

## BOWBROOK, COPTHORNE AND RADBROOK JOINT COMMITTEE

### NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTION STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013 AT THE GRAPES INN, WELSHPOOL ROAD, BICTON HEATH, SHREWSBURY, SY3 8BH

**7.00 P.M. – 9.10 P.M.**

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

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

#### **Officers Present:**

Martin Huckle, Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service  
 PC Colin Barrett, West Mercia Police  
 Steve Roberts, Shropshire County PCT  
 Chris Needham, Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust  
 John Ellis-Tipton, Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust  
 Andrew Hughes, South Staffs & Shropshire Healthcare NHS Trust  
 Paul Haycox, Head of Innovation & Special Projects, Shropshire County CCG  
 Tim Sneddon, Service Manager Environmental Maintenance, Shropshire Council  
 Kevin Aitken, Highways Manager, Shropshire Council  
 Gwyn Bevan, Community Action Officer

#### **ACTION**

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

There were no apologies received from members of the Committee.

Apologies were received from local resident, Selby Martin, Wendy Churchill, and Pamela Turner.

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

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting of the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee held on 19 July 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. A copy of the comments, questions and statements action sheet was attached to the signed minutes.

### 3. REPORTS FROM POLICE REPRESENTATIVES

PC Colin Barrett was in attendance and presented an update on the issues affecting the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook wards.

The meeting was advised that the police were aware of issues of anti-social behaviour around the A&E department, and police had been dealing with the behaviour of patients under the influence of alcohol, as well of searching for vulnerable patients who have absconded from the hospital.

In more local areas the policing team was aware of specific areas in Gains Park/Pensfold areas being targeted for anti-social behaviour. However, overall the crime figures for the 3 wards was low in comparison to the West Midlands area.

Nationally there had been an increase in the theft of gold due to high prices, and a number of houses in the area had been the subject to this type of crime.

Burglary was the main priority for the area, and the local policing team were working proactively to apprehend known offenders, and during the Autumn/Winter 2012 suspects had been detained and charged with various offences. It was noted that although burglary was a priority, the actual reported number had seen a reduction, with 19 reported cases between August and February. Reported vehicle crime was also down with a total of 46 cases over the past 7 months.

Monitoring and information gathering was ongoing in relation to drug trafficking, but again a low level had been identified in the area.

Advice was still being provided to residents on protecting their property, and more information could be found on the police website or by calling the local policing team.

There had been a number of traffic violations reported over the past 6 months, and they were working with partner agencies to educate and inform motorists of driving violations, and issue fines when appropriate.

As of 1 September 2012, old policing areas across Shrewsbury had amalgamated and were now supported by a safer neighbourhoods team, as well as the normal 24/7 response units. Residents were advised that if they had any issues they should contact PC Barrett or a member of the local policing team. A direct contact number was 101 Ext: 5757, and they could also be contacted through the website [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

Concern was raised over cyclists, including school children, failing to use proper lighting when using a public highway and cycling on pavements. In response, PC Bartlett advised the meeting that they

were trying to address the issue through education, and officers would work with schools, parents and hospital staff to address the problems. It was noted that there was no law in place to stop cyclists from using a pavement, and work had been ongoing across the town to put in cycle paths to improve safety. Cyclists were not required to use a cycle path and were still able to cycle on a public highway.

Concern was raised over vehicles exceeding the speed limit on the Mount, Shrewsbury. It was noted that although the 30 mph speed limit had been extended to the full length of the road, the speed limits were being exceeded. A member of the public raised the issue over the painted road signage still stating a 40 mph limit which could be confusing matters. Officers confirmed that it was the road signs would be dealt with this month.

A request had been made by the Chairman for 30 mph repeater signs to be used in the area, but was advised that the automatic speed was 30 mph in a built up area, and speed limit repeater signs could not be placed along a road on which there were street lights not more than 183 m apart. The meeting was advised that the changes had only recently been implemented and if the problems continued the Council would consider putting in additional measures. A resident requested that the Council consider making the 30 mph sign by the roundabout on Welshpool Road more visible.

The Chairman thanked PC Barrett for his attendance.

#### **4. REPORTS FROM FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

Martin Huckle, Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service, was in attendance and addressed the meeting, confirming that Green Watch was responsible for the areas covered by the Local Joint Committee.

The Service was currently providing free home safety checks and that if residents wanted to take advantage of the service they should contact the operation crew who would assess potential dangers within the home. It was noted that smoke detectors/fire alarms could be fitted for free in some circumstances.

The Fire Crime Officer monitored arson attacks across the area to help prevent fires and anti social behaviour. They were also working with local shops to ensure there wasn't a build up of combustible waste matters which may encourage anti social behaviour and could damage property. This advice was also pertinent to residential properties as keeping bins next to a property increased the risk of fire damage.

Residents were advised that the Fire Service visited schools on a regular basis to educate children on fire safety. The service had also got involved in farm safety within the local area, as well as patrolling the area on bonfire night to ensure public safety.

In response to questions raised by members of the public, Mr Huckle confirmed that electric blanket checks were carried out by Trading Standards, and that if residents contacted Shropshire Council they would be given further information.

Concern was raised over a possible fire hazard in Edgefield Green where an old caravan had been moved very close to properties and there were concerns over anti social behaviour and arson occurring. It was noted that residents should contact the anti social behaviour hotline if there were concerns, but officers would look into the matter further.

The Chairman thanked the officer for their attendance.

## **5. NHS HEALTH CHECKS**

Mr Steve Roberts, Shropshire County PCT, was in attendance and provided a verbal presentation on the NHS Health Check programme.

The programme was available for people aged 40 – 74 years every 5 years, and had been designed to save lives by targeting people who did not visit their GP on a regular basis. Checks would be carried out to check blood pressure, cholesterol, height, weight, social health risks, sedentary behaviour, and type 2 diabetes, and review the risk factors of suffering a heart attack in the next 10 years. The service would provide help and advice into how small changes in lifestyle could help a patient's long term health. It was noted that Dementia advice would also be provided, as good cardio vascular health had been proven to help reduce the risk of developing the condition in the future.

Mr Roberts stressed the importance of encouraging everyone to take up the Health Check invitation, as patients may be at risk of hypertension and diabetes, and he encouraged all those present to promote the service.

In response to questions raised, Mr Roberts confirmed that health checks for people over 74 years old would be carried out as normal through their GP. He added that in the first instance GPs were sending invites out to patients at risk, but over the next 5 years all people registered with a GP would be invited to attend.

The Chairman thanked Mr Roberts for his attendance.

## **6. PARKING ISSUES AT ROYAL SHREWSBURY HOSPITAL AND REDWOODS CENTRE**

The Chairman welcomed representatives from Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Redwoods Centre, William Farr House and Shropshire Council Highways to the meeting.

Councillor Nutting invited members of the public to voice their

concerns over parking issues affecting their local area. The following issues were raised, and questions asked:

- Vehicles were parking very close to dropped curbs and blocking footpath access to houses, they were also making access for buses/delivery/refuse/emergency vehicles difficult and on a number of occasions services had been unable to access roads in the area.
- Older residents were finding it difficult to exit their drives due to cars being parked opposite driveways and very close to dropped curbs.
- Residents had started to compile registration numbers which may be of assistance when identifying staff members.

In response to this point Mr Ellis-Tipton indicated that only if the vehicles were registered to permit holders they would be able to take action. PC Barrett advised that they would only be able to intervene if the vehicle was causing an obstruction. If vehicles were parked illegally then residents should be contacting Shropshire Parking who had the powers to take the appropriate action. Residents stressed that residents had previously reported vehicles but no action had been taken.

- Residents raised concerns over the abusive language used against them if they challenged drivers who had parked inconsiderately or were causing an obstruction.

In response PC Barrett encouraged residents to report complaints to the local policing team. The Highways Manager addressed the meeting advising that Shropshire Council had consulted residents on traffic orders to restrict parking in the area, but on the whole residents had declined the proposals. Mr Ellis-Tipton encouraged residents to contact the Hospitals Parking Department on 01743 261000 to report regular offenders to enable the hospital to make enquiries and try to resolve the issues.

- A resident addressed the meeting advising that he had issued correspondence to the Chief Executive outlining the issues and requested that representatives outline the Trust's intentions for the Travel and Transport Plan.

In response Mr Ellis-Tipton advised residents that the Trust recognised there was over-demand for parking provision on the site, which had been more pronounced in the last 9 months, and they were developing a package of measures to alleviate the growing demand. The Trust Board had approved the proposed measures and officers would be consulting and engaging with staff to implement the changes to conditions. It was noted that they would be targeting staff in the first instance. The Trust would be focusing on day time clinical and administration staff that lived within 1 mile of the site, but were not proposing any changes to staff who worked shift and night work. Research had shown that 95% of vehicles had single occupancy, and as a result the package of measures had

been designed to encourage staff to walk, cycle or car share. There had already been significant success with staff opting to cycle and as a result the Trust was adding additional bike rack facilities to cope with the increase. The Trust had been working with Arriva to provide staff with a financial incentive to use public transport where possible, and they were also due to re-launch the car sharing scheme incentive on the website to encourage more staff to sign up. Discussions had been ongoing with Shropshire Council to utilise Oxon Park and Ride in the future as an overflow car park and extend the bus route to include the hospital. There were also ongoing discussions over a 'Collector Bus' service in mornings and evenings for staff who were unable to walk or cycle to work. The Trust was investigating a different charging strategy for staff parking, where they only pay for days where they use their vehicle, but officers were aware that this needed to be given careful consideration as they did not want to displace parking into residential streets.

- The Hospital hosts Staffordshire University on site, and many of vehicles being parked have been linked to students. Was the Trust considering introducing a parking permit scheme for those students.

In response Mr Ellis-Tipton reported that there was already a scheme available. Officers confirmed that they would approach the university to remind their students to park considerately.

- Concern was raised that the increases in parking charges would encourage staff to park on residential streets.

In response residents were advised that staff parking charges would not be increased in the near future and would be pro-rata per day.

- Residents raised concern over the current bus route onto the hospital site, requesting that the Trust consider making use of the service road to enable buses to enter and exit the site at different points.

In response it was reported that the service road was not wide enough for the proposals. It was suggested that the Trust consider widening the road to progress the proposals even though there would be financial implications to the suggested changes. Officers agreed to explore the proposals again.

- What percentage of staff have permits.

In response residents were advised that 95% had parking permits, including staff, volunteers and other organisations. The figure equated to 6,000 individual permits.

- Do the Trust provide information on cycling schemes.

In response it was confirmed that the Trust promoted information on

road safety for staff members. Cycle Shrewsbury training was also offered to all interested staff members.

- How many parking spaces are currently available on the Royal Shrewsbury site.

In response it was noted that there were 1650 spaces with 1100 of those allocated staff parking. It was the Trust's ambition to redress the balance and the full parking strategy would be introduced once they had been able to reduce staff parking need.

In response to a question it was confirmed that increasing parking on the perimeter roads would not alleviate over capacity problems as staff and visitors were already parking on grassed area. Costs for a multi-storey option had been considered but the capital costs were astronomical, without any possibility of recouping costs through income.

- Residents had noted that there were several identical cars parked in the same area on a continuous basis.

In response the meeting was advised that those particular vehicles were used by outreach worker and community service usage and were used on a regular basis.

Residents were advised that discussions were ongoing with Arriva over extending the number 1 service to cover the Oxon Park and Ride area and whether there would be a charge for the service or payment was made through a permit. A discussion ensued and it was concluded that the project would be quick and easy to implement. The Chairman stressed that if all parties were interested in progressing the service then more should be done to implement it as a matter of urgency and requested that the Trust take the matter back for urgent consideration.

Could the land in front of the nursing flats be utilised for additional parking provision.

In response it was confirmed that the land was owned by the Secretary of State for restricted health service related usage and was unavailable for the proposed usage. It was confirmed that development plans were being considered for more nursing flats in that area.

A suggestion was tabled to move the bowling green to provide additional parking for the main hospital site, but was advised that the land in question was not owned by the Trust.

Concern was raised over the proposed change to parking charges at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital site, stating that the changes would have a negative impact on the area. Mr Ellis-Tipton advised that the tiered pricing structure ensured that people were not using the parking provision for longer than was required. It was noted that as

a result of feedback from the consultation more convenient ways to pay for parking would be implemented, as would increased drop off zones next to the hospital entrances and a free parking period of 30 minutes. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the tiered parking rates would only apply to visitors, and staff and students would pay a day rate for actual usage, but discussions were ongoing with students and Staffordshire University.

Consideration was given to Somerby Drive proposals for traffic regulations to assist in reducing parking problems being faced by local residents. Residents were advised that an informal consultation was due to conclude on 11 March 2013, and there were currently no objections to the scheme. A formal consultation process would commence by 21 March 2013 where full details of the proposals would be available to all concerned persons. Residents were advised that parking enforcement would commence once the order had been sealed at the conclusion of the formal consultation period. Concern was raised that the introduction of parking restrictions in the area would only force the problem into other residential roads such as Napoleon Drive. The Service Manager Environmental Maintenance encouraged all residents to respond to the consultation and submit their views.

Officers confirmed they would be looking at various areas of work, but were requested to extend the enforcement area to include Lark Hill, however it was noted that if double yellow lines were incorporated that it would just push the problem onto other roads in the area. Residents requested that the consultation be opened up to the whole estate to ensure that all comments were captured and any changes were considered appropriate for the whole area.

A resident raised concern over the proposals for parking restrictions, advising that the decision to implement traffic orders was premature and the Council should wait until they knew the full impact from the increase in parking charges at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital site. The Chairman encouraged all residents to feed in any comments to the consultation period to ensure that all concerns were highlighted.

Andrew Hughes, South Staffs & Shropshire Healthcare NHS Trust, addressed the meeting reporting that the Redwoods Centre had completed its build and had a car parking capacity for 210 vehicles, and in terms of staff usage the centre had never experienced a problem with staff parking provision. The Trust had demonstrated that spaces had historically been used by none Trust staff, including staff from SaTH, and people using the recreational area. Several people had been forced onto Somerby Drive, but provision had been made through the S106 Agreement to install double yellow lines. The Chairman welcomed the informal agreement with the Trust allowing recreational site users access to their parking provision, but requested that the Trust consider allowing vehicles to be parked in the grounds of Shelton in the interim until development work commenced. Members were advised that this would not be possible as they were expecting to market the site in the very near future,



and the Trust had to cordon the site off to protect the asset from damage and trespass. It was noted that allowing people onto the site would present an impossible risk for the Trust if the fence was removed and any safety issues would be their responsibility.

Redwoods Centre was opened in September 2012 and with the addition of around 100 new staff members in place the Trust increased parking provision accordingly. Following an assessment it was confirmed that the parking provision was 85 – 90% full at all times.

Concern was raised over the continued parking of a NHS trailer on residential roads in the area for long periods of time. In response residents were advised that as there were no parking restrictions in place the Council was unable to carry out any enforcement. Residents addressed Mr Hughes stressing that the Trust should have made provision for long stay delivery vehicles in their build plan. A discussion ensued and residents were advised that the vehicle was not delivering to the Redwoods Centre but carrying out deliveries to other sites in the area. The delivery service was part of the NHS purchasing authority and the Trust was trying to dissuade them from parking in the area, but until parking restrictions were put in place they were unable to undertake any enforcement action.

A resident addressed the meeting advising that the majority of people parking on Swiss Farm Road only parked on the one side making it easier for other road users and residents to manoeuvre, but it only took a couple of cars parking inconsiderately on both sides to cause problems, and by installing double yellow lines down one side this could help address the issue. In response the Chairman indicated that an option of single yellow lines could also be considered in a scheme to address the problems. This could be a solution for other roads in the area which were subject to the same issues and the Chairman agreed to speak with officers about the proposals.

Cllr Nutting

A resident requested the Council consider putting in 2 hour parking restrictions, and was advised that officers would be willing to discuss any options, but stressed that residents needed to be careful when considering parking restrictions and the impact that they might have on the area.

The Head of Innovation & Special Projects, Shropshire County CCG was advised that staff from the William Farr House site were also parking in residential streets. In response Mr Haycox reported that he was surprised that this was the case as the site had recently made available and extra 70 spaces for parking and the site was not usually full to capacity. The CCG also promoted cycle to work schemes, by helping staff to purchase bikes and safety equipment at a reduced rate. It was noted that there was a pass system to access the site, but visitors could easily access the site.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their attendance, and hoped

that they had taken on board the many and varied concerns of local residents.

## **7. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION**

Councillor Adam provided an update on the events occurring in the Bowbrook area. He reported that as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 bus pass holders would benefit from reduced fares, and it was hoped that from June 2013 it was the Council's intention to reintroduce some Sunday bus services. He also advised that Veolia were purchasing new fleet vehicles and it was hoped that cardboard collection could be looked at again. A resident raised concern over the Veolia contract and questioned if Shropshire Council would have to pay extra for the collection of cardboard, if it was no longer being provided through their contract. Councillor Adams advised that he was not in a position to provide information, but he would raise the matter with officers and provide further information, if appropriate. Councillor Nutting advised that there were issues over cardboard collection as an EU directive only enabled cardboard to be composted on land owned by the authority, which meant that Veolia were unable to undertake composting of the material. However, Shropshire Council was trying to resolve the issue.

Cllr Adams

Councillor Adams reported that since the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner, CSO duty times had been extended to from 10 p.m. to 12 p.m. to help alleviate anti-social behaviour associated with late night drinking establishments.

Councillor Roberts reported that volunteers had been out in Bank Farm Road planting crocus bulbs. He also provided an update on problems with flooding at Radbrook pond, and advised that work was ongoing to re-instate the footpaths.

## **8. COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE**

The Community Action Officer was in attendance and advised that he had been working with partner organisations to resolve any issues in the local area, and advised residents to contact him if they were experiencing any issues and he would contact the relevant authority to help resolve the matter.

The meeting was advised that funding was available for community need and benefit, and encouraged any group, organisation or individual to contact him to discuss options and opportunities.

It was noted that Gains Park Community Centre had been granted funding through the Local Joint Committee and also been awarded Lottery funding to carry out essential improvements works to the building which had now been completed. There were lots of activities being held, and hire charges were very competitive. Residents were advised that there were still a few issues over youth's hanging around in the area and it had been confirmed that more lighting was required, but it was considered a safe area.

There was a lot happening in Shrewsbury with a Food Festival taking place in the Quarry on 28/29 June 2013, and planning underway for the River Festival. It was noted that the West Midland Showground had appointed a new manager and Trustees, and it was expected that there would more events taking place at the Showground. It was noted that a calendar of events was available on the Shrewsbury Town Council website, and Councillors had arranged for noticeboards to be put up in Pensfold, Mytton Oak Road, and Bank Farm Road.

**9. 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).

**RESOLVED:**

That the following project funded from the 2012/2013 budget, be approved:

- (a) Café Connect – That a contribution of £1000 be approved to support the proposals to offer a meal deal for local working people and the increasing number of young person's coming from the two local schools.

Community  
Action Officer

**10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

- A resident requested the reinstatement of a floating pontoon from Mountfields to the West Mid Showground to enable members of the public to access the site easily. The Chairman reported that the original pontoon was provide by the army, and to reinstate it needed funding which was unlikely to be available at the current time.
- A proposal had been put forward for a mini roundabout to be installed on the Old Roman Road and Upper Road, Meole Brace. It was noted that the proposals were out for consultation.
- A resident requested that the Council be asked to install a blind spot mirror at the cemetery site. Councillor Roberts reported that this had been looked at previously and the Council had not been in support of the installation as there were legal issues.
- Concern was raised over traffic speeding on Welshpool Road near Racecourse Lane junction, and a request was made to move the sign post back so it is not obscured.
- A resident requested clarification over the current Council voting

structure, raising concern over the decision making system and the appointment of the Leader. Councillors confirmed that currently the Council worked on a Cabinet system and a Leader of Council was voted in by the majority party, but they agreed that democracy was important to the decision making process.

**11. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

It was noted that future meetings for 2013/14 will be confirmed following the Unitary, Town and Parish Council Elections in May 2013.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....