



Committee and date:
North East Shrewsbury Local
Joint Committee
7 October 2010
7.00 p.m.

Item
3

**NOTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JULY 2010 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT SHREWSBURY SPORTS VILLAGE, SUNDORNE, SHREWSBURY
'SPOTLIGHT ON SUNDORNE AND BATTLEFIELD'**

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)

Councillor Malcolm Price (Shropshire Council & Shrewsbury Town Council)

Shropshire Council Officers Present:

Celia Bahrami, Lead Officer

Steve Cunningham, Senior Community Regeneration Officer

Gwyn Bevan, Community Regeneration Officer

Tim Sneddon, Head of Environmental Maintenance (Centre)

Laura Rowley, Director of Resources

Karen Nixon, Committee Officer (notes)

West Mercia Police:

PC Andrew Gardner

PC Peter Franklin

Sevenside Housing:

Rachel Hopkins, Housing Officer

Shropshire Fire Service:

Cameron Taylor

Steve Westley

There were approximately 36 members of the public in attendance.

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| 1. | Apologies | |
| 1.1 | There were no apologies for absence. | |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest | |
| 2.1 | Cllr Price declared an interest in the Scout and Guide funding application (Agenda item 10); he was a Governor at the school adjoining the site of the car park. He took no part in the discussion or voting for this item. | |
| 3. | Welcome and Introductions | |

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| 3.1 | The Chairman, Alan Mosley, welcomed everyone to the meeting, which he explained this time would focus specifically on the areas of Sundorne and Battlefield. | |
| 3.2 | Malcolm Price, local member, commented that he was pleased to see so many members of the public present and warmly welcomed them to this and hopefully future meetings. He then went on to give a brief explanation about the background, purpose and powers of the meeting and stressed he welcomed local resident's input including questions and ideas for potential agenda items. | |
| 4. | Note of Meeting | |
| 4.1 | The note of the previous LJC meeting held on 25 May 2010, spotlighting Castlefields and Ditherington, were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman. | |
| 4.2 | The minutes of the previous meeting to specifically spotlight the Sundorne and Battlefield area (held on 18/03/10), that had previously been approved, were circulated for information. Cllr Price updated progress on the Matrix Medical Development - the live planning application was due to be considered by the Central Planning Committee on 2 September 2010. | |
| 5. | PACT Meeting (Partners and Community Together) | |
| 5.1 | PC Andrew Gardner, West Mercia Police, introduced himself from the Sundorne and Battlefield local policing team. He explained that PACT meetings would be incorporated into the Local Joint Committee meeting to give local residents the opportunity to raise any issues of concern directly. | |
| 5.2 | The local policing team was based at Monkmoor Police Station, Shrewsbury. Any message left would be responded to within 24 hours and the public were urged to report any problems or intelligence direct to the local team via the contact telephone number which was (01743) 264725. All information would be treated in the strictest confidence. For more general information about local policing the contact number was 0300 333 3000 or see www.westmercia.police.uk or call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111. | |
| 5.3 | PC Gardner gave a brief explanation of the PACT process, which identified priorities for the local area for the next three months. | |
| 5.4 | An update was given on issues of concern raised by local residents previously: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers were pleased to report that Methadone had now been classed as unlawful and was no longer a problem locally. • Congestion problems at Albert Road – Officers were working with the Social Club to alleviate this. • Cars parking outside Sundorne Infants School, East Crescent - was a longstanding issue and officers were now working with the school on reducing the impact on local residents. | Police Police and Head |
| 5.5 | New issues of concern raised; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parking problems at The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive persisted – cars were now parking on the island itself. ➤ Anti-social behaviour problems in the Meadow Farm Drive area, especially in and around The Lantern were being worked on by police officers through diversionary methods; youngsters had recently undertaken a litter pick in the local area and the reward for this would be an outward bound activity day (funded by LJC monies); N.B. no | Police Police |

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| | <p>treats for cheats!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Passageway between Whitchurch Road and Albert Road was played on by young children. There was a lot of dangerous debris there and it was considered hazardous. Could a 'no ball games' sign and a bin be put up please? ➤ Litter problems along Sundorne Road at all times of the day. ➤ Berwick Grange estate – issues re. suitable recreational places with open space. Concern expressed that local children were being 'moved out' of the estate away from their homes. | <p>Police, CRO and Severnside</p> |
| 5.5 | <p>Following discussions, it was agreed that the above areas of concern should be the areas of priority to be addressed by local policing officers. An update will be given at the next meeting.</p> | <p>PC Gardner</p> |
| 5.6 | <p>PC Franklin quickly updated on progress in the Castlefields and Ditherington area; CCTV was now up and running by the Tesco Express shop in Ditherington. In conclusion, he confirmed he and his colleagues were all committed to making it a better place to live.</p> | |
| 6. | Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service | |
| 6.1 | <p>Cameron Taylor from the Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service (Red Watch) updated the LJC on their area generally in terms of fire issues. He was pleased to inform everyone that generally, it was a safe area.</p> | |
| 6.2 | <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 HQ, St Michael's Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BR.</p> | |
| 7. | Street Scene | |
| 7.1 | <p>Tim Sneddon, Head of Environmental Maintenance (Centre), introduced himself to the meeting and explained his responsibilities etc. He confirmed that he would also look at the two problems previously highlighted re. parking on the island at Meadow Farm Drive and problems in the alleyway, off Albert Road.</p> | |
| 7.2 | <p>He asked the audience if they had any specific issues they wished to raise. The following were raised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overgrown hedge along Whitchurch Road – TS replied work had recently been undertaken on this by Shrewsbury Town Council. ▪ Parking of vehicles on the grassed areas along Sundorne Road (between Heathgates Island and Featherbed Lane) were to be investigated. Regular offenders included vehicles for sale and flat bed trucks. ▪ Broken glass on The Dana footbridge was dangerous to the general public – officers confirmed that this was currently cleaned twice weekly by the Council even though it was the responsibility of Railtrak. They would continue to monitor this. ▪ The installation of dropped kerbs on the Sundorne housing estate was requested by a gentleman who had recently had an amputation and now used a buggy. It had come to light that there were no dropped kerbs in the local area which was proving difficult. | <p>TS to arrange for technician to assess</p> |

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| 8. | Shropshire Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Consultation | |
| 8.1 | <p>Cllr Price welcomed Laura Rowley, Director of Resources to the meeting. The scale of the Public Sector “funding crunch” in the UK was unprecedented compared to changes in the past 30 years. Local councils were planning cuts in Government funding in the region of 25% over the next 3 to 4 years.</p> | |
| 8.2 | <p>The Council now sought local residents' views on the extensive financial difficulties the Council had to deal with. The main financial problems facing the Council were outlined; the Council was required to make nearly £10 million of savings in the current financial year, and find savings totalling nearly £50 million over the next three years. This was a huge challenge. Some savings could be made by internal efficiencies, but this would not be enough. It was not possible to raise council tax and therefore the Council had no option but to look at its services.</p> | |
| 8.3 | <p>Transforming those services and the way in which the Council works will mean working closer with partners, services will change towards a ‘no frill’ service. Charges may be increased. Charges may be introduced for things that are not charged for currently. The consultation process is underway – this is the starting point. Cllr Price also stressed that the majority of the budget was spent on salaries and wages and therefore reductions would have to come from existing staff aswell.</p> | |
| 8.4 | <p>A debate ensued with a question and answer session. The main issues and concerns raised included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concern that putting VAT up to 20% was worse than putting the Council Tax up. <i>This is a national policy imposed by central government and beyond our control. Suggest you take this up with your local MP.</i> ▪ An update requested on the myplace proposals for young people in Shropshire (a DCSF scheme run by the Big Lottery Fund). The Council was urged to work with the voluntary sector to fulfil existing COMPACTs and plug the gaps as far as possible, otherwise there will be a lot of very disappointed young people in Shropshire. <i>The Shrewsbury TeenSpace scheme will proceed. Chronicle House has already been purchased. However due to reductions in the Connections service budget the TeenSpace scheme for Oswestry is looking uncertain. Officers will be looking at providing something different, and will do their best to provide the best service they can in the circumstances.</i> ▪ Inconsistencies in your presentation; say you are in danger of being capped and then say you will be getting help from the Government to keep Council Tax increases to zero. Explain please. <i>We understand that Central Government has said it will help Shropshire Council to keep Council Tax increases to zero next year, but exactly how much ‘help’ the Council will get is uncertain at this stage; it has not been announced. It is also uncertain if this assistance will be a one-off or if it will be will be ongoing. SC is not relying on help from the Government. SC had assumed a 1% rise in Council Tax = £1.3m. If SC doesn’t get this then it won’t be disastrous. In Shropshire the number of new build properties grows each year and with that comes additional income.</i> | |

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| | <p><i>If SC gets both great, if none not too bad, but the Council hopes to get one or the other.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Don't understand why Central Government has imposed massive cuts and also stopped ways of raising revenue i.e. through small increases in Council Tax ▪ This is a rural area and as such average wages in Shropshire are low. The Chief Executive of Shropshire Council gets a high salary of £180,000 per year. How can this be justified? In addition, Local Government pensions are notoriously high too, with many retiring early. <i>The Chief Executive is personally responsible for expenditure of £630m per year. It is a very responsible job and in my opinion I think his pay is fair (LR). Regarding pensions the public perception is wrong. The average pension per year for a male with 40 years service is £4,400 per year and £2,600 for a woman per year.</i> <i>The earliest anyone in the Council can retire at is 55 years old and if they do so, they will be on a reduced pension.</i> <i>80% of the costs of the Local Government Scheme are met from investment returns on money invested in various funds. The remainder is made up of 6 to 7.5% of employee contributions and 16% employer contributions.</i> ▪ Statement by Dean Carroll, Shrewsbury Town Council - It is understood that Town and Parish Councils are not bound by the same capping rules and regulations as Local Authorities in relation to the town precept. Clarification is currently being sought. ▪ Shrewsbury Swimming Bath improvements; will they still go ahead? <i>Yes. A new combined heat and powerplant is proceeding and this plant can be moved if the baths are replaced in the future.</i> | |
| 8.5 | <p>Cllr Price described the ambitious transformation programme the Council had started to put in place to deliver its public services differently over the next three years. The Council was also in discussion with other local public service providers to see if savings could be made by working more closely together. He said the Council would not be afraid to take unpopular decisions, but explained that a wide consultation process was underway. Over the next 6 months he urged everyone to make their views known, either by contacting their local councillors directly, responding on the Council's website, writing in or telephoning. All views will be welcome and will influence the council's approach to its financial plan.</p> | |
| 9. | Shropshire Council News and Reports | |
| 9.1 | <p>Cllr Price announced that the planning application for the Incinerator would be considered at the Central Planning Committee on 2 September at Meole Brace School (in the main hall) at 3.00 pm. He said that he had received much feedback from residents opposed to the application and duly confirmed that he would be formally conveying his opposition to the application, believing there was better technology that could be used instead of an incinerator.</p> | |
| 9.2 | <p>The Chairman stated that unfortunately it looked highly unlikely that the North West Relief Road would go ahead in the near future. Instead he confirmed that the Council would be looking at bringing back smaller traffic improvement schemes into prominence, to improve traffic problems.</p> | |
| 9.3 | <p>Cllr Burgoyne welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented how</p> | |

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| 9.4 | <p>pleased she was to such a good turnout. She urged everyone to contribute to this and future meetings and give their feedback about their local area.</p> <p>Cllr Carroll updated on the Moston Road Development Scheme. Phase 1 was now open. He thanked everyone involved and wished them all every success.</p> | |
| 10. | Residents Issues with Question Time | |
| 10.1 | Residents from Berwick Grange expressed their ongoing concern about suitable play areas for their children. Cllr Price said he had tried to assist in creating such an area, but also insisted that a balance had to be struck. Sadly the play areas on that estate had been put in after houses had been purchased which had led to problems. | |
| 10.2 | He urged the local community to work together towards a solution. It was agreed that Gwyn Bevan, Community Regeneration Officer, would speak to families and children to find out what they wanted. | |
| 11. | Funding Requests Update | |
| | <p>The Committee received a report setting out new funding applications for consideration.</p> <p>It was confirmed that all committee members had received copies of each application, along with supporting documents, prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted that a budget of £53,115 had been allocated to the LJC for 2010/11. 2) Noted that there had been six allocations so far totalling £10,700. 3) Noted that a balance of £42,415 remained for allocation. 4) That the following applications for funding be approved; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Shrewsbury Furniture Scheme – contribution towards replacement van £1,000. B. Reccy Rangers National Playday 4 Aug'10 £750. C. Harlescott Junior School – Crime Prevention £534. D. Intergenerational project – entertainment equipment, Moston Green Communal Room, Harlescott £1,400. E. Friends of the Flaxmill – to develop awareness and promote involvement in the project to develop this historic site £5,000. | |
| 12. | Date of Next Meeting | |
| 11.1 | The next meeting of the Local Joint Committee would be held on Thursday 7 October 2010 at 7.00 pm at the Martin Wilson School, Castlefields and will 'spotlight' the Castlefields and Ditherington area. | |

The meeting finished at 9.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: