



Committee and Date

Meole Column & Sutton  
Local Joint Committee

30 March 2010

7 pm

Item

**3**

Public

**MEOLE COLUMN & SUTTON LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2010 AT 7.00 PM  
AT BELLE VIEW YOUTH CLUB, ROCKE STREET, 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

Mr Keith Barrow, Leader, Shropshire Council was also present for agenda item 6 - Shropshire Council Budget 2010/11 Consultation.

**Officers:**

Graham Chidlow	Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) (Lead Officer)
Nicola Fisher	Community Regeneration Officer
Gill Jones	Team Leader Community Regeneration (Central)
Frances Phelps	Head of Prevention Services (Support Officer)
CSO Ivan Columnbell	West Mercia Police
CSO Jackie Baldwin	West Mercia Police
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)

**There were approximately 30 members of the public at the meeting.**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mrs Kath Owen (Shrewsbury Town Council).

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 No declarations were received.

It was agreed to amend the order of items on the agenda in order to take agenda item 6 - Shropshire Council Budget 2010/11 Consultation next and agenda item 5 - Public Question Time at the end of the meeting.

**3. Shropshire Council Budget 2010/11 Consultation**

- 3.1 A presentation was given by the Leader of Shropshire Council and the Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) (copy of presentation attached to signed Notes) in relation to the proposed Shropshire Council Budget for 2010/11.

**Action**

## Action

- 3.2 The Leader explained the importance of the consultation and that he was interested to hear the views of the public on the proposed budget, and these would be taken into account in the final budget strategy. He explained that changes had been made to last year's budget following public consultation.
- 3.3 The Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) highlighted the key messages which included protecting key services, consolidating the revenue budget and minimising pressure on the Council Tax. He informed the public that Council Tax increases would be kept between 0% and 3.5% in line with the unitary business case and the increase for Shrewsbury would be 1.29%
- 3.4 The Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) explained that the savings of £10.8m set out in the business case had been achieved and that savings of £7.1m would be required next year. He went on to report that £2m had been set aside from 2010/11 budgets to offset any losses in central government grants. Service improvements would then come from capital investment.
- 3.5 The Leader explained that two thirds of local government funding came from central government. Future funding was however unclear and indications were that local authorities would be facing budget cuts of 25%-30% over the next five years. In order to continue providing services, the Council would have to look at how to deliver them in a different way.
- 3.6 The Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) went on to highlight the service areas that Shropshire Council currently spent its budget on and explained that almost half of this was ring fenced by Central Government to be spent on education. He also reported how expenditure was funded, 22% of which was funded from Council Tax. He then give examples of the savings required to be delivered along with the key projects in the capital programme which included an extra 400 extra care housing units. The Leader expanded on the extra care homes that were being planned for when elderly people could no longer manage in their own homes.
- 3.7 An interactive session followed, whereby members of the public were able to actively participate and give their views which would be taken forward and would impact on the final budget strategy. Comments / questions raised during this session included the following:
- The public were expected to make judgements with a lack of information.
  - Website consultation was very good as the impact of various decisions could be seen.
  - Security of budget funds/investments eg Icelandic Banks
- The Leader explained that Central Government provided local authorities with guidance on where funds could be invested. He reported that Shropshire County Council had not invested in Icelandic Banks, however Bridgnorth District Council had and it was uncertain as to how much would be recovered.

	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Leader explained the term Lean Reviews, which was a management term and looked at how a service was provided and how it could be provided more efficiently.</li> <li>• In response to a query the Leader confirmed that Shropshire Council did not have a policy of no compulsory redundancies, however, redundancies were not a desire as this would prove very expensive.</li> <li>• The Leader reported that he had recently appointed to Cabinet a Portfolio Holder for energy reduction and climate change in order to ensure that the best use was made of limited resources which would in turn save money.</li> <li>• In response to a query the Leader explained that Shropshire Council would have to make decisions on any planning applications submitted for energy to waste plants, however it would be up to Veolia whether they wished to build any.</li> <li>• The Leader stated that now was a good time to invest in new boilers and lighting etc as interest rates were low so the Council could borrow cheaply and pay back over a short period eg 5 years.</li> <li>• In relation to proposed increases in charges for some services, it was suggested that a review of these services be undertaken in order to gather evidence before increasing the charges.</li> <li>• It was queried whether money could be saved by putting meals on wheels out to contact.</li> <li>• A query was raised as to Shropshire Council's policy on Council Tax for second homes. A response would be obtained to this query.</li> </ul>	GC
<p><b>4. Notes of Previous Meeting</b></p>	
<p>4.1 It was noted that a query raised about parking in Laundry Lane had been omitted from the notes of the previous meeting. The Chairman reported that this query had been passed to the Highways Section to consider whether any traffic calming measures could be introduced. The Lead Officer informed the meeting that it was anticipated that Shropshire Council would vacate The Hollies in the summer and that the resulting parking issue would diminish.</p>	
<p>4.2 <u>Paragraph 9.1</u></p> <p>It was noted that the question raised about Anti-Social Behaviour referred to Reabrook Fields, not Radbrook Fields.</p>	
<p>4.3 <b>AGREED:</b> That the notes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the above.</p>	
<p><b>5. Progress Report</b></p>	
<p>5.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer – copy attached to the signed Notes - which provided details of the progress made on the</p>	

issues raised at the previous meeting.

**Action**

## 5.2 **Anti-Social Behaviour – Reabrook Fields**

### Memorial Bench

The Lead Officer explained that the Council were attempting to discover who had originally paid for the memorial bench. A member of the public supplied the Committee with this information which would be passed on to the Countryside Unit. The Lead Officer explained that due to the anti-social behaviour taking place around this bench, the Countryside Unit would look to situate it in a more appropriate location.

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## 5.3 **Environmental Health**

### Concerns about pigeons

Following advice from Environmental Health, residents had been attempting to disturb the pigeons' roosting patterns however this had simply moved them from one property to the next, and further assistance was requested.

The Chairman would pass these comments on but reiterated that the Council had no legal obligation to control pigeons. It was queried whether any other organisations could assist eg RSPCA.

**LP**

Councillor Mike Owen reported that he had spoken to officers in Legal Services who had agreed to revisit this issue to see what responsibilities the Council may have.

## 6. **West Mercia Police**

6.1 CSOs Jackie Baldwin and Ivan Columnbell updated the meeting on local issues. Overall crime was lower compared to the same time last year, there had been a decrease in anti-social behaviour however the number of burglaries had increased slightly. A lot of complaints had been received about cyclists on footpaths in Meole Brace and although CSOs had increased their patrols, this was not considered to be a major problem.

6.2 Concern was raised about cyclists on London Road and CSO Columnbell agreed to raise the issue with other CSOs who patrolled the area. He suggested that some form of one way system be looked at whereby cyclists could remain on the road and not on the pavement.

A member of the public who was a cyclist explained that they did not feel safe on the roads and requested motorists to give them a wide berth when overtaking.

In response to a query CSO Columnbell explained that cyclists over the age of 16 could be issued with fixed penalty notices for cycling on a pavement which was parallel to a highway. However many of these incidents involved 13 -15 year olds so the Police could only write to their parents and explain that cyclists should either cycle on the road or push their bikes on the pavement.

## Action

- 6.3 It was reported that suspects were currently being investigated following a spate of burglaries across the town.
- 6.4 In response to a query the CSOs gave an example of how much time they spent patrolling their beat on a typical day. They reported that most CSOs were on patrol during peak times and that there were two overlapping shifts at weekends which covered all peak periods.
- 6.5 In response to complaints about parking, CSO Columnbell explained that he had made a note of these issues and would incorporate these areas into his patrol. He stated that if there were no restrictions there was not a lot the police could do except if vehicles were causing an obstruction. They could however deal with parking by bollards, on speed bumps and on bends.
- 6.6 Concern was raised about substance misuse and anti-social behaviour around the Youth Shelter. In response, the Chairman reported that the Police had been working with the Council to try to address the issue of the Youth Shelter, and this work was ongoing.
- 7. Community Working**
- 7.1 The Community Regeneration Officer explained her role in the Community. She worked closely with the Police and other agencies to co-ordinate multi agency responses to issues raised at Local Joint Committees. She explained the work being done around young people and gave examples of diversionary activities provided. The Community Regeneration Officer went on to explain her role in identifying external funding for work being done to benefit the community.
- 8. Local Budget Allocation**
- 8.1 The Chairman introduced the report of the Lead Officer – copy attached to the signed Notes - which provided the Committee with details of the proposed funding allocations.
- 8.2 The Lead Officer explained that a bid had been received from Meole Estate Community Action (MECA) for capacity building, however, it had been agreed for the Community Working Team to provide this support to MECA.
- 8.2 Concern was raised that public money had been used to erect the Mereside Youth Shelter which had been vandalised. The Community Regeneration Officer clarified that the funding for the Youth Shelter had come from a successful lottery fund bid, which local young people had worked on and they were also upset about the vandalism. This was however a separate issue to the budget allocations currently under consideration.
- 8.3 The Lead Officer highlighted that the Committee wished to enhance service provision for young people and for adults where English was not their first language.
- 8.3 It was **AGREED** for the Meole, Column and Sutton Local Joint Committee to allocate funding as follows:-

## Action

**A. £1,390 contribution towards additional equipment and trips at Mereside Youth Club.**

**B. £2,721 contribution towards a project to support adults where English is not their first language at Meole Children's Centre, Meole Brace Primary School.**

## 9. Public Question Time

9.1 The Chairman invited questions from members of the public and the following issues were raised:

- The cycle path between Bayston Hill and Meole Brace island was not being swept every six weeks and was littered with glass and other debris.

In response, it was reported that Shropshire Council were not responsible for the A49.

- Springfield Recreation Ground – Excessive cut timbers and prunings strewn around the mere and surrounding area.

It was confirmed that Shrewsbury Town Council were responsible for this area and Mrs Brennand agreed to look into the issue and raise it with the Town Council.

- Litter on the grass verges around Shrewsbury Town Football Club ground and the old railway line.

It was confirmed that this issue would be followed up.

- Life bouys required in Reabrook Valley due to rising river levels.

This issue would be passed on to the Countryside Unit.

- The road outside the terraced houses, opposite Prestfelde Preparatory School, on London Road had not been swept for two years

It was highlighted that this was due to cars being parked along this stretch of road.

- Speeding on London Road in the early hours of the weekend.

It was confirmed that these issues would be followed up.

- No 20 bus route. Any way to get information on delayed buses?

The Chairman confirmed that Arriva were currently conducting a review of its bus services. The Team Leader Community Regeneration (Central) explained that the Manager of Arriva had attended another Local Joint Committee meeting and they were keen to receive comments, which would be taken on board. If anyone wished to raise any questions these would be passed on to Arriva.

9.2 The following questions had been received prior to the meeting:

- More grit bins required
- Traffic / parking issues in Meole Village
- Not a good idea to join Meole, Column and Sutton together

Responses would be obtained to all the questions raised.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

10.1 The next meeting would be held at 7pm on 30 March 2010, at Mereside Community Centre, Mereside, Shrewsbury, SY2 6LH.

**Action**

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The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

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

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