

## MEOLE COLUMN & SUTTON LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

### NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2009 AT 7.00 PM IN THE TRINITY CENTRE, CHURCH ROAD, MEOLE BRACE, SHREWSBURY

#### PRESENT:

#### Members of the Committee:

Mr Ted Clarke	Shropshire Council
Mr Mike Owen	Shropshire Council
Mrs Liz Parsons	Shropshire Council
Mr Jon Tandy	Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council
Mrs Jackie Brennand	Shrewsbury Town Council
Mrs Kath Owen	Shrewsbury Town Council

#### Officers:

Graham Chidlow	Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) (Lead Officer)
Nicola Fisher	Community Regeneration Officer
Sergeant Ram Aston	West Mercia Police
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)

**There were approximately 16 members of the public at the meeting.**

#### Action

#### Welcome by the Lead Officer

The Lead Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the first thing the Committee needed to do was to elect a Chairman.

#### 1. Election of Chairman

- 1.1 Nominations for Chairman were received and it was **AGREED** that Mrs Liz Parsons be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

#### 2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

- 2.1 Nominations for Vice-Chairman were received and it was **AGREED** that Mrs Kath Owen be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

#### 3. Apologies for Absence

- 3.1 An apology was received from Frances Phelps, Head of Prevention (Support Officer).

#### 4. Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 No declarations were received.

## **5. Local Joint Committee Constitution**

- 5.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer which outlined the Constitution that applied to the Meole Column and Sutton Local Joint Committee as agreed by Shropshire Council.
- 5.2 The Lead Officer explained that only members of the Committee could vote on the formal items on the agenda and each Councillor had one vote except for Mr Jon Tandy who was representing both Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council and so had two votes.
- 5.3 Members noted the report.

## **6. Budget Process**

- 6.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer which outlined the financial procedures which must be met when allocating the £36,000 devolved budget.
- 6.2 The Lead Officer explained that during the workshop sessions, members of the public would be asked for their views about local priorities in order for the Committee to decide how best to allocate the devolved budget.
- 6.3 In response to a query the Lead Officer confirmed that the entire budget of £36,000 was available for the LJC to spend.
- 6.4 Members noted the report.

## **7. Feedback from Let's Talk**

- 7.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer which outlined the main issues highlighted at the Lets Talk 2008 meetings for the area now covered by the Meole Column and Sutton Local Joint Committee.
- 7.2 The Chairman explained that Local Joint Committees followed on from the Let's Talk meetings and the feedback from last year may assist when considering local priorities in the workshop session.
- 7.3 Members noted the report.

## **8. West Mercia Police Partners and Communities Together Meeting (PACT)**

- 8.1 The Chairman explained that this first meeting of the Meole Column & Sutton Local Joint Committee would include a Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meeting run by local Police Officers from West Mercia Police.
- 8.2 The Chairman handed over to Sergeant Ram Aston who explained how local policing fit in and advised the meeting who their local police officers were and that they would be attending future meetings.
- 8.3 He went on to explain the idea behind the PACT meetings and how key people in the community formed a panel capable of addressing issues raised by the community. The local policing team would take the lead in engaging with as many people as possible, through various methods in order to discover the local issues. The Panel would, over a three month period, try to resolve the issues raised and would report back to the next PACT within the LJC.

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8.4	Sergeant Aston reported that in the Column area there had recently been problems with speeding and parking around the school and at Mereside. Local Police Officers had been working with the school. In the Sutton and Reabrook area the main problem had been speeding in Sutton Road and there had been a lot of public engagement in the Meole area.	
8.5	<p>Sergeant Aston then invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern. The following issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic issues on Upper Road, Longden Road and Mill Bank.</li> <li>• Speeding on London Road.</li> <li>• Safety of Pedestrians in Sutton Road.</li> </ul> <p>Sergeant Aston explained that these were highways issues however he would go out with his speed gun and possibly do a postcard drop. He reported that some villages funded their own speed cameras.</p> <p>In response to a query Sergeant Aston explained that West Mercia Police could not utilise the current van often seen parked opposite Shrewsbury College of Art and Technology because it did not belong to them.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that these issues would be forwarded on to the Highways Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter problem on route to and from Shrewsbury College of Art and Technology in London Road.</li> </ul> <p>Sergeant Aston would feed this issue back to the Community Support Officers who would discuss it with the College.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eradicate larger vehicles by imposing / enforcing a weight limit.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Jon Tandy agreed to look into this matter.</p>	<p>GC</p> <p>RM</p> <p>JT</p>
8.6	At the request of the Chairman, Sergeant Aston explained to the meeting how the community speedwatch scheme worked and requested anyone interest in setting up such a scheme to contact West Mercia Police.	
9.	<b>Workshop on Local Issues</b>	
9.1	The Community Regeneration Officer introduced this item and explained that some neighbourhood / community planning was required for the four distinct areas which could be used to underpin the activities of the Local Joint Committee and to inform members how best to allocate the budget in order to enhance the locality. One way to do this was to use postcards asking the public to identify three things they liked about their area and three things they wished to change. She explained that the budget could also be spent to match fund and/or pump prime other funding streams.	
9.2	Members of the public broke into groups and were joined by Councillors and officers. Each group were asked to identify the key issues and priorities for their area and this was then fed back to the meeting.	

		Action
	The Community Regeneration Officer would collate all the responses and this information would then be used to prioritise future agenda items together with allocation of the budget.	NF
9.3	The Chairman thanked members of the public for their efforts and for identifying their priorities.	
10.	<b>Public Question Time</b>	
10.1	The Chairman invited questions from members of the public and questions were raised about the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Centre Parking</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman explained that officers from the Highways Department would be requested to attend a future meeting to explain these issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rabbit population adjacent to Shrewsbury Business Park.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman reported that Environmental Health did not consider rabbits to be a pest. The Lead Officer would however follow this up with Development Services to see what could be done.</p> <p><i>It has been confirmed that work is taking place in the cemetery to cull the rabbit population and this work will continue onto Shrewsbury Business Park.</i></p> <p><i>NB. The law had recently changed in that landowners were no longer responsible in this respect and only had to erect a fence to keep the rabbit population out.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking on Kingston Drive and adjoining roads by staff from Shrewsbury Business Park.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman reported that there were currently no parking restrictions on the roads around the business park however, as the next phase is developed parking restrictions may well have to be introduced. This issue would be discussed with the Highways Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pro-rata allocation of devolved budget</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman confirm that the devolved budget would not be allocated pro-rate by parish population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vandalism of Mereside Youth Shelter</li> </ul> <p>It was confirmed that vandalism of the Youth Shelter was being reviewed jointly by the police and other agencies in order to see what could be done and how this issue could be dealt with in future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steps on Primrose Drive underpass do not allow access for disabled people.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman would raise this as an issue and feedback to the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of public support for the Colleges co-location / New Football Stadium</li> </ul>	GC
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The Chairman explained that any planning application had to go through a process which local people could have a voice in but they needed to get involved earlier in the process. She explained that the Local Development Framework Consultation would be an opportunity for local people to put forward their views about how the area should be developed in the future.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

- 11.1 The next meeting would be held at 7pm on 15 October 2009 at Springfield Infants Schools, Wenlock Road, Shrewsbury.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_