



Committee and Date  
Bridgnorth, Worfield,  
Alveley and Claverley  
Local Joint  
Committee  
Wednesday 16 May  
2012  
7:00 p.m.

Item/Paper  
  
**6**  
  
Public

**NOTES OF ACTIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2012 AT WESTGATE,  
BRIDGNORTH**  
7:00 – 9.10 p.m.

**Responsible Officer** Anne Cousins  
e-mail: [anne.cousins@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:anne.cousins@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: (01743) 252743

**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 Simon Elcock, Astley Abbots 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 Malcolm Duff-Walker, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council  
Mrs Kathryn Ward, Stockton 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:**

- Tom Brettell, Senior Community Action Officer (CAO), South East  
Anne Cousins, Committee Officer

**West Midlands Ambulance Service**

- Mr Dean Jenkins and Mr Barry McKinnon

**West Mercia Police**

- Inspector Andy James  
PC Mark Fletcher and CSO Sue Eden

**There were approx 40 people present in total.**

**ACTION**

**1. Apologies and Substitutions**

- 1.1 Apologies were received on behalf of Mr John Hurst-Knight, Shropshire Council; Mr David Voysey, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council; and Mr Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 Mr Simon Elcock declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 8, funding application 12 (Astley Abbots Parish Council, Cross Lane Head speed limit).
- 2.2 Mr Geoff Bodenham and Mr Len Ball both declared personal interests in agenda item 8, funding application 23 (Haydn Festival), as the applicant was known to them.
- 2.3 Mrs Kathryn Ward declared a personal interest in agenda item 8, funding application 14 (Alveley Cricket Club) as the applicant was known to her.
- 2.4 Mr Les Winwood declared a personal interest in agenda item 5, as two of his nephews owned taxi companies. He made the declaration as soon as the interest became apparent.

**3. Notes and Matters Arising**

- 3.1 The Chairman suggested the Divisional Surveyor should be invited to the next meeting to discuss any issues arising from the winter road maintenance programme.
- 3.2 **RESOLVED:** That the notes of the previous meeting, held on 19 October 2011, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. West Midlands Ambulance Service**

- 4.1 Dean Jenkins and Barry McKinnon, of the West Midlands Ambulance Service, gave a presentation and answered questions on the "Make Ready" system.
- 4.2 The presentation covered:
- Overview of Ambulance Service activity in the Shropshire area, which included a 6% increase in demand for services.
  - An explanation of the Make Ready system, which was a quality assurance vehicle and equipment preparation

**Cttee  
Officer**

programme designed to improve efficiencies across the whole ambulance service. A dedicated team would in future prepare vehicles for frontline duties, thus giving ambulance crews more time to respond to emergencies.

- New locations for ambulances. In future, ambulances would be based at Shrewsbury and Telford. In the market towns, such as Bridgnorth, there would be 24-hour 7-day cover by a community paramedic team.
- In summary, Shropshire Make Ready would improve response times; meet the needs of patients; improve patient outcomes; reduce waste and increase efficiency.

4.3 In response to questions from the public it was confirmed that 999 calls were dealt with from call centres at Dudley and Stafford which were equipped with the latest technology to direct calls appropriately. It was also confirmed that, in Bridgnorth, there would be a team of five community paramedics.

4.4 The Chairman thanked the officers for the presentation.

## **5. Key Current Policing Issues – PACT (Partners and Communities Together) and Smartwater presentation**

5.1 Inspector Andy James, local police inspector, reported on crime figures for the area. There had been 1731 crimes this year, compared to 1645 the previous year. Although this represented a 5% increase, Inspector James said Bridgnorth was still a low crime area with an average of 8 crimes a month. The detection rate had increased to 28.1%, compared to the previous year's figure of 26.5%. For violence against the person offences, the detection rate had increased to 62.4%, from 46.3%. There had been an increase in domestic burglaries, but following the arrest of one individual, these offences had reduced significantly.

5.2 Inspector James outlined a number of areas of police activity, including crackdowns on drugs offences, public order over the Christmas and New Year period; and metal thefts.

5.3 In response to a question, it was confirmed that CCTV in the town centre had an important role to play in preventing crime. Inspector James also welcomed any information from the public on 'boy racers' in the town.

## **ACTION**

- 5.4 The issue of taxis in Bridgnorth was raised by a member of the public. Inspector James explained the police were working with Shropshire Council officers to see if a taxi rank could be provided in the town centre.
- 5.5 Steve Lloyd, Regional Client Support Manager for Smartwater, then gave a presentation on “Deterrence through Forensic Science”. Members of the public heard how they could mark personal property with Smartwater products. If this property was stolen, it could be identified by means of the unique Smartwater code. Furthermore, any offender who came into contact with Smartwater could be arrested and traced to the scene of the crime. As well as domestic property, Smartwater could be used to mark metal items, such as drain covers, lead on roofs and cabling, which were all being targeted by metal thieves.
- 5.6 Mr Lloyd explained criminals feared Smartwater and were unlikely to target property displaying Smartwater signs because of the fear of being caught. The police, on the other hand, welcomed its use because it provided evidence to prosecute offenders.
- 5.7 In response to question, Mr Lloyd outlined in greater detail the work being undertaken with scrap-yard owners to inform and educate them about Smartwater.
- 5.8 There was also an explanation of how insurance was provided to churches and how insurance claims could be affected if churches did not protect their property with Smartwater.
- 5.9 The Chairman thanked Mr Lloyd and drew attention to a display of anti-theft products by another company, DJG Technology. There was an opportunity for those present to have a closer look at the displays and information. There was also a display of photographs of projects which had received funding from the Local Joint Committee (LJC).
- 6. Public Questions**
- 6.1 There were no public questions.

**ACTION**

**ACTION**

**7. Funding Priorities 2012/13**

- 7.1 This report (copy attached to signed minutes) was introduced by Tom Brettell, Senior Community Action Officer, and set out options for prioritising spending in the forthcoming financial year, 2012/13.
- 7.2 Members debated how best to divide up the budget of £35,500 and expressed the wish to spread the money as far as possible throughout the area. There was a suggestion that smaller amounts of money should be given to greater numbers of organisations, particularly those organisations who had not benefited from LJC funding in the past.
- 7.3 The report referred to identifying local priorities by means of Town and Parish Plans and the Community Strategy for Shropshire. It was suggested these could perhaps help to identify gaps where funding could make a difference.
- 7.4 There was discussion about the benefits, or otherwise, of allocating part of the funds for a specific purpose, such as for youth activities or for festivals.
- 7.5 One of the Haydn Festival organisers described the actions which had been taken to reduce reliance on LJC funds. He emphasised the economic benefit the festival brought to the whole area and reminded Members that the organisers were all volunteers.
- 7.6 The applicant for LJC funding for the Bridgnorth Music and Art Festival explained how organisers aimed to make the festival financially sustainable as soon as possible, but confirmed the festival's need for LJC support for this year. She agreed that festivals boosted the economic activity in the town by attracting visitors.
- 7.7 In response to a question, the Senior Community Action Officer confirmed some arts funding was due to come into the LJC budget, but the details were not yet known.
- 7.8 Another suggestion was to use some of the LJC budget to support the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Olympics 2012 celebrations.

**ACTION**

7.9 There was some support for the suggestion that applicants who had benefited from funding in the past should not be able to come back for more money. Members were mindful of the fact that LJC funding was non-statutory and it was not certain it would continue in future years.

7.10 **RESOLVED:**

A The budget of £35,500 for the financial year 2012/13 to be divided into a Community Chest and a Larger Grants Scheme.

B The budget for the Community Chest to be £15,500 in total, providing small grants up to a maximum of £750.

C The budget for the Larger Grants Scheme to be £20,000 in total, providing funding for projects over £750 up to a maximum of £2,000.

**8. 2011/12 Finance Report, including Updates on Funding Requests for Consideration**

8.1 The Committee considered two applications for funding which had been deferred from the previous meeting and two new applications for funding.

8.2 In October, Astley Abbots Parish Council had submitted a bid for £3000 to implement a speed limit through Cross Lane Head. This application had been deferred until further information about enforcement was available and for clarification from the Parish Council that they would meet the future running costs. The Senior Community Action Officer reported the Parish Council had undertaken to meet all future costs of the scheme. Local Highways officers and the police were in support of the scheme. The speeding assessment had not yet been undertaken, however, due to sickness absence, but it was due to be carried out later this week. Jayne Madeley, Astley Abbots Parish Council Clerk, confirmed the Parish Council had sufficient resources to carry out maintenance and all Parish Councillors were in support of the scheme. Members voted unanimously to support the scheme.

8.3 The second deferred bid was for £1259 for equipment for Alveley Cricket Club. At the October meeting, the club had been asked to seek alternative sources of funding. Subsequently, the club had written to the Committee to

explain that the potential grant giving bodies mentioned were not appropriate and had asked for their application to be re-considered. The Senior Community Action Officer had then asked the club to supply more information and was waiting for a response. In view of this, Members voted to defer the application again.

**ACTION**

8.4 The Chairman clarified that the remaining LJC budget was now £4208, with two applications for £3000 each still to be considered. It was agreed that the remaining budget be divided equally between the two applications, the Haydn Festival 2012 and the Bridgnorth Music and Arts Festival 2012.

8.5 **RESOLVED:**

The following grants were approved:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Astley Abbots Parish Council – Cross Lane Head speed limit | £3000 |
| Bridgnorth Music and Art Festival 2012                     | £2104 |
| Haydn Festival 2012  | £2104 |

**Snr CAO**

The following application was deferred:  
Alveley Cricket Club – equipment

**Following these decisions, the LJC budget for 2011/12 has been fully allocated.**

**9. Dates of Future Meetings**

It was agreed that future meetings of the LJC would take place on:

- Wednesday 16 May 2012, 7.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 17 October 2012, 7.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 20 February 2013, 7.00 p.m.

**Ctte Officer**

Venues to be confirmed.

The deadline for receipt of funding applications for the May meeting will be Monday 16 April 2012.

**Signed.....Chairman**

**Date.....**