



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

Tuesday 20th November 2012
7.00 pm

Item

4

Public

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

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JULY 2012 AT 7.00PM,
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, WESTON RHYN, SY10 7RE.**

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Councillor Steve Davenport	Shropshire Council – St Martins
Councillor Trevor Davies	Shropshire Council –Gobowen, Selattyn &Weston Rhyn
Councillor David Lloyd	Shropshire Council – Gobowen, Selattyn &Weston Rhyn
Councillor Mrs Angela Bright	Weston Rhyn Parish Council
Councillor Mrs Sue Schofield	St Martins Parish Council
Councillor Mark Turner	Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council

Also present:

George Candler	Area Director (North)
Adrian Cooper	Team Leader, Environment and Economic Policy
Julie Ruler	Community Action Officer
Shelley Davies	Committee Officer (Notes)

There were approximately 22 members of the public at the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

AGREED:

That Councillor David Lloyd be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

AGREED:

That Councillor Mark Turner be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

3. Welcome and Introduction from the Chairman

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the Local Joint Committee operated as a key link between the Unitary Council, Parish/Town Councils and the people who live in the community.

4. Apologies for Absence

None received.

5. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None received

6. Notes of the previous meeting

AGREED: That the notes of the meeting held on 14th February 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

7. Feedback from Local Joint Committee Meeting held on 14th February 2012.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs Sue Schofield to the LJC and thanked Councillor David Boyce for his hard work and effort during the time he served as St Martins Parish Council Member of the Local Joint Committee.

8. PACT

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Rik Klair to the meeting.

Inspector Klair detailed recent incidents in the area and invited members of the public to ask any questions.

Speeding - St Martins

It was reported that speeding was still a major issue in St Martins. The Inspector suggested registering this as a community concern with the Safer Roads Partnership.

Oswestry Police Station

Inspector Klair reassured members of the public that the Police Station at Oswestry had not closed and explained that the public service counter was open between the core hours of 10am – 6pm. Outside of these hours members of the public were directed to use the telephone link located outside the Police station where help was available at all times.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Klair for attending the meeting and paid tribute to Inspector Stafford and other local police officers who had recently retired.

9. Localism Act

The Chairman introduced George Candler, Shropshire Council's Northern Area Director to give an overview of the Localism Act. (Copy of presentation attached to signed notes).

It was explained that the Localism Act would shift power away from Central Government giving new powers to local councils, neighbourhoods and individuals. The Area Director noted examples of the new powers and highlighted the key areas of

activity.

In response to questions from Members of the public, the Area Director confirmed that:

- The move to a unitary council had been necessary and created significant savings as a result. The concern that the Council was not understanding needs at a local level were now being addressed;
- The concerns in relation to the Voluntary and Community Sector not connecting with all local groups would be passed on to Laurel Roberts at the Qube; and
- Social Care had received significant budget cuts and it was suggested that this topic would be ideal for a future LJC meeting.

Discussion ensued in relation to free/academy schools and comments were raised that the schools were not as free of control as made out by Central Government. Richard Hines, Head Teacher at Weston Rhyn Primary School noted that Shropshire had the lowest number of free/academy schools of the shire authorities and that there had been concerns that the push by the Government for schools to opt out could lead to a break up of local control. It was agreed that this was a good topic to discuss at a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked George Candler for attending the meeting to give the presentation.

10. Key Planning Issues

Adrian Cooper, Shropshire Council's Team Leader, Environment and Economic Policy presented an overview of the SamDev process. Adrian Cooper explained that the SamDev Plan would replace the existing Shropshire Local Plans and noted that the whole process had started two years ago.

The process of looking first at larger towns and giving other areas opportunity to opt in for development was outlined and it was noted that Oswestry was the main focus for development in this area.

It was stated that the current consultation was due to end on 20th July 2012 and the next stage would be a more formal process where objections would be heard by an independent planning inspector.

An explanation of the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which had come out of the new Localism Act was detailed by Adrian Cooper. It was also noted how the Place plans, as discussed during the previous presentation, would feed into this process.

In response to questions Adrian Cooper confirmed that:

- There would be areas where development would not be permitted and potential sites in the Oswestry area had been

looked at by English Heritage and Natural England;

- No sites in Chirk Bank had been assessed in relation to the World Heritage Site designation as the Parish Council had opted out of any development in the area. If sites were to be considered this issue would be taken into account;
- The area surrounding the Hill Fort in Oswestry had been looked at carefully and access to the site from the A5 was a possibility;
- Although the SamDev plan would run to 2026 it would still be reviewed during this period;
- Exception sites for affordable housing were only allowed if there was a proven need in the area and if the development did not cause a significant impact on the area; and
- CIL funding was paid in instalments with the first instalment paid when the development starts.

The Chairman thanked Adrian Cooper for attending the meeting to give the presentation.

11. Big Local Trust

Nick Herd gave a presentation on the process of the Big Local Trust (Copy of presentation attached to signed notes).

The following three areas had been identified as areas where the funding could be used to make a difference:

- Community buildings
- Academic and practical qualifications
- Transport system

12. Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

13. Community Fund

The Committee received the report of the Community Action Officer, which detailed the bids received for the first round of funding to be considered by the Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins and Weston Rhyn Local Joint Committee.

Agreed:

That the LJC approves the following funding applications as detailed:

1. Ifton Meadows Jubilee Celebration £ 200.00
2. Bronygarth Jubilee Party £ 237.00

- 3. Weston Rhyn Institute Queens Jubilee £ 145.00
- 4. Hengoed Jubilee Party £ 250.00
- 5. Ifton Primary School £1.800.00
- 6. Oswestry and District First Responders £2000.00
- 7. Oswestry and District Sports Assoc £ 800.00
- 8. Oswestry and District Arts Association £1000.00
- Total £6432.00

That the LJC delegates any art-specific funding it receives as part of its 2012/2013 budget to Oswestry & District Arts Association, to enable it to continue to run its arts grants programme in the Oswestry area.

That the LJC delegates 5% of its 2012/2013 budget to Oswestry & District Sports Council to enable it to continue to run its sports grants programme in the Oswestry area.

Julie Ruler, Community Action Officer reported that the deadline for the next round of the Community Fund was 14th October 2012.

14. Community Action Update

Julie Ruler, Community Action Officer gave an update on local projects and funding sources available for local groups.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 20th November 2012 in the St Martins Centre.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____