

EASTERN SHREWSBURY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTION STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 6th JULY 2010 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHIREHALL, ABBEY FOREGATE SHREWSBURY 7.00 p.m. – 9.05 p.m.

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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
Kath Pickwell, Community Regeneration Officer
David Bell, Community Regeneration Officer
Fiona Howe, Committee Officer

There were approximately 42 members of the public at the meeting.

ACTION

1. CHAIRMANS INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

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

Councillor Durnell provided an update on the SAMdev consultation process advising that further consultation would be carried out in early 2011 once the Council had a firmer idea of Government's approach to planning.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence from the members of Committee.

Apologies were received from local residents, Chris Freestone, Cliff Parfitt and Stephanie McDowell and police representatives PC Kerry Hawkins and PC Jane Cowan.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL:

MEMBER/OFFICER	ITEM	REASON
Councillor T. Durnell	Minute 10(c)	No. He was a school governor and Chairman of the Committee that oversaw the Relate function. He left the room and took no part in the consideration or voting on the item.

4. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the meeting held on the 12th May 2010 be signed as a correct record.

5. OUTCOMES OF BUDGET CONSULTATION

The Director for Resources, Laura Rowley, and the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Malcolm Price were in attendance.

The Director of Resources advised the meeting that there were a number of large capital projects ongoing at the present time, such as the redevelopment of the Music Hall. She reassured the public that these projects would continue.

Members were advised that Shropshire Council needed to make savings of £8 million in the current year and then a further £47 million over the next 3 years. Councillor Price advised that the Council provided good services and value for money, but there were going to be major changes to the way the Council provided services in the future. He stated that staff recruitment had been frozen, travel costs would be looked at, as well as the review of management costs. He stated that these measures alone were not sufficient to achieve the savings needed.

It was noted that under the service review the Council would be looking at the provision of services and working with partners to try to reduce duplication of services. He concluded that once further work had been

carried out they intended to consult with the public further.

The following questions were raised in response to the presentation:

- Had the Council ring fenced funding for frontline services relating to vulnerable sectors of the community. Laura Rowley indicated that the provision of services for looked after children and adult social care were currently under review and indicated that a report would be considered by Cabinet at the end of July 2010.
- Concern was raised over the Music Hall project. A resident requested clarification on the Council's policy if the project ran over and the costs increased. The meeting was advised that the Council had a good record for delivering projects on time and within budget, but added that the Music Hall was going to be a difficult project due to the design of the current building and the possible historic finds that could be uncovered as the project continued. It was noted that there was a contingency plan in place and the project would be carefully monitored. Councillor Price stated that the Council would need to look at its statutory duties before looking at other work. He indicated that the current schemes would be the last capital projects for some time due current and future budget cuts.
- A resident asked how the provision of housing stock would be affected. Councillor Price stated that the spatial strategy for the region would indicated the number of properties required up to 2026. It was noted that affordable housing was essential to all areas of Shropshire and that the Council may need to look at how they could provide them under the current planning rules.
- A further question was raised in respect of affordable housing, stating that it was impossible for a lot of people to buy their own homes and what provision was in place to provided rented properties. Councillor Price advised that the majority of affordable rented properties were provided by social landlords. It was noted that the Council needed to provide a variety of products to cover different circumstances.
- A resident requested clarification on the reduction of duplication of services and was the intention to utilise voluntary and private sector to resolve these issues. Councillor Price advised that the Council was in a far better position now that it had become a unitary authority, but stated that duplication between services did exist and that they needed to work with directorates and partners to address these issues. Laura Rowley indicated that the Council had made savings of £40.9 million by moving to a unitary authority, which equated to a 12% saving.
- Councillor Price reassured the meeting that highway maintenance had been awarded an additional £1.5 million to assist with road maintenance due to the sever winter. However, some large capital schemes would be unlikely to go ahead and that the funding for the North West Relief Road would be hit.
- Concern was raised over the maintenance of minor roads around the county. Councillor Price advised residents that £600,000 had been released from the North West Relief Road budget to repair pot holes

and that they should be optimistic that the repair works would be carried out.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Housing for their attendance and assistance during the debate.

RESOLVED:

That the Outcomes of Budget Consultation report be noted.

6. LEISURE SERVICES FOR UNDERDALE, MONKMOOR AND ABBEY

The Chairman welcomed Youth Worker, Di Phillips, to the meeting.

Di Phillips provided a breakdown on the progress being made by Upton Lane Lodge. She reported that they were a variety of organised groups using the Lodge, including girls groups, special needs, Mereside Community Youth Project and mixed youth clubs. She stated that the money provided by the Local Joint Committee have given them the opportunity to undertake projects that they were previously unable to fund, such as theatre trips, quad biking and multicultural evenings. It was noted that they had also received voluntary donations which had allowed them to stretch their funds even further.

Members were advised that 4 senior members had completed an ONC level accreditation and 2 were present at the meeting. They provided a brief overview of how the Lodge had helped them develop and achieve goals.

The Chairman thanked them for attending and introduced the Head of Outdoor Leisure and Recreation, Neil Willcox, to the meeting. He provided a detailed breakdown of policies currently in place to provide leisure facilities for young people within the area. It was noted that the area had received investment over the years, but it was important that residents raised areas of concern with Officers in order that these could be addressed and new scheme implemented when ever possible.

Mr Willcox advised residents of the summer activity schemes and after school activities available within their area. Concern was raised over the withdrawal of free swimming for under 16's. Residents were advised that the scheme had been extremely popular, but due to the current economic climate the Government had withdrawn the funding that enable Council's across the country to run these schemes.

A member of the public enquired why the majority of summer activities provided by the Council were sports based. She asked if they were planning to provide any arts and crafts based activities in the future. Mr Willcox advised that there were plenty of venues throughout the area that were suitable to hold such events, but it was important that young people speak to the Council to advise them of their needs in order to implement these programmes.

A further question was raised into the improvements at the Skateboard Park. Mr Willcox advised the meeting that £30,000 had been set aside to improve the current facilities. He stated that a consultation was due to commence on

14th July 2010 detailing a number of designs which required input from young people to move it forward. It was noted that this project had taken a while to get to this stage, but warned that the funding would only complete phase 1 of the scheme and that in order to complete further phases other funding sources would need to be found.

The Chairman thanks Mr Willcox for his attendance and assistance during the debate.

7. UNDERDALE, MONKMOOR AND ABBEY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey Community Committee (UMACC) presented the action plan to the meeting. He provided a brief summary of the background of the group and the process undertaken to produce the action plan over the last 12 months. It was noted that their key aim was to give local people a say in how their area should be developed and improved.

Mr Southall advised the meeting on the next steps for the Community Plan advising that they needed comments and input from residents, the Council and other partners in order to build on the work undertaken so far. Mr Southall thanked all those who had completed the questionnaire, the Community Council for Shropshire for their advice and assistance and also the hard work of the Committee in producing the document.

The Chairman thanked Mr Southall for his presentation. He stated that it was an incredible document and that a lot of work by members of UMACC had gone into its production.

8. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The Chairman introduced Community Regeneration Officers, David Bell and Kath Pickwell to the meeting.

Members were advised that the Community Regeneration Officers had been working with UMACC to produce the Action Plan and would continue to do so in the future.

It was noted that they were working with the Telepost Club and other partners to resolve the issues affecting them due to antisocial behaviour and drug taking outside their premises.

They had been working on securing funding for projects within the area and had recently secured £50,000 for the development of Monkmoor Recreation Area. They were also monitoring the situation over safety concerns for Belvidere Road bridges.

A member of the public raised concerns over Satellite Navigation Equipment sending HGV's and other large vehicles down this road, stating that this was making the route even more dangerous for pedestrians and other road users. They asked if the police could look into this and report back on.

Police
Representative

It was also noted that a quick fix to safety issues with Belvidere Bridge would be to cut back the bushes at the Shirehall end of the bridge to help increase

Fiona Howe

visibility for drivers and increase road safety. It was noted that this may be part of a private garden, but it was agreed that the Council would look into this matter.

9. LOCAL POLICING IN THE COMMUNITY

CSO Maria Chattington-Lowe and CSO Charles Iremonger were in attendance and provided an update on issues affecting the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey areas.

She reported that the policing team within the area was now back up to full capacity and that they had seen a reduction in the majority of crimes over the past 12 months. CSO Iremonger confirmed that PC Kerry Hawkins had returned to active duty. He also reported that PACT was being well supported within the area and that any concerns were being identified and action was being taken to resolve them.

CSO Iremonger confirmed that the police had undertaken a crackdown on cycling on pavements by issuing fines and educating people including talks and demos at schools and colleges. It was noted that the police were working with Bikefest to promote bike proficiency, but traffic could be off putting to younger children.

A resident raised the issue of young people leaving bottles and cans in a field down by the river at the end of Preston Street. It was noted that local residents were collecting the litter and leaving it in bags at the end of the farmer's lane for the Council to collect, but they were failing to be collected. Councillor Durnell stated that now that he was aware of the problem he would bring it to attention of Officers and ensure the situation was resolved.

The Chairman thanked CSO Chattington-Lowe and CSO Iremonger for their attendance and input into the meeting.

Councillor
Durnell

10. DECISION REPORT - LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE 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 20010/2011 budget, be approved:

- (a) Telepost Sports and Social Club – That a contribution of £2,000 be approved for the purchase of a replacement main grass mower for the bowling greens.
- (b) Crowmoor Primary School – That a contribution of £1,477.81 be approved to help develop a school allotment and introduce nature projects to run in line with the Forest Schools initiative.

Lead Officer/
Finance
Officer

- (c) Relateen (Belvidere School in partnership with Relate Shropshire) – That a contribution of £1,500 be ring fenced to assist the scheme, subject to confirmation that other funding has been secured.
- (d) Abbey Foregate Drama Group – That a contribution of £1,500 be approved to assist in the purchase of the lighting equipment.
- (e) Shrewsbury Furniture Scheme – That a contribution of £1,000 be approved to assist in the purchase of a replacement collection/delivery van.
- (f) Column Allotments – That an additional contribution of £120 be approved to fund the planning application administration costs relating to the provision of a new garden shed/tool store approved on 12th May 2010.

That the following application be deferred:

- (g) Telepost Bowling Club – That the application for the provision of security shutters be deferred to allow for feedback from the Police and Shropshire Council's Community Regeneration Officer.

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

That the next meeting of the Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee be held on Tuesday, 12th October 2010 at 7.00 p.m. at a venue to be confirmed.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....