



Committee and Date

Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee

13 March 2013

7.00 p.m.

Item

4

Public

EASTERN SHREWSBURY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTION STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
10TH JULY 2012 AT THE GUIDHALL, FRANKWELL QUAY, SHREWSBURY.
7.00 p.m. – 8.40 p.m.**

Responsible Officer Fiona Howe
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Committee Members Present:

Councillor Tony Durnell (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)
Councillor Hannah Fraser (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)
Councillor Miles Kenny (Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council)

Officers Present:

Gill Jones, Community Action Manager
Fiona Howe, Committee Officer

ACTION

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Miles Kenny be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Hannah Fraser be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman made an introductory statement welcoming everyone to the meeting with the main purpose being the undertaking of the Community Led Plan toolkit event.

5. NOTES

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting of the Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee held on 3rd and 10th October 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

The content of the Comments, Questions and Suggestions Action Sheet, was noted, and a copy was attached to the signed minutes.

6. 'OUR PLACE, OUR PLAN, OUR FUTURE': ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

The Chairman addressed the meeting advising that previous Neighbourhood Plan consultations had suggested that the following areas were important for people living in the Eastern Shrewsbury LJC area:

- **Activities:** Youth groups and clubs, arts and heritage events, children and family activities, sports clubs and cafes, pubs and restaurants.
- **Facilities:** Cafes, pubs and restaurants, open spaces and play areas, community centre/hall, and school.
- **Services:** Shops, healthcare, police/emergency services, learning and training opportunities, post office services and toilets.
- **Infrastructure:** Job opportunities, walking and cycling networks, and broadband speed and connectivity.

All those present were invited to take part in a round table discussion event to obtain a more in-depth understanding of the needs of the local community. A copy of the summary document is attached to the signed minutes.

At the conclusion of the toolkit event, the Chairman invited questions from the members of the audience.

Residents raised issues including:

- Concerns regarding the lack of grass cutting being undertaken in the area, specifically around the Elms. The Chairman advised that was confusion over whether Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council or the relevant social registered landlord, were responsible for the grass cutting across Shropshire. It was noted that the contractors had failed to spray weeds early enough which had affected the timescales for grass cutting in and around Shropshire. Residents were advised that a strongly worded letter had been sent by the Town Council to Shropshire Council's Chief Executive

Fiona Howe

requesting that the matter be resolved, and they had been assured that prompt action would be taken.

- Concern was raised over the current condition of grass at Upton Lane, and were advised that it was too wet to get machines on the grass at the current time, but this would be monitored and resolved as soon as possible. Residents were advised that cutting normally took place on a 6 weekly cycle, but due to bad weather and other issues, contractors had been unable to keep to this time scale.
- Hazardous Hedges (Bage Way) – It was stressed that hedgerows would be cut mid July, once birds and other wildlife had finished nesting. However when a highway or pathway is reported as being hazardous because of encroaching hedgerows, they would be cut back as a matter of urgency.
- Concern was raised over the way the Council dealt with a request to provide information on asbestos handling on 4 July 2012. The resident had to call back several times after the original call was left with the Customer Services Team, and only received a call back from the correct office on 10 July 2012, as the original information had failed to be passed on correctly.
- A Post Office red parcel deposit/storage box (Portland Crescent next to bus stop) – a request was made to remove the red box used by the Post Office to store parcels, as it had fallen into disrepair and was no longer in use. The Chairman requested that this matter be looked into and request its removal.
- Lord Hill's Column – A request was made to confirm when the scaffolding would be removed from around Lord Hill's Column.

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The Chairman thanked all those present for taking part in the toolkit event and confirmed that all information gathered at the meeting would be compiled and passed on to Underdale, Monkmoor and Abbey Community Committee (UMACC) to help develop, and inform for the future.

7. COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE

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

The meeting was informed that the Play Bus, which had been funded through the Local Joint Committee, had been visiting Bridgeford Way and Clive Green on a regular basis, and advised that a representative would be providing feedback on how the success of the project.

It was noted that various consultations were currently ongoing, including:

- Shropshire Housing Consultation: Type and Affordability of Housing;
- Site Allocation and Management of Development (SAMDev);
- Connecting Shropshire – Faster Broadband Project; and

- Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust – Shaping Travel and Transport

It was noted that UMACC had launched the Neighbourhood Plan, and had held roadshows out around the area in order to obtain valuable feedback and views from local residents. Monkmoor Friends Group would be meeting on 11 September at 7 p.m. in Monkmoor Youth Lodge, and anyone interested would be welcome to attend. The Youth Club held activities Monday – Thursday evenings for children of different ages and were proving very popular.

It was noted that Shrewsbury Town Council had taken over responsibility for Monkmoor recreation area on 1 July 2012, and were planning to consult on improvements and usage.

8. SPOTLIGHT ON LJC FUNDING PROJECTS

The Chairman welcomed representatives of groups previously funded to the meeting, and invited them to provide the meeting with an update on the success of their individual projects.

Porchfields Garden Project – The project had been run in conjunction with the Dana Prison, to create a lovely communal area for the residents, whilst providing an opportunity for prisoners to get back into the community and gain skills and experience for their return to employment. Over the length of the project 3 prisoners had worked on the project, all of which have been released and returned to full time employment. The meeting was advised that the project was not running at the present time, due to a restructure, and Porchfields no longer having a full time warden on site. However, all the tools and equipment purchased were being stored securely, and it was hoped that in the future this project would be picked up again.

Play Bus – The Play Bus had been fitted out with appropriate equipment for working with under 5's, and they were now looking to develop this further to work with over 5's and throughout the holidays. The Local Joint Committee had provided funding for 15 visits to Bridgeford Way and Clive Green, and the project had given local families a meeting place where they had been able to form friendships with other parents and children in the area. It was noted that play was structured and the bus was a calm environment which had helped children to learn to continue that behaviour at home. The meeting was advised that Play Bus was not a crèche facility, and all children attending needed a responsible adult to be in attendance, but it had proven beneficial in getting families together, and they hoped to apply for further funding to develop the project further.

Crowmoor Baptist Church Hall – The meeting was advised that funding had been used towards the refurbishment of the hall. The project had seen the floor being resurfaced, disabled access and safer fire exits being installed. The hall and the church are made available to the community to hire for a nominal fee, and currently they regularly hosted choirs, a quilters and lacemakers groups, a ladies group, slimmer's clubs, retired exercise

groups, kids clubs, knitters groups, and during the summer holidays they are running a holiday club for senior citizens, and kids club for 5 – 11 year olds.

St Winefred's RC Church – The car park extension had been completed in April 2012, and was being used by local youth groups, whist drive, and parents to pick up children from school. The usage had provided a valuable parking provision in the area, and helped improve safety for local residents. It was noted that the gate had been closed in recent times, but users had been told that they were not locked and the parking provision was still available to them. The church had seen an increase in patrons attending Sunday services, which had unfortunately meant that more people were having to park on the public highway due to lack of parking capacity.

Monkmoor Allotments – A composter toilet had been installed on the new allotment site boarding the Robertsford Way road, and it had a tremendous improvement for all users of the allotment site. It was noted that they were looking forward to installing a further composter toilet on the old site, but this had been delayed due to problems with planning permission. These problems had now been overcome and funding had been secured through Shrewsbury Town Council.

First Robertsford Scout Group – The meeting was advised that problems had occurred due to a severe winter in 2010/11, and the snow had been so heavy it had fallen through the roof of the hut, and the funding they received from the Local Joint Committee, along with monies raised through fund raising, had enabled them to carry out the work. The refurbished hut had attracted various new groups and they were now hosts to a new scout group, a boxing group as well as their beavers, cubs and scout groups. It was noted that the facility was being used most nights of the week, and was also being used over the weekend for community events.

The Chairman thanked the groups for their updates, and the tremendous work they have done within the community, and wished them continued success in the future.

9. DECISION REPORT - LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE FUNDING

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 a total of £15,590 had been devolved to the Committee to fund projects in the local community. In addition, there was a carried forward amount of £4,002 which had been ringfenced in 2011/12 to support initiatives which helped develop community-based and led projects in the Bridgeford Way, Buttington Road and surrounds, and Clive Road, Abbots Road/Barleyfields and surrounds.

RESOLVED:

That the following project funded from the 2012/2013 budget, be approved:

- (a) Shrewsbury Croquet Club – That a contribution of £3,000 be

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approved for the provision of security fencing. The monies will be ring-fenced to allow the applicant time for discussions with Shrewsbury Town Council regarding their long term plans for the area, and effective use of the grant funding.

- (b) Abbots Wood Community Exercise Taster Sessions – That a contribution of £125 be approved to support the provision of Tai Chi Community exercise and well-being sessions.
- (c) St Peter's Church Hall: Phase 1 Refurbishment – That a contribution of £3,000 be approved, to assist in the refurbishment of the kitchen facilities.
- (d) Monkmoor Football Club – That a contribution of £1,330 be approved, towards the start-up costs for the newly formed local football club.

10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Eastern Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee would be held on 13 March 2013 at 7.00 p.m. at Wilfred Owen School Hall, Monkmoor Campus, Woodcote Way, Shrewsbury, SY2 5SH.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....