

Committee and date:

Ludlow & Clee Area Local  
Joint Committee

Thursday 26 November 2009

7.00 p.m.

Item/Paper

**3**

**Public**

## LUDLOW & CLEE AREA LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

### NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT THE HARLEY CENTRE, LUDLOW COLLEGE, LUDLOW

**Responsible Officer:** Jane Palmer

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#### Committee Members Present:

##### Name

##### Council

Councillor J Boak	Nash Parish Council
Councillor H Chance	Bitterley Parish Council
Councillor E Davies	Richards Castle Parish Council
Councillor Mrs T Huffer	Shropshire Council – Ludlow East Ward
Councillor D Riley	Ludford Parish Council
Councillor M Taylor-Smith	Shropshire Council – Ludlow South Ward
Councillor Mrs R Taylor-Smith	Shropshire Council – Ludlow North Ward [Chairman]
Councillor R Tilt	Ashford Carbonel Parish Council
Councillor G Williams	Caynham Parish Council
PS Preece [for Insp Mackaill]	West Mercia Police

#### Officers Present:

##### Name

##### Role

Richard Thomas	Lead Officer [LO]
Sam Hine	Head of Community Working
Erica Garner	Support Officer [SO]
Tracy Johnson	Community Regeneration Officer [CRO]
Jane Palmer	Committee Officer [CO]

#### Also in attendance:

Richard Morley	Ludlow Youth Partnership
Mandy Brindle	Shropshire Youth Area Manager
Glynn Davies	Shropshire Fire Service

There were approximately 45 members of the public at the meeting.

**LC/14 Welcome and apologies**

The Lead Officer welcomed all to the meeting and all members of the Committee introduced themselves to those present.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Paul Andrews [Shropshire Council – Clee Ward] and Mrs Alison Cundall, Cittaslow.

The Chairman paid tribute to the work of former Richards Castle Parish Councillor, Peter Corfield, for his service on the Local Joint Committee in recent months and in its formative, pilot stage.

**LC/15 Appointment of Vice Chairman****RESOLVED:**

**that Councillor George Williams be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Ludlow & Clee Area LJC for the ensuing year.**

**LC/16 Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

Personal:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Item</u>
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Councillor D Riley	Grant application 09/01, Teme Weirs Trust
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Councillor H Chance	Grant application 09/05, Bitterley village hall refurbishment
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Councillor G Williams	Grant applications 09/08 and 09/09, Clee Hill village hall and Clee Hill car park and picnic area improvements
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Personal and Prejudicial:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Item</u>
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Councillor J Aitken	Grant application 09/10, Ludlow Benchmarking Project
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**LC/17 Notes of the meeting held on 1 July 2009****RESOLVED:**

**that the Notes of the meeting of the Ludlow & Clee Local Joint Committee held on 1 July 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.**

**LC/18 Presentation by the Ludlow Youth Partnership**

A presentation was given by Richard Morley of the Ludlow Youth Partnership on the work being undertaken with young people in the area.

Shropshire Youth Area Manager, Mandy Brindle, explained the particular responsibility of Shropshire Youth to reduce youth unemployment, tackle serious issues such as teenage pregnancy and youth mental health issues. The sterling activities arranged by the Ludlow Youth Club [e.g. homework club, music club, trips out, 'girls nights' ] and the initiatives run for young people in conjunction with the local Police were applauded.

The need to address alcohol issues with young people was raised and the work undertaken by the Ludlow Alcohol Partnership was noted as a positive step in this regard.

Ms Brindle advised that the Youth Partnership would be insisting on the use of I.D. cards with the new Spar supermarket opening in Castle Square, Ludlow. PS Preece commented on the issue of 'proxy purchasing' amongst young people and measures that could be taken to reduce this.

On behalf of the Committee and all present, the Chairman thanked both Mr Morley and Ms Brindle for their interesting and informative presentation.

**LC/19 Budget 2009/2010 Community Chest funding applications**

The Committee considered a number of applications for funding for the first round of the 2009/10 'Community Chest' budget allocations. These included three retrospective applications that had not been able to be considered until now following the pilot LJC meetings due to the last meeting on 1 July 2009 having been the first meeting of the new LJC.

The Committee did not feel able to support Application No.09/03, Thinkwater, Ludlow 21 as the wider community benefit was not considered to be apparent in the application.

Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter, Councillor J Aitken left the meeting during consideration of Application No.09/10, Skillbuilders, Ludlow Benchmarking Project Phase One. The Committee did not feel able to support the application at this time but agreed that it should be referred to the Ludlow Area Action Plan Steering Group for its consideration and that Group then report back to the LJC with its findings.

**RESOLVED:**

i) that the following applications be approved:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Grant awarded</u>
Teme Weirs Trust	£1,000
Ludlow Green Festival	£450
Inner Bailey Exhibitions	£1,000
Bitterley Village Hall	£2,000
Hope Bagot & Whitton Village Hall	£2,000
Clee Hill Village Hall	£1,470
Clee Hill car park and picnic area	£2,000

ii) that the following application be refused:

Ludlow 21 Thinkwater	£1,100
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iii) that the Skillbuilders, Ludlow Benchmarking Project, be referred for consideration to the Ludlow Area Action Plan Steering Group for its consideration and that Group to report its findings to the next meeting of the LJC.

**LC/20 Shropshire Core Strategy**

It was noted that the consultation period on this Strategy ended on 2 October 2009 and that there was still time to submit comments via the Shropshire Council's planning web pages at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning.nsf)

**LC/21 Local Crime Statistics**

PS Preece reported on local crime statistics and stated that the section had a 5% improvement in detection rates compared to the same period the previous year.

He reported a detection rate of 57% in relation to dwelling house burglary and a 48% detection rate relating to assault that was largely due to a concerted effort to target certain individuals. Incidents of criminal damage had reduced which could be largely attributed to youth events being held in the area and to the work of the Youth Service in this regard. Detection rates in the rural area were lower due largely to the lack of natural surveillance and there being little evidence available.

**ACTION**

LO, CRO to process

Councillor Tilt commented on the merits of inviting local Police Officers to Parish Council meetings, and other local meetings, to open up the lines of communication and to give people the opportunity to find out how they could help the Police in their local communities. PS Preece agreed that attendance at local meetings was a useful tool in developing a good working relationship with local communities.

Representatives from the Fire Service were also present and given the opportunity to address the Committee. It was noted that electric blanket testing would be taking place at Ludlow Fire station on 22 September 2009 and that home visits offering advice re fire safety could be carried out for local residents, on request.

#### **LC/22 Shropshire Link Review**

Mr Jon Hayes, Transport Policy, Shropshire Council, updated the Committee on the review of the Shropshire Link service that provided a flexible, demand-responsive public transport service. The Committee noted that there had been a 35% increase in carriage and 100% increase in August 2009 alone.

Councillor M Taylor-Smith, Shropshire Council Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Transport, stated that many issues raised during the review had already been included in the action points for this service.

Councillor J Boak commented on the level of publicity regarding this review and urged as many service users and fellow Town/Parish Councillors [via the Shropshire Association of Local Councils] as possible to feed in their comments.

It was noted that the opportunity to comment on this service was still open to the public; a report on the review was to be presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committee on 3 November 2009 and any resultant changes then decided by Members. It was further noted that users of the service could specify their preferred pick-up/drop-off points but additional stops would ultimately impact on the efficiency of the service. In answer to concerns raised from the floor, the Transport Policy Officer explained that Ludlow Town Centre was not the only drop off point within the town.

**LC/23 Review of bus services in Ludlow****ACTION**

The Transport Policy Officer explained, in detail, with reference to illustrative route plans, the three options that had been considered for the Ludlow Town bus service. He stressed that any changes that may be introduced had to remain within existing budgets as no additional funding was available for any schemes anywhere in the county.

TPO to evaluate options for presentation to future meeting of LJC

The three options were: .

Option 1 to maintain the existing service as chosen by the LJC at the meeting on 9 July 2008. .

Option 2 to revert back to the original route of the town services prior to the changes implemented on 5 January 2009. .

Under Option 3, Service 702 would be amended to operate a one-way town circular route that was likely to result in a 40/45-minute one-way loop. With reference to this route, Councillor M Taylor-Smith stated that this route was an attempt to reduce the isolation of those people living on the edge of town. He commented that, currently, over 4,000 people in Ludlow did not have access to a bus service in the town. He stressed that the Council's aim was to extend the availability of a town bus service to more people.

A representative of the Beaconsfield Park Neighbourhood watch and other members of the public made representations on the suggested route and offered alternative options. The Transport Policy Officer stated that any alternative option could not be deliberated properly at this meeting, as there had been no evaluation.

In answer to comments made by a member of the public, the Transport Policy Officer stressed that it was not in the Council's gift to decide where the bus should turn on The Sheet and that this would be a decision for the operator.

A lengthy debate ensued, during which members of the public were given ample opportunity to air their views and put forward alternative options that had yet to be evaluated by Officers.

**RESOLVED**

- i) **given i) the strength of public opinion and ii) the fact that alternative suggestions had been raised from the floor, and not yet evaluated by Officers, all options be referred back to Officers for further investigation and;**
- ii) **that the Ludlow Town subsidised local bus service be referred for consideration to a future meeting of the LJC.**

**LC/24 Date/Time of next meeting**

**ACTION**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Ludlow & Clee Local Joint Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 3 December 2009 at the Harley Centre, Ludlow College, Ludlow.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....