



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Meole Column & Sutton Local Joint Committee
20 May 2010
7 pm

<u>Item</u>
5
Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2010 AT 7.00 PM
AT MERESIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE, MERESIDE, SHREWSBURY**

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Mr Ted Clarke	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
Ron Buzzacott	Head of Technical Services
PC Jayne Cowen	West Mercia Police
PC Tanya Grey	West Mercia Police
CSO Maria Chattington-Lowe	West Mercia Police
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)

There were approximately 25 members of the public at the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mr Mike Owen (Shropshire Council) and Frances Phelps (Support Officer).

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 No declarations were received.

3. Notes of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 **AGREED:** That the notes of the meeting held on 20 January 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Progress Report

- 4.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer – copy attached to the signed Notes - which provided details of the progress made on the issues raised at the previous meeting.

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<p>4.2 A member of the public informed the meeting that Shropshire Council had agreed to sweep the cycle path between Bayston Hill and Meole Brace island on the A49 every six weeks.</p>	
<p>4.3 It was confirmed that officers from the Town Council were prepared to meet with concerned residents in relation to Springfield Recreation Ground.</p>	
<p>4.4 There was still a lot of concern in relation to buses using Sutton Road as a short cut, and it was felt that a plea from the whole community to the new Arriva Manager would have more impact.</p> <p>The Head of Technical Services explained that the exemption in the traffic order probably only related to on duty buses but he would clarify whether off duty buses were covered.</p> <p>A meeting would be requested between residents and Arriva officials.</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>GC</p>
<p>5. Public Question Time</p>	
<p>5.1 The following questions had been received prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic congestion caused by access to Meole Brace Retail Park and Park and Ride. No doubt Shropshire Council are aware of the congestion generated generally but especially at weekends. What, if any, action is being taken to alleviate this problem. Perhaps a traffic exit from the park can be provided on to Roman Road opposite to the Council Golf Course and Ballantynes Health Club. <p>The meeting was informed that as the Council had no responsibility for Meole Brace Retail Park, which was private property, public money could not be spent on any improvements. It was suggested that the Committee write to the Landowner requesting improvements to the access (it was confirmed that a management company owned the retail park). The Head of Technical Services explained that as part of the planning process for the upcoming alterations to Sainsburys, the Council could propose improvements be made to the access as part of the conditions of permission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sutton Road (between Stonehurst Road junction and junction with Wenlock Road) - need for improved safety for pedestrians and residents. <p>It was confirmed that a response to this question had been received at a previous meeting. The Head of Technical Services explained that the current policy allowed for 20mph in town centres and outside schools only. Further speed monitoring had indicated that the mean speed was below 30mph so traffic calming had led to reduced speeds.</p>	

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<p>Concern was expressed that the speed was still too fast for that piece of road and was an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>A member of the public highlighted a recent article in the British Medical Journal which argued the case for reducing speed limits in residential areas to 20mph.</p>	
<p>The Head of Technical Services agreed to take all the comments raised back and would seek to give a reply to the points raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plea for LJC meetings to include discussion etc about policy issues that go beyond the narrow boundaries of the LJC. The last meeting, with the presentation and interaction about the Council's budget was excellent and it was good to see the Leader of the Council in person. Might future meetings include such topics as the local development framework, future management of the Reabrook Meadows Local Nature Reserve, the future development of Shrewsbury Museum in the Music Hall and the Ditherington Flax Mill project? <p>The Chairman agreed that the Consultation on the Council Budget had been well received and enhancement works to the town centre were being looked at later in the meeting. It was hoped to include the Local Development Framework site allocations at the next meeting and an item about Reabrook could be considered for a future meeting. The Chairman requested members of the public to put forward any other items they wished to be considered at future meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Brennand had received a request for a name plate for Abbey Foregate. 	<p>RB</p>
<p>Although not in this LJC area, the Chairman agreed to look into this.</p> <p>5.2 The Chairman invited questions from members of the public and the following issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the Council's future policy towards use of The Hollies building? <p>The Chairman understood the likelihood was that the property would be sold by the Council, possibly for development into living accommodation, however the Council would have no influence over its future use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raven Meadows Bus Station – public toilets and information stands <p>It was confirmed that the Town Council were responsible for the toilets which were due to be refurbished shortly.</p>	<p>LP</p>

Action

The Chairman explained that unfortunately the electronic information stands had ceased to be used due to budgetary constraints as they would cost £90k to update.

- What was the Council's policy on litter?

The Chairman reported that efforts were being made to enhance / target hot spot areas as the Council were very conscious of the importance of the issue.

Concern was raised at the Council's reluctance to enforce and issue fixed penalty notices.

CSO Chattington-Lowe explained that CSOs worked with the Council and schools to educate children early on. They had organised a number of litter picks and they did try to use enforcement.

The Chairman agreed to raise the issue of enforcement and obtain a response.

LP

- Were details of salaries for the Chief Executive and Head of Directorates in the public domain? Had their salaries increased over the past year?

The Lead Officer confirmed that information on senior officer salaries are published by pay band within the Council's Statement of Accounts and that only an inflationary increase had been received over the past year.

- Feedback following the introduction of a 20mph limit through Meole Village was requested as it was felt that it had had no affect.

LP

The Chairman agreed to obtain this feedback.

- Speeding on Wenlock Road – 95% of vehicles travel at least 30mph in the 20mph zone

PC Grey explained that they could not enforce 20mph limits however they had monitored on a regular basis and they had not experienced any issues from speeding. She reported that the majority of motorists stopped for speeding in Meole Brace were from Meole Village.

The Head of Technical Services did not agree with PC Grey and would seek clarification with West Mercia Police's Traffic Management Officer with regard to the joint approach to the 20mph limits.

RB

- Could the Committee purchase vehicle activated signs?

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	<p>The Head of Technical Services explained that the Council's Vehicle Activated Signs Policy (copy attached to signed notes) set out the parameters for use and funding of these signs, which depended on the mean speed. These vehicle activated signs could also be rotated between different sites.</p> <p>The Chairman agreed to look into this as other LJsCs had used part of their budget to pay for these signs.</p>	
5.3	More complete responses would be obtained to all the questions and comments raised and would be feedback to the next meeting.	LP GC
6.	Town Centre Road Enhancement	
6.1	<p>The Head of Technical Services introduced himself and explained the areas he had responsibility for, which included traffic management. He explained how the process of traffic management worked and he drew attention to ELGIN, a web based GIS mapping system, which enabled the public to view all registered road works in Shropshire including start and end dates. The information on ELGIN was updated every 15 minutes.</p>	
6.2	<p>The Head of Technical Services went on to highlight a series of planned road works which were scheduled to take place between January and November 2010. He explained the reasoning behind each set of road works and the measures that had been put in place to ensure minimal disruption. He confirmed that the programme of works was obviously subject to change. The schedule of works were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Gardens – access to Persimmon Homes housing development <p>It was confirmed that these works had slipped slightly but it was hoped they would be completed during April 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frankwell – access on this side of the Welsh Bridge and upgrading of signals <p>These works had been brought forward and had now been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Bridge / Smithfield Road / Bridge Street – improve and enhance pedestrian and cycle access on this side of Welsh Bridge <p>These works had been brought forward and were due to be completed on 31 March 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mount – Sewer flooding alleviation programme by Severn Trent Water 	

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These works had been rescheduled and were likely to take place between September and November 2010.

- Coton Hill – Gas main replacement
- Berwick Road / Coton Hill – new traffic signals
- A458 Shelton Road / Welshpool Road junction – refurbishment of existing signals

These works had now been completed.

- Harlescott Crossroads –work to alter kerb alignment, replace existing splitter island and resurface junction

Work was due to start on 12 April 2010 for approximately 21 weeks.

- West End regeneration works

These works had been postponed.

- Barker Street / Claremont Street – development of old taxi rank area by Morris Properties

These works were due to take place during 2010 and officers were working with Morris Properties to ensure minimal disruption.

- Welsh Bridge – resurfacing

These works were due to take place over two Sundays in June 2010.

- Hazledine Way – footbridge replacement works

These works were due to commence on 1 June 2010 for two weeks.

- Wyle Cop / English Bridge / St Julian's Friars / Beeches Lane – gas main replacement works by National Grid

These works need to be rescheduled and are likely to take place during September after the summer season.

- 6.3 The Head of Technical Services informed the meeting that in order to minimise disruption, the Council insisted on an embargo for eg Christmas and Easter, and events such as the Flower Show, Shrewsbury Carnival, West Mid Show and the Street Theatre Festival, and wherever possible, all traffic management was removed during these periods, except for emergencies.

- 6.4 A member of the public commented that some disabled badge holders were passengers and not drivers and had difficulty getting out of cars in existing disabled parking spaces. The Head of Technical Services agreed to look into this and feedback.

RB

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<p>6.5 The Head of Technical Services confirmed that in order to ensure that the cycle way on Smithfield Road was wide enough, the concrete planters were being removed and would be given to the Town Council for the Britain in Bloom competition.</p>	
<p>6.6 In response to concerns that the different areas of tarmac on Smithfield Road looked untidy, the Head of Technical Services said he would take this comment back to the design engineers.</p>	RB
<p>6.7 In response to a query, the Head of Technical Services confirmed that the Council could fine utility companies whose works over ran and they could also make the utility company redo any works that were not up to standard for up to two years. However, there were a vast number of works and the Council could only look at about 30%. He urged members of the public to let the Council know if any works in their area overran or were not up to standard. He confirmed that after two years Shropshire Council would become liable for these works.</p>	
<p>7. West Mercia Police</p>	
<p>7.1 The Chairman introduced PC Jayne Cowen, PC Tanya Grey and CSO Maria Chattington-Lowe from West Mercia Police, who invited questions from the public.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who were the local police officers covering Springfield? 	
<p>It was confirmed that PC Cowen and CSO Chattington-Lowe were the local police officers covering Springfield.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How long does it take you to walk from your base to your beat area? 	
<p>PC Cowen stated that it currently took her 40 minutes to arrive on her beat but she reported that she would shortly be receiving a bike so it would then only take her 10 minutes. If there was an emergency, however, officers would attend by car.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could CSOs patrol outside school gates when schools break up to stop anti social behaviour? 	
<p>CSO Chattington-Lowe confirmed that she and colleagues did patrol outside school gates and she had attended at Wakeman School the previous week. She explained that it was not easy to deal with youths who were not necessarily pupils at the school. There were three schools in the area so it was difficult to patrol every school every day however she would pass on concerns to other areas.</p>	

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PC Cowen explained that the police had close ties with the Wakeman School. They had made contact with the pupils and had opened a dialogue with them. They also had contact with the Assistant Head Teacher who emailed her with concerns about pupils.

- Meole Brace / Priory Schools – concerns about groups hanging around and cycling on pavements. Who are the local police officers for this area?

PC Grey confirmed that she was the local police officer for that area however she was not out on the streets at the moment but was shortly to be replaced.

She explained that there had been a lack of communication between the Police and the Priory School in the past however they were now keen to educate pupils about cycling on pavements. She reported that cyclists who had been stopped for cycling on pavements had all been underage so Fixed Penalty Notices could not be issued, but they had written to their parents to educate them. They had not yet come across any adults cycling on pavements.

- Could more CSOs be on duty during holiday times?

It was confirmed that the police were looking to organise events for young people during school holidays however there had not been much of a take up in the past. PC Cowen would welcome ideas about how to get young people involved in activities or meetings such as the Youth PACT.

The Chairman thanked the police officers for attending the meeting and answering questions.

8. Community Planning

- 8.1 The report of the Lead Officer was received – copy attached to the signed Notes – which provided the Committee with details of the proposed Community Planning exercise for this LJC area.

The Community Regeneration Officer introduced this item and explained that the community planning exercise would capture the views and opinions of residents and, amongst other things, would be used to identify the future work of the Committee.

She explained that she wished to set up a Steering Group with approximately 10-15 members, to include elected members, residents, and interested local groups. The Steering Group would influence the questionnaire and the approach taken to community planning. She confirmed that the provisional date for the first meeting of the Steering Group was 21 April 2010 at Shirehall.

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The Community Regeneration Officer went on to explain the budget requirements and the proposed timescale.

When the Community Plan had been prepared, Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council would be asked to adopt the Community Plan and use it for future policy development.

Members of the public could see the value in doing this work as long as it was owned by local people.

8.2 It was agreed that:-

A. the Meole, Column, & Sutton Local Joint Committee produces a Community Plan for the area and that £6,000 be set aside from the 2009/10 budget allocation for this purpose.

B. that members of the local community be invited to take part in a steering group that would determine the focus of the resident questionnaire.

9. Local Budget Allocation

9.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer – copy attached to the signed Notes - which provided the Committee with details of the proposed funding allocations.

9.2 The Lead Officer informed the Committee that further information had been received in support of the Meole Brace Garden and Allotment Club application. He therefore proposed an amendment to recommendation B which would now read:

“...contribution of £3,184 towards improvements at the Washford Road Allotments and improvement works at Stanley Road Allotments subject to the Meole Brace Garden and Allotment Club obtaining match funding for the project”.

Members were happy to support this application because the Meole Brace Garden and Allotment Club had demonstrated that they worked closely with the community.

9.3 **It was therefore agreed for the Meole Column & Sutton Local Joint Committee to allocate funding as follows:**

A. Contribution towards building improvements at Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall (£4,351).

B. Contribution of £3,184 towards improvements at the Washford Road Allotments and improvement works at Stanley Road Allotments subject to the Meole Brace Garden and Allotment Club obtaining match funding for the project.

Action

10. Date of Next Meeting

- 10.1 Attention was drawn to the date of the next meeting which had been rearranged due to a clash with the Town Council Annual Council and Mayor Making Meeting. It was therefore confirmed that the next meeting would be held at **7pm on Thursday 20 May 2010** (Not 18 May as stated on the agenda), at Meole Brace School Science College, Longden Road, Shrewsbury.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____