



Committee and Date
Bridgnorth, Worfield,
Alveley and Claverley
Local Joint
Committee
Wednesday 14 July
2010
7:00 p.m.

Item/Paper

3

Public

**NOTES OF ACTIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2010 AT CLAVERLEY VILLAGE HALL**

7:00 – 9.20 p.m.

Responsible Officer Anne Cousins
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Committee Members Present:

- Shropshire Council
Mr Christian Lea
Mr William Parr
Mr Les Winwood
Mr Michael Wood
Mrs Tina Woodward

Town/Parish Councils

- Mr David Voysey, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council
Mr Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council
Mr David Tooth, Beckbury Parish Council
Mr Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council
Mrs Isabel Faithful, Quatt Malvern Parish Council
Mr Malcolm Duff-Walker, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council
Mr Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council
*Mrs Carol Wood, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council

* = substitute

Shropshire Council Officers present:

- Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer
Helen Powell, Support Officer
Vicky Turner, Community Regeneration Officer (CRO)
Anne Cousins, Committee Officer
Steven Brown, Head of Environmental Maintenance (agenda item 8)
Richard Knight, Access Maintenance Team Leader (agenda item 9)
Lorna Hullah, Area HQ Manager (agenda item 10)

Shropshire County Primary Care Trust Community Health Services

- June Patel, Managing Director/Executive Nurse
Stuart Rees, Director of Finance

West Mercia Police:

CSO Sue Eden (Bridgnorth Rural East)

There were approx 50-60 people present in total.

1. Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and duly **RESOLVED** that Mr Christian Lea be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

2. Apologies and Substitutions

2.1 The following Members gave apologies:

Mr John Hurst-Knight, Shropshire Council

Mr Geoff Bodenham, Bridgnorth Town Council

Mr Simon Elcock, Astley Abbots Parish Council

Mr John Owen, Stockton Parish Council

Mr Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council.

2.2 Mrs Carol Wood substituted for Mr Len Ball.

2.3 Mr John Owen has left Stockton Parish Council and there is now a vacancy on the Committee from this Parish Council.

3. Appointment of Vice Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and duly **RESOLVED** that Mrs Tina Woodward be elected Vice Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year.

4. Declarations of Interest

Mrs Tina Woodward declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the event of any discussion on the Site Allocations and Management of Development document that had been tabled at the meeting.

5. Notes

5.1 The Chairman drew Members' attention to the Comments/Questions and Suggestions sheet attached to the notes, which gave an update on issues raised at previous meetings. Members expressed disappointment at the lack of action by highways staff on the Sutton Maddock roundabout. There was general agreement that any action on knotweed had to take account of the whole river basin and Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer, suggested it may be possible to hold a combined meeting with other Local Joint Committees and the Environment Agency on this issue.

ACTION

**Lead
Officer**

		ACTION
5.2	RESOLVED: That the notes of the previous meeting, held on 3 March 2010, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	
6.	Key Current Policing Issues – PACT (Partners and Communities Together)	
6.1	Community Support Officer (CSO) Sue Eden introduced this item and apologised for the absence of her colleagues who had been unable to attend due to unforeseen police commitments. She gave a brief update on issues raised at the last meeting, which were speeding vehicles and motorbikes.	
6.2	There was discussion about speeding vehicles, particularly in the Quatford Café area. Other sites of concern were on the bank into Much Wenlock and on Hilton Bank. CSO Eden undertook to report these concerns to her colleagues and to the Speed Camera Partnership, which was responsible for speed cameras. In response to comments on having speed traps in the same places and at the same times, CSO Eden explained that often special constables operated these and, as they were volunteers, it was difficult for them to vary their times of operation.	Police
6.3	Mr Wood spoke as a member of the Police Authority and emphasised the need for the police to demonstrate value for money at all times. He pointed out that if police officers were required to monitor the behaviour of motorists at particular sites, they were not then available for other duties. He suggested, and it was agreed, that a further report on speeding issues would be brought to the next meeting.	Police
6.4	The Chairman raised an issue of anti-social behaviour in the Faraday Drive area, which had been reported to him. CSO Eden agreed to contact the residents concerned as soon as possible.	Police
7.	Bridgnorth Community Hospital	
7.1	The Chairman welcomed June Patel, Managing Director/Executive Nurse, and Stuart Rees, Director of Finance, from Shropshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) Community Health Services.	
7.2	In her introduction, June Patel spoke of the importance of Bridgnorth Community Hospital which provided residents with a range of services and in-patient facilities and she reassured those present that there was no intention to close the hospital,	

as had been reported in the local media. She went on to say the operating theatre, which had recently been closed, was in the old part of the hospital and the reason for the closure was because it required significant upgrading in order to comply with all safety regulations. The PCT was committed to the upgrade, although cost was an issue. Work was on-going to develop a clear business case, which would enable the PCT to secure the necessary funding. In the interim, patients were offered facilities in other areas, e.g. podiatric surgery at Hereford.

ACTION

- 7.3 There followed a lengthy discussion, during which a range of issues were raised, including:
- The lack of any reason being given at the time of the operating theatre closure, which had caused worry and concern to residents.
 - When the operating theatre would re-open.
 - Whether the reason for the closure of the operating theatre was non-compliance with safety regulations or because of concerns over its future viability.
 - The need to ensure Bridgnorth Hospital was fully utilised and the effect of the closure on the statistics for the hospital.
 - Why the PCT had closed the operating theatre before securing funding for the upgrade.
 - What would happen if the funding bid failed and what alternative sources of funding were available.
 - The issue of transport, as patients were not offered any help with transport to alternative providers.
- 7.4 Ms Patel reiterated the commitment of the PCT to the hospital but emphasised that the PCT had to ensure a safe environment in the operating theatre. She explained that the safety regulations covering operating theatres were constantly being updated, particularly with regard to infection control. It was not possible to give a date for the theatre to re-open, as this depended on securing the necessary funding. She agreed that it was important to ensure the hospital was fully utilised and said there was more work to be done to expand the amount of work going through the operating theatre.
- 7.5 With regard to the questions raised about funding, Stuart Rees, Director of Finance, explained the PCT did not hold a capital budget and therefore had been unable to budget for an upgrade. It was necessary to complete the business case to prove value for money, which would then release capital funding from the Strategic Health Authority

- 7.6 Ms Patel gave a brief explanation of changes occurring at a national level, which meant PCTs would be responsible for commissioning, rather than providing services. The full implications of this were not yet known, but she reassured those present that the PCT would continue to own the buildings although the staff could be managed by a different organisation.
- 7.7 An LJC Member expressed surprise that the operating theatre needed to be upgraded, because there had been an upgrade undertaken only two years ago. Ms Patel commented that, as far as she was aware, the last major upgrade had occurred in the 1980s.
- 7.8 There was discussion about how the issue had been reported in the local media. June Patel apologised for any misunderstanding there had been in the town and assured those present there were no hidden reasons for the closure of the operating theatre and that the PCT were working hard to secure the necessary funding for the upgrade.
- 7.9 When asked about alternative sources of funding, Ms Patel acknowledged the generous contribution of £250,000 by the League of Friends of the Hospital.
- 7.10 The Chairman suggested, and it was agreed, that Ms Patel would attend the July meeting of the LJC to provide an update. He then thanked both Ms Patel and Mr Rees for their contributions.

8. Site Allocations and Management of Development Consultation

- 8.1 The Chairman referred to the information available on the tables on Site Allocations and Management of Development in the Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley and Claverley area. He explained this was not an agenda item for the meeting, although he encouraged everyone to make their views known during the consultation period. He then invited Mr Bob Lloyd, of the Alveley Green Preservation Society to say a few words.
- 8.2 Mr Lloyd explained he had thought this meeting formed part of the consultation process on the Site Allocations and Management of Development issues. He went on to explain he was Chairman of the Alveley Green Preservation Society which had been in existence since 2001 to support retention of the green belt from housing development on behalf of the residents of Alveley. He invited everyone to attend a meeting at Alveley Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 27 May

ACTION

PCT

where this important matter could be fully discussed.

- 8.3 Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer, added that a public drop-in session on this issue would take place on Monday 24 May, from 4.30 to 8.00 p.m. at Castle Hall, Bridgnorth and he encouraged everyone to make their views known.

9. Update on Environmental Maintenance National Pilot Project

- 9.1 Steve Brown, Head of Environmental Maintenance for Shropshire Council, introduced this item, which informed the public of a national pilot project being undertaken in the Local Joint Committee area.

- 9.2 The Head of Environmental Maintenance explained the aim of the project was to improve residents' quality of life via improvements in the environmental maintenance service, in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy. This would be part of a national pilot and the lessons learnt would then be rolled out across the country. It was a one year programme and residents could get involved by completing perception surveys, joining focus groups and helping to develop new performance indicators and satisfaction levels.

- 9.3 A member of the public commented that the Bridgnorth Town Plan Steering Group was in the process of compiling a questionnaire for Bridgnorth residents, which would include environmental maintenance issues, and suggested the Group could be involved in the project. This was welcomed by the Head of Environmental Maintenance

- 9.4 Members of the Committee were delighted that Bridgnorth had been selected as one of sites for the pilot project. It was suggested the project should look at signage, as there was often confusion between different departments as to who was responsible for signs. The Chairman hoped street cleansing in residential areas could be improved as a result. The Environmental Maintenance Manager reported that Shropshire Council had invested £250,000 in new road sweepers and would take delivery of them in June.

- 9.5 The Environmental Maintenance Manager then gave a verbal update on the issue of A-boards in Bridgnorth town centre. He explained his team and the enforcement team at Shropshire Council had worked together with owners of retail premises and, as a result, the number of A-boards had been drastically reduced. This was supported by the LJC.

ACTION

ACTION

10. Rights of Way and Byways Open to All Traffic

- 10.1 The Chairman welcomed Richard Knight, Access Maintenance Team Leader to the meeting, who then gave a presentation on Rights of Way.
- 10.2 The presentation began with a general introduction to rights of way and the functions of the access maintenance team at Shropshire Council. The Access Maintenance Team Leader stressed the importance of work carried by Parish Paths volunteers and gave several examples of their achievements in improving access across the rights of way network.
- 10.3 The Access Maintenance Team Leader then moved on to discuss Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) as this had been a particular concern in the local area. He described the policies relating to BOATs and also to unclassified county roads, as responsibility for some of the latter had now passed from the Highways team to the Rights of Way team at the council. Officers from the council worked with users of BOATs to resolve any issues about inappropriate usage. There were good examples of user groups taking responsibility for particular BOATs, including repairing any damage caused.
- 10.4 Mr Voysey, from Alveley and Romsley Parish Council, commented that there had been a number of problems with BOATs in the Alveley area and he asked if Section 116 of the 1980 Highways Act could be used to remove vehicle rights. In response, the Access Maintenance Team Leader stated it would be extremely difficult for Shropshire Council to do so.
- 10.5 Mr Cotham, Claverley Parish Council, suggested BOATs could be downgraded to become restricted byways, but the Access Maintenance Team Leader said that this had never happened before.
- 10.6 The Chairman thanked the Access Maintenance Team Leader for the informative presentation and expressed disappointment there was insufficient time to continue the discussion.

11. Services Available at Westgate, Bridgnorth

Lorna Hullah, Area HQ Manager at Westgate, Bridgnorth, gave a brief presentation on the services available to the public at the Westgate offices. The hours of opening were 8.30 to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Examples of services available were: planning, registrars, housing, council tax,

payments, services for older people and for children and families. It was also possible to hire meeting rooms.

ACTION

12. Consideration of the First Round of Funding Applications, 2010/11 financial year

- 12.1 Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer, introduced this item. He drew Members' attention to a display at the back of the hall, at which there was feedback from previous successful applicants for funding. He said he was keen to demonstrate how money awarded by the Local Joint Committee had been spent in the local community.
- 12.2 Members were informed there had been a number of developments since the funding report had been circulated the previous week. Two of the Community Chest applications had been withdrawn:
C1 Friends of Bridgnorth Library – had applied for a grant helping towards the costs of providing a poet at the Bridgnorth Endowed School Literature Festival, but alternative funding had now been found and the application had been withdrawn.
C3 – National Play Day at Lodge Lane, Bridgnorth – alternative funding had now been applied for and the application had been withdrawn.
- 12.3 The remaining two Community Chest applications, from the Friends of St Leonard's Primary School and Beckbury Acorns Nursery were then considered in turn. In response to a Member's question, it was confirmed the nursery was a charity, not a private organisation. Both applications were agreed.
- 12.4 Members then considered the applications under the Larger Grant Scheme. The Lead Officer explained that, in the report, the officer recommendation on the application by Bridgnorth Table Tennis Club was to defer and awaiting further information. The Chairman of the Club had since provided this and, as a result, the recommendation was to fund 75% of the amount requested, £1,085, which would be used to purchase new table tennis tables and equipment. This was agreed.
- 12.5 Bridgnorth Musical Theatre Company had requested £5,000 towards the costs of their February 2011 production of The Merry Widow. Since making this application, the Company had been awarded a grant by Bridgnorth Town Council, and as a result, the application to the Local Joint Committee was now for £3,500 rather than £5,000. A Member of the Committee expressed the hope that the Musical Theatre Company would be able to meet its own costs through ticket sales in future years. The application for £3,500 was agreed.

- 12.6 The final application was for £4,215 from Kaleidoscope Theatre to replace sound equipment. This was agreed.
- 12.7 **RESOLVED:**
 - A That each application received be considered in light of Officers' recommendations for the Community Chest and the Larger Grant Scheme.
 - B That grant approvals or rejections be confirmed, and any terms and conditions from each application be considered. The following decisions on grant applications were agreed:
 - Community Chest:**
 - C1 Friends of Bridgnorth Library (poet at Literature Festival) – application withdrawn as alternative funding had been found.
 - C2 Friends of St Leonard's Primary School (play equipment) £500
 - C3 National Play Day at Lodge Lane, Bridgnorth - application withdrawn as alternative funding had been applied for
 - C4 Beckbury Acorns Nursery (play equipment) £500
 - Larger Grant Scheme:**
 - 1 Bridgnorth Table Tennis Club (new equipment) £1,085 (75% of amount requested)
 - 2 Bridgnorth Musical Theatre Company (2011 production costs) £3,500
 - 3 Kaleidoscope Theatre (sound equipment) £4,215

ACTION

Lead Officer

Lead Officer

13. Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items

- 13.1 It was agreed that there had been too many items on the agenda for this meeting and that future meetings should have time limits for speakers.
- 13.2 Mrs Woodward suggested inviting the Safety Camera Partnership to a future meeting.

14. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at Alveley Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 14 July 2010.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....