



Committee and Date  
Bowbrook, Copthorne and  
Radbrook Local Joint Committee  
  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
  
7.00 p.m.

Item  
  
**3**  
  
Public

## **BOWBROOK, COPTHORNE AND RADBROOK JOINT COMMITTEE**

### **NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTION STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012 IN RADBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL, CALVERTON WAY, SHREWSBURY, SY3 6DZ**

**7.00 P.M. – 8.45 P.M.**

**Responsible Officer** Fiona Howe  
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#### **Committee Members Present:**

Councillor Peter Adams (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council) (Minute 8 onwards)  
Councillor Keith Roberts (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)  
Councillor Peter Nutting (Chairman) (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)

#### **Officers Present:**

Clive Wright, Area Director (Central)  
Gwyn Bevan, Community Regeneration Officer  
Fiona Howe, Committee Officer

## **ACTION**

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor Keith Roberts and seconded by Councillor Peter Nutting.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Peter Nutting be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no apologies received from members of the Committee.

Apologies were received from local resident, Ms Wendy Churchill.

### **3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor Peter Nutting and seconded by Councillor Keith Roberts.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Keith Roberts be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

#### **4. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting of the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee held 16 February 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

The content of the Comments, Questions and Suggestions Action Sheet, was noted, and a copy was attached to the signed minutes.

#### **5. REPORTS FROM POLICE REPRESENTATIVES**

CSO Chris Zacharek was in attendance and presented an update on the issues affecting the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook wards.

CSO Zacharek indicated that reported crimes for the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook areas had seen a reduction of 21% in comparison to the same period last year.

The key priority for Copthorne and Radbrook centred on tackling anti-social behaviour, and introducing high visibility patrols to combat the problems being encountered in the area. Burglary would be the key focus for Bowbrook, with an aim to reduce the volume by using targeted policing. It was noted that there were leaflets available to provide advice on crime prevention, as well as up to date advice on the Police website [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk). Residents were reassured that figures were low compared to other areas of Shrewsbury.

A member of the public raised concern over vehicles continuing to park on pavements on Stanhill Road. It was reported that officers had been patrolling the area, but the situation had not improved. The officer advised residents that they should not hesitate to contact the new 101 number to report any incidents in order that the Police could take the appropriate action, but he would take their comments back to colleagues to take the appropriate action. Those present were reminded to continue to use 999 if there was an emergency.

Police

#### **6. LOCALISM AND LOCALITY WORKING: SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S APPROACH**

The Area Director (Central) was in attendance and provided a presentation on Shropshire Council's approach to Localism and Locality Working.

The new Localism Act came in around 12 months ago, and Council's were in the process of interpreting what it meant for the individual communities. There had been a fundamental shift of power from Westminster to Local Authorities, and local communities, and the role of the elected Members was being redesigned to

ensure they were driving the decision making process for their individual communities, and taking action to support and encourage social responsibility, volunteering and philanthropy. The bill was intended to make it easier for people to understand what their rights were and come together to improve their communities.

From an early stage it was important to give communities ownership and help them succeed. As an example the meeting was advised that the Council had been working closely with the Voluntary and Community Sector in respect of health care provision, and as a result of that work saving had been achieved, and more people were being helped to stay in their own homes.

Schools were also becoming more independent and deciding how best to spend their budgets to provide a better service for local communities, and create better areas to live.

The key headlines include:

- More power to individuals – this process would allow people to have control over their own personal care budgets, and provide them with a greater choice of services that address their individual needs. To support this move, GPs were coming together into a consortium to determine local care needs by listening to local people.
- More power for communities – in the future this responsibility may result in the extension of Local Joint Committee budgets with more say from communities on how monies are spent. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) could be one area where communities help determine how the budget was spent, based on community need.
- More power to Local Government – Shropshire Council was developing a strategy to commission services from other organisations, rather than continue on the traditional path of being a service provider. There were various ways of undertaking the ground breaking work, including involvement with the Voluntary and Community Sector, private enterprise, and creating a separate Council led private enterprise. The ethos for the move was to develop new ways to deliver services to make limited budgets go further.

The meeting was advised that Shropshire Council had undergone unprecedented funding cuts imposed by central government in recent years, and these were expected to continue, so it was essential to encourage local people to become entrepreneurial and help develop service within their locality.

There were several key areas of activity in respect of locality working and these included local Members developing their role to become community leaders. It was essential for the Council to develop

strong relationships with Town and Parish Councils, to allow smooth transition of devolving services, and key assets and services were already being transferred to Shrewsbury Town Council. The changing landscape was testing Shropshire Council, but the organisation was working on a step back approach to allow better placed Town Council's to take on service delivery.

Place Plans and Neighbourhood Plans were being drawn up across the county, but the Council had identified that more work needed to be undertaken in the central area to develop plans to understand and identify community need.

Work had been happening around Shropshire over the past 12 months on a Market Town Regeneration programme, which had not included Shrewsbury. The Area Director (Central) had questioned the decision not to include Shrewsbury as he believed it to be an important market town. It was noted that plans were in place to consider how to develop and bring people into the town, and Shrewsbury should be seen as a different animal to other market towns in the county.

Capacity building in the Voluntary and Community Sector would allow better service delivery than had been achieved through Shropshire Council, and develop markets locally to buy those services from. Lots of work had been undertaken over the past 12 months, and the Voluntary Sector had already successfully taken on service delivery. It was important to develop a Team Shropshire approach to ensure all sectors were efficient with resources and roles organisations play in the future.

It was noted that Shrewsbury was looking at how to make people aware of budgets, and identify what was important to people, while working with community to buy services more cheaply, but there were large gaps in understanding at the present time. Residents were advised that nothing quite so radical had been undertaken before.

The following questions were raised, and responses provided:

- Localism was a good idea in practice, but how where the Council going to engage and encourage with large proportions of the community when only a small percentage of people ever get involved. Elected Members would be working closely with local communities and in the future local people would elect a person who was responsible for their needs. There were issues with getting the wider community involved, and the importance of engaging them in places they normally congregate, such as schools, community centres, shops, leisure facilities and having the conversations locally was important to developing service provision and matching them to community needs.
- Place Plans were a priority for Shropshire, but what work had

been undertaken to develop a plan for the LJC area. Discussions on Place Plan development work had yet to be undertaken specifically for the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook LJC areas. A 5 year plan would need to be developed to identify the areas need, including leisure and recreation facilities, in light of the designated recreation land being utilised for a new cemetery provision.

- A resident raised concern that Section 106 agreement monies had been generated through recent developments, but there were not mention of the allocation of funding within the Place Plans for Shrewsbury. Councillor Nutting confirmed that this information had been included within the Place Plans document, and it refers to Shorncliffe Drive developments, and additional lease for 25 allotments at Bowbrook.

The Area Director (Central) indicated that the first phase of the Place Plan would be revised shortly to identify priorities and gaps for the town. It was also important to develop a more detailed Neighbourhood Plan opportunity to enable the priorities and gaps to be identified. The process was at an early stage and no funding had been allocated to the process at the present time.

- Consideration was given to developing better ways to promote meetings, such as the LJC, as public engagement would be critical to the success of the proposed schemes. The Area Director stated that nationally local community meetings did not bring in large areas of the community, which is why the Council needed to go out into the community instead of expecting people to come to them. It would be important to develop regular contact and have a broad conversation through multi agencies such as the Police. It was stressed that Local Joint Committees were only one method of engagement and there was a need to get into the community to get feedback in order to change and adapt. Residents stressed the importance of building trust through the process and allowing people to see that their views count.
- Clarification was requested on the notice given by Planning Officers over development objections. The Chairman advised that there were national statutory time limits imposed for all applications, and it was important to advise the Council of their views within these times to ensure the issues were considered as part of the application process. The Area Director indicated that if the Council refuse an application the wider community can put forward an argument for need, and could persuade the Council to approve an application if it was proven.
- Concern was raised over the lack of evidence in respect of the Voluntary and Community Sector's achievements and successes, and that previously the Council had issued grant

funding to these groups, without consideration being given to which other organisations in the area provide the same service. The Area Director reported that the way in which the Council worked with the Voluntary Sector was changing and the Council was aware that the organisation providing the service must be the best option for the community, and this may not always be the same group that has always provided a service. There had to be a range of providers to make sure that we are developing local employment opportunities. It was noted that discussions were being undertaken with the Voluntary and Community Sector and they were in a position, and putting pressure on Shropshire Council, to move forward with proposals.

- Clarification was requested on how long contracts would run for before service providers had to compete with other companies to deliver services. The Area Director reported that the Council wanted providers to have enough time to set up and create a successful environment to deliver high quality service provision. It was important to note that private providers could also bid for services, and although a preference would be for a local provider, they would also be considering bids from outside the county.

The Chairman thanked the Area Director for his attendance, and providing a little more clarity on how Localism would affect Shropshire's services.

## **7. AREA DIRECTORS ROLE**

The Area Director (Central) addressed the meeting advising that Shropshire Council had appointed 3 Area Directors, one in the north, central and southern areas, to work closely with elected Members and ensure the needs of the community were more responsive. There had been issues over the slow pace in developing the roles, but the process was starting to drive forward.

The Area Directors, who had been in place for 12 months, and were also responsible for managing the Community Action Teams, and it was envisaged that they would engage with communities in the future and develop their roles further. Each Area Director was responsible for other services within the Council, with George Candler (North) having overall responsibility for Leisure Services, Chris Edwards (South) being responsible for Highways, and Clive Wright (Central) taking on the newly formed responsibility for Troubled Families, to initiate change and provide solutions.

## **8. HIGHWAY AND GENERAL UPDATE**

The Chairman referred to the update sheet providing information on progress for Swiss Farm Road parking restrictions, Welshpool Road and Somerby Drive speed limits, Mytton Oak Road Pedestrian

Crossing, New Burial Ground for Shrewsbury, and Westhope Avenue parking issues.

Parking Issues: Swiss Farm Road and Westhope Avenue

The Chairman invited Mr Cromack, local resident, to address the meeting. He raised concern over the current parking problems on Westhope Avenue, due to hospital staff, patients and visitors using nearby residential areas as a free parking provision. The options provided by Shropshire Council's Highways Department were excellent, but he requested clarification on which options could realistically be implemented. Residents were concerned that the situation would only get worse, since the hospital had indicated that they were considering raising their parking charges, and hoped that the NHS would reconsider the proposed changes. It was noted that Swiss Farm Road had always had problems with people parking inconsiderately, and causing traffic flow problems for buses, and other larger vehicles. Monitoring of the area had already been undertaken in respect of the existing situation, but concern was that the increase in charges would push more people onto residential streets. Residents reiterated the need for policing of the area to continue to stop inconsiderate drivers from blocking driveways, causing obstructions on pavements, and obstructing emergency vehicle access.

It was noted that a consultation on reducing the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on Welshpool Road (from Oxon Business Park to Shepherds Lane) and Somerby Drive had been completed, and engineering works were being progressed to enable the provision to be implemented in the autumn. Councillor Adams raised concern over the current inability to enforce 20 mph limits, stressing the need to reduce the speeds further to promote road safety in populated residential areas, but this would only be practical if legislation was changed around enforcement. He advised the meeting that it was his intention to work on reducing the speed limit of Gains Park Way to a 30 mph limit, and welcomed the work that had been done to date to reduce speed limits in other areas of his ward. He also confirmed that work also needed to be undertaken to put in restrictions to stop lorries parking in the residential area, and assured residents that he expected this to be in place by autumn.

Concern had been raised over an increased number of hospital staff parking on Chestnut Close due to a lack of provision on the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital site. It was noted that double yellow lines had been installed on one side of the close to help resolve the problems, but stressed that the problem was affecting the wider area. Members indicated that staff from the PCT were also using the residential areas to park, again due to a lack of parking provision on site, and with the introduction of the Redwoods Centre, this could exacerbate the situation further.

It was agreed that there was a need to address the wider concerns for the area, and set up a public meeting with residents, and representatives from the Police and Shropshire Council Highways to

Clive Wright/  
Members

look at the problems being faced by residents. Representatives from the hospital would need to be invited to attend to explain the future plans, answer growing concerns and find a way forward to solve the problems.

#### Mytton Oak Road Pedestrian Crossing

The Chairman reported that work was underway on repairing the damaged pedestrian crossing on Mytton Oak Road noting that the work was taking longer than the specified 5 weeks, but hoped that repairs would be completed in the near future.

#### New Burial Ground for Shrewsbury

Residents were advised that following a decision by Cabinet in July 2012, Shropshire Council was planning to progress proposals for a development of a new Burial Ground for Shrewsbury on land off Mytton Oak Road (adjacent to Bowbrook Allotments), due to a lack of capacity at the existing site, which would see it closing in 4 to 5 years time. It was noted that the Council considered alternative sites but had identified the recreation ground as the best option due to its low water table, and location. It was expected that the new site would provide a provision for the next 50 years. Residents were reassured that there would be no chapel on site as the existing facilities on Longden Road, and London Road would continue to operate.

In response to questions raised, Councillor Adams confirmed that access would be available opposite Oak Lane, and assured residents that Highways would undertake a full impact study in respect of highway safety prior to any planning permission being approved. Concern was raised over the change of use of the site from recreational space. Members confirmed that the development would take up the whole 20 acre site, so an alternative recreation site would need to be identified. Councillor Adams reported that he had been advised that the decision was to be deferred, but found out after the meeting that Cabinet had ratified the decision. He stressed that all three ward Members were discussing the situation with the Council.

## **9. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION**

Councillor Roberts advised residents that the government had relaxed Sunday trading laws to accommodate the Olympic Games and enable shops to trade from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. This would continue until 9 September 2012.

Councillor Roberts took on his role as the Mayor of Shrewsbury on 14 May 2012, and had been very busy in the role and seen how much Shrewsbury had to offer in the short time he had been in position, and how proud he was to be Mayor of such a great town.

Councillor Adams advised that the Bowbrook Allotments lease had now been signed, and hoped that work would commence on the 25 plots in the autumn ready for the new planting season. He

confirmed that there would be around 100 plots in total, which had been a huge achievement for the group which had been set up around 5 years ago, stressing that the success was down to the fantastic way the committee worked to encourage members to join.

In response to a question raised by a resident, Councillor Adams confirmed that the Council had set up a Transport Task and Finish Group to look at Shropshire's transport provision as a whole and would be inviting Mr Marshall to attend a future meeting to consider the reduction of charges for concessions.

Councillor Nutting advised that complaints had been received over the lack of management of undergrowth on the severn way walk. He reported that the woodland was owned by the Berwick Estate, and that he was working with them to try to resolve the problems.

## **10. COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE**

The Community Action Officer was in attendance and advised that funding was still available for community projects, and that the projects who received funding at the last meeting, had progressed well.

The organisers of Gains Park Community Hall project had done a fantastic job, and the facility was an asset to the local area. It was confirmed that a website had been developed and was now up and running to promote the wider use of the hall. It was noted that the Cricket Club were in the process of erecting their score board.

The meeting was advised that Sgt Mike Dulson, and his subsequent replacement, was now responsible for complete Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook areas, and there were a total of 8 CSO's attached to the locality. It was confirmed that Sgt Dulson had been promoted, but would still working in the area and was the contact for any issues.

## **11. DECISION REPORT - APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING**

The Community Action Officer introduced a report on the grant funding applications made to the Committee (a copy is attached to the signed notes of the meeting). It was noted that a total of £15,547 of funding, including a carry forward of £677 from 2011/12, had been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the approval of the following grant be referred to Cabinet for approval, as the Committee was not quorate for the decision.

- (a) Bowbrook Allotment Community – That a contribution of £850 be approved to support the development of a 'Wise Watering' project to make the site more sustainable and self-sufficient with regard to water usage.

Community  
Action  
Officer/  
Committee  
Officer

## 12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

- A resident raised concern the lack of enforcement over unauthorised adverts in Shrewsbury, parking on grass verges, and cycling on Porthill Bridge. He stated he had raised the matter with the Council previously, but had only received a response that day confirmed that a request had been made to Legal Services to look at the matter further. The Area Director (Central) responded to his concerns, advising that it had taken time to address the mindset of the Council over a 'one size fits all' approach, but they were now in a position to set up local enforcement teams, who would work closely with local Policing teams to resolve enforcement issues. The Chairman added that by-laws were now being addressed, and deliberations were underway to consider devolving powers back to the Town Council as a locally focused authority, which had the ability and power to promote by-laws.
- Since Shropshire Council had ceased cardboard collection in 2011, what was happening to cardboard recycling, and as Veolia were providing a reduced service provision had the contract costs also been revisited. Councillor Nutting confirmed that the contract didn't specify a cardboard specific collection, and only referred to recycling targets of 50%. It has been reported that cardboard collection interfered with green waste, and it had become difficult to sell on. Councillor Nutting had spoken to the Members involved in the decision making process, and they had confirmed that an alternative service would be brought in next year. In the longer term it would be better to go back to black bin only collections and allow sorting to be undertaken at a suitable site. Member confirmed that real moves were being taken to deal with the issues being faced by residents, but to reintroduce a complete cardboard collection would be an additional service to the existing contract and would be extremely costly to the Council.
- Concern was raised over the limited recycling collections, and requested clarification on why Veolia did not collect drinks and milk cartons, and electrical items, instead, residents had to travel to the household recycling centres to dispose of them. Councillor Nutting advised that if a single bin collection scheme was introduced, there would be provision to recycle a more diverse amount of products, but stressed that this type of service would only be available several years into the future, as there were 27 years left on the existing Veolia contract. Councillor Roberts added that recycling bins were sited at most supermarkets and also in public house car parks around the area, which would take cardboard and tetra packs, but residents

reiterated their concerns over residents without transport were unable to take advantage of those facilities.

- Councillor Nutting confirmed that he had received letters from residents of Chestnut Close requesting that action be taken over inappropriate car parking, and advised that this matter was being looked at and the letters had been put on file as an official record.
- The Chairman reminded all residents present that the SAMDev consultation concluded on 20 July 2012, stating that if they had not submitted any comments they should do as a matter of urgency. The Council had received over 80,000 responses to date, advising that it would take a while to work through and disseminate the information received, and a working group had been set up to sort through the responses. Members thanked all those present who had responded to the consultation.

The Chairman thanked residents for their comments and questions.

### **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee would be held on 5 March 2013 at 7.00 p.m. at the Grapes, Welshpool Road, Shrewsbury.

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Shrewsbury Wide Local Joint Committee would be held on 29 November 2012 at 7.00 p.m. in the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....