

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE ELLESMERE AREA
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2013 AT ELLESMERE
COMRADES CLUB, VICTORIA STREET, ELLESMERE**

7.00 p.m. – 8.55 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Michelle Dulson
E-mail: michelle.dulson@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 252727

Present:

Members of the Committee:

Ann Hartley	Shropshire Council
Alan Clarke	Ellesmere Town Council
John Dickin	Cockshutt-cum-Petton Parish Council
Kay Egerton	Ellesmere Rural Parish Council

Officers:

Julie Ruler	Community Action Officer, Shropshire Council
Michelle Dulson	Committee Officer, Shropshire Council
Sarah Dillon	Transformation Lead, Adult Services
Luke Neal	Community Officer, Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme, Shropshire Wildlife Trust
PC Paul Crump	West Mercia Police Authority
Steve Moorhouse	Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

There were approximately 20 members of the public in attendance.

ACTION

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Steve Davenport (Shropshire Council), Brian Williams (Shropshire 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 Councillor John Dickin be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

ACTION**4. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

- 4.1 None received.

5. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

- 5.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the Local Joint Committee. She went on to explain the format for the meeting and key items on the agenda.

6. NOTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 6.1 It was noted that the venue of the previous meeting was Criffins Parish Hall and not Welshampton Parish Hall.

- 6.2 **RESOLVED:** That the note of the meeting held on 26 March 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the above.

It was agreed to take agenda item 9 (Partners and Communities Together) next.

7. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)

- 7.1 PC Crump updated the meeting on issues raised at the last meeting. He reported that two special Police Constables had been trained to use the speed gun, which has been used on 6 occasions with 10 tickets and a number of advice notices being issued.
- 7.2 PC Crump informed the meeting of a police operation to counteract burglary and highlighted some basic security for the public to follow, including locking doors and windows, leaving a light on at night when out, using padlocks on gates and installing 'dusk until dawn' security lights.
- 7.3 PC Crump asked whether anyone had any issues of concern that they wished to raise. Issues raised included:
- In response to a query about what the circular black disks half way up lampposts were, it was confirmed that these were speed visors which flashed if vehicles were going too fast.
 - Concern was raised about works on Birch Road Bridge. It was confirmed that work was being undertaken to minimise disruption, with lots of passing spaces being made and 45 mph speed signs installed. Concern was raised about safety at the crossroads and it was explained that the situation would be monitored and if it was evident that traffic lights would help, these would be put in place.

7.4 Mr Steve Moorhouse from Shropshire Fire and Rescue addressed the meeting. He explained how the current round of budget cuts could affect frontline services including appliances, firemen and stations. If any stations were to close, this would have a knock on effect on remaining stations.

7.5 Mr Moorhouse reported that the current statistics showed a 15 minute attendance time from receipt of call 87% of the time. A lot of rural properties were however outside of this turnaround time. If there were to be closures, this would increase the response time to more properties.

7.6 In response to a query about whether the statistics showing fewer call outs now than in the past were accurate, Mr Moorhouse confirmed that there had been a reduction in calls due to, for example, education, community fire safety schemes and fire prevention.

(Call 01743 260200 for a free Home Safety Check)

8. SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

8.1 Sarah Dillon, Transformation Lead, Adult Services gave a presentation. She reported that there had been a lot of changes nationally and she wished to inform the meeting where things were at in Shropshire and the key responsibilities for Adult Social Care.

8.2 Adult Services work with the most vulnerable people in our communities so they can plan their care, take decisions about their own daily lives and stay safe. The Council had a statutory duty of safeguarding vulnerable people and providing community care services.

8.3 The Fair Access to Care Services allowed people to choose their level of support and in Shropshire the top two tiers were used (not able to manage care needs or at risk of abuse). There were a number of teams in each locality covering older people and people with disabilities.

8.4 Ms Dillon drew attention to the new First Point of Contact service whereby people in Shropshire could speak to a trained person who could help with finding groups and organisations in their community who could help them, helping them speak to the right part of the Council and passing them on to adult social care teams for assessment. There was also an out of hours service for emergencies.
(0345 678 9044 or 01743 210318 Monday to Friday 8am-6pm; Saturday 9am-1pm; for out of hours emergencies 0345 678 9040).

8.5 Ms Dillon then discussed transformation in Shropshire which was changing the way services were delivered and ensuring that resources were targeted correctly. The Service was linking more with local communities and voluntary groups in order to support people in the community for as long as possible.

- 8.6 A consultation on Adult Social Care had been undertaken and the key points were that the people of Shropshire wanted to see a more personalised service, the Council acting as facilitator, supporting people to have greater choice and control over the service they receive, and a more joined up working between Health and Care services.
- 8.7 Ms Dillon drew attention to the Community Directory for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin which was a directory of nearly 3000 community groups, clubs and organisations which could be used to find out about activities and support in the area. The Community Directory was available on the Shropshire Council website.
- 8.8 Ms Dillon then discussed Assistive Technology, which helps people to be more independent, the support available for carers and the 'Making it Real' initiative, which helped councils to look at how they were currently doing things, and how things could be done better in order that people who use the services feel that they have choice and control over the care they receive and how they are supported so that they can live independent lives in their own communities.
- 9. Meres and Mosses Landscape Project**
- 9.1 Luke Neal, Community Officer, Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme, Shropshire Wildlife Trust gave a presentation. He explained that Mosses were lowland raised peat bogs, one of the most threatened habitats on Earth. The Mere at Ellesmere was the largest and most spectacular of the nine glacial meres in North Shropshire.
- 9.2 Mr Neal informed the meeting that funding had been made available for conservation work to be undertaken to improve the area. The Heritage Lottery Funded Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) was aimed at conservation, raising awareness, engaging communities and improving access. Conservation was being focused on improving three Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and local communities were being asked to assist with this work.
- 9.3 The Nature Improvement Area (NIA) was a Defra funded programme, focused on making better places for nature, people and communities. By focusing on improving and protecting core sites and connecting them via restored local wetland habitat (stepping stones), it will provide better conditions for wildlife and the freedom for wildlife to move from one core site to another.
- 9.4 Mr Neal drew attention to Community grants which were available to help local groups deliver projects in their area. For example, new circular walks had been created from the Shropshire Way to allow better access to some of the Meres & Mosses, and volunteers had been engaged to help with habitat and wildlife surveys. Events were planned throughout the year including walking and bike rides in Ellesmere and Welshampton and the Meres and Mosses Festival on 20/21 September at Cholmondeley Estate.

- 9.5 Advice was available to local landowners and farmers with a focus on nutrient management to help protect vulnerable sites. Farm grants were also available.
- 9.6 Mr Neal went on to discuss wetland restoration work being undertaken at Whitemere. Some tree felling had been carried out and it was hoped to turn this area into a reed bed so that dirty water runoff did not get into the Mere.
- 9.7 In relation to the housing development near Ellesmere, the Town Council have been asked to look at raising the idea of a green infrastructure with a buffer zone around the Mere. The Chairman confirmed that this request had been carried forward and was currently before officers.
- 9.8 In response to concerns raised about the decline of hedgehogs, Mr Neal explained that if there was a desire to create a group, he could advise and assist. He needed communities to decide what it was that they wanted/needed to ensure it would continue in the future and be of real benefit to Ellesmere.

10. LET'S TALK

- 10.1 Responses from issues raised at the last meeting had been circulated on tables – copy attached to signed Notes. Members of the Committee joined the public and discussed their issues of concern. Issues raised included:

- A report on the Ambulance Service was requested. It was understood that there was only one first responder in Ellesmere and concern was raised about the length of time it would take for a first responder to get into Ellesmere Rural from St Martins.

The Chairman felt this was a good point to raise as response times in Ellesmere were very poor. She reported that the Joint Health and Overview Committee had done a lot of work on the Ambulance Service and response times. A public meeting had been held in Whitchurch in order to hold the Ambulance Service to account so it would be very timely to have this on the next agenda.

- An update on the canal and towpath and link with walk from Welshampton to Lyneal/Colmere and back was requested.

The Chairman suggested that British Waterways be invite along to a future meeting. It was confirmed that plans were in place to improve the towpath and make it safe.

- Partly metric – metres/miles?
- The Council was congratulated on painting the library. It was suggested that the first floor be converted into a museum.

ACTION

The Chairman informed the meeting that the initial response had not been positive due to the lack of a disabled access and the prohibitive cost of installing a lift. This was however being pursued.

- Where is the boat that used to hang in the boathouse?

The Chairman explained that the boat had been put there by a previous tenant and had been taken down and put in the workshop whilst the Boathouse was being restored. As the Boathouse had been leaning and had to be shored up, the boat would no longer go back up. It was also considered a health hazard for the Restaurant. The boat was still in the workshop as the owner does not want it back.

- It was felt that a white line was required this side of the narrow bit of road at Trimpley so people know where to stop.

It was agreed for Highways to be consulted on this issue.

- A query was raised as to what the other three floors of the library would be used for.

It was confirmed that they had originally been accommodation rented out for social housing. All libraries in Shropshire were currently being looked at with a view to putting more services into them.

- Concern was raised about the increasing number of wind turbine applications coming forward.

It was explained that the government were giving grants to farmers to encourage them to install wind turbines. It was felt that Shropshire Council's Planning Policy did not have a reason for turning them down. This issue would be taken back to the Planning Department.

- Encouraged to see Market Hall building regenerated.

The Chairman informed the meeting that a community interest company was running the market hall. Funding had been granted from the Market Towns Partnership in order to refurbish the office space in order to rent it out. If anyone wished to contribute their time to helping, this would be much appreciated.

- A query was raised as to whether First Aid Responders had to pay VAT/fuel duty on their outgoings.

It was suggested that the next meeting look at the Ambulance Service, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the medical offer in Shropshire.

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

Community
Action
Officer

11. LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET

- 11.1 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.

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

A. to approve the following applications:

Get Ellesmere On Line: £970.00.

Swan Hill Cemetery- Memorial Garden: £1648.00.

Welshampton Village Hall – Replacement Boiler: £1830.30.

B. to defer the following application:

PCC St Mary's Parish Church.

C. not to approve the following application:

Welshampton Bonfire Committee - Ellesmere Raft Race & Street Band Festival.

- 11.3 It was confirmed that the closing date for the next round was 27 September 2013.

12. FEEDBACK FORMS

- 12.1 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.

13. LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

- 13.1 The Community Action Officer update had been circulated. She reported that a new tourist event sign had been installed at Castlefields, there was also a new notice board outside the Market Hall. 12 pop up market stalls had been funded and were available for events, festivals and specialist markets. The fingerposts had been refurbished and reinstalled.

- 13.2 A lot of work had been done around the Ellesmere Tourism Action Plan and a further event was planned for July. The Community Action Officer drew attention to the current consultation on Rural Health. She confirmed that she was available to help any local groups needing assistance.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 14.1 The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would take place at 7pm on Wednesday 30 October 2013 at Welsh Frankton Village Hall (to be confirmed)

ACTION

MD

Chairman:.....

Date:.....