

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE ELLESMERE AREA
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2012 AT
WELSHAMPTON PARISH HALL**

7.00 p.m. – 9.15 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Michelle Dulson
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Present:

Members of the Committee:

Steve Davenport	Shropshire Council
Ann Hartley	Shropshire Council
Alan Clarke	Ellesmere Town Council
Peter Gee	Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council
Kay Egerton	Ellesmere Rural Parish Council

Officers:

Julie Ruler	Community Action Officer, Shropshire Council
Michelle Dulson	Committee Officer, Shropshire Council
Michael Hyatt	Corporate Head of Strategic Planning, Shropshire Council
Tom Roehricht	Managing Director, ip&e
Karen Townend	Principal Planning Officer, Shropshire Council
Steve Moorehouse	Shropshire Fire Service
PC Paul Crump	West Mercia Police Authority

There were approximately 20 members of the public in attendance.

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Brian Williams (Shropshire Council) and John Dickin (Cockshutt-cum-Petton Parish Council).

2. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

- 2.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief explanation on the purpose of the Local Joint Committee which had become part of the local community calendar and which, it was hoped, was valued by the local community. She went on to explain the format of the meeting and key items on the agenda. Members of the Committee then introduced themselves.
- 2.2 The Chairman introduced Steve Moorhouse who was the local officer from Ellesmere Fire Station who wished to address the meeting.

ACTION

- 2.3 Mr Moorhouse explained that Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service were in year two of a four year rolling programme of cuts. Although 25% of its budget had been cut, so far no front line staff or appliances had been lost, there had however been a recruitment freeze. Mr Moorhouse felt that the next round of cuts would have to be at the operational level.
- 2.4 Mr Moorhouse drew attention to the importance of fire prevention and reported that the service would continue to offer fire safety advice and free smoke alarms for the most vulnerable groups. Their latest campaign was about the prevention of Road Traffic Accidents and by working in partnership with other organisations it was hoped to educate drivers.
- 2.5 The other area they were focussing on was the prevention of chimney fires, which took approximately two hours to deal with, by ensuring chimneys were swept regularly. The Chairman thanked Mr Moorhouse and invited him to attend the next meeting.

3. NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the note of the meeting held on 26 July 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. ip&e GROUP LIMITED

- 4.1 Mr Michael Hyatt, Corporate Head of Strategic Planning and Mr Tom Roehricht, Managing Director, ip&e gave a presentation about the new company which had recently been established by Shropshire Council in order to help deliver services differently.
- 4.2 A short video clip was shown which looked at what ip&e was, why it had been set up and how it could make things better for Shropshire citizens. The dvd also touched on the services that could move into ip&e and how it would work with communities, including Town and Parish Councils and the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- 4.3 Mr Hyatt explained that ip&e stood for 'Inspiring Partnerships and Enterprise'. He explained that the current financial situation was expected to continue, with the Council having to make extra cuts of up to 30% by 2017. Ip&e had been set up to help deliver efficiencies and savings by being more flexible and commercially minded than Council's had previously been able to, in order to protect services and safeguard them for the future.
- 4.4 Mr Roehricht informed the meeting of his business background and answered a number of queries. Mr Roehricht confirmed that if a particular service was not being run more efficiently by ip&e then it could be transferred back to the Council. He confirmed that the first of the services likely to be transferred would be Shire Services and Shared Services (transactional services provided by

the Council eg Finance, IT, HR, Payroll, Pensions).

- 4.5 In response to a query about how ip&e intended to gain expertise in order to compete with other Councils and Organisations (eg Capita), Mr Roehricht explained that the Council already had more experience of delivering particular services and it already knew the services that people needed etc. Ip&e could deliver a better service and not lose money by being more competitive than the Council because it did not have the same constraints.

- 4.6 The Chairman thanked Mr Hyatt and Mr Roehricht for their informative presentation.

5. ELLESMERE LIBRARY

- 5.1 The Chairman explained that the issue of the appalling state of the Library building had been raised again and again at previous meetings of the Ellesmere Area LJC meetings. Councillors had raised the issue with Shropshire Council on numerous occasions only to be told that there was no money available in the budget to refurbish the Library building.

- 5.2 The Chairman was however pleased to report that money had been identified in the following year's budget and that the refurbishment would take place in the Spring of 2013. Some remedial work had been suggested in the meantime. The Chairman thanked members of the public for their support which had helped to evidence that the local community had not been happy.

6. NEW PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1 Ms Karen Townend gave a presentation about new planning arrangements that had recently come into force – copy attached to signed notes. Ms Townend explained that there had been a national shift in the management of development, from prevention to enablement, in order to facilitate development and deliver community aspirations.

- 6.2 The National Planning Policy Framework, had been published in March 2012 and stated at Paragraph 12 that *'Proposed development that accords with an up-to-date local plan should be approved, and proposed development that conflicts should be refused, unless material considerations indicate otherwise'*.

- 6.3 Ms Townend explained that sustainable development was already part of the planning system and central to Shropshire's adopted Core Strategy. Ms Townend drew attention to the requirement for all new residential units (including conversions) to contribute to affordable housing.

- 6.4 Ms Townend informed the meeting that the Community Infrastructure Levy applied to residential development only, except affordable housing. 90% of the Community Infrastructure Levy would be spent on local infrastructure.

- 6.5 Ms Townend reported on the Council's new Pre-application service which was now charged for but which provided more detailed information. Planning fees had been increased by central Government on 22 November 2012 and were available on Shropshire Council's website.
- 6.6 Changes to Permitted Development were currently out to consultation but they proposed to allow householders to build up to 8m from the rear of a detached house or 6m from any other, subject to certain restrictions. Ms Townend drew attention to the Growth and Infrastructure Bill which proposed changes to the planning system including an option to make planning applications directly to the Secretary of State.
- 6.7 In response to a query, Ms Townend explained that no more progress would be made on SAMDev until after next year's elections in May. It was felt that the final SAMDev would not come out until 2014 but that it would have more weight because of the amount of consultation undertaken so hopefully there would be no objections to it.
- 6.8 Ms Townend confirmed that Building Regulations still applied to some permitted development. In response to a query she explained that no consultation was required for permitted development however Parish and Town Councils would be notified for information only.
- 6.9 The Chairman thanked Ms Townend for her interesting and informative presentation.
- 7. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)**
- 7.1 PC Paul Crump updated the meeting in relation to use of the Laser Speed Gun which had been used 3 or 4 times since the last meeting, with 6 enforcement tickets being issued and 8 or 9 warning tickets. He explained that he was currently the only officer based in Ellesmere who could use the speed gun but it was hoped to train a new recruit, Special Constable Lightfoot, to use the speed gun.
- 7.2 Issues previously raised in relation to speeding vehicles would be looked at again. PC Crump informed the meeting that a Licensed Premises in Ellesmere (Le Belle Vie) had ceased trading. Problems had arisen through the premises not joining in with the Ellesmere Pub Ban.
- 7.3 In relation to boy racers in and around the town, PC Crump explained that the number of reported incidents had reduced but he urged the public to report any such incidents if they were still happening. If the police were made aware of times and registration numbers etc, then they could bid for extra resources to help tackle the problem.

ACTION

7.4 PC Crump drew attention to the West Mercia website which provided information on initiatives such as Operation Citadel which sought to reduce house burglaries and included advice such as closing curtains and using timer switches, alarms and locks etc.

7.5 PC Crump informed the meeting that sniffer dogs were being trained up to detect metal markings on stolen property, eg smart water, which has its own unique DNA.

7.6 PC Crump asked whether anyone had any issues of concern that they wished to raise. Issues raised included:

- Obstruction in village caused by non use of car parks.

PC Crump reported that this issue had been raised with Shropshire Highways but that he would have another look at this issue.

- Boy racers on lanes at 2am.

It was reported that these were part of Shropshire Motor Club. PC Crump explained that the police were aware of this club and that they moved around the County. They were however supposed to inform the Police of where they would be.

- Over-large vehicles cutting through Welshampton to avoid the check in station.

7.7 PC Crump would investigate these issues and report back at the next meeting.

8. LET'S TALK

8.1 Members of the Committee joined the public and discussed their issues of concern. Issues raised included:

- Boathouse tender – Was under the impression that Shire Services currently managed the boathouse but that the contract was out to tender. There were concerns about a fast food outlet taking over the contract.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Countryside Service currently paid a manager to run the boathouse but the long term plan had been for the contract to go out to tender. The Chairman reassured the meeting that the tender documents weighed heavily on quality, although value for money was important, the Committee would never let it turn into a fast food takeaway.

- Bikes through Ellesmere (including Triathlon Clubs) - Some stretches of the road were treacherous but could be deemed suitable for cycle lanes in the future. Could this be considered?

ACTION

- Development of the Wharf – is direct access ever likely to be possible for a pedestrian access?

The Chairman reported that the proposed development was still in the pre-application stage and just starting its journey of consultation. The developers were keen to involve local people with local knowledge and this issue could be raised as a community need in order to invigorate the area and the town.

- Hedges cut by Council – why is the overgrowth around road signs, eg speed limit signs, not dealt with?
- Road signs need to be cleaned.
- Lights not working in arrow signs in the town.
- Jubilee bunting still up in town.

The Chairman reported that this had been raised at the Town Council and was in hand.

- Car Park opposite Ellesmere House – parking inadequate, bays need widening due to increasing width of vehicles.
- Lights needed on bollards as very narrow road.

- 8.2 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 It was noted that the application for Welshampton Bonfire Committee Winter Parade for £400.00 was approved under delegated powers.

- 9.3 **RESOLVED:** To approve the following applications:

£1389.00 to Rotary Club of Ellesmere for its public access defibrillator scheme.

£380.00 to St Mary's Church Bell Ringers Group for a bell ringing simulator.

£680.00 to Welsh Frankton Girl Guides for meetings and leader training.

£281.13 to British Red Cross Young Carers.

ACTION

- £2000.00 (Ring Fenced) towards essential repairs to Ellesmere Library.
- 9.4 It was confirmed that the closing date for the next round was Friday 22 February 2013.
- 10. FEEDBACK FORMS**
- 10.1 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.
- 11. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION**
- 11.1 The Community Action Officer update was circulated on the tables (copy attached to the signed notes).
- 11.2 The Chairman informed the meeting that the Community Action Officer was available to support any local organisations who could contact her if they required any assistance.
- 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 12.1 The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place at 7pm on Tuesday 26 March 2013 at Criftins Village Hall.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....