

APPENDIX A

MEOLE COLUMN & SUTTON LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE QUESTIONS & RESPONSE

Question, Comment or Suggestion	Response
<p>1) 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>	<p>The Council is not responsible for Meole Brace Retail Park, which is private property and public money can 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).</p> <p>The Head of Technical Services has confirmed that as part of the planning process for the upcoming alterations to Sainsburys, the Council could demand improvements to the access.</p>

Question, Comment or Suggestion	Response
<p>2) Sutton Road (between Stonehurst Road junction and junction with Wenlock Road) - need for improved safety for pedestrians and residents.</p>	<p>A response to this question had been supplied 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 and that the traffic calming had been successful at leading to reduced speeds. Concern was expressed that the speed was still too fast for that piece of road and was an accident waiting to happen. Automatic traffic counts carried out on either side of the Stonehurst Drive junction following the removal of the build out show the means speed of traffic to be below 25.8mph, with the vast majority of vehicles conforming to the posted speed limit. This is a 1.8mph increase on when the priority build-out was in place, but still 2 to 3mph slower than the recorded mean speeds before the build-out was constructed. 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>A new Urban Speed Limit Policy is being developed which will include a new 20 mph policy. This is awaiting further guidance from the Department for Transport ; the comments from the LJC concerning the British Medical Journal will be passed onto the officer developing the policy.</p> <p>However, we can only re-iterate the current Council policy which is that 20mph speed limits will only be considered in main shopping areas of our town centre, outside school where they can be justified as part of safer routes to school work or as part on appropriate local safety scheme to address the level of reported injury collisions. Therefore, at this time, we would not consider the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on Sutton Road between its junction with Stonehurst Drive to be justified.</p>

Question, Comment or Suggestion	Response
<p>3) 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>	<p>The Consultation on the Council Budget had been well received at the January meeting and enhancement works to the town centre were considered at the March meeting. It is 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. Members of the public to put forward any other items they wished to be considered at future meetings.</p>
<p>4) Name plate for Abbey Foregate</p>	<p>Although Abbey Foregate is not in the LJC area the need for a name plate for Abbey Foregate has been highlighted to the relevant officers.</p> <p>Two new nameplates have been ordered and it is expected that these will be installed either side of the road off the island by the end of June.</p>
<p>5) What was the Council's future policy towards use of The Hollies building?</p>	<p>It is envisaged 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> <p>Positive meetings have been held involving local residents and the Learning & Training Team regarding the parking issues on Laundry Lane. It is envisaged that staff will vacate the building on a phased basis between May and end of September.</p>
<p>6) Raven Meadows Bus Station – public toilets and information stands</p>	<p>The Town Council are responsible for the toilets. These toilets are due to be refurbished shortly.</p> <p>The electronic information stands had ceased to be used due to budgetary constraints as they cost £90k to maintain. This was a budget saving item agreed as part of the 2010/11 budget process.</p>

Question, Comment or Suggestion	Response
<p>7) What was the Council's policy on litter?</p>	<p>The Chairman reported that efforts were being made to enhance / target hot spot areas and that the Council were very conscious of the importance of the issue.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Council takes its responsibilities regarding the enforcement and issue of fixed penalty notices for littering seriously. The Council is committed to issuing fixed penalty notices when an offence is identified and does issue notices when deemed necessary.</p>
<p>8) Were details of salaries for the Chief Executive and Head of Directorates in the public domain? Had their salaries increased over the past year?</p>	<p>This information is in the public domain and that there has been no increase this year.</p> <p>Full details of the salaries and expenses of the Chief Executive and Directors are published on the Councils website. Details of the number of officers paid within pay bands are also published in the Councils Annual Report and Accounts.</p>

Question, Comment or Suggestion	Response
<p>9) Feedback following the introduction of a 20mph limit through Meole Village was requested as it was felt that it had had no affect.</p>	<p>The area covered by the 20mph speed limit within Meole Village was restricted to those roads where the recorded means speeds are such that they allowed us to consider a 20mph speed limit without the introduction of physical traffic calming measures. It was introduced as an initial measure to address footway considerations and incidents on Vicarage Road.</p> <p>Therefore, as the speeds were already appropriate for a 20mph speed limit it wasn't brought in as a speed reduction measure, rather the speed limit reflected the prevailing speed of traffic. As a result it is unlikely residents would notice any reduction in traffic speeds.</p> <p>We normally review a speed limit about 12 months after its introduction to measure the impact on mean speeds, if it was felt necessary we can bring forward that review.</p> <p>Following the LJC there was a meeting between Shropshire Council and West Mercia Police to clarify the issues raised about enforcement a joint statement is set out below.</p> <p>“West Mercia Police and Shropshire Council will work together to ensure that the people who totally disregard the 20 mph speed limit in Meole are targeted.</p> <p>Shropshire Council is developing a new Urban Speed Limit Policy which has within it a new 20 mph policy which is being discussed and agreed with West Mercia Police.”</p>

Question, Comment or Suggestion	Response
<p>10) Speeding on Wenlock Road – 95% of vehicles travel at least 30mph in the 20mph zone.</p>	<p>PC Grey explained that they had monitored Wenlock Road 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.</p> <p>The posted speed limit on Wenlock Road from the Column Roundabout to South of its junction with Kingston Drive is 30mph.</p> <p>Within safer routes to schools signing of Mereside School the sign assembly contains an advisory "Max speed 20mph". This is not a mandatory speed limit, but an advisory one only and it is to support the potential hazard relating to children crossing to and from school. It is a sign assembly that has been used in the vicinity of a number of schools around the county to highlight the school's presence.</p> <p>The joint response above from West Mercia Police and Shropshire Council applies to this item as well.</p>
<p>11) Could the Committee purchase vehicle activated signs?</p>	<p>The Head of Technical Services explained that the Council's Vehicle Activated Signs Policy (copy attached at Appendix B) 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>Shrewsbury Town Council have suggested 15 sites, including Sutton Road, where it may be appropriate to have a Vehicle Activated Sign. Development Services are currently reviewing the suitability of the suggested sites provided by Parish and Town Councils across Shropshire. Parish and Town Councils across Shropshire will be written to with the results of the review and any funding contribution required in accordance with the Policy.</p>