



Committee and Date
Bridgnorth, Worfield,
Alveley and Claverley
Local Joint
Committee
Wednesday 12 May
2010
7:00 p.m.

Item/Paper

3

Public

NOTES OF ACTIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2010 AT KEMBERTON VILLAGE HALL

7:00 – 9.00 p.m.

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Mr Christian Lea (Chairman)

Mr William Parr

Mr Les Winwood

Mr Michael Wood

Mrs Tina Woodward (Vice Chairman)

Town/Parish Councils

Mr David Voysey, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council

Mr Simon Elcock, Astley Abbots Parish Council

Mr Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council

Mr David Tooth, Beckbury Parish Council

Mr Geoff Bodenham, Bridgnorth Town Council

Mr Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council

Mrs Isabel Faithful, Quatt Malvern Parish Council

Mr Alan Amey, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council

Mr Allan Chatham, Sutton Maddock Parish Council

Mr Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council

Mr Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer

Helen Powell, Support Officer

Vicky Turner, Community Regeneration Officer (CRO)

Anne Cousins, Committee Officer

Jake Berriman, Head of Strategy and Policy, Development Services (agenda item 6)

West Mercia Police:

PC Matt Picken (Bridgnorth Rural East)

CSO Sue Eden (Bridgnorth Rural East)

PC Nick Allbutt (Shifnal Police Station)

There were approx 50-60 people present in total.

ACTION

1. Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received on behalf of:
Mr John Hurst-Knight, Shropshire Council
Mr Ian Amos, Kemberton Parish Council
Mr Malcolm Duff-Walker, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council
Mr John Owen, Stockton Parish Council.

Mr Alan Amey substituted for Mr Malcolm Duff-Walker.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Notes

3.1 The Chairman updated those present on issues arising from the last meeting, as set out on the Comments and Suggestions sheet attached to the minutes. The Chairman had written to the Environment Agency concerning knotweed along the River Severn, but was not wholly satisfied by the reply he had received and he informed those present that he would pursue this issue further.

3.2 **RESOLVED:** That the notes of the previous meeting, held on 2 December 2009, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Key Current Policing Issues – PACT (Partners and Communities Together)

4.1 PC Matt Picken provided an update on the issue of motorcyclists which had been considered in some depth at the last meeting and reported that the police were working with the Safer Roads Partnership to combat the number of fatalities of motorcyclists in the area.

4.2 The public raised concerns about speeding traffic, particularly around Worfield. PC Matt Picken confirmed the Safer Roads Partnership were responsible for enforcing speed limits. He suggested the Local Joint Committee could use its budget to pay for more enforcement by the Safer Roads Partnership if it wished to do so.

4.3 There was discussion about a spate of burglaries which had recently taken place in Claverley. PC Matt Picken reassured all present that the police were working hard to apprehend those responsible.

**Chairman/
Lead
Officer**

- 4.4 It was reported that youngsters were congregating in the Smithfield North car park, especially on Friday evenings, and were responsible for anti-social behaviour. In response, the police explained that 'boy racers' were being moved off one site but then they re-located elsewhere. PC Matt Picken undertook to pass this on to Bridgnorth Town police colleagues to assess what further action was required.

ACTION

Police

5. Revised Constitution

- 5.1 Mike Hyatt, Lead Officer, reported on minor changes to the Constitution of Local Joint Committees, as set out in the report.

- 5.2 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

6. Planning Policy

- 6.1 Jake Berriman, Head of Strategy and Policy, Development Services, Shropshire Council, led this item on planning policy.

He explained that the Core Strategy set out the broad framework of planning policy, whereas the Site Allocations and Management document dealt with specific locations in more detail. These documents had been circulated to Town and Parish Councils, and other interested parties, and further consultation would take place before they were finalised.

The main principles behind the Core Strategy were:

- 3,200 to 3,800 houses to be accommodated in the Eastern spacial zone, which covered Bridgnorth and the surrounding area.
- Shrewsbury would accommodate 25% of all new development; that there was a focus on market towns to ensure their sustainability; and that there should be development in rural areas in order to create more sustainable places.
- In the rural areas, it was suggested that community hubs and clusters should be identified where there was a desire to opt in to the process. A hub could be a village with a number of local services, whereas a cluster could be a group of smaller settlements where there were few services but where they would be willing to work together and share a small development. The overall aim was to create and maintain sustainable places for people to live and work.

A further period of consultation on the more detailed Site Allocations paper was due to begin on 2 April for twelve weeks.

ACTION

- 6.2 All present were then invited to participate in an exercise using the large-scale maps on the walls to identify facilities, services, infrastructure and activities.
- 6.3 In response to a question about the green belt, it was confirmed that green belt boundaries would not be changing. It was further clarified that the green belt only prevented inappropriate development, and did not prevent all development. The Head of Strategy and Policy stressed the importance of parish plans, which had a very positive role to play in the planning process.
- 6.4 In response to a request from a Member, the Head of Strategy and Policy explained it was not possible to send out executive summaries of the Core Strategy documents. During the consultation period it was important to ensure all documents were sent out, not just selective pieces of documents. In the longer term, once the consultation period was over, more user-friendly summaries would be produced for day-to-day use by parish councils.
- 6.5 When asked about the start date for the 3,000 plus new homes, the Head of Strategy and Policy said it would be any development from now on.
- 6.6 There was some discussion about charges and taxes levied on developers. The Head of Strategy and Policy explained in the past there had been Section 106 agreements, whereby developers paid for some community facilities. He said Shropshire Council would re-negotiate any such agreements which had already been entered into, as a result of the current economic climate, and in the interests of maintaining developer viability.
- 6.7 The Chairman thanked the Head of Policy and Strategy for his informative presentation. It was confirmed that the information from the map exercise would be analysed and a report of the findings would be brought to a future meeting of the Local Joint Committee.

JB

7. Consideration of the Third Round of Funding Applications

- 7.1 Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer, introduced this report. He pointed out an error in paragraph 4 of the first page of the report, which should read £43,920.50 (not £43,90.50). He went on to inform Members that the Children's Festival would not be taking place this year, therefore the £7,000 that had been awarded to them in the last round of funding was now available again. Finally, he drew Members' attention to the application from the Alveley Recreation Association, which had been recommended for

deferral. It had now been confirmed by the Association that they could provide 29% of the cost of the project from match-funding.

ACTION

- 7.2 Members noted that there was a balance of money left over in the Community Chest fund, and a shortfall in the Larger Grants Fund. It was proposed, and seconded, that any balance remaining in the Community Chest fund should be re-allocated to the Larger Grants Fund.

- 7.3 A member of the public raised concerns about the application for funding by the Rally in the Valley. The application stated 3000 had attended the last Rally in the Valley, at an admission charge of £5 per adult and £3 per child. Yet in the local press in July 2009, it had been reported that the Rally in the Valley had attracted attendance of 8000 people. It was suggested that there was a considerable discrepancy in these figures, and therefore, in the income received last year.

In response, a member of the Trevithick 200 charity explained that in the first year of the Rally in the Valley, there had been no admission charges and all attendance figures were estimations. Last year, the second year of the Rally, an attendance charge was made. There were, however, a number of people who participated in the Rally as exhibitors or similar and these people were not charged to enter. This explained the discrepancy between the press reports of attendance and the actual income received from admission charges.

It was further explained that the Trevithick 200 charity had previously organised the Rally in the Valley, but this year it was being run by a different committee of volunteers which had been formed for this purpose. Its aim was to promote tourism in the Bridgnorth area. The Rally in the Valley had proved to be an extremely popular event with exhibitors coming from all over the country to participate.

- 7.4 Mrs Woodward spoke in support of the application by Alveley Tennis Club and Mr Winwood spoke in support of the Shropshire Music and Arts Festival, and all other festivals which were being run by volunteers to attract visitors to the area. Members suggested that it would be helpful for festival events to be held in the rural areas around Bridgnorth as well as in the town itself.
- 7.5 Mr Cotham had some queries about the application by the Sustainable Bridgnorth group. He was informed the reason for wanting a laptop computer was for Bluetooth messaging.
- 7.6 Members agreed to consider the application from Alveley Recreation Association now that the match-funding had been

confirmed.

ACTION

7.7 RESOLVED:

- A That each application received be considered in light of the Community Regeneration and Support Officers' recommendations for the Community Chest and the Larger Grant Scheme.
- B That the application from Alveley Recreation Association be considered, rather than deferred, as the required amount of match-funding had now been found.
- C That any remaining balance in the Community Chest fund be re-allocated to the Larger Grants Fund.
- D The following decisions on grant applications were agreed:

Community Chest:

C6 Squirrel Bowling Club (purchase of mat)	£500
C7 Bridgnorth Junior Rugby Club (training equipment)	£500
C8 1 st Bridgnorth Rainbows (centenary event costs)	£500
C9 Bridgnorth Bathing Project (uniforms, equipment)	£500
C10 Northgate Swimming Club (training costs)	£500
C11 Sustainable Bridgnorth (promotion/launch costs)	£400
C12 Bridgnorth Town Plan Steering Group (costs)	£500

Lead Officer

Larger Grant Scheme:

14 Bridgnorth Community Hall (car park resurfacing) (75% of amount requested)	£2,955
15 Alveley Tennis Club (resurfacing of tennis court) (75% of amount requested)	£3,750
16 Bridgnorth Music and Arts Festival (running costs)	£6,000
17 The Rally in the Valley (running costs)	£2,750
18 Alveley Recreation Association (insulation) (80% of amount requested)	£3,000
19 Trevithick 200 (costs of replica train) (75% of amount requested)	£5,025
20 Alveley Burial Ground Extension (75% of amount requested)	£3,276

Lead Officer

8. Grant Criteria 2010/11 Financial Year

- 8.1 Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer, introduced and expanded on this report, which set out possible criteria for funding applications for the 2010/11 financial year, and he invited Members' comments.
- 8.2 Mr Wood suggested that it was important to cover as much ground as possible with the grants and, therefore, he proposed a reduction in the maximum amount awarded for the larger grants, from £7,000 to £5,000.
- 8.3 There was discussion about whether or not Town and Parish Councils should be able to apply for funding. Some Members felt this was not appropriate, as the councils could use their precept to meet any expenditure, or use general reserves if an emergency arose.

ACTION

- 8.4 A parish clerk in the audience commented that, in her experience, other Local Joint Committees did not have any such restrictions on parish councils applying for grants. She cited examples where small parish councils had successfully received funding which had been very beneficial to the whole community.
- 8.5 Members then discussed the idea of allowing small parish councils to apply for funding. After debate, it was agreed that parish councils with a precept above £5,000 should not be able to apply for funding, but those with a precept below £5,000 should be able to apply in exceptional circumstances.

RESOLVED:

- A That the 2010/11 budget be divided into a Community Chest fund of £10,000 providing small grants up to £500 (subject to the criteria set out in the report) and a Larger Grants Fund of £61,000 providing funding for projects over £500 with grant applications not normally exceeding £5,000 (subject to the criteria set out in the report).
- B That funding applications from Town and Parish Councils with a precept below £5,000 be considered only in exceptional circumstances and that funding applications from Town and Parish Councils with a precept above £5,000 not be considered.

9. Kaleidoscope Theatre Company, Kemberton

The planned entertainment by the Kaleidoscope Theatre Company had to be postponed due to ill-health. The Theatre Company was willing to come to the July meeting instead, and it was agreed to put this item at the beginning of the agenda for that meeting.

AC

10. Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items

- 10.1 There were no public questions.
- 10.2 The following topics were suggested as possible future agenda items:
- Presentation by the Ambulance Service, as there had been concern about response rates.
 - ShropshireLink bus services.
 - Community Council of Shropshire – to discuss support for vulnerable people.
 - Maintenance of Rights of Way, generally, and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) in particular.

11. Evaluation of Local Joint Committees

Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer, explained the first year of Local Joint Committees was coming to a close, and an evaluation of progress was now being undertaken across the county. He encouraged all present to complete a form and hand it in before leaving, as it was important to hear the views of everyone.

ACTION

All

12. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 12 May 2010 at Claverley Village Hall.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....