



Committee and Date
Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins &
Weston Rhyn Local Joint Committee

28th September 2010
7.00 pm

Item /Paper

4

Public

GOBOWEN, SELATTYN, ST MARTINS & WESTON RHYN LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH JULY 2010 AT 7.00PM, GOBOWEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, GOBOWEN.

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Councillor Steve Davenport (Chairman)	Shropshire Council – St Martins
Councillor Trevor Davies	Shropshire Council – Selattyn & Gobowen
Councillor David Boyce	St Martins Parish Council
Councillor Peter Avery	Weston Rhyn Parish Council
Councillor Mrs Sue Crow	Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council

Also present:

Simon Kenton	Lead Officer
Mark Pembleton	Support Officer
Kate Garner	Community Working
Maggie Rowlands	Community Regeneration Officer
Shelley Davies	Committee Officer (Notes)
Councillor Aggie Caesar-Homden	Cabinet Member
Tom McCabe	Director - Development Services
Steph Jackson	Head of Finance - Exchequer Services

There were approximately 15 members of the public at the meeting.

14. Welcome and Introduction from the Chairman

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that there was a formal agenda, but the meeting would be informal and public input was welcomed.

15. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor David Lloyd (Shropshire Council – Selattyn & Gobowen), Councillor Mrs Angela Bright (Weston Rhyn Parish Council) and Councillor Mark Turner (Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council).

16. Declarations of Interest

David Boyce declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 - Funding Application 2.4 Welsh Chapel, Weston Rhyn.

17. Notes of the Previous Meeting

AGREED: That the notes of the meeting held on 11th May 2010 be

confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

18. Budget Consultation

The Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder, Councillor Aggie Caesar-Homden gave a presentation regarding the Revenue Budget 2011/12 consultation. A copy of the presentation can be found on the Local Joint Committee web page at www.shropshire.gov.uk

The key messages were as follows:

- The scale of the Public Sector “funding crunch” in the UK would be unprecedented compared to changes in the past 30 years and significant cuts in the Government Grant were expected.
- Shropshire Council would need to cut its costs by around £47 million in the next 3 - 4 years.
- Over £8 million of these savings had to be found in the current financial year.
- A programme of transformation in the way Shropshire Council delivers public services was being undertaken, which may result in the scope or standard of some services being scaled back or stopped in their current form.
- The Council would work closely with the voluntary and community sector in Shropshire and other public services, such as Health, the Police and Fire and Rescue to reduce costs and remove duplication.
- To compensate partially for cuts in its funding the Council would need by carefully applying increases in the fees and charges it makes for a wide range of services. It might also increase the number of services for which a charge is made.
- The importance of supporting Local Businesses was stressed and it was explained that Shropshire Council was looking at how it can purchase locally more of the goods and services it uses, without sacrificing quality or value for money.
- Over the next 6 months, the Council would be looking at all the options available to reduce its spending and would be consulting widely on its proposals and the feedback would influence the Council’s approach to its financial plan.

A number of questions and comments were raised, as follows:

In response to a question of when Council Tax charges in the former Oswestry Borough Council area would reduce to be in line with other areas in Shropshire, the Head of Finance, Steph Jackson explained that this was proposed for 2013, but with the latest changes it is unsure when this will happen and the Council was awaiting information from Central Government.

Responding to a question in relation to the equalisation of the waste collection service, Tom McCabe (Director, Development Services) noted that figures show that other areas across Shropshire are now almost up to the same standard as Oswestry.

Tom McCabe noted that the pressure of an ageing population in Shropshire was a point well made and stressed that the proposed cuts would be a long term challenge for all services.

In response to a question regarding staffing issues, Tom McCabe reported that compulsory redundancies were not envisaged at this stage.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Aggie Caesar-Homden, Tom McCabe and Steph Jackson for attending the meeting to give the presentation and answer questions.

19. PACT

PC Simon Clarke attended the meeting to give an update on local policing issues.

The following issues were noted:

- The Rural Watch scheme was working well and local police had seen a drop in the number of burglaries.
- The Police had organised a fishing event for young people in St Martins.
- The St Martins Fair went well.
- The Police would soon be visiting year 6 pupils in local Primary Schools to give drugs education.
- A Crime Prevention day is to be held at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at the end of July.

20. My Life My Choice

Jennie Kinsie from Taking Part (An independent service for People with learning difficulties) attended the meeting to give a presentation on Shropshire's 'My Life, My Choice' programme.

It was explained that the 'My Life, My Choice' programme was a way of giving more choice and control to people who need support with their care. Jennie Kinsie explained that individuals are offered a 'Personal Budget', which is an amount of money which the Council allocates to help people who need support due to disability, frailty or vulnerability, to get the support they want.

The background to scheme and the advantages it can offer to individuals were outlined. Jennie Kinsie explained how the scheme works and detailed the six options available to individuals who wish to take up this service.

In response to a question Jennie Kinsie noted that the scheme would not be means tested but would be based on the income of the individual.

Jennie Kinsie explained that if an individual decided to take up the personal budget scheme but found it did not suit them they could go back to having services provided for them by Shropshire Council.

The Chairman thanked Jennie Kinsie for the presentation and noted that self assessment forms had been circulated on tables.

21. Enablise

Sue Napper, Frank Napper, Roy Bright and Phillip McMahon from the charity organisation, Disabled Holiday Information attended the meeting to give a presentation on a project called 'Enablise'.

Sue and Frank Napper gave some background to the Disabled Holiday Information organisation and explained where the idea to provide opportunities for people with disabilities including those who might not normally participate fully in community life had started.

The success of the organisation was noted and Sue Napper explained that they were now involved in a project called 'Enablise' which aims to enable people with disabilities to work as volunteers testing out and reporting on access issues at tourist attractions.

Sue Napper stated that in the future they hope to source funding for a salaried project manager and tender for consultancy work to sustain the project long term.

The Chairman thanked Sue Napper for an excellent presentation.

A representative from the Mile End Tourist Information Centre stressed the value of the information provided by the organisation and detailed how it gives confidence to disabled people visiting the area.

Further information on the organisation can be found at www.disabledholidayinfo.org.uk

22. Care and Support for Older People

Item deferred to a future meeting.

23. Public Question Time

Gledrid Roundabout

Concern was raised in relation to the roundabout at Gledrid. It was felt that part-time traffic lights would be beneficial to alleviate traffic problems. It was also noted that the option to turn right when exiting the petrol station should be removed. The Chairman agreed to pass the comments on to the relevant officer.

Meals on Wheels (Question sent in and read out by Lead Officer)

Concern was raised that this provision for the elderly and housebound was being quietly killed off, by a policy of accepting no new referrals. The Lead Officer agreed to follow up this issue.

Proposed Closure of Magistrates' Court in Oswestry. (Question sent in and

read out by Lead Officer)

A request was made for a public meeting regarding the proposals so people could hear the arguments and explore possible alternatives to the local court. The Chairman agreed to find out more information on this issue and report back to the next meeting.

Publicity of LJC

Suggestions to improve the publicity of the LJC were noted.

Flood Forum

In response to a question, the Chairman gave details about the last Northern Area Flood Forum and explained that a Local Forum would be set up for the LJC area.

Selattyn and Gobowen Division

The issue of Weston Rhyn not included in the name of the Electoral Division was raised by a Member of Weston Rhyn Parish Council. It was noted that this was being looked into and would hopefully be amended shortly to include Weston Rhyn in its title.

24. Community Working Update

A newsletter from Maggie Rowlands, Community Regeneration Officer was circulated.

25. Community Fund

The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer, which detailed the bids received for the second round of funding to be considered by the Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins and Weston Rhyn Local Joint Committee. It was explained that by the closing date 7 applications had been received, totalling £14,235.90.

AGREED:

A) The following bids are allocated full funding from the Community Fund (Round Two):

- i) £225 to Selattyn Holiday Club to provide materials to run a summer club in the village.**
- ii) £1,670 to Weston Rhyn Bowling Club to install new low energy lighting plus a shed for storage of chemicals.**
- iii) £1,800 to Weston Rhyn Welsh Chapel for replacement of discoloured plastic window cladding plus some new seats**
- iv) £1000 to Weston Rhyn Youth Club to support running costs.**

B) The following bids are provided with partial funding from the Community Fund (Round Two):

- i) £1,500 to Friends of Ifton Heath School (against an original bid of £3000) to purchase play equipment**
- ii) £2,500 to St Martins Scout Group for the purchase of climbing and camping equipment (against an original bid for £3,500 which also included bus hire)**

C) The following bid was deferred until the next meeting (Round

Three)

i) £3,040.90 to Weston Rhyn Village Institute Management Committee for woodworm and wet rot treatment for the roof of the Institute. This project will be considered once further information about the scope, and other funding sources available for the project, have been provided.

D) No bids were refused funding from this round of the Community Fund.

26. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 28th September 2010 in St Martins (Venue to be confirmed).

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____