance and presented information on leisure functions within the Council, including the provision of facilities throughout the county, and leisure development training for clubs and coaching.

Members of the public were advised of the various funding opportunities that are available for sports groups and organisations, including the Sport England Small Grants Programme, Sportsmatch, Protecting Playing Fields, Iconic Facilities Fund, and the Inspired Facilities Fund. These funds range in size and can be applied to a wide range of schemes including activities for 'after-school' clubs to building modernisation. It was noted that it may be possible to access some of the funding pots to help develop the Quarry Swimming Centre or rebuild the facility.

In the run up to the Olympics there was a drive to sign up 70,000 volunteers to help with events across the country, and the Leisure Development Team would be working with volunteers in the county to facilitate local events.

A discussion ensued on the lack of leisure provision in the area, and the following responses were provided:

- Residents requested information on how financing could be achieved to develop a sports facility in the area. Mr Penton advised residents of the importance of raising the issue over need for facilities with the Council, to ensure it was included within future strategies. He stressed that there was a lack of funding available from Shropshire Council to fund the development of leisure provision across the county and that the only way to fund a development in the short term would be to seek external funding. However, in the future further funding could be made available for projects through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and it was important that developers consult with Leisure Teams.
- A question was raised over the provision of swimming facilities in the town centre, requesting that consideration be given to the development of a 50 metre pool at the Quarry Fitness and Swimming Centre to help develop local talent by providing a competition standard facility. Mr Penton advised that the current facility could continue to function for the next couple of years, but Sport England had suggested a rebuild

**Leisure
Development
Manager**

would provide a more modern and cost-efficient facility. The Chairman raised concern over the provision of a rebuild, stating that there was an issue with any new build being built out of town. Mr Penton advised that current research showed that 89% of users drove to leisure facilities which presented a problem at the Quarry where there is limited parking provision. He stated that the Quarry wasn't providing good value for money as the building was very old and difficult to maintain. There was significant heat loss, deterioration issues with the roof and walls and access concerns. He did stress that the Council could continue to maintain the building for several more years but that the maintenance cost would continue to rise and make the facility uneconomical to run. It was noted that studies by Sport England had indicated that the Quarry was providing more water space than required for the number of residents, especially as there were other facilities in the area. There would be concern over rebuilding a pool of similar size which would be unlikely to receive external funding support. A 50m pool would be outside identified need and could not be justified.

The Chairman thanked Mr Penton for his attendance and assistance during the deliberations.

19. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

Councillor Adams advised residents that he was working with Council Officers to have extra litter bins installed around the ward. He added that there had been some issues, but was working to resolve them.

Members were advised that the new Redwoods Centre would be open in autumn 2012, and that the existing Shelton Hospital Building would probably be developed into flats and apartments, but nothing had been confirmed.

A number of cars had been broken into across the town, and tools had been taken. It was noted that this was an isolated incident, but encouraged people to take all valuables out of vehicles to reduce the risks.

Councillor Nutting advised that issues in respect of a care home in Larkhill Road, had been brought to his attention, and progress was being made to resolve them, but the matter was confidential.

20. UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY ACTION OFFICER

The Community Action Officer was in attendance and advised the meeting that he had been working with local communities on local

clean ups, and if any residents required information and assistance on environmental assessments that they should contact him for further information. He also reminded members of the public that he would be happy to take issues and concerns to the next PACT meeting if they were unable to attend.

It was noted that the Olympic Torch Relay would be visiting various locations on 30 May 2012, but due to security reasons he was unable to confirm the exact route at that time.

The Queen's Jubilee would be taking place between 2 – 5 June 2012, where communities would be celebrating with various events, and to contact him if residents wanted help in setting up a local event.

21. PLANNING ISSUES UPDATE

Shelton Hospital Development

The Chairman provided the meeting with an update on planning issues affecting the area. It was noted that the Redwoods Centre was on schedule to open in the autumn, and the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust had appointed consultants to advise it on options for the future of the existing buildings and site in general.

Officers had given some preliminary advice re-affirming the importance of the listed building and its setting, stressing that it remains fundamental to consideration of any options, with scope for some flexibility with regard to the other buildings and land in order to achieve a viable and appropriate scheme for future use.

In response to questions the Chairman confirmed that any development of the existing site would take at least 12 months, with a potential for the site to stand empty for several years. Concern was raised over vandalism on the site if it wasn't properly secured. There were also concerns over a number of protected trees on the site, and what would happen to them if the site was developed.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

An update was provided on the purpose of a Community Infrastructure Levy, and the benefit this could have for local communities. It was noted that a proportion of the developer fee would be made available to Town and Parish Councils to spend locally to benefit the local area, however 90% of the funding would be spent on infrastructure in the vicinity of the development site.

It was noted that there were issues over ward boundaries with Bicton Parish Council, and detailed discussions would need to be

held on how CILs would be spent.

Site Allocation and Management of Development (SAMDev)

The meeting was advised that Shropshire Council's Cabinet were due to meet on 7 March 2012 to agree the consultation process. Once the consultation was formally approved it was the Council's intention to hold town wide meetings to consider SAMDev across the town and within specific areas.

There would also be a number of drop in sessions organised in respect of the Shrewsbury West Sustainable Urban Extension and the proposed Bowbrook/Radbrook development site, to enable residents to view proposals, followed up with public meetings to consider their concerns and opinions.

The Chairman requested that members of the public sign the attendance sheet if they wished to be kept informed of meeting dates and venues.

In response to questions raised by residents, the Chairman confirmed that housing figures had been identified by the Government and discussions were still ongoing over exact figures, but the Council acknowledged there was a lack of housing in the county which needed addressing to ensure adequate provision for the future.

The Chairman advised those present that proposals currently stated that a target of 26,000 houses would need to be developed in the next 20 years, which indicated between 4,000 – 6,000 houses for Shrewsbury as a whole. The SAMDev plans showed possible development areas capable of developing 120,000 houses, which would only result on a small proportion of the sites being developed.

Residents stressed the need for all stakeholders to be involved in the public meetings to ensure a full and inclusive discussion on proposals for the area.

**Committee
Officer**

22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited members of the public to raise questions and comments:

- A member of the public requested assurance that Council funds were being used correctly. It was noted that both Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council were subject to auditing, and this process ensured that spending was undertaken correctly.
- Park and Ride: A resident raised concern over the removal

of concessions for senior citizens on the park and ride schemes in Shrewsbury, stating that due to the Council's decision to remove the concessions, the numbers of people using the service had declined as people were not willing to use the facility since the changes had been implemented. A request was made to reduce the charges by 50% for senior citizens to encourage them to use the facility, and increase income for the Council. Councillor Adams indicated that a Transport Task and Finish Group had been established and requested that any members of the public send any questions on transport issues to the Committee Officer coordinating the meetings.

**Transport
Task & Finish
Group**

- A resident thanked Members for arranging for dog fouling in the area being cleaned up, but requested that it be done on a regular basis. It was agreed that the Community Action Office follow this request up and report back to the next meeting.
- Concern was raised over the cuts to bus services across Shrewsbury, especially the No 1 service which services the local area. The Chairman stated that due to funding cuts the Council had to cut subsidies to bus services, which had resulted in Arriva reducing evening and Sunday services. A discussion ensued and a request was made for Shrewsbury Town Council to consider subsidising the service to ensure staff and visitors to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the surrounding area were able to access the site for extended hours.
- Porthill Bridge Works: It was noted that during the maintenance work a passenger ferry was being put in place as a joint venue between a private company, Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council. The Chairman advised the meeting that they had no further information regarding how the service would work, but the service would be promoted nearer the time where all queries should be addressed.
- Emstry Cemetery: A resident requested clarification on the possible use of land in the area, previously identified for a community leisure facility, as a future burial group, once the existing facility had reached capacity. The Chairman confirmed that the Council were investigating the site to ascertain if the land was suitable, but they were also looking at other sites.
- Allotments: The Chairman confirmed that 25 allotments would be developed by the end of the year, which would reduce the current waiting list from 30 to just 5. Assurance was given that once allotments were in place, only an act of

**Community
Action
Officer**

**Councillor
Nutting**

parliament could remove them so they would be available for long term community use.

- Redwoods Centre: Concern was raised over an increase in traffic and a suggestion was made to open an access route around the existing boiler house to address residents concerns. The Chairman indicated that an access route already existed, but this would direct more traffic down Somerby Way.

The Chairman thanked resident for their comments and questions.

23. DECISION REPORT - APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

RESOLVED:

That the following projects funded from the 2011/2012 budget, be approved:

- (a) Oxon Bowling Club – That a contribution of £5,835 be approved under delegated authority, to support the development of a new Club House.
- (b) Shelton and Oxon Old School Community Hall – That a contribution of £5,000 be approved under delegated authority, to continue to improve facilities and external space.
- (c) Gains Park Community Centre – That a contribution of £25,000 be approved under delegated authority, to undertake essential repair work and structural work to improve the kitchen, meeting room and storage facilities.
- (d) The Redwoods Centre, Shelton Hospital – That a contribution of £2,000 be approved under delegated authority, to support the commissioning of art work delivered by local people.
- (e) Beacon Cricket Club – That a contribution of £2,927 be approved under delegated authority, to develop the facilities, and develop younger members.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that future meetings of the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee would be held on:

- 19th July 2012 at 7.00 p.m. at Radbrook Primary School, Calverton Way, Shrewsbury SY3 6DZ

It was confirmed that the Committee Officer would confirm the date of the February/March 2013 meeting once a venue had been

**Community
Action
Officer**

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confirmed.

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Chairman:.....

Date:.....