

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE ELLESMERE AREA
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2011 AT WELSH
FRANKTON VILLAGE HALL**

7.00 p.m. – 8.55 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
John Dickin	Cockshutt-cum-Petton Parish Council
Kay Egerton	Ellesmere Rural Parish Council
Chris Symes	Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Officers:

Julie Ruler	Community Action Officer
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer
Mark Pembleton	Business and Enterprise Manager
Rachel Strivens	Sustainability Manager
PC Crump	West Mercia Police Authority

There were approximately 40 members of the public in attendance

	ACTION
1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME	
1.1 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.	
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.1 No apologies were received.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
3.1 Councillor Davenport declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 9 (Local Joint Committee Budget) Application J.	

4. NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1 **RESOLVED:** That the note of the meeting held on 14 July 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. COUNTYWIDE BROADBAND PROJECT

- 5.1 Mr Mark Pembleton, the Business and Enterprise Manager, gave a presentation (copy of slides attached to the signed Notes) which looked at the future of broadband in Shropshire, which was currently one of the poorest provided areas in the Country. He explained why the Council were undertaking this work and not BT. Although BT provided telephone services and some broadband, it had not done as much as was needed, which was why the Council had therefore stepped in.
- 5.2 Mr Pembleton drew attention to the economic benefits of broadband which was crucial for doing business and for attracting investment into the area. He briefly touched on the social inclusion aspect and the digital divide. Broadband was also very important for the transformation of public services which would allow the Council to operate more effectively.
- 5.3 Mr Pembleton went on to explain what was being done within Shropshire Council to improve broadband. The current broadband speed in Shropshire had been mapped and those areas with no broadband at all (20% compared to the national average of 9%) together with those areas with a speed of less than 2mbps had been highlighted. He reported that the Government had pledged to make funding available to guarantee that everyone would receive a minimum of 2mbps by 2015.
- 5.4 Mr Pembleton informed the meeting that Shropshire Council had submitted a bid to BDUK and had been awarded £8.2 million together with Telford and Wrekin. Shropshire Council had also agreed capital funding of £2 million to enable 100% of Shropshire access to a minimum of 2mbps and to deliver superfast broadband to as much of the county as possible. The BT Open-reach roll out would be able to cover 35% of Shropshire's population leaving the Council to deliver 65% through the support of BDUK.
- 5.5 Mr Pembleton then discussed the next steps which included a report to Cabinet the following week setting out the scope for what it was hoped to deliver to individual areas of the county. Central Government would then need to sign off the Council's broadband plan before a technical partner could be procured.
- 5.6 A programme of demand stimulation would be undertaken with communities and businesses in order to convince the Government that broadband would be taken up even though it may cost the public extra. Mr Pembleton requested the public to complete the questionnaires which had been circulated indicating why access to broadband was important to them.

- 5.7 In response to a query Mr Pembleton explained that meetings had been held with representatives from the Welsh Assembly, who were responsible for the Welsh telecom exchanges, together with Staffordshire and Worcestershire to ensure shared exchanges were identified and prioritised.
- 5.8 In response to a query in relation to costs, Mr Pembleton reported that private sector investment would also be sought to help cover the costs. It was also suggested that Parish/Town Council precepts could be used to raise extra money to ensure their areas obtained improved coverage and speeds. Exact costings would not be known until the project went out to tender. It was hoped that BT would be pressurised into doing more, particular for businesses and more deprived areas.
- 5.9 Mr Pembleton explained that it would be difficult for some areas, particularly rural areas, to get more than 2mbps with the money that was available as a different approach to fibre cables may be needed which could be more expensive, for example, wireless and satellite broadband. Improved speeds could be provided to these areas with extra funding from town/parish councils.
- 6. CARBON REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
- 6.1 Rachel Strivens, the Sustainability Manager, gave a presentation on Sustainability and Climate Change which covered the following areas:
- Introduction to Sustainability Team
 - Climate Change and the need to respond
 - Shropshire Council Carbon Management Programme
 - Guidance for Communities
 - Local energy consumption and renewable energy performance
 - Parish/Place Plans and sustainability
- 6.2 Ms Strivens explained that sustainability and climate change was one of three priorities set out in Shropshire Council's Community Strategy. She explained about the Carbon Reduction Commitment, or carbon tax which was a tax introduced by the UK Government in April 2010 as an incentive for businesses to reduce their energy bills and consequently their carbon emissions. Shropshire Council's first bill to be paid in April 2012 will be approximately £0.5m. Shropshire Council also had to report to central government under its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting.
- 6.3 Ms Strivens reported that the current levels of CO₂ were at their highest ever levels which was affecting the climate and she briefly discussed the reasons why organisations should respond to climate change. She emphasised that organisations could not climate proof themselves but needed to become more resilient in order to cope with the changes so that they were not overly affected by them.

ACTION

- 6.4 Ms Strivens drew attention to the statistics for the West Midlands which showed that the average summer rainfall had reduced by 20% which was obviously not good for such a rural agricultural county and indeed we had been in drought conditions for the last few months. More extreme weather events were occurring, including an increased risk of flash flooding, etc.
- 6.5 Ms Strivens informed the meeting that Shropshire Council had produced a Carbon Management Programme document which was available on the Council's website. The Council had set itself a tough target to reduce carbon emissions by 35% from 2008/09 levels by 31 March 2014.
- 6.6 The baseline year started with 90,608,000 tonnes of carbon emissions. This figure went up in the second year due to better data collection. The figure had however reduced for this year but unfortunately not by as much as had been hoped. This was due to the time taken to get projects up and running. Ms Strivens highlighted the key projects being undertaken by the Council which included, for example, boiler replacements and lighting upgrades.
- 6.7 Ms Strivens explained how the Climate Change Guide for Communities could help communities work towards environmental, social and economic sustainability. The guidance provided information on climate change together with practical measures which could be taken to reduce a communities' carbon footprint, including making community buildings more energy efficient.
- 6.8 A brief discussion ensued in relation to local energy consumption and renewable energy performance and generation. It was hoped that 15% of electricity and 12% of heat would come from renewable sources by 2020. Locally, Shropshire Council had approved the installation of solar panels on Council owned buildings and the contract was currently out to tender. As well as looking at the social and economic benefits of a project, all future projects would also be appraised from an environmental perspective.
- 6.9 Finally, Ms Strivens briefly touched on Parish/Place Plans and the network of low carbon communities that had been running for approximately 5 years. She informed the meeting that a new organisation, the Green Shropshire Xchange, was being launched on 3 March 2012 to encourage more involvement in environmental issues.
- 6.10 In response to a query Ms Strivens explained that Local Authorities and other businesses had to declare their carbon emissions if they used more than 6,000 MWh electricity per year. The cost from next year would be £12 per tonne payable to the treasury. It was therefore important for the Council to make improvements to its buildings to reduce future taxes.

ACTION

6.11 A member of the public highlighted the ongoing debate about whether climate change was natural or partly caused by humans. He explained that certain satellite data indicated that there had been no warming of the planet which seemed to demonstrate that humans were not responsible. He was therefore of the opinion that Shropshire Council should do the minimum required.

6.12 In response, Ms Strivens explained that there was evidence showing the climate was changing over the longer term and that we were only just beginning to see the effects so it was important that action be taken now. Climate change was not just about warming.

6.13 Concern was raised about the economic viability of solar PV and it was felt that the Council should perhaps be looking at combined heat and power. Ms Strivens explained that the Council were still running the figures for the solar PV installations and the reduced cost of materials were being taken into account. She explained that CHP is not suitable for all situations but it is being considered for certain sites and the Council had just begun its renewable heating programme with up to 38 primary schools potentially being able to have modular wood pellet boilers installed.

7. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)

7.1 PC Crump informed the meeting of the purpose of the PACT meetings. He updated the Committee in response to issues raised at the previous meeting and invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern.

7.2 • Alcohol Exclusion Zones

PC Crump informed the meeting that only parts of Ellesmere were covered by the Designated Public Places Order (the town centre and Cremorne Gardens). Anyone found to be in possession of alcohol in those areas could be asked to hand it over. Although the Designated Public Places Order could be enforced by the Police and CSOs together with Shropshire Council Civil Enforcement Officers and Park Wardens, only the Police could actually seize alcohol and if anyone refused, they could be arrested.

7.3 • Laser Speed Gun

PC Crump reported that the recalibrated speed gun funded by the LJC had been kept in Ellesmere and he had been out with it on at least ten occasions. He had spoken to approximately 50 drivers who had exceeded the speed limit and 90% of these lived within the SY Post Code area. It was requested that usage of the speed gun be reported to all future LJC meetings.

ACTION

7.4 • Non-Emergency Telephone Number

PC Crump informed the meeting of the new non-emergency telephone number which was 101. He confirmed that this number did not replace the 999 telephone number for emergencies.

7.5 • Parking on white/yellow lines

PC Crump explained that the Police and CSOs had no powers to enforce parking on white/yellow lines as this was dealt with by Shropshire Council Civil Enforcement Officers, unless causing an obstruction of the highway.

7.6 • Anti-Social Behaviour Hotline

The Chairman informed the meeting of the Anti-Social Behaviour Hotline 0345 678 9020 which went through to a call centre at Shirehall who passed details on to relevant officers.

8. LET'S TALK

8.1 The Chairman drew attention to the responses from the previous meeting which had been circulated. In relation to the dangerous parking on the road out of Ellesmere to Tetchill (issue number 5) the Chairman read out a list of the roads that were currently being recommended for double yellow lines and which were currently out to consultation.

8.2 Issues raised on the tables included:

- Meres and Moses liaison - query in relation to tenancies
- Increased parking in Brownlow Road - It was felt that this had not been adequately dealt with. It was confirmed that this issue was being looked into by the Police and Highways.
- Climate Change - It was felt that Shropshire Council were not doing enough to promote climate change and the sustainability agenda.
- Speed Gun - It was felt that more promotion about the use of the speed gun was required together with 'speed aware' signage for each village.
- Listed Buildings – query whether the legislation preventing the installation of double glazing could be changed. The meeting was informed that pilots were being undertaken in Shrewsbury.
- The road over the brow, which had been resurfaced by Shropshire Council, had then been dug up again and had created a hazard. The Chairman confirmed that this issue would be taken back to Enterprise.

ACTION

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could funding from the LJC be used to encourage British Waterways to extend the path along side Ellesmere Canal. • Could the speed gun be used in Welshampton and Criftins. • The budget deficit could be cut and electricity saved if street lights were turned off in the middle of the night. • Refuse Collections – No longer collecting cardboard with garden waste and changes to plastic kerbside collections. It was suggested that Veolia Environmental Services be invited to a future meeting to give a presentation. • The Manager of Levi Court wished to attend a future LJC meeting to give a talk about the work done by Shropshire Housing Groups' Housing Support Services. 	
8.3	The Chairman confirmed that these issues would be taken back for investigation and progress would be reported at the next meeting.	Community Action Officer
9.	LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET	
9.1	The Community Action Officer introduced the report, which set out details of grant funding applications which had been received (copy attached to the signed Notes). Applicants were given the opportunity to explain why the funding was required.	
9.2	<p>RESOLVED: That the following projects, funded from the 2011/2012 budget, be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petton Church – £780 to replace the boundary fence. • Welshampton Bonfire Committee- Community Theatre – This application had been withdrawn. • Welsh Frankton Village Hall Society – £1500 for a pa system and glass washer. • Levi Court Community Room – £546 to replace the carpet, which should be sourced from a local supplier. • Criftins Bowling Club – £1000 for the purchase of a refurbished grass cutter. • Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce – £615 towards the production of promotional leaflets • Shelton Hospital- Art Commission – This application was not approved. • Oswestry Dial a Ride – £585.75 towards the cost of installing new computer software. 	Community Action Officer

ACTION

- 9.2 The Community Action Officer informed the meeting that the deadline for applications for the next round was 10 February 2012, for consideration at the next meeting to be held on 13 March 2012.

10. FEEDBACK FORMS

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

11. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

- 11.1 The Community Action Officer updated the meeting in relation to some of her current work, which included the following:

- Work with Rural Challenge Fund whereby two projects were being taken forward (Restoration of the Smithy in the Waterways Yard and moving Criftins Post Office into the Parish Hall). The closing date for the next round was at the end of November.
- Work with Market Towns Partnership Initiative. Expressions of interest were being sought for projects to support the economic vibrancy of Ellesmere.

- 11.2 The Community Action Officer was available to support any local organisations who could contact her if they required any assistance.

12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 12.1 The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place at 7pm on Tuesday 13 March 2012 in the Boat House, Ellesmere (venue to be confirmed).

Chairman:.....

Date:.....