



**Committee and Date**  
Meole Column & Sutton  
Local Joint Committee

12 October 2010

7pm

**Item**

**3**

Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2010 AT 7.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**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 & Shrewsbury Town Council (Chair)
Mrs Jackie Brennand	Shrewsbury Town Council

**Officers:**

Graham Chidlow	Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) (Lead Officer)
Nicola Fisher	Community Regeneration Officer
Frances Phelps	Head of Prevention Services (Support Officer)
Karen Bradshaw	Assistant Director, Youth Support
Di Phillips	Youth Worker
Val Beint	Director, Community Services (agenda item 6 only)
PC Jane Cowen	West Mercia Police
CSO Maria Chattington-Lowe	West Mercia Police
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)

**There were approximately 32 members of the public at the meeting.**

	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Apologies for Absence</b>	
1.1 Apologies were received from Mrs Kath Owen (Shrewsbury Town Council).	
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>	
2.1 No declarations were received.	
<b>3. Notes of Previous Meeting</b>	
3.1 <b>AGREED:</b> That the notes of the meeting held on 20 May 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	
<b>4. Progress Report</b>	
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.	

**Action**

**5. Youth Support and Mereside Youth Shelter**

5.1 Di Phillips, a full time Youth Worker for Monkmoor and Mereside gave a presentation about current youth projects – copy of slides attached to the signed Notes. The presentation covered the following areas:

- Current Activities
- Feedback on LJC Funding
- Accredited outcomes for young people
- Young people's thoughts about youth work

5.2 Helen Hatton a volunteer at Belle Vue Youth Club reported on a project that had been funded by the LJC. She invited the public to the Youth Club to see the excellent work undertaken with young people.

5.3 A brief discussion took place about the Mereside Youth Shelter. The Chairman requested comments from members of the public which would be taken away and considered as part of a review of the future of the shelter.

The following issues/comments were raised:

- Was a good idea in theory but has not been successful
- Residents have prepared a petition for its removal.
- It is not used for the purpose it was intended.
- Shelter being abused / used as climbing frame
- Problems with litter, broken glass, broken branches
- Vandalism including Insulting / racist graffiti which took six months to remove.
- It would cost a lot of money to remove
- Needs supervision / more police presence
- Someone else could benefit from the Shelter

5.4 In response to some of these comments, PC Jane Cowen reported that the Police had only received three telephone calls about anti social behaviour since April. The area was patrolled as often as possible. CSO Maria Chattington-Lowe agreed that there were a few minor issues which were no cause for more patrols.

5.5 The Community Regeneration Officer reported that she had been requested to monitor the youth shelter over a four week period.

## Action

She explained that she had visited at various different times of the day and had taken photographic evidence. She confirmed that she found no evidence of misuse.

In response to a query, the Community Regeneration Officer explained that advice had been taken from the contractor about the siting of the Youth Shelter and its position had been adjusted to ensure it did not impact on the wildlife.

- 5.6 In conclusion, the Assistant Director for Youth Support confirmed that the public's views were being listened to and would be taken into account in determining a way forward. However, she was concerned about the impact on young people and the message being sent that they were not a valued part of the community.

### 6. Shropshire Council's Budget Consultation

- 6.1 The report of the Director of Resources was received – copy attached to the signed Notes – which gave feedback on last years' Budget Consultation.
- 6.2 Mr Mike Owen Portfolio Holder for Economy and Waste gave a presentation on the Revenue Budget for 2011/12 and future years - copy of slides attached to the signed Notes. A copy of the presentation together with the key messages was handed out at the meeting. Mike Owen and Val Beint, Director of Community Services from Shropshire Council answered questions on the issues raised.
- 6.3 A number of questions and comments were raised, as follows:

#### **Question: What are classed as 'essential jobs'?**

Answer: The Director of Community Services gave an example of a home care assistant who provided hands on work.

#### **Question: How is the service budget related to the capital budget? Will there be money in the budget for eg the Flax Mill?**

Answer: The Head of Finance (Treasury & Pensions) explained that the Council had a Revenue Budget, which was for the day to day running of the Council, and also a Capital Budget which was for eg road improvements and other capital projects. He explained that there would likely be cuts in grants which would impact on the capital programme as well as the Revenue Budget of the Council..

#### **Question: Is there a specific page on the website for the Budget?**

## Action

Answer: The Head of Finance (Treasury & Pensions) explained that the budgets were contained in a very thick book which was available to the public. In the future the Council would be required to publish all expenditure over £500, so there would be a lot more information available on the website.

The Director of Community Services confirmed that the budgets were available on the website for the public to access. She explained that regular reports on both the Revenue and Capital Budgets were presented to Cabinet and Council.

### **Question: Would the budget simulator be available on the website?**

Answer: It was understood that this would be back on the website shortly.

**Question/Comment: It seems that private services are making money from what used to be Council services eg Veolia. Perhaps if the Council took over these services the money being generated could be ploughed back in to other services. Instead of outsourcing, perhaps these services should be brought back in to Council control once their contracts came to an end.**

**Question/Comment: It was felt that officers were very good at defending their own budgets and this local government culture had to change.**

Response: The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Waste explained that this was a very different situation that had not occurred previously so the Council had to look at all services and how they could be provided more efficiently.

## **7. Public Question Time**

7.1 The Chairman highlighted that a member of the public had written to the LJC expressing disappointment at the relocation of the bus stop on Preston Street and the uneven pavements in Highfields. It was agreed the Lead Officer would obtain a response.

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

- Staff parking outside residential properties in Preston Street.
- Who paid for the Air Pollution monitoring vans and what were the results?
- When will the list of service cuts be available?
- Why are there road works by Tesco again when it was only done three years ago.

**GC**

**Action**

It was confirmed that these issues would be followed up and feedback reported at the next meeting.

**8. West Mercia Police**

8.1 PC Jane Cowen from West Mercia Police informed the meeting of the crime statistics for the area which all showed reductions. She requested the public to report any problems as the Police relied on information from the public.

8.2 A member of the public commented that she had lived in the area for 44 years and she stayed because it was a clean, safe and comfortable place to live. She regularly walked home on her own at night and had never encountered any problems, had never met any drunks or been frightened. She felt it was a good place to live and that the Police did a great job.

**9. Community Planning**

9.1 The Community Regeneration Officer gave an update. The steering group had pulled together a draft questionnaire and volunteers were being sought to complete the draft questionnaire and to feedback their comments on the questions, which would be collated before the final questionnaire was produced, hopefully in September.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

10.1 The next meeting would be held at **7pm on Tuesday 12 October 2010** at Mereside CE Primary School, Children's Way, off Wenlock Road, Shrewsbury SY3 9HF

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

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

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