

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE ELLESMERE AREA
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2010 IN LAKELANDS
SCHOOL, OSWESTRY ROAD, ELLESMERE**

7.00 p.m. – 9.12 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Fiona Howe

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Present:

Members of the Committee:

Steve Davenport	Shropshire Council
Ann Hartley	Shropshire Council
Brian Williams	Shropshire Council (Chairman)
John Dickin	Cockshutt-cum-Petton Parish Council
Kay Egerton	Ellesmere Rural Parish Council
Pat McLaughlin	Ellesmere Town Council
Chris Symes	Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council (Vice-Chairman)

Officers:

John Rowley	Assistant Director, CYPS (Lead Officer)
Kim Ryley	Chief Executive
Steph Jackson	Head of Revenues and Benefits
John Skelton	Senior Organisational Development Officer (Support Officer)
Corrie Davies	Community Regeneration Officer
Fiona Howe	Committee Officer

There were approximately 55 members of the public in attendance

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief explanation on the purpose of the Local Joint Committees. He went on to explain the format of the meeting and key items on the agenda.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

PERSONAL:

MEMBER/OFFICER	ITEM	REASON
Councillor J. Dickin	Minute No	He was a Trustee of Cockshutt Millenium Hall
Councillor Mrs K. Egerton	Minute No	She was a member of the PCC.

4. NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the note of the meeting held on 19 May 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA

The Chairman introduced Paul Wyatt and Wendy Stockton, Shropshire Youth Services, Dee Plozay, Shropshire Youth Association, and Duncan Settingington, Extended Schools Programme, and explained the format of the meeting.

Mr Wyatt provided an overview of the service provision available and departments which made up Shropshire Youth Services. He advised that they provide independent career guidance within schools and also provide guidance to parents and training for teachers. It was noted that they provided CHAT opportunities at Lakeland School in conjunction with the school nurse, which allowed children to speak to a member of their team in confidence.

Wendy Stockton addressed the Committee advising that they had set up a rural transport system to allow children within the urban and rural areas to meet up and ensure inclusion for rural communities where children may feel isolated. The meeting was advised that there were workshops and activity sessions available during the school holidays.

Ms Plozay was in attendance and provided an overview of the services available through Shropshire Youth Association. She advised the meeting that they had been in existence for 21 years as a registered charity and helped support over 120 voluntary youth groups throughout the county. The meeting was advised that they would work with volunteers to help set up youth groups within the area. It was noted that they would also help train volunteers, carry out Criminal Record Bureau checks, providing funding advice and help with appropriate insurance cover. She advised that the Association employed an Activity Advisor who put

together subsidised activity programmes and nationally recognised outdoor courses.

Duncan Settingington, Extended Schools, was in attendance and provided an overview of services available through Access Arts and Extended Schools programmes. He advised that Access Arts ran 6 week courses in art based activities from glass modelling to printing and encouraged children to sign up. It was noted that they were trying to increase opportunities around the county and confirmed that they were currently undertaking a project in Ellesmere. In response to a question raised by a resident he confirmed that they worked in conjunction with local schools and youth organisations to improve opportunities for youths within the community.

Corrie Davies, Community Regeneration Officer, addressed the meeting requesting that young people provide information on what they would like to see in their area, places they would like to go and things they would like to do. In response, residents provided the following information:

- More youth clubs and better advertising on events.
- Somewhere to go and relax with friends.
- Use of Ellesmere Pool. It was noted that opening hours needed addressing.
- Advise parents about events and programmed activities in their areas. Residents were advised that Shropshire Youth Services website provided a wealth of information on activities and events happening in the area.
- A resident raised concern over the lack of assistance from the Council in getting funding for the Skate Park in Ellesmere. The Chairman advised that the Committee would be happy to consider an application for funding and suggested that they worked with the Community Regeneration Officer to submit a funding request.
- Concern was raised over the lack of provision in the Criftins area. The Parish Councillor advised that other villages were working together with Shropshire Youth Services to set up a volunteer youth group and it would be a good idea to include Criftins in their plans.
- A resident felt that Shropshire Council needed to consult more with adults and children before spending funding unnecessarily on activities that weren't wanted. Councillor Davenport advised that the facilities provided were wanted by residents and felt that the comment was incorrect.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and taking part in the discussion.

6. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)

The Chairman introduced PC Paul Crump of West Mercia Police.

PC Crump updated the meeting on the recent changes to their administrative office and advised that the PC Lewis was now in place.

He reported back on the issues raised at the previous meeting and invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern. The main issues were:

PC Crump

- Enforcement of car parking on double yellow lines;
- Concern that the drinks ban at the Mere wasn't been enforced.
- Continued concern over parking on Beech Road.
- Speed limits in Criftins. It was stated that drivers were not adhering to the 30 mph limit and a request was made to monitor the stretch of road in question.
- Several children requested that the police monitor activity at their schools during the summer holidays to help reduce vandalism.
- Speed limits in Welshampton was not being adhered to.

The Chairman thanked PC Crump for his update and aiding the debate.

7. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET

The Chairman introduced Portfolio Holder, Councillor Ann Hartley, Shropshire Council's Chief Executive, Kim Ryley, and the Head of Finance (Exchequer Services), Steph Jackson, to the meeting.

Councillor Hartley addressed the meeting advising that the Council were working with an evolving budget and that they were currently facing a £10 million funding gap for the current financial year and a further £49.7 million over the next 3 years which would result in huge changes in the way in which the Council provided its services. It was noted that Shropshire Council had never been extravagant with spending and had a more for less ethos. However, they were having to undertake a spending review and there would be funding cuts in bureaucracy, duplication of services, travel costs, freezing recruitment and pay freezes. She stated that this action alone would not address the huge funding gap and that they were looking at changes to service delivery and Cabinet would be reviewing current fees and possible introduction of additional fee paying services.

Councillor Hartley indicated that the Council wanted residents to get involved in deciding what services were important and where cuts could be made. It was noted that the Council would be carrying out detailed consultation over the coming months and

intended to feed back further information at the next round of Local Joint Committees.

The following questions and responses were recorded:

- A resident raised the issue of how Shropshire Council was interacting with social enterprises and the big community. The Chief Executive advised that the Council was looking at all possibilities and that they would no longer continue to provide a service in house if other organisations could provide a better and cheaper service. He stated that the Council would need to rethink the way they worked in the future.
- The Chief Executive advised the room that the Council was looking at the possibility of relinquishing the running of some community assets such as libraries and leisure centres and were opening up communications with larger communities over the next few months to discuss the possible options.
- Concern was raised by residents over the Council using the cost cutting measures as a way to shut smaller schools. The Chief Executive advised that the Council was looking at ways to provide sustainable communities and how they could utilise schools by hosting other services. It was noted that they were looking for ways to work together and form federations to share costs. He stated that the Council was working hard to increase value in smaller schools in order to ensure they kept going, but warned that as the budget cuts grew it would be harder to maintain all schools and that some school closures were inevitable.
- A resident asked how the Council were looking to encourage industry into the area to provide future employment. The Chief Executive advised that there were 3 key areas to providing community sustainability and vibrancy to the area. These included employment, quality housing and good schools. He added that getting the right mix takes time and that the Council was looking at creating an environment to encourage investment in the area and to help businesses thrive. It was noted that they were working on Local Enterprise Partners, a new government initiative, to help address these issues.
- A resident commented on the recommendation not to increase Council Tax. He stated that if this meant that services were to be cut then maybe people would want to pay an increased charge to ensure the services remained. The Chief Executive advised that the government had set a 0% Council Tax increase across England which meant that Local Authorities were unable to make changes to their current charges. He advised that this in itself had created an issue as the Council had not completed its rationalisation

of Council Tax costs across the county. He stated that in the short term fees would increase, but advised that caution would be taken when rolling out these increases. He concluded that it was going to be a challenge to keep the quality of services, but to be assured that Members did not want to lose quality over cost.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hartley, Kim Ryley and Steph Jackson for their attendance and aiding the debate. He advised the meeting that the Council would be considering this important issue again at the next Local Joint Committee in October where residents would be given the opportunity to comment further on proposals.

8. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Community Regeneration Officer updated the meeting on work being undertaken within the local communities and the successes of previously funded groups and organisations. She provided information on funding streams available to groups in the area and details of activities and events coming up.

9. LETS TALK

No further questions or comments were made during this item. The Chairman confirmed that there had been ample opportunity to ask questions during the previous items and thanked the residents for their input into the debates.

10. LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET

The Chairman introduced the report, which set out details of grant funding applications, which had been received (copy attached to the signed minutes).

It was noted that the deadline for the next round of funding applications would be 13th September 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the following projects funded from the 2010/2011 budget, be approved:

- (a) St Marys Church, Dudleston Heath – That a contribution of £2,000 be approved for the provision of a new heating system.
- (b) Cockshutt Amateur Dramatics – That a contribution of £1,000 be approved for the provision of stage extensions and replacement of stage curtains and tracking.
- (c) Frankton Cricket Club – That a contribution of £400 be approved for the provision of a water boiler.

Lead
Officer/
Finance

- (d) Welshampton Bonfire Committee – That a contribution of £1,000 be approved for the Welshampton Festival of Fire Workshops.
- (e) St Simon and St Jude PCC – That a contribution of £970 be approved to provide a slabbed pathway through the church yard.

That the following project be deferred to allow for further information to be obtained:

- (f) Criftins Womens Institute
- (g) Cockshutt Millenium Hall
- (h) Dudleston Heath Village Hall.

11. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Ellesmere Area Local Joint Committee be held on 20th October 2010 at 7.00 p.m. in Cockshutt Millenium Hall, Cockshutt, Ellesmere, Shropshire.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....