



Committee and date:
North East Shrewsbury Local
Joint Committee
18 March 2010
7.00 p.m.

Item
3

**NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2010 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT THE MARTIN WILSON SCHOOL, NEW ROAD, CASTLEFIELDS
'SPOTLIGHT ON CASTLEFIELDS AND DITHERINGTON'**

Responsible Officer: Karen Nixon

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Committee Members Present:

Councillor Karen Burgoyne (Shropshire Council)

Councillor Dean Carroll (Shrewsbury Town Council)

Councillor Alan Mosley (Shropshire Council & Shrewsbury Town Council) & Chairman

Councillor Malcolm Price (Shropshire Council & Shrewsbury Town Council)

Shropshire Council Officers Present:

Celia Bahrami, Lead Officer

Andrew Stirling, Support Lead Officer

Steve Cunningham, Senior Community Regeneration Officer

Karen Nixon, Committee Officer (notes)

West Mercia Police:

PC Peter Franklin

CSO Angela Newson

Shropshire Fire Service:

Cameron Taylor

Derek Taylor

There were approximately 40 members of the public in attendance.

		ACTION
1.	Apologies	
1.1	There were no apologies for absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	No declarations of interest were made.	
3.	Note of Meeting	
3.1	The note of the previous meeting held on 17 September 2009 was approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.	KN/AM
4.	Welcome and Introductions	
4.1	The Chairman, welcomed everyone to the LJC meeting, the second to focus specifically on the areas of Castlefields and Ditherington. He then went on to	

	give a brief explanation and background about the purpose and powers of the meeting. Local Joint Committees (LJC's) were the new Shropshire Council's way of working with local communities – giving residents a voice in decisions for their areas and influencing resources to improve the local area in a practical way.	
5.	Local Police Team (PACT)	
5.1	PC Peter Franklin, West Mercia Police, introduced himself and CSO Angela Newson from the Castlefields and Heathgates local policing team. He explained that PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings were now incorporated into the Local Joint Committee. This part of the meeting was to give local residents the opportunity to raise any issues of concern with their local police team and identify priorities for the local area over the next three months.	PC Franklin
5.2	PC Franklin was pleased to report that for the period September to November 2009 there had been a decrease in the average number of crimes in the Castlefields area of 22.5 per cent. In November 2009 anti social behaviour had reduced from 82 to 56 per cent, and burglary and robberies had also shown a downward trend. (For detailed information on crime figures for the area he referred everyone to the Local Crime Map on the West Mercia Police's website). Generally the news was good for Castlefields.	
5.3	Next PC Franklin updated the meeting with progress on issues raised by residents at the previous meeting focussing on the Castlefields and Ditherington area; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV implementation was progressing well. • Ongoing problems at Tesco Express, Ditherington, were being worked on jointly by the police, the local councillor and Shropshire Council. • Dog-fouling issues were being addressed, but this was a difficult issue to police all of the time. • Young people walking across the Weir was difficult to combat. • Drugs activities in the St Michael's Street area were being curtailed. Two arrests had been made following the last meeting and 'stop and search' was proving a deterrent. 	
5.4	An issue of concern raised by a resident was the state of the telephone box at Woodhall Close. The Chairman responded that this had been dealt with recently and it had improved there. This would continue to be monitored.	
5.5	For general information about local policing the contact number is 0300 333 3000 or see www.westmercia.police.uk or call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.	
6.	Progress with The Flaxmill	
6.1	The Chairman announced that unfortunately Tim Greensmith, Architect, Fielden Clegg Bradley Studios was unable to attend the meeting as originally planned. Therefore, the Chairman, who had a copy of the presentation to be given to the meeting that evening, went through the PowerPoint presentation himself (copy attached to signed minutes) bringing local residents up to date with progress to date. This covered the Masterplan Vision; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plan showing the site and the current masterplan • Issues inc History, Biodiversity, Community and Connections • Industrial Heritage • The Sustainable Community 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Place for People • A Green Landscape • A Legible Landscape • The Canal 	
6.2	There were pictures of key views of the site and details of sustainability targets including renewable options such as photovoltaic panels, biomass heating and a ground source heat pump.	
6.3	Details of design progress to date were given and it was noted that forthcoming investigations included an embedded timber assessment, archaeological site assessment and an air quality assessment.	
6.4	An assessment of the iron-framed buildings was given along with preliminary strengthening options. Various plans for adapting the mill buildings for new uses were shown. It was hoped that the building would be used to bring the community together and help raise the profile of the area. Finally, a target programme was provided, giving a timeframe for completion of around 2012, though the Chair warned that given the current economic climate and finances that may be rather optimistic.	
6.5	A discussion ensued about the canal element and concerns were expressed that the current plans in respect of the canal were insignificant. A representative of the Waterways Trust said that they were having a meeting in February with the aim of proposing to make the canal 'real' and put back to its proper state.	
6.6	A member of the public asked about the cost of the scaffolding and was it true that it had cost in the region of £5 million? The Chair did not know exact costs, as the scaffolding had been provided by English Heritage, but he undertook to find out and report back.	AM
6.7	There was a suggestion from some that the silo should be removed all together, whilst others suggested alternative uses such as a children's play area. The Chair reported that there was currently a £9m - £16 million gap in funding. It was noted that Developers were in the process of being appointed.	
6.8	RESOLVED: In conclusion the progress to date was welcomed and noted.	
7.	Young People's Issues	
7.1	The presentation by the Heads of local primary schools; the Martin Wilson School and the Mount Pleasant School was deferred to the next meeting.	
7.2	<p>Dorothy Jones, Play Development Officer, gave a verbal update on local provision for the 5 – 12 year age group. This involved "Reccy Rangers", a mobile play facility, providing blocks of up to 2 hours of free play sessions at various locations across Shrewsbury, including at the Martin Wilson School and St Marys Catholic School, in New Park Road, Castlefields.</p> <p>The Reccy Ranger project develops informal leisure opportunities for children and young people. Activities are based on the needs of the young people themselves with emphasis on 'active' play, particularly during the summer months. The service is primarily aimed at children & young people from 5 to 16 years although we do allow younger and older children to join in and encourage parents to stay and play.</p> <p>The service consists of two transit vans the Reccy Ranger play van and the Street Sports van, which are both kitted out with a wide variety of play and sports equipment. Both travel around delivering open access play sessions of up to two hours within local communities, after school and during school</p>	

	<p>holidays.</p> <p>It was hoped to extend the service to other organisations such as clubs and sports venues. Anyone wishing to use this service were urged to contact;</p> <p>Sean McCarthy, Sports Development Officer on 01743 255933.</p>	
8.	Update on Grants Awarded by the Local Joint Committee	
8.1	<p>The Local Joint Committee was circulated with two reports (copy attached to signed minutes).</p> <p>The first report entitled 'Grant Outcomes 2008/09' contained a summary of the grants awarded by the Castlefields and Ditherington Neighbourhood Forum, which had ceased in March 2009. Julie Thomas and Sue Sharp of Shrewsbury Friendly Neighbours updated the committee with a verbal report on the success of the Friendship Circle, a project giving social support to older people in the local community. This now had 29 members and had been helped enormously by a grant of £1,500 from the Forum which had enabled the project to become independent and self-sufficient.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be duly noted.</p> <p>The second report was entitled 'Funding Requests Update Report'. This detailed five new applications received for 2009/10 funding from the LJC.</p> <p>After some debate the following was agreed.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the Ken Ju-Jitsu Martial Arts application for £1,175 for new mats and training be approved, subject to the club making contact with the local policing team and Shropshire Youth to promote the club more widely in the local area. In addition, whilst the mats are for the sole use of the Club, that they should be retained by Ditherington Community Centre. b) That the Wild Strawberry application for £1,600, for animation projects in Ditherington and Sundorne, be approved. c) That the three remaining applications be deferred pending receipt of further information before being reconsidered; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harlescott Scout and Guide Headquarters; £4,400 for the provision of gate and car park to enable children to play in an adjoining field. • Isaiah 58 Project; £4,500 to fund a pushchair club for able and disabled children. • Isaiah 58 Project; £5,200 to fund a Wingers Club for able and disabled children. 	
9.	Local News and Reports	
9.1	<p>Any matters regarding Severnside Housing were to be made directly to Marianne Grant on behalf of Steve Gittens, either after the meeting or via telephone on 01743 285193.</p> <p>Anyone who wanted to receive a local newsletter were urged to give their contact details/email address to the Chairman Alan Moseley.</p> <p>Due to the severe weather conditions, the issue of gritting footpaths and salt bin provision was raised. The Chair said he was currently seeking to get these</p>	

	<p>restored.</p> <p>Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service representative Cameron Taylor, highlighted that the Fire Station in Shrewsbury was likely to be going through a building programme in September 2010. Therefore the station as a venue for the Funday was unlikely this year.</p> <p>He then went on to highlight the importance of smoke alarms in all households and reminded everyone that a FREE home fire safety check and a ten year smoke alarm was available to anyone on request by ringing Tel: 01743 260298 or contacting the Community Fire Safety Department at Brigade Headquarters, St Michael's Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BR.</p>	
10.	Shropshire Council Budget 2010/11 Budget	
10.1	The Chair reported Shropshire Council's overall approach was to protect key services, consolidate the revenue budget and minimise pressures on Council Tax. Savings of £7.1 million were required and £2 million was to be set aside to prepare for an assumed grant loss of £4m in 2011/12. Service improvement would come from capital investment.	
10.2	<p>A brief questionnaire, a budget consultation exercise compiled by the Chair, was circulated to all present for them to prioritise where they felt services should either be retained, because they were considered vital, reduced as a last resort or reduced to protect other services. A summary of the results obtained on the evening is attached for your information.</p> <p>Everyone was also reminded that they could have their say about what services the council should prioritise when budget planning by visiting the council's website and giving their input through the 'Budget Simulator'.</p>	
11.	Future Agenda items	
11.1	<p>Due to time constraints this item was not covered in any depth.</p> <p>Everyone was urged to let members or officers know of any items they wished to raise in good time for the next meeting in March.</p>	
12.	Date of the Next Meeting & Meeting Dates for 2010/11	
12.1	<p>It was confirmed that the next meeting of the North East Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee would be held on Thursday 18 March 2010 at 7.00 p.m.; at Sundorne Secondary School and would 'spotlight' Sundorne and Battlefield areas.</p> <p>Future meeting dates arranged for 2010/11 were as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 25 May 2010 - spotlighting Castlefields and Ditherington • Thursday 29 July 2010 - spotlighting Sundorne and Battlefield • Thursday 7 October 2010 - spotlighting Castlefields and Ditherington • Thursday 10 February 2011- spotlighting Sundorne and Battlefield <p>Venues were to be confirmed.</p>	

The meeting finished at 9.10 p.m.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: