

EASTERN SHREWSBURY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTION STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER 2011 AT BELVIDERE SCHOOL, CROWMERE ROAD, SHREWSBURY. 7.00 p.m. – 8.38 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:

Jon Hayes, Passenger Transport Manager
 Andy Pearce, ARRIVA
 Gill Jones, Community Action Manager
 Fiona Howe, Committee Officer

There were approximately 31 members of the public at the meeting.

ACTION

12. 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.

13. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor Tony Durnell be appointed as Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Jo Jones.
 A number of apologies were received from members of the public.

15. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

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

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

17. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting of the Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee held on 12th May 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.

18. LETS TALK

The Chairman invited questions from the members of the audience.

Residents raised issues including:

- A member of the public raised an issue relating to the lack of road gritting, which had led to a reduced service to bus routes on the Conway Drive loop during the winter months. It was noted that this item had been discussed at a previous meeting and had been included as a possible future agenda item. The Portfolio Holder for Transport confirmed that he would investigate the matter and provide a response.
- Concern was raised over undergrowth hanging over cycle paths making them difficult to navigate. Councillor Kenny advised the meeting that the Council will cut back overhanging foliage, but trunk road fell under the responsibility of the Highways Agency to maintain. The areas in question related to Bage Way and Woodcote Way cycle track. It was noted that this matter would be raised with officers to ascertain if Shropshire Council were able to carry out any clearance works.
- Bridgeford Way – There was an issue with bushes covering the footpath. Councillor Kenny advised that this had already been reported, but that the work would have to be done manually due to the location of the hedge.
- Shirehall/Preston Street Entrance – concern was raised over the lack of visibility due to hedge overgrowth.
- Footpath at the rear of Whitehall – Private hedges are overhanging

Fiona Howe

on to the pathway making it difficult to navigate.

- Brook Road cut through by ASDA – it was noted that the surface of the pathway at the very end was uneven and breaking up, which was causing difficulties for users in wheelchairs or with pushchairs. It was noted that the main body of the pathway was the responsibility of the home owners along the path, but that the ends could be the responsibility of the local authority, but officers would need to investigate the matter.

19. BUS STRATEGY UPDATE

Councillor Simon Jones, Portfolio Holder for Transport, Jon Hayes, Passenger Transport Manager, and Andy Pearce, Arriva, were in attendance.

Mr Hayes presented an update to the meeting, advising that changes to the Bus Strategy had begun at the start of the year, but the majority of actions had been implemented in June 2011. Council subsidies were aimed at services that were essential, such as education, employment and hospital travel arrangements, and during the consultation period the Council had looked at frequency and days of operation.

Prior to changes to the Bus Strategy, the Council had undertaken a 3 month public consultation, and amended the policy because of the responses received from the consultation process. The meeting was advised that the required savings had been achieved, but further work may be required to meet future pressures.

It was noted that changes to services in the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey areas had been minimal, but had seen a 2 hour reduction in Service No. 1 in the evening and the removal of the Sunday service. Mr Hayes indicated that the current provision may be looked at in the future, along with air quality and environmental impact concerns, to ascertain if improvements could be made if funding was to become available.

Mr Hayes indicated that in addition to changes to the bus strategy, there had also been changes to concessionary travel, which had seen the provision revert back to the government recommended scheme. There had also been changes to the Park and Ride provision across Shrewsbury, which had seen an increase in fares.

In response to questions raised by residents, Officers provided information on the issues raised. A detailed summary of the issues raised are attached to the signed notes. These included:

- Park and Ride at Shirehall;
- Sunday bus services;
- Service No. 1 alternative route, and through service;
- Resurfacing of bus stop in Preston Street;
- Disabled bus users;
- Extended route for Service No. 23; and

- Concessionary Travel.

The Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holder, and Officers for their attendance.

20. LOCAL POLICING IN THE COMMUNITY

PC Kerry Hawkins and CSO Tim Griffiths were in attendance and presented an update on the issues affecting the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey wards.

PC Hawkins informed the meeting that the Police and partner organisations had held a successful Fun Day in July.

Crime figures and anti social behaviour incidents in the Monkmoor are seen a reduction for the third month running, and that officers were concentrating on areas of concern raised through members of the community. It was noted that the PACT priorities included cracking down on speeding motorcycles in the Northwood and St James road areas. A street briefing had recently been held in Buttington road and Northwood and, and that they would be meeting in Barleyfields the following week.

Residents were given advice on dealing with unwanted 'Trick or Treat' calls, and advised that they could pick up a sticker either at the meeting, or from their local Police Station. Advice was also provided on the 'Lighting Up' campaign, which encouraged residents to leave a light on when they were out to discourage burglars, encouraging the use of outside lights and energy saving light bulbs. It was noted that house crime in the area was rare, but it was easy to become complacent.

The Police Teams were continuing their work with youth people in the Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey wards. The age ranged for the football sessions had increased to 8 – 16 years, and that if anyone wanted to get involved to get in touch with their local Officer or CSO. It was noted that tag rugby for 8 – 11 years was ongoing at Crowmore School.

In conclusion residents were advised that if they needed to contact any of the local policing team, that their contact details, and other information, could be located on their website www.westmercia.police.uk.

Several questions were raised by residents, and responses were provided by the officer present. A detailed summary of the issues raised are attached to the signed minutes. These included:

- Graffiti on the Railway Bridge over the river at Preston Street;
- Speeding motorbikes/mini motors;
- Litter;
- Speed enforcement of the one way system at Trafalgar Place;
- Planning issues;
- Cycling on pavements;
- Road safety issues, including speeding and road safety; and

PC Hawkins

- Illegal parking on pavements.

The Chairman thanked the officers for the attendance.

21. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

(a) COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Community Action Manager addressed the meeting, providing an update on events in the area.

Information was provided on several initiatives currently available, including 'Love your Bike' being run throughout October, and various other offers through Cycle Shrewsbury, which included new members receiving a free set of bike lights. She noted that further information on events could be found on their website: www.cycleshrewsbury.co.uk/news-and-events/diary/love-your-bike-month-october-2011. It was noted that the BMX coaching sessions had been extremely successful, and that a competition was going to be held at Upton Lane on 8th October 2011.

It was noted that a new single number had been introduced to report incidents of anti social behaviour, where the caller would be directed to either the Police, Shropshire Council, or housing provider, depending on the nature of the problem being experienced. The number was 0345 678 9020.

Shropshire Council Officers had been working in conjunction with Severnside Housing and the Police to reduce anti social behaviour in Bridgeford Way. It was noted that there had been positive involvement by local residents and parents to put on events in the area.

Other events in the area included:

- Monkmoor Residents Group meeting which would be held at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5th October 2011 and all residents were welcome to attend,
- Shrewsbury Wide Local Joint Committee would be meeting on 10th November 2011 at 7.00 p.m. in the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury and all residents were welcome to attend. It was noted that they were going to receive a presentation by a NHS representative on the reconfiguration of the hospitals.
- Shrewsbury Town Centre Christmas Lights Switch On was due to take place on 23rd November 2011 at a time to be confirmed.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for her attendance.

(b) UNDERDALE, MONKMOOR AND ABBEY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Hannah Fraser addressed the meeting providing an update on the work being undertaken by UMACC. She reported that Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey wards had been selected as one of five pilot schemes as a

Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner, to engage with the local community to help shape development in the area. It was noted that a lot of consultation was required and the process could take between 12 and 18 months to complete, but stressed that residents would be urged to participate.

The first toolkit event was held on 27th September 2011, where 25 people had attended to participate on the night. The next step would be to Shropshire Council Officers to plan out the process and to get more people involved. It was agreed that there was a need for a better communication network to ensure more members of the community were informed.

It was confirmed that there would be more information on the projects progress at the next meeting of the Local Joint Committee.

The Chairman thanked Ms Fraser for her update report.

22. DECISION REPORT - 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 19th October 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.

**Gill Jones/
Fiona Howe**

- (a) St. Winefride's Car Park Extension – That a contribution of £2,500 be approved to assist in the development of a car park extension. A condition was attached to the funding approval, which stipulated that the facility must not exclude any sector of the community.
- (b) That the LJC prioritises its remaining funding for 2011/12 to support initiatives which help develop community-based and led projects in the areas of Bridgeford Way, Buttington Road and surrounds and Clive Road, Abbots Road/Barleyfields and surrounds.

23. CONSTITUTION – SCHEME OF DELEGATION

RESOLVED:

That the Community Action Officer be given delegated authority, in consultation with the LJC Chairman [or, in his/her absence, the Vice Chairman] to determine urgent and time sensitive matters

24. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee was to be confirmed.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....