



Committee and Date  
Bridgnorth, Worfield,  
Alveley and Claverley  
Local Joint  
Committee  
Wednesday 6  
October 2010  
7:00 p.m.

Item/Paper  
  
**3**  
  
Public

**NOTES OF ACTIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2010 AT ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL**

7:00 – 9.00 p.m.

**Responsible Officer** Anne Cousins

e-mail: anne.cousins@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: (01743) 252743 Fax (01743) 252713

**Committee Members Present:**

Shropshire Council

Mr Christian Lea

Mr William Parr

Mr Les Winwood

Mr Michael Wood

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

\*Mrs Val Gill, Bridgnorth Town Council

Mr Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council

\*Mrs Susan Biddle, Quatt Malvern Parish Council

Mr Allan Chatham, Sutton Maddock Parish Council

Mr Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council

Mr Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council

\* = substitute

**Shropshire Council Officers present:**

Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer

Vicky Turner, Community Regeneration Officer (CRO)

Anne Cousins, Committee Officer

**Shropshire County Primary Care Trust Community Health Services**

Stuart Rees, Director of Finance

**West Mercia Police:**

Sgt Bob Matthews

PC Matt Picken

CSO Sue Eden

**There were 58 people present in total.**

**ACTION**

**15. Kaleidoscope Theatre Company**

- 15.1 The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members of Kaleidoscope Theatre Company, from Kemberton, who gave a short entertainment. Carlyne Revell, director of the company, thanked the Committee for providing the funds for new sound equipment and she explained how important this funding was to the work of the theatre company.

**16. Apologies and Substitutions**

The following Members gave apologies:

Mr John Hurst-Knight, Shropshire Council

Mrs Tina Woodward, Shropshire Council

Mr Geoff Bodenham, Bridgnorth Town Council

Mr Ian Amos, Kemberton Parish Council

Mrs Isabel Faithful, Quatt Malvern Parish Council

Mr Malcolm Duff-Walker, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council

Mrs Val Gill substituted for Mr Geoff Bodenham and Mrs Susan Biddle substituted for Mrs Isabel Faithful.

**17. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**18. Notes**

- 18.1 The Chairman referred to the Comments, Questions and Suggestions sheet attached to the notes and drew attention to the list of proposed future agenda items.
- 18.2 **RESOLVED:** That the notes of the previous meeting, held on 14 May 2010, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**19. Bridgnorth Community Hospital**

- 19.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr Stuart Rees, Director of Resources, Shropshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) Community Health Services and explained that June Patel, Managing Director/Executive Nurse, had given her apologies for this meeting.
- 19.2 Mr Rees provided a short update on the operating theatre closure at Bridgnorth Community Hospital. Since the last LJC meeting in May, a business case had been prepared, which would go to the PCT Finance Committee on 2 August.

19.3 In response to a question about when the decision would be taken, Mr Rees explained that if an application for capital funding was required, this would have to go to the Strategic Health Authority Board in September.

19.4 A member of the public asked if the business case was available to the public and was informed that it was not because it was a commercially sensitive document.

## 20. Safer Roads Partnership

20.1 Martin Withington, Head of Transportation, Shropshire Council, introduced Rod Reynolds of the Safer Roads Partnership. He explained Shropshire Council was one of a number of agencies which made up the Partnership and provided funding.

20.2 Rod Reynolds gave an informative talk about the remit and role of the Safer Roads Partnership, which covered Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. The role of the Partnership was to improve road safety by enforcing speed limits. It was important to remember the Partnership did not make the law, but upheld it. As well as speed limits, the Safer Roads Partnership had a role in educating road users, e.g. motorcyclists, young drivers, pedestrians and targeting specific issues such as drink driving.

Enforcement used to be carried out at key sites across the county, based on accident statistics. In 2009, the introduction of the Community Concern programme enabled the Safer Roads Partnership respond to sites of particular concern to residents, as it was recognised that speed could blight the quality of life in some locations even though there may not be many accidents. In the future, Mr Reynolds felt localism was the way forward. The Safer Roads Partnership was facing financial cutbacks and would have to find ways of delivering more for less. Mr Reynolds reported that road casualty figures were dropping all the time and said he did not want to risk any increase in those figures.

20.3 A question was asked about the relationship between the Safer Roads Partnership and the police. Mr Reynolds explained his team were employed by the police and were able to focus on road safety exclusively, whereas the police had many priorities.

20.4 There was discussion about village speed limits and buffer zones and a comment was made by a member of the public that the police felt these were unenforceable, which undermined the partnership.

## **ACTION**

See  
Updates  
Sheet –  
item 2

**ACTION**

20.5 In response, Mr Reynolds agreed the police could not be everywhere. A review of speed limits was underway to ensure they were all appropriate. He emphasised the role of the Safer Roads Partnership was enforcement of speed limits, not setting them. The Head of Transportation added that village speed limits were seen to be self-enforcing as it was not possible for the police to enforce every one. There were other changes to the physical environment which could be made if speed reductions were not achieved.

20.6 Another member of the Safer Roads Partnership then explained the strategy adopted to control speed of motorcycles through the Bridgnorth area in the summer months. This consisted of engineering, education and enforcement. Leaflets were available at the meeting, explaining the training courses available for motorcycle, scooter and moped riders. A number of roads in the area were targeted specifically for enforcement, such as the A458, A454 and the A458.

20.7 The Head of Transportation reported a 65% reduction in the numbers of those killed or seriously injured on Shropshire's roads, although he said there could be statistical variations and any figures had to be treated with caution. There was, however, a particular issue with motorcyclists in the Bridgnorth area.

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

21.1 Sgt Bob Matthews introduced this item and invited the public to raise any issues of concern. He reiterated that the police had an excellent relationship with the Safer Roads Partnership.

21.2 A member of the public raised the issue of security for out of town shops. Sgt Matthews explained the police were able to offer security advice to shop owners. If there was a particular threat, e.g. post offices in an area were being targeted, then the police warned all local premises to try to prevent any further attacks. The police were well aware that premises in isolated areas were vulnerable and shop owners were encouraged to seek police advice, e.g. the police could support an application for shutters on shop premises.

21.3 The Chairman reported that residents at the end of Bernards Hill, Low Town, in the vicinity of The Fox pub had recently experienced problems, such as doors being kicked in, and paint being daubed on vehicles and properties. Sgt Matthews said he was not aware of these issues but undertook to review police patrols in that area.

**Police**

	<b>ACTION</b>
21.4 The issue of parking partly on the road and partly on the pavement was raised. Sgt Matthews said this matter had been discussed by all three emergency services, because of difficulties in access for emergency vehicles. The police were aware of the problem and would be carrying out enforcement if the situation did not improve.	
<b>22. Consideration of Funding Applications</b>	
22.1 Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer, introduced this item. He first congratulated Kaleidoscope Theatre Company for their excellent performance at the beginning of the meeting and he urged all those present to publicise the LJC funding opportunities to local groups who could benefit.	
22.2 Mr Voysey raised a question about the definition of “wider community” in the criteria for grants. He said a number of applications had only received 75% of the amount applied for because the group did not cover the whole of the LJC area and asked if this is what had been intended. In response, the Lead Officer explained the aim was to set objective criteria and to make best use of scarce resources, but he undertook to review the matter in the light of this comment.	<b>Lead Officer</b>
22.3 <b>RESOLVED:</b>	
A That each application received for the Community Chest and the Larger Grant Scheme be considered in light of the officers’ recommendations.	
B That grant approvals or rejections be confirmed, and any terms and conditions for each application be considered. The following decisions on grant applications were agreed:	
<b>Community Chest:</b>	
C5 Bridgnorth and District Camera Club (studio lighting) £300	<b>Lead Officer</b>
C6 Alveley Band (20 <sup>th</sup> Year Celebration) £500	<b>Lead Officer</b>
<b>Larger Grant Scheme:</b>	
4 Bridgnorth Bowling Club (contribution to new mower) £3,942	<b>Lead Officer</b>
C That all Committee Members help publicise the availability of LJC funding and advise the Community Regeneration Officer of any groups with potential projects.	<b>All Members</b>
<b>23. Shropshire Council’s Budget Consultation</b>	
23.1 Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer, explained to those present that the public sector was facing some very tough economic choices at the present time. Local Joint Committee meetings provided opportunities to consult with people in all parts of the county before any decisions had been taken. He then introduced Cllr Mrs Ann Hartley, Shropshire Council Cabinet Member.	

**ACTION**

- 23.2 Mrs Hartley explained all Cabinet Members were keen to consult with residents and ask for helpful suggestions as to how best to deal with the current financial situation. The Council was facing immediate cuts of £9.7 million and a 25% budget cut every year for the next 3 or 4 years.
- Mrs Hartley informed those present that the council was already very efficient, had managed its budget well in the past, and had cut down on bureaucracy and duplication. Some immediate decisions which had been taken were to reduce the mileage rate for business travel, freeze recruitment and make some changes to the way goods and services were purchased. The council was also putting into place a major programme of transformation because it was necessary to change the way services were delivered. A pledge had been made not to increase council tax, but it was still important to retain good services.
- Mrs Hartley urged everyone to make their views known in the public debate, either at meetings, or by participating in the web-based consultation or in writing.
- 23.3 A member of public commented that two new posts had been created, at a cost of £80,000, with the aim of reducing the number of empty properties across the county. As changes had been made to council tax to discourage empty properties, it was suggested that these arrangements should be sufficient and there was no need for these new posts. Another suggestion made was that the Council could move into property rental itself, if it so wished. Mrs Hartley welcomed these comments and undertook to discuss further with Cabinet colleagues.
- 23.4 There was discussion on parking charges and Mrs Hartley confirmed that it was up to individual market towns to determine how best to apply the strategy.
- 23.5 In a discussion about town and parish councils, Mrs Hartley suggested it would be helpful if they were willing to take on more services, e.g. grass cutting, public toilets, etc but money would have to follow if this were the case.
- 23.6 In response to a question about whether cutting bureaucracy would mean it would be more difficult for the public to contact the council, Mrs Hartley assured those present that there was no intention of that happening. The Council was committed to easy access to services to all, via the Customer Service Centres and contact points across the county.

See attached Updates Sheet – item 3

**ACTION**

23.7 A member of the public asked if the council would use West Mercia Supplies as its procurement agency. It was confirmed that the Council used West Mercia Supplies as a joint trading consortium for efficient procurement of a range of services including energy, stationery, cleaning materials, office equipment and other items already, but this did not mean West Mercia Supplies was the Council's sole procurement agency.

23.8 There was a plea for the Council to keep in mind the vision behind the Community Strategy, particularly the second priority of tackling climate change. Mrs Hartley explained she was the Portfolio Holder for reduction of carbon emissions and promoting energy efficiency. Shropshire Council was committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 35% over the next three years, e.g. by replacing boilers and inefficient lighting across Shirehall and the Area Headquarters buildings; using electric cars in the car pool; scheme to help staff to purchase cycles; and no bottled water at meetings.

23.9 Another comment made concerned roadside verge cutting, because it was felt savings could be made in this area.

**30. Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items**

Mr Winwood, Shropshire Council, suggested inviting Bridgnorth District Community Transport to a future meeting.

**31. Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 6 October 2010 at Worfield Recreation Room.

**Signed.....Chairman**

**Date.....**