



Committee and Date Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley and Claverley Local Joint Committee Wednesday 18 January 2012 7.00 p.m.
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Item/Paper 3 Public

**NOTES OF ACTIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2011 AT WORFIELD RECREATION ROOM, WORFIELD
7.00 – 9.15 p.m.**

Responsible Officer Anne Cousins

e-mail: anne.cousins@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: (01743) 252743

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Mr John Hurst-Knight
Mr Christian Lea
Mr Les Winwood
Mr Michael Wood
Mrs Tina Woodward

Town/Parish Councils

Mr David Voysey, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council
Mr Simon Elcock, Astley Abbots Parish Council
Mr Granville Godbert, Badger Parish Council
Mr David Tooth, Beckbury Parish Council
Mr Geoff Bodenham, Bridgnorth Town Council
Mr Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council
Mr Ian Amos, Kemberton Parish Council
Mrs Isabel Faithful, Quatt Malvern Parish Council
Mr Malcolm Duff-Walker, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council
Mrs Kathryn Ward, Stockton Parish Council
Mr Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council
Mr Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Jake Berriman, Internal Consultant - Places
Tom Brettell, Senior Community Action Officer, South East
Anne Cousins, Committee Officer
Chris Edwards, Area Director South

West Mercia Police

Insp Andy James
PC Mark Fletcher
CSO Sue Eden

There were approximately 40 people present in total.

ACTION

1. Apologies and Substitutions

- 1.1 Apologies were received on behalf of Mr William Parr, Shropshire Council, and Mr Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council. Mr Granville Godbert substituted for Mr Lipscombe.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Mr John Hurst-Knight, Mr Christian Lea and Mr Les Winwood declared personal interests in the Steps and Castle Walk interpretation scheme (20) as they were involved as local Members in the Market Towns Revitalisation Programme.
- 2.2 Mrs Tina Woodward declared a personal interest in Alveley Chapel Community Hub (19) as she had had contact with the applicant.
- 2.3 Mr Christian Lea declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the funding application from St John's RC Primary School (21), as his children attended the school and he was a school governor. He left the room during consideration of this item and Mrs Tina Woodward took the Chair.
- 2.4 Mr Richard Cotham declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from Bridgnorth Spartans Football Club.
- 2.5 Mr Simon Elcock declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application for Cross Lane Head Speed Limit (12) as a Member of Astley Abbots Parish Council.
- 2.6 Mrs Kathryn Ward declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the applications from Alveley Cricket Club (14) (related to applicant) and Norton Playground Refurbishment (16) (Member of Stockton Parish Council).

3. Notes and Matters Arising

- 3.1 Mr John Hurst-Knight explained he had been present at the last meeting, held on 18 May 2011, although he had left early due to another commitment. He asked for the notes of the meeting (which recorded his apologies) to be amended and this was agreed.
- 3.2 **RESOLVED:** That, subject to the fore-going, the notes of the previous meeting, held on 18 May 2011, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

- 4.1 Inspector Andy James reported on crime levels in the area. Although crime levels across Shropshire were generally falling, there had been a rise in crime in the Bridgnorth area. Inspector James explained this was due in particular to metal thefts and the police had made a number of arrests. He said police were targeting scrap yards to ensure thieves had nowhere to take stolen metals. He encouraged all members of the public to report anything suspicious to the police.
- 4.2 Inspector James also reported on numbers of burglaries and violence against the person offences. He said the police had worked very hard to reduce motorbike fatalities (there had been two this year) and had launched Operation Valley to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area, working closely with pubs and residents.
- 4.3 PC Mark Fletcher said there had been a number of bogus callers in the Alveley area and police and Trading Standards officers were working together to combat these. He said there had also been some thefts from rural properties and he encouraged everyone to mark their property with the Smartwater DNA system. This meant property could always be traced back to the owner and acted as a powerful deterrent against theft.
- 4.4 Local police had visited local schools to talk about Hallowe'en and bonfire safety and continued to meet members of the community as often as possible.
- 4.5 There was a reminder about Ruralwatch and members of the public were encouraged to sign up to this scheme to receive regular information from the police.
- 4.6 A Member of the Committee referred to the Home Office Communities and Crime Prevention Innovation Fund, run locally by the Community Council of Shropshire, as no applications to this Fund had been made at the last meeting. In response, Inspector James confirmed that partners were aware of this and would be working on any opportunities to apply to this fund.
- 4.7 Mrs Woodward thanked the local policing team for their response to concerns she had raised a recent meeting and said this had really made a difference.

5. Area Director (South) – Mr Chris Edwards

- 5.1 The Chairman invited Mr Chris Edwards, Area Director (South), Shropshire Council, to speak. He explained he would be helping to deliver the localism agenda and other new government initiatives. He said he was looking forward to working with local people, including Town/Parish Councillors, local Members, police, health colleagues and JobCentrePlus staff, on ways to deliver services

better.

ACTION

6. Neighbourhood Planning

- 6.1 Jake Berriman, Internal Consultant - Places, Shropshire Council, then gave a talk about neighbourhood planning. Firstly, he described the changes which were coming to the National Planning Policy Framework, triggered by the Localism Bill. These would enable local communities to have a direct say in planning in their locality.
- 6.2 In Shropshire, the Council had already adopted a Core Strategy, which provided the strategic direction for future growth. The Core Strategy had been completed in consultation with local communities, e.g. the rural tool-kit event in Alveley. The Core Strategy envisaged growth of 25% in Shrewsbury; 40% in market towns and 35% in rural areas. The response from communities in Shropshire had been variable. Not many villages in the Bridgnorth area had come forward to say they would like more development and the Internal Consultant suggested that some areas may wish to reconsider this. More consultation was due to take place in January 2012, following the publication of the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMdev) Preferred Options.
- 6.3 He then moved on to discuss the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which was a charge Shropshire Council was introducing on all open market housing development from 1 January 2012. The money raised would be spent on priorities agreed by the local community.
- 6.4 Having set out the broad spatial approach, the Internal Consultant then moved on to talk about neighbourhood plans. The intention in future was for Neighbourhood Plans to have as much weight as a local authority Local Plan and five areas in Shropshire had come forward to volunteer to take part in a pilot scheme. One of these areas was Much Wenlock, which was developing a plan to provide employment allocations, affordable housing for local people and accommodation for the elderly. He explained he was working closely with local residents and Members to achieve these aspirations. He encouraged all present to get involved in the Site Allocations and Management of Development consultation and ensure their voices were heard.
- 6.5 In response to a question, it was confirmed the CIL would come into effect on all development decisions taken after 1 January 2012. The amount (£40 per square metre in Shrewsbury and market towns; £80 per square metre elsewhere) had been set based on a local understanding of market viability. The Council had worked closely with house-builders in setting the rate.
- 6.6 A member of the public commended Shropshire for its work in planning. She went on to ask what happened if no plan was in place. The Internal Consultant explained that, in Shropshire, the Core Strategy had already been adopted and any planning applications would have to be compliant with this.

ACTION

6.7 A question was raised about the impact of the CIL on affordable housing and it was confirmed the charge did not apply to affordable housing.

6.8 A Member of the Committee commented that meetings on planning for Town and Parish Councillors were held regularly at Shirehall, but were not always well attended. The next meetings, which will cover place plans and the CIL, will be held on:

Tues 29 November, 10 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at Shirehall

Fri 25 November, 1.00 – 4.00 p.m. at the Community Centre, Craven Arms

Thurs 8 December, 5.30 – 8.30 p.m. at Shirehall.

All Members are encouraged to attend.

**All
Members**

6.9 Further information is available on the Shropshire Council website, shropshire.gov.uk; or e-mail planning.policy@shropshire.gov.uk; or tel 0345 678 9004.

7. Amendment to Local Joint Committee Constitution

7.1 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

8. 2011/12 Finance Report, including updates on funding requests for consideration

8.1 The Committee considered ten applications for funding from the Larger Grants Scheme.

8.2 Astley Abbots Parish Council had submitted a bid for £3000 to implement a speed limit through Cross Lane Head. In the discussion, it was pointed out that, if approved, all on-going maintenance costs would fall either to the Parish Council or the Local Joint Committee. There was also discussion about whether or not a speed limit would be enforceable. It was suggested the Safer Roads Partnership could be asked to survey the site and assess this. The Parish Clerk pointed out this request had not been made before and the application had been submitted some time ago. It was proposed that the application be deferred until further information about enforcement was available and for Astley Abbots Parish Council to assess whether or not it would be able to meet the running costs.

8.3 The People's Hall Evangelical Church had applied for £3000 to provide disabled facilities in the hall. The applicant provided further clarification of the quotes received, explaining that the second quote was much lower than the first quote because it included a greater element of self-help. On being put to the vote, a majority voted in favour of this application.

ACTION

- 8.4 Alveley Cricket Club had applied for £1,259 for equipment and training costs for coaches to support youth cricket. Members noted the club had benefited from Local Joint Committee funds in the past and there was discussion about alternative sources of funding. It was proposed, and agreed, that a decision be deferred until the end of the financial year.
- 8.5 Alveley Recreation Ground had applied for £1,095 to improve security lighting following a break-in and to lay a new kitchen floor. Members felt there should have been two separate applications. It was proposed, and agreed, to fund £640 from the Community Chest Fund for the kitchen floor. The Senior Community Action Officer would work with the applicants on alternative sources of funding for the security lighting.
- 8.6 Stockton Parish Council had submitted an application for £3000 to enhance the playground facilities in the village of Norton. Members commended the application because it had already obtained several other sources of funding. The total project costs were over £10,000, most of which had been secured. Members voted unanimously to support the application.
- 8.7 Bridgnorth Rugby Club had applied for £3000 to improve facilities. It was noted by Members that the total project cost was £20,000 and several other sources of funding and/or self-help had been confirmed. Members voted unanimously to support the application.
- 8.8 There was unanimous support for the application by Bridgnorth Spartans Football Club for £1413 for new goal-posts.
- 8.9 The application for Alveley Old Chapel Community Hub for £3000 to contribute to the costs of insulating the building and providing a new heating system was discussed. It was confirmed other halls in Alveley were already well used and the Old Chapel would offer drop-in facilities, which were not available elsewhere. The applicant confirmed he now had additional quotes, as requested by Members. On being put to the vote, Members agreed unanimously to support the application.
- 8.10 Bridgnorth Civic Society had applied for £3000 to enable an expert to develop an interpretation story and trail for the Castle Walk and Town Steps. Some Members felt this work could be undertaken by volunteers; other Members felt the project would enhance tourism in Bridgnorth. On being put to the vote, a majority of Members voted against this application.
- 8.11 St John's RC Primary School had applied for £2500 to create a sensory garden for the pupils and wider community at St John's. The Senior Community Action Officer confirmed adults with learning disabilities at Innage Lane and St John's Parish Youth Group would be able to use the facilities and it would be open to the wider community on an appointment basis. Some Members felt other

schools provided similar facilities using their own funds. On being put to the vote, a majority of Members voted against this application.

ACTION

8.12 RESOLVED:

The following grants were approved:

People’s Hall Evangelical Church – disabled facilities	£3000
Alveley Recreation Ground – improvements	£640
Norton Playground – refurbishment	£3000
Bridgnorth Rugby Club – improvements	£3000
Bridgnorth Spartans Football Club – new goal posts	£1413
Alveley Chapel Community Hub – insulation/heating	£3000

Senior
Comm-
unity
Action
Officer

The following requests for funding were deferred:

Astley Abbots Parish Council – Cross Lane Head Speed Limit project

Alveley Cricket Club – equipment

The following requests for funding were refused:

Bridgnorth Civic Society – recruitment of expert to develop an interpretation story and trail for Castle Walk and Town Steps

St John’s RC Primary School – sensory garden project

Following these decisions the funds remaining for the LJC in the 2011/12 financial year are £7,208.

9. Funding Priorities for 2012/13

9.1 The Chairman suggested, and it was agreed, that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

10. Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items

10.1 There were no public questions.

10.2 It was suggested that the number of topics on future agendas should be limited.

10.3 A suggestion was made that proposed parliamentary boundary changes could be considered at the next meeting in January, but the Chairman confirmed the deadline for submissions was December. He encouraged everyone to make their views known.

11. Date of Next Meeting

11.1 The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 January 2012, 7.00 p.m. at Westgate, Bridgnorth.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....