

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE ELLESMERE AREA
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2010 AT
COCKSHUTT MILLENNIUM HALL, COCKSHUTT.**

7.00 p.m. – 9.15 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Fiona Howe

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Present:

Members of the Committee:

Steve Davenport	Shropshire Council
Brian Williams	Shropshire Council (Chairman)
John Dickin	Cockshutt-cum-Petton Parish Council (Minute No. 7 onwards)
Kay Egerton	Ellesmere Rural Parish Council
Ian Ward	Ellesmere Town Council

Officers:

John Rowley	Assistant Director, CYPS (Lead Officer)
John Skelton	Senior Organisational Development Officer (Support Officer)
Corrie Davies	Community Regeneration Officer
Fiona Howe	Committee Officer

There were approximately 33 members of the public in attendance

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Ann Hartley, Mr Chris Symes and Mrs Pat McLaughlin (Councillor Ian Ward was in attendance as her substitute).

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

There were no declarations of interests received.

4. NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the note of the meeting held on 22nd July 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)

The Chairman welcomed PC Howard Lewis of West Mercia Police to the meeting.

PC Lewis updated the meeting on the recent changes to the Police representative in the area, advising that he had been in role since May 2010. He provided an update on an issue raised at the last meeting, stating that there had been a crackdown on offenders found drinking around the Mere. Residents were advised that they were proposing to relocate the CCTV unit from the boathouse to the toilet and play area, subject to funding provision, to help monitor the situation, but asked that the public be vigilant and report any offences to the Police in order that further action could be taken.

He invited members of the public to raise any issues or concerns. A Parish Council representative requested clarification on a recent accident, which had caused damage to a village notice board. PC Lewis advised that the driver had been spoken to about the incident and confirmed that they would not be seeking to prosecute. However, he confirmed that the driver was insured and those details had been passed on to the Parish Clerk.

PC Lewis provided an update on a recent break in at Welshampton Primary School. He advised the meeting that the offender had been spoken to by Police, but they were unable to take the matter further as the parents of the witness did not wish them to give evidence due to his young age.

6. SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

John Harrison, Shropshire Fire & Rescue, addressed the meeting stating that Shropshire currently had 23 fire stations and 5 of these were staffed full time. It was noted that the remainder of the stations were staffed by 'on-call' or retained fire officers who came from a wide cross section of the community. It was noted that there were 14 'on-call' fire fighters within the Ellesmere area.

Mr Harrison advised that they had attended 65 incidents in the locality in the past 12 months, but indicated that they provided a fire safety and prevention service to help educate residents in reducing fire risks for residential and business properties as well as a responsive service.

It was noted that Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service worked with a budget of £21 million per annum, with 63% of that figure being spent on wages for front line staff, 12% on buildings, appliances

and equipment, 14% on overheads and 11% on back office staffing. Mr Harrison indicated that the service cost the public £83.72 per year for an average band D property, which provided excellent value for money. He advised the meeting that the fire service would be facing budget cuts of £3 million over the next 4 years, and in order to achieve the savings, the service had implemented a freeze on recruitment, removed in-house catering provision, renegotiated contracts, undergone extensive staff engagement and promoted closer partnership working. The major impact of the cuts for the future would see the service losing 60 members of staff over 4 year which would create £2.2 million of savings.

The meeting was advised that there would be less staff to respond to call outs, the vehicles would become less reliable, buildings would deteriorate and that if funding cuts increased it would mean the closure of fire stations.

In response to questions raised, Mr Harrison provided the following responses:

- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service renegotiate contracts on a regular basis, but they had been able to negotiate a saving of in excess of £100,000 on insurance policies due to improved safety procedures.
- It was envisaged that the response times using suitable equipment and vehicles could be maintained, but there was a possibility that the response times of specialist equipment may be affected.
- The Fire Service had a policy to charge for false alarms, but, in the first instance, they preferred to work with the premises owners to improve their fire safety procedures and equipment.

The Chairman thanked Mr Harrison for his attendance and informative presentation and hoped that he would be able to provide an update in 12 months time.

7. DEVELOPMENT WITHIN YOUR AREA – TUDOR GRIFFITHS GROUP

The Chairman welcomed Mike Sleigh, Company Secretary, Stuart Lawrence, Group Estates Manager, and Tony Williams, General Manager – TG Waste Services, to the meeting.

Mr Sleigh provided an overview of the company's historical and current activities, advising that the company employed around 250 people and had a turnover of £50 million a year. He reported that there were five main divisions, which included, aggregates, waste management (including recycling), builders merchants, fuel distribution, and holiday and leisure provisions.

Mr Lawrence addressed the meeting and provided information on the planning issues relating to developments at their waste and

aggregate sites. It was noted that the quarry sites had been developed in zones, with zone 1 being extracted in the 50's and 60's and had now been returned to agricultural and a nature reserve, zone 2's mineral extraction had been completed and was currently being used as a landfill site in a view to reform the original drumlin found on the site prior to extraction. Half of zone 3 had been restored and the addition of the lake feature had proved a valuable site for wildlife.

It was noted that TG Group representatives were in discussion with Shropshire Council to extend the life of the landfill site, as the current approval expired on 31 December 2010. In order to progress the application the firm were required to produce an environmental impact study, which would be considered by consultees prior to any decision being made. Residents were assured that if the extension was approved it would have no additional impact on the area. It was proposed that zone 4 would be sited north of the existing quarry and the company had made tentative exploration of the area to confirm that minerals were present and would be discussing proposals with Shropshire Council and local residents.

Mr Williams addressed the meeting, providing an overview of the company's current waste services and recycling provision. He advised that, in recent years, there had been a dramatic shift from landfill to recycling, and indicated that even the landfill site could provide a beneficial service to the community by producing electricity, which could power up to 300 homes and improve their carbon footprint. It was noted that a new Materials Recover Facility (MRF) had been opened in the area, where they were able to recycle 90% of the commercial waste being deposited. It was noted that they had been working in conjunction with Shropshire Council to build an environmentally friendly facility with low energy requirements, which would be able to produce gas in situ to power the site. Residents were advised that the facility had been recognised as a site of excellence and would be used as a model for future developments nationwide.

In response to a question raised by a member of the public, Mr Lawrence indicated they did not envisage an increase in traffic movements, as the amount of waste coming on site was equal to that which had gone to landfill previously, but was just being directed to a different area on site. It was noted that the company were trying to achieve a net balance on empty vehicles leaving the site and were in the process of agreeing a contract to transport PVC window frames off site for recycling, which would help keep needless transport movements on the roads to a minimum.

The Chairman thanked all the representatives of TG Group for attending and for provoking such an in depth discussion. He advised members of the public that they would have a chance to comment on the planning application through their Parish and

Town Councils at the appropriate time and encouraged residents to visit the recycling site to see the processes involved for themselves.

8. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Community Regeneration Officer presented an update on events which had taken place over the last few months. She reported that residents had recently undertaken a litter pick in the Ellesmere area, which had been well supported, and another litter pick was due to take place on 30 November 2010 and encouraged everyone to get involved.

She reported that four applications had been submitted for Community Fund money and that Frankton Cricket Club had been successful in their bid. It was noted that she was working with the unsuccessful applicants to identify other funding sources. She also reported that Dudleston Village Hall had secured Grass Routes funding.

Upcoming events in the area included Welshampton Festival of Fire on 23rd October 2010, Ellesmere Winter Festival on 26th November 2010 and the Shropshire Olympic Festival on 17th – 19th June 2011.

9. 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 Friday, 17th December 2010.

RESOLVED:

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

- (a) Dudleston Heath Village Hall – That a contribution of £2,000 be approved for the installation of a new heating system.
- (b) Ellesmere Primary School – Forest School Area – That a contribution of £1,500 be approved to help set up a Forest Schools area and supply equipment.
- (c) Ellesmere Bowling Club – That a contribution of £2,000 be approved to help provide fencing and supply and lay wearing course.
- (d) Mere Ambles Walking for Health – That a contribution of £1,050 be approved for the installation of 6 kissing gates to

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improve access for all in the area.

- (e) Winter Festival – That a contribution of £1,500 be approved for the provision of advertising, signage and support for the event.
- (f) St Michaels and All Saints Church, Welshampton – That a contribution of £1,000 be approved for the restoration of pathways leading from the church to burial grounds.

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

- (g) Dudleston Health Football Club – new sports equipment.
- (h) Mere News Community Magazine.

That the following project be refused:

- (i) Ellesmere Senior Safety Day – it was felt that this project fail to comply with the funding criteria.

10. LETS TALK

The Chairman of Ellesmere Angling Club advised the meeting that they would be developing fishing pegs in the Crimps Field area of the Mere. It was noted that the development work would take place over the next few months and the areas would be designated as alcohol free zones.

11. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Ellesmere Area Local Joint Committee be held on 9th February 2011 at 7.00 p.m. in Welshampton Village Hall, Welshampton, Ellesmere, SY12 0PY.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....