



Committee and Date
Bridgnorth, Worfield,
Alveley and Claverley
Local Joint
Committee

Wed 16 Oct 2013,
7.00 p.m.

Item No

A

Public

**NOTES THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2013 AT
ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL**

(7.00 – 9.30 p.m.)

Responsible Officer Tom Brettell

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Christian Lea
Les Winwood
Michael Wood
Tina Woodward
William Parr

Town/Parish Councils

Isley Jakeman, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council
David Tooth, Beckbury Parish Council
Edward Marshall, Bridgnorth Town Council
Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council
Lawrence Chitty, Quatt Malvern Parish Council
Kathryn Ward, Stockton Parish Council
Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council
Susan Morris, Astley Abbots Parish Council
Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council

West Mercia Police

Sergeant Richard Bailey
Pc Stuart Lippitt

Mr Bill Longmore, Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia & Mr Barry Sheldon,
Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

No officer present

ACTION

2. Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received on behalf of John Hurst Knight, from Shropshire Council; David Voysey substituted for Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council; Ian Amos, Kemberton Parish Council; Allan Chatham, Sutton Maddock Parish Council and Julie Bedward, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council.

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Susan Morris declared an interest in the Sinfonia application for funding.

4. Notes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: That the notes of the last meeting, held on 19th June 2013, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Community Safety

- 5.1 Sgt Richard Bailey introduced himself as the sergeant for the newly formed Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) covering the Bridgnorth area and introduced PC Stuart Lippitt as the Police Constable responsible for the SNT.
- Sgt Bailey gave an overview of the changes in policing as part of the formation of the SNT's and answered a range of questions from the audience:
- SNT's consist of Police Officer, 2 PCSO's and a team of Police Specials.
 - SNT's are supported by a team of Patrol officers who are on duty on shift patterns providing coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These have a specific patrol area to cover that is no bigger than the SNT area.
 - Media reports have been misleading about the Patrol officers, giving the impression that they are based in larger stations such as Kidderminster and Telford. They are in fact on patrol throughout their shift period and just clock on and off at the station. This means that the nearest patrol officer to an incident will respond.
 - A range of technology is supporting this new way of working- including mobile data terminals
 - It was agreed that a range of work needed to take place with Town and Parish Councils, Shropshire Councillors and local groups to ensure that local people know who looks after their community. Sgt Bailey confirmed that the SNT's would undertake this work with assistance from the Community Action officer and Parish Clerks.
 - It was confirmed that Bridgnorth Police Station remains open but that the public could not expect there to always be an officer present and can use the direct phone line available on

**Sgt Bailey,
Tom
Brettell**

site or call 101

- Discussion took place over the 101 non-emergency number and it was clear that continued promotion and awareness raising of this facility was needed, particularly with the more vulnerable members of the community. It was agreed that this would form part of the work to promote the SNT's in the area.
- Evidence and feedback to date is showing that this change has led to an increase in police officers in the patch, particularly in relation to where Police officers are based.

ACTION

6. Mr Bill Longmore, Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for West Mercia & Mr Barry Sheldon, Deputy PCC

6.1 Mr Longmore and Mr Sheldon thanked all in attendance for coming out to meet them and gave an overview of their current work and the work undertaken since their election in November 2012 and answered a wide range of questions:

- One of the core aims is to get back to some old values at a time when policing is changing rapidly and severe savings need to be found.
- The number of Police officers will never be the same as it was some 20 years ago. At the same time the days of being based in a station, writing reports are over. It is about ensuring the maximum benefit is gained out of a smaller number of officers
- The working relationship with the Chief Constable is very strong and positive as it needs to be to drive forward positive change
- Although big cuts have been made, redundancies have been minimised and at present no more are planned. A period of stability is now needed.
- Working in partnership with Councils and the community to minimise the impact of cuts and to make communities safer is the only way forward- the example of youth projects was given
- There is a need for leaders within communities and for the SNT's to be part of this leadership structure as policing transcends lots of issues
- The strategic alliance with Warwickshire is a pragmatic way of improving policing
- 82 SNT's have now been formed across the force area. These are supported by over 100 specials, the patrol officer teams and a force wide operational policing unit incorporating armed response and dogs.
- The key role of the SNT's is to provide familiar and visible policing that provides reassurance, builds confidence and is accessible to the community
- There is a strong drive to increase the volunteering elements of policing that have seen a reduction in numbers of recent years. This was a priority over the coming months for the PCC and Deputy PCC, particularly schemes such as

Neighbourhood Watch and Rural Watch

- The Police & Crime Plan set 12 ambitious objectives that were set directly from priorities voiced by the community, including:
 - Alcohol- particularly in market towns- working in partnership with a range of bodies to make the night time economy as safe and as possible
 - Drugs- looking carefully into treatment programmes and how these are funded
 - Enforcement- targeting most serious offenders and gangs
 - Road Safety- reintroducing community speed concern, using specials to enforce, targeted work. A range of concerns over motorbikes in this patch were raised, particularly on the A442, A458 and B4176. The work of the outreach vehicle was celebrated but it was felt that the situation with anti-social riding was getting worse and wasn't just limited to summer months. It was felt that positive enforcement action needed to be in place for 2014. It was agreed that this was a priority and that a more ruthless approach needed to be taken
 - Rehabilitation- lots of positive work happening and learning from best practise such as Willowdene in Chorley
 - Rural and business crime- need to improve success in reducing these. Developing specific strategies
 - Victim support- must maintain and enhance services and help to bridge funding gaps. Looking at the opportunities of commissioning services and providing greater security to bodies delivering support
- Further to earlier discussions with the SNT it was agreed that more work could be done in partnership with Town and Parish Councils to raise awareness, communicate with the community. A new Community Ambassador scheme is almost ready to be launched that will help this relationship.
- A focus on value for money will continue, currently a review of the vehicle fleet was taking place
- An apology was made over a lack of response to a letter from Stockton Parish Council regarding a spate of shed burglaries. This will be followed up
- Concern was raised over a Parish Councillor being asked to go to Telford Police Station to make a statement about a suspicious vehicle. This issue will be investigated as this should not be normal practise
- The additional powers given to PCSO's were widely welcomed and their work greatly appreciated across the area
- Concern was registered over the decline in neighbourhood watch membership. The PCC confirmed the importance of this essential service and that a review was underway in how best to support and grow this.
- Thanks were given to the SNT for the area specific work undertaken in the Bridgnorth West & Tasley area
- Details were given about some of the vital projects that have been funded through the PCC fund, set up from a donation of

**Bill
Longmore**

£20,000 p/a of the PCC salary. A key part of this is around youth provision and groups were encouraged to get in touch if they have projects.

- Discussion took place over speed limits and the challenges of enforcing these. Members were encouraged to raise specific issues through their town or parish councils.
- A question was raised over the cost of the PCC team. Confirmation was given that this was £300,000 cheaper than the previous model and a constant priority was delivering value for money and savings.
- A query was raised over whether the PCC is consulted on proposed housing developments, particularly larger developments. It was agreed that this needed to be clarified.

7. 2013/14 Finance Report, including update on funding requests for consideration

7.1 Tom Brettell, Senior Community Action Officer, introduced the report. He explained there was a budget of £44,190 in total for the 2013/14 financial year and a number of applications had been received for consideration at the meeting.

7.2 The following grants were approved:

Larger Grants Scheme

Claverley Toddlers- new equipment	£1,000
Quatt Village Hall- meeting room	£2,000

Community Chest

Sinfonia- stands and lights	£750
English Haydn Festival	£750

8. Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items

8.1 A question was raised about the rumour of the South Area Planning meeting being removed. Cllr William Parr will report back to the LJC

ACTION

Cllr William Parr

9. Dates of Future Meetings

Wednesday 19 February 2014, 7.00 p.m. venue to be confirmed.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

DRAFT