



Committee and Date Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins & Weston Rhyn Local Joint Committee Tuesday 26 th February 2013 7.00 pm

Item 4 Public

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

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.00 PM,
ST MARTINS CENTRE, OVERTON ROAD, ST MARTINS, SY11 3AY.**

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Councillor David Lloyd (Chairman)	Shropshire Council – Gobowen, Selattyn & Weston Rhyn
Councillor Steve Davenport	Shropshire Council – St Martins
Councillor Mrs Angela Bright	Weston Rhyn Parish Council
Councillor Mrs Sue Schofield	St Martins Parish Council
Councillor Sue Crow	Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council

Also present:

Councillor Keith Barrow	Leader, Shropshire Council
Julie Ruler	Community Action Officer
Shelley Davies	Committee Officer (Notes)

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

1. 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.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Trevor Davies (Shropshire Council – Gobowen, Selattyn & Weston Rhyn) and Mark Turner (Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council). Councillor Sue Crow was in attendance as substitute member for Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council.

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None received.

4. Notes of the previous meeting

AGREED: That the notes of the meeting held on 17th July 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Feedback from Local Joint Committee Meeting held on 17th July 2012.

It was agreed that the item raised in relation to vehicles speeding in St Martins be discussed during the PACT meeting.

6. PACT

Sgt Scott Barnes attended the meeting to discuss local policing matters. It was reported that there had been 3 dwelling burglaries in the LJC area since the last meeting and advice was given on how to keep homes secure.

Sgt Barnes explained a force-wide initiative (Citadel) aimed at driving down the number of burglaries committed in the West Mercia area.

In response to questions Sgt Barnes stated that he would make the Local Officer aware of the problems in relation to speeding in St Martins and noted that the Police had been consulted in relation to where it would be suitable to turn street lights off between certain hours. It was added that street lighting does deter crime and the areas where the lights were to be switched off would be monitored.

Adrian Bowen, Shropshire Fire and Rescue attended the meeting to urge residents not to over load power sockets during Christmas. It was also stated that the Fire and Rescue service offer free safety checks to all residents and smoke alarms were available for vulnerable people.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Barnes and Adrian Bowen for attending the meeting.

7. Question Time with the Leader, Shropshire Council

Councillor Keith Barrow, Leader of Shropshire Council attended the meeting to discuss ip&e (the new limited company set up by Shropshire Council) and to answer questions.

Councillor Barrow explained that due to the current financial situation Councils need to change and develop new ways of working to protect the services they provide. Shropshire Council intends to do this by setting up a new company that will be able to trade and reinvest the profit. It was stressed that Shropshire Council would retain 51% ownership of the new company and that this was not privatisation.

In response to questions from members of the public Councillor Barrow confirmed that:

- He would take on board the comments in relation to the length of time taken to respond to letters from residents;

- There was currently a short term problem in relation to the length of time taken to answer telephone calls due to staff shortages in the contact centre;
- No jobs would be lost in the creation of the new company and additional jobs could potentially be created in the future;
- The Council would need to invest in the new company for it to be a success;
- All the potential risks in relation to the new company had been minimised and the bigger risk was to do nothing;
- Brookfields, Weston Rhyn was sold due to the high level of capital required to get the homes back up to a decent standard;
- At present funding would remain in place for Broadplaces;
- He had dealt with the issue concerning the letter send out to residents in relation to Council tax single occupancy discount and these letters had been stopped; and
- He felt communication to Parish Councils from Shirehall had improved and it was noted that ALC (Association of Local Councils) do a great job.

The Chairman thanked the Leader for attending the meeting.

8. Public Question Time

Procurement Rules

In response to a question regarding why the Council did not use local companies to refit kitchens in Council properties, Councillor Steve Davenport, explained that the Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee was currently looking at procurement including changes to the contract rules to increase opportunities for local companies to compete for the Council's business.

St Martins 3-16 Community School

Concern was raised in relation to the issue of children safely walking to the new school. Councillor Steve Davenport noted that he had met with the Highways team to discuss this and other issues that had been identified.

Ifton Heath School Building

Members of the public were given assurance that the School building would be protected.

Overhead Power lines

It was noted that a public inquiry was currently under way.

9. Oswestry Health Centre

The Chairman referred to the written update circulated which listed the services available at the Health Centre. The Chairman added that had hoped a representative would be present but this had not been possible.

It was agreed that the Health for Oswestry group which had been set up by Oswestry Borough Council should remain active. It was also noted that a suggestion for a dialysis centre at the Health Centre building was being looked into.

10. Big Local Update

A written update on progress of the Big Local Group was circulated.

Nick Herd went through the progress to date and noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 4th December at 7.30pm at St John's Church, Weston Rhyn.

11. 2012/13 Financial Report, including Update on funding Requests for Consideration

The Committee received the report of the Community Action 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 noted that there was an error on the report in relation to funding application 15 (St Martins Centre). The recommended amount to be funded should read £1,500.00 and not £1,575.00

Agreed:

That the LJC considers the applications received, and awards funding to those organisations and their projects as recommended below. The recommendation is to approve the following funding applications as detailed:

9. Chirk Bank Community Garden - £ 250.00
10. Weston Rhyn Primary School – Garden - £1000.00
11. Selattyn Primary Sports Equipment - £1000.00
12. Cedar Close Community Room - £ 650.00
13. Fairfield Close Community Activities - £ 320.00
14. Gobowen Pavilion Sit Safe - £1500.00
15. St Martins Centre Décor and paths – £ 1500.00
16. St Martins Methodist Chapel Carpet - £ 983.00

17. Big Local – IT to work - £600.00

18. Red Cross Young Carers - £700.00

Total - £ 8503.00

Julie Ruler, Community Action Officer reported that the deadline for the next round of the Community Fund was 25th January 2013.

12. Community Action Team – Update on Current Work

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

13. Feedback Forms

The Chairman urged members of the public to complete a feedback form.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26th February 2013 in the All Saints Church Hall, Gobowen.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____