

**CLEOBURY AND RURAL LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE  
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2012 AT  
MILSON AND NEEN SOLLARS VICTORY HALL, NEEN SOLLARS,  
KIDDERMINSTER, DY14 0AN  
7.00 pm – 8.50 pm**

**PRESENT:****Members of the Committee:**

Madge Shingleton	Shropshire Council
Gwilym Butler	Shropshire Council
Richard Huffer	Shropshire Council
Deborah Brown	Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council
Theresa Mackrow	Coreley Parish Council
Stephen Jones	Farlow Parish Council
David Haywood	Kinlet Parish Council
Chris Jones	Milson and Neen Sollars Parish Council
Andrew Vanderhook	Neen Savage Parish Council
Brian Hamilton-Russell	Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council
Bill Foster	Wheathill Parish Council

**In Attendance:**

Nick Bews	Boraston Parish Meeting
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**Shropshire Council Officers:**

David Edwards	Flood and Water Manager
Tom Brettell	Senior Community Action Officer
Linda Jeavons	Committee Officer

**West Mercia Police:**

Insp. Rob Thomas  
PC Ann O'Leary  
CSO Ben Harris

**Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service**

Graham Phillips  
Toby Guise

**Also Present:**

Sue Arrowsmith	Business Manager, Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre
Emma Buckingham	Severn Rivers Trust
James Turner	Environment Agency

**There were approximately 25 members of the public at the meeting. All attendees sat in groups and were joined by Councillors and Officers.**

## **17. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and Members and Officers introduced themselves.

## **18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Brian Howells	Burford Parish Council
Linda Clayton	Hopton Wafers Parish Council

### **Co-optees**

Bob Braddock	Cleobury Country
Val Simpson	Governor – Lacon Childe School

### **Officers**

Tracy Johnson	Community Action Officer
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## **19. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

## **20. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the decision notes of the meeting held on 12 June 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **21. COMMUNITY SAFETY**

- 21.1 Inspector Thomas was in attendance and updated the meeting as follows:

Crime – During the last six months, April to November, the reporting of crime in the West Mercia area was down by 10%; and anti social behaviour was also down both in Shropshire and over the whole of the West Mercia area.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) – The first elections for PCCs would take place on the 15 November. Once elected, the PCC would act as a link between the community and the police service; would set the strategic direction and budget; produce a Police and Crime Plan; and would be the voice of the public and victims.

There would be a chance to meet the candidates and find out more about the role of a PCC at a public meeting at 7.00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 at Ludlow College.

Savings - To achieve savings, an alliance between West Mercia and Warwickshire Police Authorities had been agreed.

### Crime Reduction Measures

- SmartWater – This was an invisible liquid used for marking and protecting valuables; and, if recovered, would enable the police to link property to its owner.
- CrimeMapper – This site enabled users to gain greater access to local crime information in their area, and could be accessed via the West Mercia Police website/Local Policing.
- dotMailer – This was a website to which residents could subscribe to receive Police alert messages, and could be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.westmercia.police.uk/register-to-receive-watch-messages.html>

PC Tony Sewell/PC Ann O'Leary - PC Tony Sewell had moved to the Youth Offending Team. PC Ann O'Leary would be taking on his role and would now cover both the Highley and Cleobury Mortimer areas, along with a team of three Community Support Officers.

Along with all those present, Inspector Thomas thanked PC Tony Sewell for his commitment and hard work during his time in the area. From the floor, the Police were congratulated for the low crime rate in the area, despite all the cuts.

- 21.2 **PC Ann O'Leary** reported that Cleobury Mortimer remained a low crime area. She urged everyone to remain observant and report anything suspicious.

## **22. THE ROLE OF A FIRE FIGHTER**

Graham Phillips and Toby Guise, representing Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, were in attendance, and provided an overview of the role of a fire fighter.

In response to questions from the floor, they explained:

- When dialling 999, an operative from the Fire Control Centre would glean all the necessary information from the caller;
- They used a comprehensive Sat Nav programme to locate premises. Every house in the country was either named or numbered, and there were six/eight personnel on the fire engine, all with local knowledge of the surrounding area;

- A grid reference was an ideal way of locating any property and could be found on an OS map; and
- The whole time stations would absorb most of the cuts. Retained fire stations would not be affected.

The Chairman thanked Officers from Shropshire Fire and Rescue for all their help and support given during the procession of the Olympic Torch through Cleobury Mortimer.

## **23. MEDICAL CENTRE – UPDATE**

Susan Arrowsmith, Business Partner, Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre, was in attendance and provided an update on the new medical centre in Cleobury Mortimer and answered questions from the floor. The decision to approve key funding for the new medical centre would be made at a meeting of the West Mercia Cluster Board, scheduled for the end of November. It was unlikely that this funding would be refused. Following approval of the scheme, a full planning application would be submitted by Matrix for approval, and it was anticipated that work could commence on site in May 2013.

She welcomed feedback and suggested that, if anyone had any comments/concerns on the future provision of medical care in Cleobury Mortimer, they should be forwarded to herself or Jenny McCrorie (Chair, Cleobury Patients' Voice). This feedback would then be forwarded to the PCT and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

It was hoped that plans for the new Medical Centre would be available for viewing at the next Cleobury and Rural Local Joint Committee scheduled for 21 February 2013.

In conclusion, the Chairman explained that the new Director of Public Health was keen to see as much available to patients as close to home as possible; GPs had and were continuing to work hard to make life easier for both patients' and carers'; and much work was being undertaken to ensure the successful completion of the medical centre. She encouraged all to join a Patients' Group.

## **24. RIVER REA PROJECT**

Emma Buckingham, Severn Rivers Trust, was in attendance and provided an overview of the River Rea Project. The Severn Rivers Trust was a local independent charity, which had been established following a European Rivers Directive. A Teme Pilot Stakeholder Group had been established, and drafting of a Catchment Management Plan was underway. This Plan aimed to capture views on how the community connected to the river, and how it should be improved. The project would run for three years, and, during this time,

the Severn Rivers Trust would work with local farmers, landowners, and riparian owners.

All were welcome to attend the following discussion sessions, which had been arranged by the Teme Pilot Partnership:

From 6 pm to 9 pm on:

Wed, 28<sup>th</sup> November – Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer

Thurs, 29<sup>th</sup> November – Ludlow Food Centre, Bromfield

Speakers and representatives from the area would be present to talk about the wildlife, the river and surrounding area. It would provide an opportunity for local residents to have a say about the river; identify any issues; and discuss what needs to be done. Posters advertising these events would be circulated to all members of this LJC.

David Edwards, Flood and Water Manager, Shropshire Council, was in attendance. He explained that, under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Shropshire Council was responsible for managing local flooding risk; namely, all flood risk other than from main rivers, which was covered by the Environment Agency. His role included:

- Educating landowners on their rights and responsibilities as riparian owners;
- Working with planning development control teams to ensure new development did not increase the risk of flooding; and
- Educating property owners to ensure their property(ies) were adequately protected against flooding.

Shropshire Council was undertaking an education programme in an attempt to reduce reliance on sandbags, and to promote other means of flood defence, ie flood doors, which if properly installed, would keep properties dry. Shropshire Council Officers would undertake a free of charge residential property flood protection assessment to anyone who requested one. He would also be willing to write a short article, for inclusion in local newsletters, covering landowner responsibilities for the maintenance of watercourses.

PS: Information to request a free property assessment could be found on the Shropshire Council website, or alternatively an e-mail including your name, address and contact telephone number(s) could be sent to **[flood@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:flood@shropshire.gov.uk)**.

A question and answer session followed, during which DE advised:

- Sandbags – Following the closure of the depot in Ludlow and everything moving to Craven Arms, he was asked if arrangements could be made to store sandbags locally. In response, he advised that he would approach Highways to see

if this request could be accommodated. He explained that Shropshire Council held limited stocks of sandbags; delivery of sandbags would be made to the needy, and to individual properties in very extreme circumstances; and sandbags could be purchased from hardware stores and builders' merchants. He urged everyone to obtain sandbags earlier, rather than later, during dry weather.

- Riparian owners were responsible for everything up to the centre of a watercourse, and must ensure water flowed freely, and remained clear of obstructions;
- The annual gulley cleaning was underway, but hot spots were cleared more regularly;
- Highway drains were there to drain away the water that fell on the highway. It was not possible to install a drainage system to accommodate all the water that ran off the land/fields;
- A meeting of the Lower Severn Corridor Flood Forum was held every four to six months. Everyone was welcome to attend;
- A Flood Insurance and Information Workshop event would be held at Shirehall, 6 – 9 pm on 24 January 2013. Representatives from the Association of British Insurers would be in attendance to answer any questions/concerns. Further details would be circulated in due course.

The Chairman suggested that Parish Councils could identify vulnerable people at risk of flooding, and provide a local base for storage of sandbags. She further explained that flooding was harder to handle because of the enormous amount of debris in the river. She urged Parish Councils to liaise with riparian owners to ensure watercourses were kept clear, and encouraged all to attend their local Flood Forum.

## **25. FEEDBACK FROM FUNDED PROJECTS**

Feedback would be received at a future meeting.

## **26. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING**

The Senior Community Action Officer introduced the item and it was decided as follows:

### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Cleobury Mortimer Parish Plan Steering Group funding application for £2,000, be approved.
- (ii) That the Plough Dukes Football Club funding application for

£500, be approved, subject to the goal posts becoming the property of Cleobury Mortimer Sports and Social Club if the Plough Dukes Football Club should close.

**27. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions

**28. IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Update on Broadband – Where are we now?
- Consultation on Rural Speed Limits
- Marches Energy Agency – Green Deal
- The effect of the HomePoint Allocation on affordable housing with a Section 106 Agreement

**29. DATES / TIMES OF MEETINGS IN 2012/13**

- (a) **To note future meeting dates and venues;**  
Thurs, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2013 – Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer
- (b) **Future preparation meeting dates:**  
Tues, 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2013 – Cleobury Country Centre

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_