

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE ELLESMERE AREA
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2011 AT CRIFTINS
PARISH HALL, DUDLESTON HEATH, ELLESMERE**

7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Michelle Evans

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Present:

Members of the Committee:

Steve Davenport	Shropshire Council
Ann Hartley	Shropshire Council
Brian Williams	Shropshire Council
Alan Clarke	Ellesmere Town Council
Chris Symes	Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council
Kay Egerton	Ellesmere Rural Parish Council

Officers:

Julie Ruler	Community Action Officer
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer
Chris Pickman	Friends of the Mere
Mike Fisher	Friends of the Mere
Steve Moorhouse	Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
Inspector Jim Stafford	West Mercia Police Authority

There were approximately 30 members of the public in attendance

ACTION

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 Nominations for Chairman were received and it was **AGREED** that Mr Steve Davenport be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 Nominations for Vice-Chairman were received and it was **AGREED** that Mrs Kay Egerton be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

- 3.1 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.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 4.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Dickin (Cockshutt-cum-Petton Parish Council).

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 5.1 No declarations of interests were received.

6. NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 6.1 **RESOLVED:** That the note of the meeting held on 9 February 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7. FRIENDS OF THE MERE

- 7.1 Mr Chris Pickman and Mr Mike Fisher gave a presentation (copy attached to the signed Notes) about the work of the Friends of the Mere which was a voluntary group whose aim was to conserve the Mere for the enjoyment of the local community and other visitors.

- 7.2 The group assisted with maintenance and development of the Mere and its grounds and looked to develop community engagement, education and interpretation of The Mere. More information was available on their website:
www.wix.com/mereside/friendsofthemere.

- 7.3 Mr Pickman informed the meeting of current and future projects which included The Willow Project and a Sensory Garden for the visually impaired.

- 7.4 Mr Fisher had spearheaded the Friends' work with local schools and he explained that they now had links with nine local schools. A School Visit Programme had been set up which included Tree Spotting, Pond Dipping, Heron Watching, Fact Finding and a Fun Quiz.

- 7.5 The Chairman thanked Mr Pickman and Mr Fisher for their interesting presentation.

8. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)

- 8.1 Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Mr Steve Moorhouse updated the meeting on the current challenges facing the service. He confirmed that their approach to providing community safety advice and home safety risk assessments would be focussed at those in most need eg the elderly and vulnerable.

- 8.2 In response to a query Mr Moorhouse confirmed that there were no full time officers at Ellesmere Fire Station. However there were 14 retained fire fighters providing cover 24/7. A minimum of four officers were required to go out with an engine. Day time cover was provided by two local firms (Fullwoods and Fabdec) who ensured that five people were available every day to attend any incidents. Retained fire fighters had to live or work within 5 minutes of the station.
- 8.3 West Mercia Police Authority
- Inspector Stafford reported that Ellesmere was now part of the Oswestry Area Policing team and had four dedicated Police Officers and two CSO's. He explained that the current Chief Constable was due to retire and the Deputy Chief Constable would be taking over and he was keen to keep local police officers especially in rural areas.
- 8.4 Inspector Stafford drew attention to the Police.UK website which provided helpful information about local crime and policing, including street-level crime maps and data. He reported that Ellesmere Area was a very low crime area with slightly more crimes occurring in the Town Centre.
- 8.5 Inspector Stafford informed the meeting of the multi-agency 'bronze tasking' group which met monthly to discuss and find solutions to particular local issues. Inspector Stafford then invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern.
- 8.6 It was noted that anti social behaviour was being encountered from youths drinking and leaving cans and bottles etc around the Mere. The police had been informed but nothing had happened. It was queried whether a Designated Public Place Order could be made which would make it an offence to drink alcohol in public places after being asked not to do so by an enforcement officer. This would allow the Police to seize any alcohol being consumed.
- 8.7 Inspector Stafford stated that the two CSO's should be patrolling the area but he would ask them to record the times they patrol the Mere. Inspector Stafford explained that only three or four anti social behaviour incidents had been recorded in the last month and urged the public to contact the Police if they witnessed any such incidents. This would enable the Police to concentrate their resources on problem areas.
- 8.8 It was suggested that signage be erected with the crime stopper telephone number for the public to ring. It was felt that it would be easier for problem areas to be patrolled by the Police rather than residents having to continually report any incidents.

- 8.9 Advice was requested about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Inspector Stafford explained that Neighbourhood Watch was separate from the police however it could be arranged for the local police officer to attend a Neighbourhood Watch meeting. The Community Action Officer confirmed that she could offer advice and guidance on setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

9. LET'S TALK

- 9.1 The Chairman invited questions, comments and statements from the floor. Issues raised included:

- Concerns about Cremorne Gardens
- Improved footpaths
- Improve cycling into Ellesmere
- It was suggested that Climate Change be a future agenda item
- Dogs not on leads
- Various parking issues
- Mess on field opposite red lion adjacent to park.
- Privately owned rowing / motor boat on the Mere

- 9.2 The Chairman confirmed that these issues would be taken back for investigation and progress would be reported at the next meeting.

10. LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET

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

- 10.2 An amendment was proposed for £202.80 to be contributed to West Mercia Police for calibrating the laser speed gun. This project had been recommended for refusal.

10.3 RESOLVED:

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

- (a) Lyneal and Colemere Church.

- 10.3.2 That the following projects, funded from the 2011/2012 budget, be approved:

Community
Action
Officer

(b) British Waterways – That a contribution of £1,000 be approved for the restoration of the blacksmiths forge at Ellesmere Canal Yard.

Community
Action
Officer

(c) Ellesmere Allotment Society – That a contribution of £270 be approved to provide a number of small self filling water troughs spaced across the site of the allotments.

(d) Welshampton Primary School – That a contribution of £500 be approved to create a garden to compliment the forest school.

(e) Ellesmere Rangers Football Club – That a contribution of £430 be approved to enable the purchase and installation of football stop netting to the football pitch adjacent to a children's play area in Beech Grove, Ellesmere.

(f) West Mercia Police – That a contribution of £202.80 be approved to cover the cost of calibrating the laser speed gun for use in hot spots in the area.

(g) Ellesmere Town Council – That a contribution of £1,000 be approved to cover the cost of providing a traditional permanent sign at the entrance to Castlefields Car Park to promote local events and activities.

11. FEEDBACK FORMS

- 11.1 The Chairman requested that members of the public complete the feedback forms available on the tables.

12. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

- 12.1 The Community Action Officer updated the meeting. She reported that she was available to offer advice and assistance to any local organisation on any issue including assistance with arranging community events and signposting to sources of funding. She could be contacted via telephone or email:
julie.ruler@shropshire.gov.uk, 01691 677301.

13. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 13.1 The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 10 November 2011 in Welsh Frankton Village Hall.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....