



Committee and Date
Ellesmere Area
Local Joint Committee

30 September 2009
7.00pm

Item

4

NOTE OF THE ELLESMERE AREA LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2009

7.00pm – 8.45pm

Responsible Officer: Siôn Stedman

E-mail: sion.stedman@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: (01743) 252738

Fax: (01743) 252713

Present:

Members of the Committee:

Steve Davenport	Shropshire Council
Brian Williams	Shropshire Council
Alf Johnson	Cockshutt-cum-Petton Parish Council
Kay Egerton	Ellesmere Rural Parish Council
Pat McLaughlin	Ellesmere Town Council
Chris Symes	Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Officers:

John Rowley	Assistant Director, CYPS (Lead Officer)
John Skelton	Senior Organisational Development Officer (Support Officer)
Corrie Davies	Community Regeneration Officer
Siôn Stedman	Committee Officer
Sam Hine	Head of Community Working
Sgt Julian Hinds	Local Police Officer

There were approximately 30 members of the public in attendance

ACTION

Welcome by the Lead Officer

The Lead Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an explanation of the geographical area covered by the Local Joint Committee. There followed introductions from members of the Committee and the officers supporting the Committee's administration, decision-making and community engagement.

1. Election of Chairman

1.1 There was one nomination for the position of Chairman. Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED:** that Ann Hartley (Shropshire Council) be duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. Apologies

2.1 An apology for absence was received from Ann Hartley (Shropshire Council).

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

3.1 There was one nomination for the position of Vice-Chairman. Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED**: that Pat McLaughlin (Ellesmere Town Council) be duly elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3.2 As the Committee had received an apology for absence from Ann Hartley, it was agreed that the meeting would be chaired by the Vice-Chairman.

4. Declarations of Interest

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. Chairman's Statement Purpose and Powers of the Meeting

5.1 The Chairman explained the format of the meeting and the main items on the agenda, which included an opportunity to raise issues with the local Police Officer.

5.2 The Chairman invited Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams to give a summary of the purpose and powers of the Local Joint Committee. It was noted that Local Joint Committees were legally constituted, decision-making bodies comprising of the local Shropshire Councillors together with representatives from each of the town and parish councils within the area. The Committee would act as a formal consultation mechanism for Shropshire Council, over and above that provided by local parish and town councils, and was able to refer matters of concern about service delivery to the Council's scrutiny committees. The Committee allowed local people to:

- get involved with democracy at a local level
- meet with and talk to local councillors and get them to explain their decisions and report back on progress
- influence ways in which money could be spent in the community.

Through the Committee local people would be given the opportunity to:

- get items which were important to them on the agenda
- discuss local issues and get information from other public organisations such as the Police or Primary Care Trust
- see local decisions taken in an open and transparent way.

5.3 Demographic data relating to the area covered by the Local Joint Committee was reviewed. The Chairman explained that the statistics would be useful to the decision-making process and the discussion of key issues.

5.4 The Chairman stated that attendance sheets had been circulated and invited members of the public to provide their contact information to enable them to be informed about future meetings.

6. Members' Update

- 6.1 The Chairman invited each parish and town council representative to give a summary of current issues in their area. Kay Egerton spoke on Ellesmere Rural, noting that it was a large, sparsely populated parish with diverse needs, key among which being communications, transport and services for older people.
- 6.2 Chris Symes spoke on Welshampton and Lyneal, drawing particular attention to the issues of speeding, the loss of the Sun Inn, increasing housing while maintaining the character of the community, and the future of Welshampton Primary School.
- 6.3 Alf Johnson spoke on Cockshutt-cum-Petton, noting that Cockshutt was a working village into which newcomers had integrated effectively. The important roles of the local pub and Cockshutt Millennium Hall were highlighted, and it was noted that while the parish did not have a Parish Plan, it was an area where people worked well together.
- 6.4 The Chairman spoke on Ellesmere Town, drawing particular attention to the opening of a Tesco store, the development of the Wharf, the impact of the economic downturn and the recent approval of planning permission to extend the Business Park.

7. Local Joint Committee Budget

- 7.1 The Lead Officer gave a summary of arrangements for the Local Joint Committee's delegated budget. It was noted that the budget allocation for 2009/10 was £28,000. The Lead Officer explained that the budget could be used to support local community and voluntary activity, the implementation of Parish and Neighbourhood Plans and local service delivery enhancements. He went on to explain the financial procedures and answered a number of queries about the budget.
- 7.2 The Lead Officer requested that members of the public contact the Community Regeneration Officer for full details of how to apply for funding and guidance on completing application forms. CD
- 7.3 In response to a question from a member of the public the Community Regeneration Officer explained that she would be able to offer advice, help local groups start and develop projects, and signpost external funding opportunities and assistance. CD
- 7.4 In response to a question from a member of the public Brian Williams gave examples of the organisations and types of applications that had been granted funding from the pilot Local Joint Committees' budgets. The Head of Community Working answered further questions relating to the allocation of the budget.

8. Updates from Community Safety and West Mercia Police

- 8.1 The Chairman introduced Sgt Julian Hinds. Sgt Hinds spoke on the anticipated role of the Police in Local Joint Committee working and stressed the importance of consultation with agencies best placed to

resolve common objectives that went beyond the remit of the Police alone.

9. Public Question Time

9.1 The Chairman invited members of the public to identify key issues and projects for the Local Joint Committee's consideration. There followed statements from, and discussion with:

- a representative from Ellesmere Goes Green
- a representative from Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce
- a representative from Shropshire Sailing Club
- the Lakelands School's Extended Schools Development Officer
- a representative from Ellesmere Youth Project
- a member of Ellesmere Rural Parish Council, who spoke on rural road signage
- a member of the public, who spoke on parking in Ellesmere town centre
- a member of the public, who spoke on responsibilities for roadside hedge cutting.

9.2 In response to discussion with members of the public it was suggested that the subject of parking be considered in depth at a future meeting, and that the participation of an appropriate officer be arranged.

JR/JS

9.3 In response to a question from a member of the public Sgt Julian Hinds commented that a toolkit of solutions was required to combat speeding. It was noted that Community Speed Watch was scheduled to be reinstated later in 2009.

9.4 By way of conclusion the Lead Officer confirmed that the Local Joint Committee would meet four times a year, rotating venues around the area. The Chairman thanked all present for their contributions, explaining that the issues raised would be collated and taken forward for the Committee's consideration and action.

JR

10. Date of Next Meeting

10.1 It was noted that the next meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 30 September 2009 at Cockshutt Millennium Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Signed (Chairman)

Date