

## EASTERN SHREWSBURY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

### NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTION STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011 AT WILFRED OWEN SCHOOL, MONKMOOR CAMPUS, WOODCOTE WAY, SHREWSBURY. 7.00 p.m. – 8.58 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)

#### **Officers Present:**

Kevin Aitken, Highways Manager  
Dan Sims, Engineering Assistant  
Jake Berriman, Head of Strategy and Policy  
Gill Jones, Community Action Manager  
Fiona Howe, Committee Officer

There were approximately 16 members of the public at the meeting.

#### **ACTION**

#### **1. QUORUM**

Councillor Miles Kenny reported that due to absences, there were insufficient Committee Members present to hold a valid meeting for the purpose of taking formal decisions. However, it was agreed that the meeting would continue on an informal basis.

#### **2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Miles Kenny be appointed as Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

#### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Jo Jones.

A number of apologies were received from members of the public.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

Councillor Miles Kenny made an introductory statement welcoming everyone to the meeting with the main purpose of looking at issues affecting the Local Joint Committee area.

#### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **6. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting of the Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

The content of the Comments, Questions and Suggestions Action Sheet, including the update circulated at the meeting was noted.

#### **6. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

The Highways Manager and Engineering Assistant were in attendance and provided an update on issues raised at previous meetings.

In response to questions raised by residents Officers indicated that there was an ongoing programme to improve highway infrastructure when needed and that the maintenance programme was balanced across Shrewsbury. He stressed that it was unlikely that any major projects would be forthcoming due to budget constraints.

- Maintenance of footpaths;
- Road resurfacing works;
- Issues with Contractors;
- Shropshire Sustainable Local Transport Bid;
- Belvidere Road Bridge safety issues;
- Issues over the programme of highway works;
- Parking on Preston Street;
- Traffic calming measures on Galton Drive; and
- Road adoption notice of Belvidere Lane.

A detailed summary of the issues raised are attached to the signed notes.

The Highways Manager and Engineering Assistant confirmed that they would provide feedback on the issues raised at the next meeting of the

Kevin Aitken/  
Dan Sims

Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee.

The Chairman thanked Mr Aitken and Mr Sims for their attendance.

## **7. COMMUNITY UPDATE AND LETS TALK**

### **(a) Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard**

The Head of Strategy and Policy addressed the meeting, providing a brief summary of the proposed Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard scheme.

The meeting was advised that the scheme had been instigated by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) in advance of the new statutory provisions for neighbourhood planning being introduced through the Localism Bill. The proposals developed through the Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard scheme may vary in their scope and complexity, and it will be up to the Community to identify its wants and needs for the future development of the area and once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan would become part of the planning framework.

Mr Berriman stressed that this work would be over and above the Core Strategy and SAMDEV policies implemented by the Local Authority and would be a plan of community ambition. However, this would not allow communities to reject plans, but would be proactive in developing the type and style of housing and employment land developed within the area.

A pre-requisite to the development of the plan would be that local Members are fully engaged and involved in the process, and once a plan had been developed it would be subject to an independent investigation followed by a community referendum on whether the community wish to approve the plan.

The Government would be providing funding of £20,000 in order to develop a Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard and the Council would retain some of the funding to carry out the referendum and independent investigation, with the remainder of the balance being made available to the community, which may, or may not, cover the development of the vanguard, but this would be dependent on how much work the community wish to carry out in developing the plan. He added that the Government had suggested working with local businesses to help address any shortfall in funding and also to get their input into possible proposals for the plan.

In response to questions raised by residents, Mr Berriman provided the following information:

- It would be a one off process and once the plan was in place it could only be removed through revocation by the Secretary of State.
- Mr Berriman indicated that he was aware of communities frustration over unwanted developments, but stressed that a neighbourhood plan had to conform with national planning guidance. It could however, define the design of these developments within the neighbourhood

plans and those wishes could be defended through the planning process.

- Plans should be positive to development and growth, but they may restrict the design of developments.
- There would be an opportunity to improve proposed development designs. Ordinarily, the Council would decide on build locations through SAMDEV, but communities may be able to decide on location and Officers would work with residents to shape their communities.
- The Council does not have the budget to micro manage communities to the level proposed within the Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard and it would be for the community to drive the process and set the agenda to take the matter forward.
- Concern was raised over the leasing of Council owned land and the likelihood of having to find alternative premises.
- If a resident didn't want to get involved they didn't have to, but this would be a great opportunity to help plan and guide the community. A representative of UMACC stressed that the group were excited about the opportunity to help shape their community for the future, but stressed that the process was in its infancy. She encouraged residents to get involved in the process and indicated that UMACC were looking for new members with their next meeting being held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at the Baptist Church.

Mr Berriman stressed that it was essential that extensive and effective consultation was undertaken with all sectors of the community to ensure the success of a Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard.

The Chairman thanked Mr Berriman for attending and providing such an informative presentation.

## **(b) Local Policing in the Community**

CSO Chattington-Lowe and CSO Iremonger were in attendance and presented an update on the issues affecting the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey wards.

CSO Chattington-Lowe indicated that statistics had seen a drop in the majority of reported crimes in the areas, but there had been an increase in anti social behaviour. She reported that the Police had been proactive in promoting the dangers of underage drinking and that a couple of reported incidents had been investigated and the issues had been addressed.

At a previous meeting residents had raised concern over possible speeding vehicles on Crowmere Road. Police had carried out speed checks in the area and could confirm that they found no speeding vehicles at that time. However, there had been instances of speeding on other routes nearby and

that letters had been issued to those drivers concerned.

Road safety at Robertson Way had been raised as an issue and she could confirm that a fend had now been put up to increase road safety for pedestrians using that route.

CSO Iremonger reported that they Police were holding a Monkmoor Fun Day at Upton Lane on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011 from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and that publicity would be placed in local papers inviting local residents to come along. He also invited any suggestions for what should be included.

An update was provided on the success of the football team for local youths. It was proving very popular and had a good attendance of 8 – 16 year olds.

Several issues were raised by residents:

- Complaints had been received complaints about motorcycles with L Plates riding around Crowmere Road Shops and using bus lanes and that registration numbers were being taken and that the families of the offenders were being visited and educated on road safety.
- Cycling proficiency had been offered to schools, but they are reluctant to book the courses due to funding restrictions. There was also a problem with parents telling children to ride on the pavements as they are concerned over their safety when riding on the roads. Police recognised that there was a need to re-educate the parents as well as off the training for children.
- A resident raised concern that he had been unable to speak to an Officer when he rang the 0300 number provided to report incidents of anti social behaviour and that the reported levels of anti social behaviour may be low due to people not being able to report instances. Other residents indicated that they had had no problems getting through on the number provided.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for attending.

### **(c) Lets Talk**

The Chairman invited questions from the members of the audience.

Residents raised issues including:

- In order to help provide safer places to play and ride bikes in local streets, perhaps some streets could be closed off on a Sunday morning to provide a safe environment for children.
- St Winefred's R. C. Church stated that they had almost completed their car park works, but were unhappy that the LJC had only funded them £1,000, in comparison to Crowmere Baptist Church. It was suggested that the organisation complete a further application form to

be considered by the Committee.

- Whitehall Medical Centre – It was confirmed that the drop-in centre was on-going, and the ‘for sale’ notices refer to properties in the same building area.

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

## **8. LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE FUNDING**

### **(a) Funding Report**

The Community Action Manager introduced a report on grant funding applications made to the Committee (a copy is attached to the signed notes of the meeting). It was noted that all decisions made would be referred to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011 due to the meeting being inquorate.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the approval of the following grants be referred to Cabinet for approval, as the Committee was not quorate for the decision.

- (a) Pre-school Learning Alliance Messy Play Days – That a contribution of £1,438 be approved to assist in the facilitation of activities during May and October half-terms.
- (b) 1<sup>st</sup> Robertsford Scout Group – That a contribution of £2,000 be approved to assist in the re-felting, and partial re-timbering of the scout hut roof.
- (c) Monkmoor Fun Day – That a contribution of £500 be approved.
- (d) Shrewsbury Baptist Church – That a contribution of £5,000 be granted to assist in the improvement of disabled access and renovations to the church hall floor.

### **(b) Monitoring Report**

Consideration was given to a report of the Community Action Manager on monitoring previously funded schemes.

The Community Action Manager addressed the meeting stating that the Committee had requested feedback on the successes of schemes funded through the LJC.

## **9. COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE**

The Community Action Manager addressed the meeting, providing an update on events in the area. She advised the meeting that the BMX track

at Upton Lane had been resurfaced and that coaching sessions were commencing on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for children in the area.

In response to an issue raised earlier in the meeting regarding the use of Council owned land, Mrs Jones indicated that the Community Action Team has mapped all community facilities across Shropshire. She confirmed that there was a proposal in the Localism Bill that would place a hold on any sale of identified community assets for a period of 6 months to enable community and voluntary groups to be given a chance to purchase the property themselves and retain the community facility.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Jones for her update report.

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items were identified for future agenda items:

- Cycle safety;
- Winter gritting programme;
- Community meeting places;
- Bus services update - including a service (no. 23) to Morrisons as this service could be a profitable service. Arriva to be included.

## **11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee would be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011 at 7.00 p.m. at Belvidere School, Crowmore Road, Shrewsbury.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....