



Committee and Date
Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint
Committee

12th May 2010

Item/Paper

6

Public

EASTERN SHREWSBURY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTION STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD MARCH 2010 AT WILFRED OWEN SCHOOL HALL, MONKMOOR CAMPUS, WOODCOTE WAY, SHREWSBURY 7.00 p.m. – 9.02 p.m.

Responsible Officer Fiona Howe
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Committee Members Present:

Councillor Tony Durnell (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)
Councillor Miles Kenny (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)
Councillor Mrs Jo Jones (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)

Officers Present:

Kevin Malone, Lead Officer
Chris Thomas, Support Officer
Ruth Mansfield, Community Regeneration Officer
Fiona Howe, Committee Officer

There were approximately 43 members of the public at the meeting.

ACTION

32. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

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

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence from the Members.

Apologies were received from PC Kerry Hawins, Cliff Parfit, Susan Davies, Linda George and Karen Price, Bromford Living.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

PERSONAL:

MEMBER/OFFICER	ITEM	REASON
Councillor M. Kenny	Minute 40 Application (b)	The applicant was known to him.

PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL:

MEMBER/OFFICER	ITEM	REASON
Councillor M. Kenny	Minute 40 Application (a)	He was a decision maker for Abbots Wood Caring for People Group. He left the room and took no part in the consideration of or voting on the matter in accordance with paragraph 12(1) of the Members Code of Conduct in Part 5 of Shropshire Council's Constitution.

35. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the meeting held on the 1st December 2009 be signed as a correct record.

36. SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM

The Chairman introduced the item on Shrewsbury in Bloom advising the meeting that the judges for this prestigious event would be visiting the Monkmoor, Underdale and Abbey areas for the first time.

Councillor Durnell encouraged residents to take photographs of the area to show the improvements which had been made to the area. The residents were advised to contact Shrewsbury Town Council to obtain further information on the proposals.

37. LOCAL BUS SERVICES

Councillor Kenny welcomed Mr Gordon Frost, Arriva Midlands Shropshire Area Business Manager, and Mr Matt Johnson, Senior Public Transport Officer to the meeting.

Mr Johnson provided a brief update on the role of Shropshire Council in respect of public transport throughout the County before handing over to Mr Frost to update residents on the services being provided by Arriva Midlands. The meeting was advised that Arriva issued a customer questionnaire throughout the West Midlands to gauge public opinion of the services being

provided, indicating where improvements could be made.

A discussion ensued and the following points were raised:

- The S1 service is not a reliable service. Since September 2009 customers have had to wait up to 45 minutes to catch a bus when they are advertised as coming every 12 minutes.
- Since the explosion in Shrewsbury the S1 service had been split so that it terminated in the town centre and a further bus was required to travel on to the hospital. It was felt that the alteration to this service had improved the provision for local residents and they would be happy for this to remain in place. Local residents also indicated that Arriva and Shropshire Council should look at reinstating route no. 22 which would resolve the issue of the Welshpool bus trying to navigate Calcott Lane.
- Resident indicated that they would be happy for the bus times to change to every 15 or 20 minutes as long as they could be made reliable. Mr Frost indicated that they were able to run the service in a timely manner on a Monday to Thursday, but indicated that traffic increased on a Friday and Saturday which had a big impacting on Arriva being able to run the services at regular intervals.
- A resident raised the issue of providing a service running directly to the retail area on Whitchurch Road. He stated that at the present time they had to travel into the town centre and then catch another bus to get anywhere near the out of town shopping areas. Mr Frost advised that a service such as the one being proposed was not commercially viable as they need to link as many places as possible to make the route viable. He added that the town centre routes were still the most popular.
- A resident requested that route no. 23 included a drop off at Morrison's Supermarket, as the retail facility was near to an existing bus route and a lot of people use the supermarket. It was noted that at the present time resident had to walk quite a distance to a suitable bus stop.
- Residents requested that the real time electronic timetables be reinstated. Mr Johnson advised the meeting that due to budget constraints, Shropshire Council had not approved provision for this service and as such it would not be reinstated. Residents requested that if this was the case could Officers ensure that all paper timetables included the correct information.
- Councillor Mrs Jones raised concern over the lack of stops on the Preston Street bus route, stating that there was a large elderly population in this area who struggled to walk the distances currently involved. Mr Johnson advised that that this matter was already being addressed and they were identifying locations for further stops. It was noted they were currently consulting on the location of 3 to 4 additional stops on this route.

- Residents stated that there were no stops between ASDA and St Giles which was a distance of 800 m and included an incline. He stated that this distance was unacceptable and not in line with government guidance.
- Porchfield Sheltered Housing used to be serviced by a bus route, but due to a Health and Safety issues it had been removed. Residents indicated that the residents were elderly and disabled and since the bus route had been removed they were unable to get about independently. Residents requested that Arriva look into reinstating this route.
- Mr Johnson advised residents that Shropshire Council had extended the use of concessionary bus passes and that they now included Dial-a-Ride.
- Concern was raised over the removal of the Cromwell Road service, stating that Arriva were discriminating against disabled and elderly residents in this isolated area. It was also noted that Cromwell Road was in disrepair and needed attention.
- Residents requested that Arriva look at making their charging policy fairer as it was currently expensive to use, especially if you are travelling a short distance. Mr Frost advised that Arriva had simplified its charging policy which meant that some shorter routes were more expensive. He stated that Arriva were rewarding frequent users by offering great rates on weekly and monthly travel passes, which could be used throughout the west midlands.
- It was noted that route no. 23 was unreliable and that Arriva shouldn't advertise a route every 30 minutes if it never ran at these times. Mr Frost advised that Arriva were undergoing a service review which will be looking at the reliability of the routes throughout the West Midlands. It was noted that prior to the September 2009 changes, the service had been reliable. Mr Frost stated that he would look into the reasons behind these recent failings.
- A suggestion was made to reduce the frequency of the bus service between the hours of 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. This suggestion was not supported by the majority of the residents present at the meeting.
- A resident requested confirmation on whether Arriva were intending to increase their charges for the coming year. Mr Frost advised that they were not considering increasing the charges at the present time, but if the economic climate changed after the elections, they may have to reconsider their position.
- A resident requested that Arriva take note that over 70% of bus users were concessionary travellers and that this should be taken into account when changing timetables and routes.
- Concern was raised over there being no local contact point for Arriva.

Highway
Maintenance

Mr Frost advised that as with other national companies, it had been necessary, due to financial constraints, to direct all calls through to a single customer care unit, based in Luton. He reassured residents that any complaints received were directed to the local office to investigate, but a response would be issued through the Luton office. He advised that a local rate number was being used to ensure that local residents were not facing high calling charges.

Mr Frost advised residents that he would take the issues raised at the meeting away with him and feed them into the ongoing service review.

Councillor Kenny thanked Mr Frost and Mr Johnson for their assistance during the debate.

38. LOCAL POLICING IN THE COMMUNITY

Pc Jo Winter provided an update on issues effecting the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey areas. She advised residents that the local policing team were out on the streets on a daily basis covering a variety of shifts to ensure the area was adequately policed. She indicated that their website provided a host of information on local policing and also provided contact information for officers within the local areas.

It was noted that Monkmoor Residents Group had been reinstated and they were going to working together on a 'Clean Up' on Saturday, 6th March 2010.

Concern was raised over the Asda pod not being open. PC Winter stated that she would take all comments in respect of this area back to the officer responsible for the Column ward and that they would provide an update at a future meeting.

A resident requested an update on the issue of parking on pavements, which was raised at a previous meeting. PC Winter advised that unless the vehicle was causing an obstruction on the highway, they had no powers to act. She stated that this information had been provided in person to the resident at the last meeting.

Police
Representative

39. UNDERDALE, MONKMOOR AND ABBEY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey Community Committee, Mr Tony Southall, provided an update on work currently being undertaken by UMACC.

Residents were advised that over 5,000 questionnaires had been circulated to houses within the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey areas in 2009. He indicated that the responses had been very positive with a return rate of 20%.

It was noted that the group, supported by Shropshire Council and the Community Council, were currently sifting through the questionnaires to identify the key issues for the area. Mr Southall indicated that he expected that the Community Plan would be completed by June 2010 stating that this

document would inform partners of the needs of the area.

A resident indicated that she had not seen any notices advertising their meeting dates. Mr Southall advised that they had recently appointed a publicity officer to help promote the groups work and get information out into the community.

40. DECISION REPORT - LOCAL JOINT COMMUNITY FUNDING

The Chairman introduced the report, which set out details of grant funding applications, which had been received (copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the following projects funded from the 2009/2010 budget, be approved:

- (a) Getting to know Us - Abbots Wood Caring for People Group – That a contribution of £1,439.21 be approved.
- (b) Monkmoor Allotment Garden Association Composting Toilet System – That a contribution of £7,500 be approved for the provision and installation of a composting toilet, subject to appropriate planning permission being obtained. A further £7,000 be ring fenced from the 2010/2011 budget for the provision and installation of an additional toilet facility on their second site.
- (c) Crowmoor Baptist Church Kitchen Refurbishment – That a contribution of £5,898.12 be approved. A condition was attached to the funding approval, which stipulated that the facility must not exclude any sector of the community.
- (d) Music Access Music (DASH) – That a contribution of £4,680 be approved.
- (e) Knowing Me, Knowing You – Severndale Specialist School – That a contribution of £1,450 be approved.
- (f) Belividere Supported Housing Therapeutic Gardening Project – That a contribution of £870 be approved.
- (g) Upton Lane Residents Group – That a contribution of £985.72 be approved.
- (h) Heaths Houses Darby and Joan Club – That a contribution of £955 be approved.

That the following projects be refused:

- (i) Belly Dancing at DASH – That a contribution of £1,240 be refused. It was felt that this project was not sustainable as they had been awarded a start up grant during 2008/2009. The Committee confirmed that they would be unable to support ongoing costs as the

project appeared to be unsustainable.

- (j) Changing Tracks – That a contribution of £5,000 be refused. Members had consulted with the Police over this project and issues had been raised over its effectiveness. Members resolved to refuse this application noting that further work was required on the project.

41. LETS TALK

The Chairman invited questions from the members of the audience.

Residents raised issues including:

- Parking issues;
- Dog fouling;
- Road safety;
- Improving the street scene;
- Street lamp maintenance;
- Issues effecting wheelchair/scooter users; and
- Road gritting.

The Chairman thanked all those present for their input into the meeting.

42. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee be held on Wednesday, 12th May 2010 at 7.00 p.m. at Crowmoor Baptist Church Hall, Crowmere Road, Shrewsbury.

Lead Officer/
Committee
Officer

Chairman:.....

Date:.....