



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Broseley and Barrow Local Joint Committee
4 May 2010
7.00 pm

<u>Item/Paper</u>
<b>5</b>
Public

**NOTE OF ACTIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING OF THE BROSELEY AND BARROW LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 MARCH 2010 AT VICTORIA HALL, BROSELEY (7.00 – 8.40 PM)**

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**Present**

Mrs S Gibbons, Dr J E Jones (Chair), Mrs S King (Vice-Chair), Mr I Pickles, Mr P J Robinson and Mr P M Whiteman OBE

There were approximately 25 members of the public at the meeting.

		Action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  There were no apologies for absence as all members were present.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Dr Jones, Mr Pickles and Mr Robinson declared personal and prejudicial interests as members of Broseley Town Council which had applied for funding in respect of CCTV provision in the High Street. All three members left the room during the discussion and voting.  Mr Whiteman declared a personal interest only in the application from the Mount Nursery which his grand daughter attended.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Note</b>  <u>RESOLVED</u> : That the note of the last meeting held on 20 January 2010, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	

<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Public Transport connections to Williams Brookes School</b></p> <p>The Chair reported that the issue of additional transport provision to William Brookes School had been raised at the last meeting of Shropshire Council during the budget debate by herself and Mr Whiteman. The Leader of the Council had confirmed that there was an additional £500,000 in the budget to promote rural transport. She hoped that some progress could be made.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>Angela Douglas, Asset Manager Housing gave a presentation on Planned Maintenance and Decent Homes. (A copy of the presentation is on the webpage for the meeting).</p> <p>She explained that while many properties had benefited from significant improvements a 50% stock condition survey commissioned from Savills had shown that 29.2% did not meet decent standards. 50% surveys were seen as good practice. (It was noted that a full survey would have cost £300,000).</p> <p>The Council were currently concentrating their efforts on maintenance programmes in properties where there was the greatest need. They were targeting “warm and weather tight issues” of central heating, energy efficiency measures and external doors to achieve houses with reasonably modern facilities. This approach was less expensive than doing one-offs. The Council would be progressing programmes to fit new kitchens and bathrooms in due course. It should be noted that under the Decent Homes standards properties with kitchens that were less than 20 years old or had bathrooms less than 30 years old would not require replacement unless they failed due to health and safety e.g. layout issues.</p> <p>An external painting programme was being surveyed/ inspected for implementation shortly. This had not been carried out in the previous year because of a shortage of maintenance staff.</p> <p>Tenants had been notified by letter if they were included in the current programme of improvements.</p> <p>The photographs in the presentation were of vacated properties and where tenants had opted out of facilities. It was confirmed that housing officers carried out inspection visits before tenants moved out and they tried to recover clean up costs.</p> <p>A Member raised an example of where central heating had failed in November and it had taken twelve weeks to repair because of difficulties in obtaining parts. Ms Douglas replied that while the Department concentrated on those houses with no heating or open fires, complaints were taken seriously. It was not cost effective to maintain a central heating system which broke down.</p> <p>A member stated that he had raised concerns about the conditions of properties on an estate which did not meet decent standards, as they were not</p>	

<p>weatherproof because of poorly fitting doors, and had been told that they knew nothing about it. However, he had been assured in 2007 that Bridgnorth District Council had done a survey. It was noted that due to limited officer resources the central heating was being prioritised because of the additional survey and specification time period required.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the Council were concentrating on the worst properties, but felt that the old and vulnerable should also be considered a priority as any defects could have an effect on their health.</p> <p>Ms Douglas explained that under the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 the Tenant Services Authority had become responsible for the regulation of social housing across England. The TSA had initially been responsible for the regulation of housing associations and from 1 April 2010 this would be extended to include local authority housing. A business plan was being prepared on maintenance of the housing stock as the authority would have to demonstrate to the TSA how they were managing their housing stock and providing good services.</p> <p>Viv Marriott, Housing Services Manager and Yvette Greasley, Resident Involvement Officer, then gave a presentation on various estate management issues.</p> <p>The meeting was informed that 4,000 people, who wished to apply for council and housing association properties, were registered at Home Point. Applicants were prioritised for vacancies and transfers based on their housing need under a gold, silver and bronze banding system. Tenants could contact Home Point directly or individual housing officers could bid on their behalf (proxy votes).</p> <p>In replying to concerns about the need for staff continuity Ms Marriot explained that she had been in post since October 2009. Her job was to do interim management. She had been setting up processes to make sure nothing failed and then moved on.</p> <p>Concern was expressed that emails had not been responded to by the Housing Team in Bridgnorth. Ms Marriott explained that officers had been responding to complaints but had failed to give feedback to customers, but this was now occurring. Another problem had been officer sickness absence and emails would be directed to a common email address in future.</p> <p>Ms Greasley explained that her remit was to give residents opportunities to get involved in improving the quality of their lives and the local neighbourhood and having a say on the planning and delivery of housing services. There was a local residents group for Wilkinson Avenue but other active resident groups needed to be set up. She also mentioned the resident newsletter 'Loud and Clear' which contained a lot of useful information and that she was piloting a new Resident Involvement leaflet in Broseley. Ms Greasley asked for assistance in distributing this leaflet which listed a range of opportunities, issues and methods of involvement, so that individuals could make choices to suit them.</p>	<p>AD</p>
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	<p>She was keen to hear from all age groups, including children and young people.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that residents had been asked to ensure that their cars were not parked on highway verges. However, because of the narrowness of the estate roads the refuse vehicles could not pass. Members agreed that officers should be asked to look into whether a compromise could be achieved.</p> <p>The Committee noted that there would be a debate by Shropshire Council in due course about whether Council housing should be transferred to a Registered Social Landlord or be retained, but it was hoped that the issues would be properly debated and take into account tenants' opinions.</p>													
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Funding Applications</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a report from Ms Karen Bradshaw, Lead Officer on four funding applications from the 2009/10 community chest allocation.</p> <p>The Chair read out a letter on behalf of Wyldwoods thanking the Committee and in particular Andrea McWilliams for her encouragement in applying for grant aid and giving feedback on the use of the grant. The first of four seasonal sessions had taken place with children from the John Wilkinson School. The next session would also include preparations for the Wyldwoods Green Fayre charity fundraising event on Saturday 1st May (11.00 a.m. - 5.00pm.).</p> <p>PC Allan Hand and CSO Mal Goddard explained the benefits of CCTV provision in addressing crime and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> : That the following decisions be made in respect of the under-mentioned applications:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1285 1414 2033"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="284 1285 564 1397">Applicant</th> <th data-bbox="571 1285 1232 1397">Project</th> <th data-bbox="1238 1285 1414 1397">Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1406 564 1487">The Mount Nursery</td> <td data-bbox="571 1406 1232 1487">Better Childcare for All. To refurbish the demountable on the Dark Lane School site</td> <td data-bbox="1238 1406 1414 1487">£2,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1496 564 1576">Willey Wanderers Cricket Club</td> <td data-bbox="571 1496 1232 1576">To refurbish the wicket surface and replace the net structure and nets</td> <td data-bbox="1238 1496 1414 1576">£1,245.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1585 564 2033">Broseley MUGA Group</td> <td data-bbox="571 1585 1232 2033">To help with the running costs e.g. office, publicity, equipment</td> <td data-bbox="1238 1585 1414 2033">No grant in current financial year. Broseley MUGA be asked to re-present their proposal during 2010/11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Applicant	Project	Grant	The Mount Nursery	Better Childcare for All. To refurbish the demountable on the Dark Lane School site	£2,000.00	Willey Wanderers Cricket Club	To refurbish the wicket surface and replace the net structure and nets	£1,245.00	Broseley MUGA Group	To help with the running costs e.g. office, publicity, equipment	No grant in current financial year. Broseley MUGA be asked to re-present their proposal during 2010/11	
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	Broseley Town Council	CCTV Provision. To provide CCTV equipment to the High Street area of Broseley	£1,877.43	KB
7.	<b>Current Policing issues – PACT (Partners and Communities Together)</b>			
	<p>There were no additional policing issues raised at the meeting.</p> <p>Copies of a leaflet on the Broseley Local Policing Team and the West Mercia Policing pledge were circulated.</p>			
8	<b>Shropshire Core Strategy Final Plan Publication</b>			
	<p>The Committee were reminded that they had received an overview on the preparation of the Shropshire Core Strategy, including the consultation on the "Policy Directions" document, at their meeting on 21 September 2009. The Final Plan version of the Shropshire Core Strategy had now been published and representations on the 'soundness' of the plan had been invited from Monday 15 February until 5.30pm on Monday 29 March 2010. It was available to view on the Shropshire Council website at <a href="http://shropshire.gov.uk/planning.nsf">shropshire.gov.uk/planning.nsf</a>.</p>			
9.	<b>Evaluation of Local Joint Committee</b>			AMW
	All present at the meeting were asked to complete an evaluation questionnaire.			
10.	<b>Broseley Post Office</b>			
	<p>It was reported that notification had been received that Broseley Post Office would close on Wednesday 3 March at 5.30 p.m. and re-open at Spar Stores in the High Street on Friday 5 March. During the short period of closure customers could use any convenient Post Office. The nearest ones were Ironbridge Post Office, The Square, Ironbridge, Telford, TF8 7AQ and Madeley Post Office, 3 -4 Russell Square, Telford, TF7 5BB.</p>			
11.	<b>Public Question Time/ Identification of future agenda items</b>			
	No items were raised by members of the public.			
12.	<b>Update on Future meetings</b>			DEW
	<p>It was noted that future meetings had been arranged as follows:</p> <p>Tuesday 4 May 2010: Barrow C E Primary School at 7.00 p.m.  Saturday 3 July 2010: Haycop meadow at 2.00 p.m. (Alternative venue for committee business if very bad weather would be the Victoria Hall, Broseley)  Thursday 21 October 2010: Willey and District Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.  Wednesday 2 February 2011: Victoria Hall, Broseley at 7.00 p.m.</p>			

	(It was agreed that a members 'planning' meeting should be arranged for Tuesday 30 March at 7.00 p.m.)	
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**Signed** .....

**Date** .....