



Committee and Date  
Meole Column & Sutton  
Local Joint Committee

15 February 2011

7pm

Item

**3(i)**

Public

## **NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2010 AT 7.00 PM AT MERESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **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 (Chairman)
Mrs Jackie Brennand	Shrewsbury Town Council

#### **Officers:**

Graham Chidlow	Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) (Lead Officer)
Nicola Fisher	Community Regeneration Officer
Gordon Frost	Area Business Manager, Shropshire, Arriva
Wanda Wheeler	Head Teacher, Mereside Primary School
Carolyn Healy	Parks & Countryside Manager
Matt Wilcoxon	Countryside Ranger, Parks & Countryside
PC Jane Cowen	West Mercia Police
CSO Chris Jones	West Mercia Police
PC Jo Winter	West Mercia Police
PC Michelle Morris	West Mercia Police
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)

**There were approximately 20 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 Councillors Parsons, Tandy and Brennand all declared a prejudicial interest in the Mereside Community Centre funding application (Agenda Item 10 – Budget Bids) as they were members of the Community Centre Committee.

### **3. Notes of Previous Meeting**

- 3.1 **AGREED:** That the notes of the meeting held on 20 July 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **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.

#### **5. Public Question Time**

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

- Problems with sewers in Grove Road

It was understood that this issue was in hand and that Paul Oakley had been consulted. In response, the Chairman reported that he was meeting with Paul Oakley to arrange a date for a public meeting in order to show residents a video which highlighted where the problems were. A letter would be sent to residents in the next couple of weeks inviting them to the meeting.

- The Hollies

Mrs Parsons updated the meeting. The planned staff move out of The Hollies had been delayed whilst the Council reviewed its assets as part of the organisational transformation process. Therefore, the earliest The Hollies would be vacated was January/February 2011. Mrs Parsons agreed to get an update for the next meeting.

- Meole Golf Course

The Chairman explained that no firm proposals had been made in relation to the Golf Course, but that the Leader had received an expression of interest. He reported that a public meeting was being held on 1 November 2010 to discuss the issue.

- Meals on Wheels

Concern was raised at the suggestion that hot meals be provided in schools for elderly people. Mr Owen reported that the report of the Meals on Wheels Task and Finish Group was being presented to Cabinet the following day. Mrs Parsons stated that it was a long standing practice for senior citizens to have lunch in schools and indeed the Head Teacher confirmed that this practice had taken place for a number of years at Mereside Primary School.

- What effects will government funding cuts have on Councillors expenses?

The Chairman was unaware of any changes but would find out and report back to the next meeting.

- Air Pollution Monitoring

In response to a query the Lead Officer agreed to find out the amount of the grant received from Defra for completion of the air pollution survey.

- 5.2 The Chairman confirmed that these issues would be followed up and feedback reported at the next meeting.

## **6. Arriva**

- 6.1 The Chairman introduced Mr Gordon Frost from Arriva. Mr Frost explained that a major network review had been undertaken in September 2009 which had led to changes to most local services. He reported that further changes would be made to the services in November based upon comments received in response to last September's changes.
- 6.2 Mr Frost reported that the major changes for the LJC area were to the following services:
- Number 8 - Would revert back to old route and pick up at Shirehall.
- Numbers 24, 25 and 26 - The Bayston Hill, Meole and Moneybrook route would disappear.
- Number 24 would revert back to its original route in both directions but would still be every 15 minutes. It would pick up in Belle Vue Road every 15 minutes (instead of every 7-8 minutes).
- Number 25 would continue through town to Harlescott and Tesco.
- Number 26 would go to town centre.
- 6.3 Mr Frost reported that smaller minibuses would be used on some of these routes and he confirmed that all town service buses would start and finish at the bus station.
- 6.4 In response to a query, Mr Frost believed that the new service pattern would be more reliable and would be easier to control if something went wrong as they were shorter local runs and congestion would be less of a problem. He explained that the service for Radbrook and Reabrook would no longer be linked so delays on the Radbrook side would not have a knock on effect for Reabrook.
- 6.5 Mr Frost discussed Arriva's current fleet and the possibility of using smaller vehicles where capacity allowed. He explained that Arriva currently operate the Park and Ride Service for which they have to buy new fleet and would be replacing the larger buses with something smaller but with enough capacity.
- 6.5 In response to a query Mr Frost confirmed that Arriva had no plans to bring back return tickets. In response to the issue of off-duty buses using the narrow part of Sutton Road as a short cut, Mr Frost reported that a notice had been issued to drivers not to use Sutton Road and it was felt that now this specific warning had been issued the problem would be resolved. However he urged the public to report any incidents and they would speak directly to individual drivers.
- 6.6 Mr Frost informed the meeting that notices had been put on buses about the changes and more details were available on their website. He reported that a roadshow was being held on 27 October (venue to be confirmed) when the new timetables would be handed out.
- 6.7 The Chairman thanked Mr Frost for attending the meeting which was much appreciated.

## **7. Mereside CE Primary School**

- 7.1 Mrs Wanda Wheeler, the Head Teacher at Mereside CE Primary School gave a verbal report. She informed the meeting that the teachers, governors and parents had felt that the amalgamation of the two schools was the right thing for the community and they had worked very closely together right from the start.
- 7.2 Initially, the main challenge had been to bring two groups of people together which had been successfully done. The biggest challenge now was the building work which would provide a new entrance and reception area as well as renovating classrooms and play areas. It was hoped that the works would be completed by July 2011.
- 7.3 In response to a query, Mrs Wheeler confirmed that the gateway in the hedge was for emergency access and other services eg grass cutting.
- 7.4 Mrs Wheeler reported that an open day would be held in September 2011 once all the building work had been completed. Residents would be very welcome to attend.
- 7.5 In response to a query it was confirmed that an Ofsted inspection would take place that year, as it was the second year of the new school.
- 7.6 The Chairman thanked Mrs Wheeler for her verbal report and for the use of the School Hall.

## **8. Reabrook Valley Management**

- 8.1 The Parks and Countryside Manager explained that her team managed approximately 150 open spaces across Shropshire including parks, play areas, recreation grounds and country parks. The Reabrook Valley was a key site in the heart of the town which was very well used by local residents but a bit of a 'hidden gem' for others.
- 8.2 It was however recognised that there were issues in relation to access, muddy paths in winter, dog fouling, lack of benches etc. She explained that a review of the management plan for the site was to be undertaken to include research of its cultural history.
- 8.3 The Parks and Countryside Manager sought local views and requested the public to write down their thoughts, issues and comments and place in the boxes provided.
- 8.4 The Countryside Ranger updated the meeting on the current management of the site which was very diverse, and consisted of various habitats, including woodlands, scrub, wetland and grassland. He discussed topics such as haymaking, grazing and tree management.
- 8.5 The Countryside Ranger informed the meeting that adults with learning difficulties had assisted with repairs to bridges and handrails, the installation of new stock fencing and kissing gates around the brook and the Probation Service had assisted with weeding and litter picking. It was also hoped to install more benches and picnic tables and that external funding could be

obtained to create a pond dipping platform.

8.6 Congratulations were given to the team for their energy, enthusiasm and vision put into caring for open spaces such as the Reabrook Valley and it was hoped that the Council recognised the intangible benefits of this amenity.

8.7 The Chairman agreed with these comments and thanked the Officers for attending the meeting.

## **9. West Mercia Police**

9.1 PCs Jo Winter, Michelle Morris and Jane Cowen together with CSO Chris Jones introduced themselves and reported on their current work. The public were invited to raise any issues of concern. Issues raised included:

- Good to see Police being proactive about drugs

PC Morris stressed that in order to take action against drug dealers/users, the Police required intelligence from the public who could remain anonymous.

- Request for increased Police presence on London Road at lunch time and early evening to reduce incidents of boy racers and litter.

PC Cowen agreed to do this and informed the meeting that she would shortly be attending lazer gun training which could then be used on London Road. PC Morris explained that if the public made a note of the vehicle registration numbers of anti social drivers the Police could write to the registered owners and following two such incidents their cars could be seized.

In response to a comment it was explained that the Police tended to remain in the Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights as that was where most assaults and violence occurred. However an effort would be made to utilise any down time in the Abbey Foregate area.

- Homeless people on banks of Reabrook linked to garage break in and looking through windows.

It was agreed for these incidents to be looked into.

9.2 Jase Ratheway from Shropshire Fire & Rescue informed the meeting of the Fire Safety Risk Assessments that officers undertook to ensure homes were safe and secure. Also, as part of their Home Fire Risk Assessment officers would test all smoke alarms within a home and for those householders who did not have working smoke alarms would fit one for free.

## **10. Budget Bids**

10.1 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.

10.2 Concern was raised about the safety of relocating the Youth Shelter closer to the young childrens' playground. The Chairman explained that a way forward would be discussed by Members of the Committee and reported back at the next meeting.

- 10.3 The Chairman explained that as three of the councillors on the Local Joint Committee were members of the Mereside Community Centre Committee those members were not able to take part in the decision making for the Mereside Community Centre application and thus the meeting would not be quorate. Given these circumstances and in accordance with the LJC Constitution Cabinet would be asked to determine this application.
- 10.4 **It was therefore agreed for the Meole Column & Sutton Local Joint Committee to allocate funding as follows:**
- A. Up to £5,000 for the relocation and refurbishment of Mereside Youth Shelter to a new location subject to the approval of Shrewsbury Town Council Recreation Committee.**
- B. £6,000 towards improvements to the BMX track on Meole Estate.**
- C. £650 towards the purchase of an electric piano for Seabury Close Sheltered Housing Social Club.**
- D. £4,646 towards costumes, travel and competitions for the Salinka Stars Dance Troupe.**
- E. £750 towards the Safer Shrewsbury PubWatch for the Meole, Column & Sutton area.**
- F. Up to £1,000 to Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society for the production of Oliver subject to all six Shrewsbury LJC's agreeing a similar contribution and clawback of funding in the event that ticket sales exceed 60%.**
- 11. Community Planning**
- 11.1 The Community Regeneration Officer gave an update. Following completion of the draft Questionnaires, which had been handed out at the previous meeting, and taking on board the comments and suggestions made thereon, the final Questionnaire and an introductory letter were about to be delivered to 5000 households in the LJC area. The public were encouraged to complete the questionnaire and to encourage others to do likewise. Spare copies of the questionnaire were available and the Community Regeneration Officer apologised that it was not available online.
- 11.2 The Community Regeneration Officer informed the meeting of the workshops taking place throughout November in preparation for the Shropshire Olympian Festival taking place in the Quarry park in Shrewsbury in June 2011.
- 11.3 The Community Regeneration Officer encouraged the public to respond to the online consultation for the Shrewsbury Vision Regeneration Framework which was a guide to regeneration and development in the town and town centre.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

- 12.1 The next meeting would be held at **7pm on Tuesday 15 February 2011** at Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall, Upper Road, Meole Village, Shrewsbury SY3 9EX

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

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

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