

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND UPDATES from 14 July meeting

Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley and Claverley Local Joint Committee

	Comments/Questions/Suggestions	Response Requested From	Response/Action
1.	<p>Road Safety Issues between Cross Lane Head and Bridgnorth Letter dated 10 June 2010 received from a resident raising the issue of the lack of a continuous pavement/path along the B4373 from Cross Lane Head to Bridgnorth.</p>	<p>Traffic and Highway Engineering</p>	<p>The issue of a request for a footway, to link Cantreyn and Cross Lane Head on the B4373, has been made on several occasions in the past. In fact Phil Crossland, a previous assistant director, wrote to the M.P. Philip Dunne on the matter on 23 January 2009. The position remains, that Shropshire Council has had many similar requests for rural footways from around the county, but unfortunately the budget to carry out this type of scheme was removed several years ago. The budget was always modest and would only allow one or maybe two small schemes to progress each year. At the time it was removed, the listing amounted to approximately 10 years worth of schemes. This particular footway link would amount to approximately 900 metres in length which would prove to be expensive.</p> <p>Clearly funding and programmes change over time and the request will remain on file. I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful on this occasion</p>

	Comments/Questions/Suggestions	Response Requested From	Response/Action
2.	<p>Bridgnorth Community Hospital operating theatre – update received following 14 July meeting</p>	<p>Shropshire County PCT</p>	<p>Shropshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) has announced that Bridgnorth Hospital operating theatre will reopen, after agreeing the business case to provide funding for its refurbishment.</p> <p>The PCT's funding will come together with a donation of £250,000 from the Bridgnorth Hospital League of Friends, combining to make a total investment of half a million pounds covering both hi-tech medical equipment and building work to bring the day surgery and diagnostic unit up to modern, safe standards.</p> <p>The total funding will bring a range of major improvements to the unit, including new equipment, such as endoscopy cameras, and major improvements to the space itself to meet latest infection control standards for patients. Once complete the refurbishment programme will enable day case surgery to take place once again. For patients, the major benefit will be that treatments such as podiatric (foot) surgery can return to Bridgnorth, together with orthopaedic and general surgery cases, and diagnostic procedures like endoscopy and cystoscopy, meaning that patients will no longer have to travel further afield. The new facilities and equipment mean there is also scope for new types of procedures to be carried out there.</p> <p>The PCT hope to have the refurbishment complete by the end of this financial year.</p>

	Comments/Questions/Suggestions	Response Requested From	Response/Action
3.	<p>Shropshire Council Budget – query about action taken to reduce numbers of empty properties (paragraph 23.3 in the minutes of the 14 July meeting)</p>	Housing	<p>The rationale as to why we need to reinforce our activity in relation to empty homes is contained in the Empty Homes Strategy which is currently out for consultation until 15th October 2010.</p> <p>The process of changing Council Tax and carrying out work to bring homes back into use were an integral part of the initiative as there were nearly 2,000 vacant homes which had been unoccupied in excess of 6 months within the council's area.</p> <p>However, levying full Council Tax will not necessarily bring about reoccupation of any properties and considerable resource is necessary to achieve this.</p> <p>The funds for these two officers, only one of which has to date been authorised for appointment, were made available from additional income which has been generated by the Council Tax changes.</p>

	Comments/Questions/Suggestions	Response Requested From	Response/Action
3.	<p>Suggestions for future agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible reorganisation of hospital services and how it could affect the Bridgnorth area • Ambulance Service (response times; call centre problems) • Community Council of Shropshire (vulnerable people) • ShropshireLink bus services • Carers – My Life, My Choice team • Fly-tipping • Divisional Surveyor to be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss potholes. • Fire and Rescue Service – incidents/activity statistics and fire safety • Bridgnorth District Community Transport 		9 February 2010