



Committee and date:
North East Shrewsbury Local
Joint Committee
29 July 2010
7.00 p.m.

Item

4

**NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 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
Gwyn Bevan Community Regeneration Officer
Julie Duncan, Children's Centres Co-Coordinator
Tim Sneddon, Head of Environmental Maintenance (Centre)
Andrew Stirling, Support to Lead Officer
Karen Nixon, Committee Officer (notes)
Anthony Williams, Youth Worker

West Mercia Police:

PC Peter Franklin
PC Andrew Gardner

Shropshire Fire Service:

Derek Taylor

There were approximately 40 members of the public in attendance.

		ACTION
1.	Election of Chair and Vice-Chair	
1.1	It was proposed by Malcolm Price, seconded by Karen Burgoyne and duly RESOLVED: That Alan Mosley be elected as Chairman of the LJC for the ensuing year.	
1.2	It was proposed by Alan Mosley, seconded by Dean Carroll and duly RESOLVED: That Malcolm Price be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the LJC for the ensuing year. There were no other nominations.	
2	Apologies	
2.1	There were no apologies for absence.	

3.	Declarations of Interest	
3.1	<p>Alan Mosley declared an interest in agenda item 7; he was Governor at the Martin Wilson School.</p> <p>Malcolm Price declared an interest in agenda item 7; he was Governor at the Mount Pleasant School.</p>	<p>KN</p> <p>KN</p>
4.	Note of Meeting	
4.1	<p>The note of the previous meeting held on 18 March 2010 was circulated at the meeting and approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>The note of the previous Castlefields & Ditherington meeting held on 7 January was circulated for information. Arising thereon;</p> <p>In response to a question at page 3, Minute 6.6, the Chairman updated the meeting that the cost of scaffolding at the Flaxmill actually cost £330,000 and not £5 million.</p>	KN/AM
5.	Welcome and Introductions	
5.1	<p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Local Joint Committee (LJC) meeting, which focussed specifically on the Castlefields and Ditherington area. He then went on to give a brief explanation and background about the purpose and powers of LJC's; Shropshire Council's new way of working with local communities, aimed at giving residents a voice in decisions for their areas and influencing resources to improve the local area in a practical way.</p> <p>The Chair specifically welcomed the following guests to the meeting;</p> <p>Mrs Jean Clarke, a local resident from New Park Street, and the recipient of a special award for her services to the local community and people of Castlefields. Congratulations were warmly extended.</p> <p>Helen Ball, new Town Clerk for Shrewsbury Town Council. Tel 01743 257650 or email: helen.ball-stc@shropshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Father Michael Fish SSC, from Shrewsbury All Saints Church, Castlefields.</p> <p>Alan Brannen and David Purslow, Headteachers from the two local primary schools.</p>	
6.	Partners and Communities Together (PACT)	
6.1	<p>PC Peter Franklin, West Mercia Police, introduced himself from the Castlefields and Heathgates local policing team. He explained that PACT 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.</p>	
6.2	<p>PC Franklin reported the following crime figures for the period February to April 2010;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the average number of burglaries in this area has decreased from 4 to 2.7 (33.3%) the average number of robberies in this area has decreased from 1 to 	

6.3	<p>0.3 (66.7%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the average number of violent crimes in this area has increased from 9.3 to 10 (7.1%) the average number of anti-social behaviour incidents in this area has increased from 54 to 62 (14.8%) the average number of vehicle crimes in this area has increased from 3.7 to 9.7 (163.6%) <p>For detailed information on crime figures for the local area see the Local Crime Map on the West Mercia Police's website.</p> <p>Next PC Franklin updated the meeting with progress on issues raised by residents at the previous meeting focussing on the Castlefields and Ditherington area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children's Playground at Sydney Avenue, by the Weir, was being abused by youths drinking there and discouraging young children and their parents from using it. Problems with children by the Weir had moved from the Sydney Avenue side to the opposite side of the river by Underdale Road. Parents were reminded to be careful on collecting children from school and the dangers of children running out into the road. PC Franklin suggested this was perhaps an opportunity for the Police to visit local primary schools and deliver Road Safety. Problems of cyclists riding on the pavements. <p>For general information about local policing contact tel no 0300 333 3000 or see www.westmercia.police.uk or call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.</p>	PC Franklin
7.	Vision for Primary Education – Local Needs and Opportunities	
7.1	<p>Cllr Alan Mosley declared an interest in this item; he was a Governor at the Martin Wilson School.</p> <p>Cllr Malcolm Price also declared an interest; he was Governor at the Mount Pleasant School.</p>	
7.2	<p>Mr David Purslow, newly appointed Head at the Martin Wilson School (since September 2009) introduced himself and gave a brief introduction to his school. He had strong family links with the local area going back over 60 years and explained that he had a great respect and love for the local community.</p> <p>The Cambridge Review was cited as he outlined the many challenges facing the school. Inclusive education was supported at the Martin Wilson School, where education was seen as a lifelong journey. There were 165 pupils on roll from diverse backgrounds and all with individual needs. He was pleased that he had a good team of enthusiastic teachers who delivered the curriculum excellently. All wanted to ensure that all pupils left with a breadth of experiences.</p> <p>The school was aiming to create a thriving community centre. It already invited the local community into the school through the sharing of events such as assemblies, car boot sales and school lunches. In future it intends to expand on existing community use (currently karate, drama and adult learning) and was open to any suggestions from the public of how to expand. Finally the Head gave an open invitation to anyone wanting to visit the school or offer their</p>	

	<p>help in any way; all offers would be welcomed.</p> <p>Mr Alan Brannen newly appointed Head at the Mount Pleasant Junior School (also since September 2009) introduced himself and gave a brief outline about his school. He looked forward to the new school building opening in September 2011, which would include accommodation for general community use.</p> <p>He commented that his school was in an area of depravation and this aswell as other factors put a strain on already scarce resources. He made reference to that fact that nationally, Shropshire primary schools were poorly funded in comparison to schools elsewhere due mainly to the way funding was calculated by central government. Nevertheless his team worked hard to deliver excellent services with the resources they had. He fully supported Fairer Funding for Schools, the amalgamation of more schools and the closure of very small schools and he urged everyone to push for additional funding.</p> <p>In response to a question from a member of the public about how they could help their local school, both Heads outlined the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer readers were always sought • Support school events • Sharing of hobbies for after school clubs e.g. gardening <p>Any help any time was welcomed.</p>	
8.	Supporting Children and Families in the Area	
8.1	<p>Julie Duncan, Children's Centres Co-Coordinator, gave a presentation about her work in Shropshire supporting children and young families across Shropshire, including the LJC area which was welcomed and noted.</p> <p>The team managed 5 centres locally in Shrewsbury and worked with children under 5 and pregnant women. Regular programmes were run covering</p>	JD
8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic play and stay sessions • Working with Health Visitors and Midwives • Supporting parents e.g. with breastfeeding, depression, abusive relationships, struggling to cope etc., • Working with local schools – extended learning • Adult and community learning • Home-safe staff; making homes safe • Development of 'Forest school sites' 	
8.3	<p>A young man asked what was being developed for Dad's as there was a lot of emphasis on Mum's and not the fathers. He was informed that a project was currently being developed with Sundorne and Infants School around football and any other ideas or suggestions would be welcomed by Julie Duncan who offered information and funding advice following the meeting or to ring on Tel 01743 452402.</p>	
9.	Working with Young People	
9.1	<p>Anthony Williams, Youth Worker, gave a brief update on his work with young people aged 13 to 19 in the Castlefields and Ditherington area. A lot of activity centred on the Community Centre at Long Row. Other projects met regularly at Victoria House (music/media), the Castlefields Community Centre, and the</p>	

	<p>Cyber Café and largely aimed to help teenagers to up skill themselves. Good working relationships had been made within the community and with the local police.</p> <p>In response to a question about how people could help the service Anthony Williams stated that volunteers were always welcome. Furthermore a dedicated youth facility would be welcome; current accommodation was rented and there were limitations with this.</p> <p>A new Youth Centre would be opening shortly at Castle Gates which was welcomed.</p> <p>Alison from The Hive made a plea to keep young peoples profiles to the fore in the light of possible cutbacks on the horizon. Diversionary activities helped so very much with many social issues amongst young people.</p> <p>For more information on youth activities ring Anthony Williams on Tel: 01743 284411.</p>	AW
10.	Severnside Housing	
10.1	<p>Richard Potter, the new housing officer (replacing Steve Gittens) was introduced to the meeting. He had been in post for one month. He announced that he was having a meeting for all residents at the Communal Room, New Park House on Wednesday 14 July at 10.00 am to which all residents were invited to come along to raise any issues, give your views and discuss any problems.</p> <p>Any urgent matters regarding Severnside Housing were to be made directly to local housing officer Richard Potter either after the meeting or via telephone 0845 234 2424.</p>	RP
11.	Shropshire Council News & Reports	
11.1	<p>Cllr Mosley gave an update on the Newsletter he had recently circulated to local residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The footpath by the river, Sydney Avenue had been renovated and was now open. • A CCTV camera (co-funded by the Environment Agency) would shortly be erected at the Weir. • For any anti-social behaviour problems ring the local police on 0300 333 3000 (or 999 in an emergency). • A public consultation would be held shortly on hydro electric power at the weir. 	
11.2	Some dissatisfaction was expressed that the island at Ditherington was no better. Another resident was unhappy with the new housing development which blocked the view from his property. Officers undertook to speak to the gentleman after the meeting to discuss a possible Council Tax re-evaluation.	
11.3	Tim Sneddon, Head of Environmental Maintenance (Centre) introduced himself to the meeting and gave an update on work undertaken in the area. His team was now a lot more pro-active; when issues were raised they were resolved as soon as possible. The frequency of road cleaning had increased from every 8 weeks to fortnightly which was a good improvement. He also referred to proposals to get communities to take more ownership of their local area. This was anticipated through the promotion of 'street champions' - local residents who were willing to look out for problems such as graffiti, dumped rubbish, litter, overhanging vegetation, faulty street lights and pot holes – and	

11.4	<p>report any problems.</p> <p>In the interim, to report any problems ring 0345 678 9006.</p> <p>After the meeting a number of issues were raised with Tim Sneddon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hedge outside 7 Ditherington Road was over growing the footway. Highway Technician to visit when back off leave to get necessary works done.• Request for mini roundabout at Ditherington/Mount Pleasant Junction. Previously looked at by traffic section and felt inappropriate.• Bollard/barrier outside 29 Mount Pleasant Road. Referred to traffic section as other highway implications.• Alley between Ditherington Road and Comet Drive. Weed spraying ordered. Safety inspections in the past indicated no safety problems.• Fence at Spring Gardens development down to Darville. Looks to be part of the new development site. Will need to be replaced as part of the development. Any interim maintenance if required should be ordered by Rights of Way officers.• Graffiti and litter reported on railway foot bridge by Mount Pleasant School. Will be sorted out shortly.																	
12.	Grant Applications Update																	
12.1	A report submitting various project applications this quarter was received by the Committee. It was noted that a budget of £37,000 had been allocated to the Local Joint Committee for 2010/11. An under spend of £26,825 had been carried forward from 2009/10, giving a total budget for the LJC of £53,115 for 20/11.																	
12.2	<p>The Committee approved the following grants;</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>£</td></tr><tr><td>• All Saints Parish Church</td><td>1,600.00</td></tr><tr><td>• West Mercia Police Urban Challenge Project (i)</td><td>3,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>• West Mercia Police Urban Challenge Project (ii)</td><td>500.00</td></tr><tr><td>• Ditherington Community Centre – Storage</td><td>4,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>• Through the Doorway Cheerleading Club</td><td>1,300.00</td></tr><tr><td>• North Shrewsbury Church – beach day -</td><td>300.00</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL APPROVED</td><td>10,700.00</td></tr></table>		£	• All Saints Parish Church	1,600.00	• West Mercia Police Urban Challenge Project (i)	3,000.00	• West Mercia Police Urban Challenge Project (ii)	500.00	• Ditherington Community Centre – Storage	4,000.00	• Through the Doorway Cheerleading Club	1,300.00	• North Shrewsbury Church – beach day -	300.00	TOTAL APPROVED	10,700.00	
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12.3	Feedback from successful recipients was requested to a future meeting of the LJC - they wanted to hear about how the money was spent and what difference it had made. This was agreed.																	
13.	Residents Issues with Question Time																	
13.1	The following Questions were raised;																	
13.2	<i>Would there be a path plus gate from the new housing development to the Martin Wilson School?</i> Officers replied that yes this was in the plans and that the funding was there ready. The Head confirmed that the school would control the gate.																	
13.3	<i>Was the Council in support of reinstating the canal in the Flaxmill area or not?</i> The Chair replied that he supported this in principle as well as the objectives of																	

	the Canal Trust, however, there was no funding currently available and it was estimated to cost £120 million 4/5 years ago, so today's figures would be substantially more. He stated that in his view it was more important to undertake the Flaxmill works first and protect the line of the canal, so that in future maybe this could be developed when finances allowed.	
14.	Date of the Future Meetings	
14.1	<p>It was confirmed that the next meeting of the North East Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee would be held on Thursday 29 July 2010 at 7.00 p.m.; at Sundorne Sports Village and would 'spotlight' Sundorne and Battlefield.</p> <p>Future meeting dates arranged for 2010/11 were as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 7 October 2010 - spotlighting Castlefields and Ditherington • Thursday 10 February 2011- spotlighting Sundorne and Battlefield <p>Venues for later dates are to be confirmed.</p>	

The meeting finished at 9.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: