

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE ELLESMERE AREA  
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 JULY 2012 AT THE  
COCKSHUTT MILLENNIUM HALL**

7.00 p.m. – 8.45 p.m.

**Responsible Officer:** Michelle Evans

E-mail: michelle.evans.lads@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 252727

**Present:**

Members of the Committee:

Steve Davenport	Shropshire Council
Ann Hartley	Shropshire Council
Brian Williams	Shropshire Council
Peter Lorenzo	Ellesmere Town Council (Substitute)
John Dickin	Cockshutt-cum-Petton Parish Council
Kay Egerton	Ellesmere Rural Parish Council

Officers:

Julie Ruler	Community Action Officer, Shropshire Council
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer, Shropshire Council
Peter Dunhill	Shropshire Way Project Officer, Shropshire Council
PC Scott Barnes	West Mercia Police Authority

**There were approximately 26 members of the public in attendance**

**ACTION**

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

- 1.1 Nominations for Chairman were received and it was **AGREED** that Mrs Ann Hartley be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Alan Clark (Ellesmere Town Council) and Peter Gee (Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council).

**3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

- 3.1 Nominations for Vice-Chairman were received and it was **AGREED** that Mr Alan Clarke be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

## ACTION

### 4. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

- 4.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief explanation on the purpose of the Local Joint Committees. She went on to explain the format of the meeting and key items on the agenda. Members of the Committee then introduced themselves.

### 5. NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 5.1 **RESOLVED:** That the note of the meeting held on 13 March 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 6. SHROPSHIRE WAY

- 6.1 Mr Peter Dunhill, the Shropshire Way Project Officer gave a presentation on development of the Shropshire Way in the North of the County. The next phase of the Shropshire Way would connect Ellesmere through to Whitchurch via a series of walks and should be completed by November 2012.
- 6.2 Mr Dunhill reported on some of the work undertaken on the ground to improve and upgrade existing footpaths and rights of way including better signage and replacing stiles with kissing gates for easier access. He discussed the project partners and the various funding sources and explained that a Steering Group had been set up which met quarterly.
- 6.3 Mr Dunhill informed the meeting that a guidebook and map based website and mobile phone resource had been developed together with geocaches and a Geocoins Project for local school children. It was hoped that the Shropshire Way Project would promote local B&Bs and involve local public transport.
- 6.4 Mr Dunhill reported that the next phase of the Shropshire Way project would be officially launched by the Minister for the Natural Environment and Fisheries in October/November at the Natural Nature Reserve at Whixall Moss. It was hoped to include walks from Ellesmere and Whitchurch to the National Nature Reserve Manor House.
- 6.5 Ms Ruth Evans informed the meeting of the first Oswestry Walking Festival taking place on 7, 8 and 9 September. In response to a query, Mr Dunhill informed the meeting how Ellesmere could apply to become a 'Walkers are Welcome' town and there was general consensus to pursue this status for Ellesmere.

### 7. MARKET TOWN REVITALISATION INITIATIVE

- 7.1 Mr Peter Lorenzo from Ellesmere Town Council gave a presentation on the Ellesmere Market Town Revitalisation Programme (copy of slides attached to signed Minutes).

- 7.2 Mr Lorenzo reported that the Town Council were to receive £42,104 to enable the delivery of a project over the next 6 months in conjunction with local partners to improve Ellesmere and to inject economic benefit into the town.
- 7.3 Mr Lorenzo informed the meeting that the money was to be used for an Event and Festival Enhancement Project which included the provision of portable market stalls for use in the Market Hall or elsewhere for speciality markets and festivals etc, improving signage within the town and improvements to the Market Hall.
- 7.4 Mr Lorenzo explained that a community interest group had been set up which would be the driving force behind the project. The expected outcomes of the project included:
- Supporting and developing opportunities to hold four specialty markets;
  - Developing two electronic visitor displays and improving the information point at Ellesmere Wharf;
  - Refurbishing town fingerposts to include Ellesmere Sculpture Trail.
  - Providing a new Event and Car Park notice board at Castlefields and replacing the notice board at Ellesmere Market Hall.
- 7.5 For further information or to support the project, members of the public were advised to contact the Town Clerk or Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce.
- 8. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)**
- 8.1 PC Scott Barnes highlighted the current missing person investigation into the disappearance of Michael Ashton from Ellesmere and he urged the public to check their gardens and outbuildings.
- 8.2 PC Barnes reported that although burglaries for the whole of Shropshire had increased, there had only been one in the Ellesmere Area in the last four weeks.
- 8.3 In relation to the Laser Speed Gun, it was reported that the gun had been used a total of 10 times since the previous meeting with 10 tickets being issued plus 9 advice notices.
- 8.4 PC Barnes updated the meeting in relation to the speed limit through Criftins and reported that an amended traffic order was awaited. In the meantime, Police vehicles were being used to encourage drivers to slow down.

**ACTION**

- 8.5 Other issues which had arisen since the previous meeting included damage to Welshampton Church and anti social behaviour in Cockshutt. There had also been a couple of thefts from agricultural outbuildings.

**9. LET'S TALK**

- 9.1 The Chairman drew attention to the responses from the previous meeting which had been circulated.

- 9.2 Issues raised on the tables included:

- Could farmers help tourists by lowering hedges?

It was confirmed that due to Regulations farmers could not cut their hedges until 1 August and they had to be cut to a certain height (2 metres).

- The speed limit of 40mph past the Mere was felt to be too fast.

A review of traffic orders was currently being undertaken and it was confirmed that the whole road past the Mere was to be reviewed and signs revisited.

- Was anything being done about the state of the Library?

The Chairman agreed that it was appalling and explained that she was trying very hard to get it redecorated at the very least, however the concern was that the building was falling into disrepair.

- What was planned for the warehouse on the wharf now that planning permission had been approved?

Plans for the warehouse were in the hands of the developers. It was felt that it may be converted into a wine bar/bistro. It was confirmed that the building was listed which may restrict certain alterations being made to the building.

- Concern about lack of tourist information available in the Boathouse.

It was confirmed that the Boathouse was owned jointly by Shropshire Council and Ellesmere Town Council. The Area Director for the North explained that the way people accessed tourist information was different these days and included a lot of self service on mobile phones and laptops etc, however, he was not aware that the Boathouse had diluted their offer of information for tourists. He would check whether there had been a change and would take this back to the Tourism Team (Louise Cross).

**ACTION**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new mini roundabout in Cockshutt was an accident waiting to happen. It was felt that a T junction would be more appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>It as confirmed that these comments would be passed on to the Highways Department.</p>	
9.3	The Chairman confirmed that these issues would be taken back for investigation and progress would be reported at the next meeting.	Community Action Officer
<b>10.</b>	<b>LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET</b>	
10.1	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.	
10.2	It was reported that £200 had been granted under delegated powers to Ellesmere and District Gardeners Club to support the creation of a new schedule for 2012 and for Jubilee Floral displays.	
10.3	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>A. To approve the following applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£750.00 to Cockshutt Millennium Hall for the installation of CCTV</li> <li>£750.00 to Community First Responders towards the general running costs of two vehicles and the cost of uniform and kit for 6 new volunteer responders</li> <li>£300.00 to St Simon &amp; St Jude Church, Cockshutt towards the installation of artwork to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee</li> <li>£1300 to Cockshutt Community Playgroup towards the provision of a retractable canopy</li> <li>£1500 to Welsh Frankton Cricket Club towards the purchase of an outfield mower</li> </ul> <p>B. To refuse the following applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£700 to Oswestry &amp; District Arts Association</li> <li>£1040 to Oswestry &amp; District Sports Association</li> </ul>	
10.4	The Community Action Officer reported that the closing date for the next round was Friday 2 November 2012, not 29 November as stated in the report.	

## ACTION

### 11. FEEDBACK FORMS

- 11.1 The Chairman requested that members of the public complete the feedback forms available on the tables and indicate the issues they wished to discuss at future meetings so that the correct officers could be invited.

### 12. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

- 12.1 The Community Action Officer updated the meeting on her current work as follows:

- Supporting delivery of the Market Town Revitalisation Programme.
- Supporting the Friends of the Mere with a project to access the Pavilion.
- Offering support for initiatives by the Community Payback Team.
- Meeting with Village Hall Committees to work out their priorities and to ascertain whether any assistance was required.
- Joint working with Town and Parish Councils to support their Clerks.
- Place Plan Workshop which will take place on 12 September in Ellesmere.

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

- 12.2 On behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked the Community Action Officer for her hard work and dedication.

### 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 13.1 The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place at 7pm on Thursday 6 December 2012 at Welshampton Parish Hall.

- 13.2 The dates of future meetings were confirmed as follows:

- Thursday 14 March 2013 – Criftins Village Hall

Chairman:.....

Date:.....