



Committee and date:
North East Shrewsbury Local
Joint Committee
5 February 2013
7.00 p.m.

Item
3

**NOTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2012 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT THE LANTERN, MEADOW FARM DRIVE, SHREWSBURY
'SPOTLIGHT ON SUNDORNE AND BATTLEFIELD'**

Responsible Officer: Karen Nixon

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Committee Members Present:

Councillor Karen Burgoyne (Shropshire Council)

Councillor Malcolm Price (Shropshire Council & Shrewsbury Town Council)

Shropshire Council Officers Present:

Steve Cunningham, Senior Community Action Officer

Steph Jackson, Group Manager, Customer Care and Involvement

Karen Nixon, Committee Officer (notes)

Tim Sneddon, Service Manager, Environmental Maintenance, Central

OTHERS

West Mercia Police:

CSO Jason Amplett

Sevenside Housing:

Rachael Hopkins, Housing Officer

Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service:

Phil Davies

There were approximately 10 members of the public in attendance.

| | | ACTION |
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| 1. | Apologies | |
| | Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Mosley (Castlefields and Ditherington), Councillor Dean Carroll (Shrewsbury Town Council) and PC Andrew Gardner. | Noted |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest | |
| | Cllr Price declared that he was Chairman of Governors at Mount Pleasant Primary School, on which he updated on progress with Forest School status at item 3 (second bullet point down). | Noted |
| 3. | Notes | |
| | The note of the previous meeting held on 7 February 2012, was approved as a | Noted |

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| 5. | PACT Meeting (Partners and Communities Together) including Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service update | |
| | <p>CSO Jason Amplett, West Mercia Police, introduced himself from the Sundorne and Battlefield local policing team. Unfortunately PC Gardner was unable to attend due to other commitments. It was explained that PACT meetings are incorporated into the Local Joint Committee meeting to give local residents the opportunity to raise any issues of concern directly.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CSO Amplett gave a brief explanation of the PACT process, which identified priorities for the local area for the forthcoming months.</p> <p>An update was given on various issues of concern raised by local residents at the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police assured one of their main priorities was to combat drugs in the local area. • Youth engagement continued via Urban Challenge. The reduction in anti social behaviour, especially during holiday periods, was welcomed. Rewards planned for the summer included a trip to Nescliffe Training camp to undertake canoeing and rafting. • No further garden thefts had been reported, but the police advised everyone to continue to be vigilant at all times. • Speed checks requested at Battlefield Road, Sundorne Road and Whitchurch Road had been undertaken. There did not appear to be a speeding issue in the area. The use of vehicle activated signs was still to be pursued via Shrewsbury Town Council. <p>New issues of concern were raised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem teenagers hanging around Meadow Fram Drive and Downton Close were reported. Their behaviour was poor and of concern to local residents. Police undertook to check this out and do checks on local supermarkets possibly selling alcohol to underage children. • Problem teenagers drinking around the old canal bed were also reported. Police undertook to check this out and do checks on local supermarkets possibly selling alcohol to underage children. <p>Following discussions, it was agreed that the above issues be the areas of priority to be addressed by local policing teams.</p> <p>An update will be given at the next meeting.</p> | <p>Police</p> <p>KN – STC</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Police</p> |
| 6. | Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service | |
| | <p>Phil Davies of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service gave an update on the unusually high number of fire deaths in Shropshire recently. The norm was around 1 death over a period of 12 months, but in this year alone there had already been 7 fire deaths which raised concerns.</p> <p>Mr Davies urged everyone to install a smoke alarm if they did not already have</p> | |

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| | <p>one, and anyone with alarms, were urged to get them tested to ensure they were all in working order. ALARMS DO SAVE LIVES. For anyone wanting advice on what and how to fit alarms they were urged to ring: 01743 260298 or contact the Community Fire Safety Department at Brigade HQ, St Michael's Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BR.</p> <p>Locally, it was reported that there had been a fire in Sundorne and a lady was still in intensive care at the local hospital, following a fire in the early evening. Luckily smoke alarms alerted others in the same block to the fire.</p> <p>Mr Davies was pleased to report that secondary fires in the area were down by a third on the last 2 years figures, largely due to a dedicated officer dealing specifically with this issue which was very much welcomed.</p> | |
| 7. | Benefit Changes (Welfare Reform Bill) | |
| | <p>A presentation was given by Steph Jackson, Group Manager, Customer Care and Involvement, on the Impact of Welfare Reform; on 16 February 2011 the Welfare Reform Bill was introduced to Parliament. This Bill will introduce the biggest change to the welfare system for over 60 years. It introduces a wide range of reforms that will make the benefits and tax credits systems fairer and simpler by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating the right incentives to get more people into work by ensuring work always pays • protecting the most vulnerable in our society • delivering fairness to those claiming benefit and to the taxpayer <p>The main elements of the Bill are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the introduction of Universal Credit to provide a single benefit that will ensure work always pays • a stronger approach to reducing fraud and error with tougher penalties for the most serious offences • a new customer commitment showing clearly what is expected of claimants • reforms to Disability Living Allowance, through the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment to meet the needs of disabled people • creating a fairer approach to Housing Benefit to bring stability to the market and improve incentives to work • reforming Employment and Support Allowance to make the benefit fairer and to ensure that help goes to those with the greatest need • changes to support a new system of child support which puts the interest of the child first <p>What is Universal Credit?</p> <p>Universal Credit will be introduced as part of the Welfare Reform Bill. It will be paid to both in work and out of work people aged 18 (or younger in certain circumstances) and will replace the following benefits into 1 monthly payment: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working tax credit • Child tax credit • Housing benefit • Income support • JSA (IB) • ESA (IR) | |

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| | <p>The aim is to smooth transition into work by reducing the support a person receives as their earnings increase. The customer will have responsibilities to meet as part of getting universal credits, depending on their circumstances.</p> <p>It was noted that in Shropshire there are 25,000 people on benefits, of which 5,000 are unemployed. Fortunately of the 5,000 people not in work, very few are classed as 'long-term unemployed'.</p> <p>It was noted that the Bill is being implemented in various stages;</p> <p>1st Phase – April 2011; private rented tenants only</p> <p>2nd Phase – April 2013; handover of responsibility for CTB scheme to Local authorities with a 10% reduced budget.</p> <p>3rd Phase – 2014; Older People and changes to Pension Credit.</p> <p>The Council is currently working with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to test an element of the bill which plans to pay tenants their rent directly instead of to their landlords. In addition to this they are also working closely with Citizens Advice Bureau, Credit Unions and others.</p> <p>In summary the following overall impact had thus far been identified;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More rent and Council Tax to collect. • Resource implications for the Council. £2M loss of Admin Grant, £2M reduction in Council Tax Benefit. • Loss of Benefit jobs locally. • Inability to pay bills. • Increase demand in debt advice. • Overcrowding or tenants in cheaper poor quality housing. • Landlords less willing to take HB customers. • Greater demand on Housing Options. • Local economy impacted by over £6.3M <p>The Chair welcomed the presentation by Mrs Jackson and requested that details of the changes be incorporated into a newsletter, to also contain contact details for individuals of where to go and get help if required. It was noted that The Benefit Options Team at the Council was identified as a good source of information from which to start Tel: 01743 253759 (Rob Price).</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Streetscene Issues including Street Lighting Turn-off and the New Highways and Street Cleansing Contracts</p> | |
| | <p><u>Street Lighting Turn-off</u></p> <p>The meeting noted that works to convert existing dusk-dawn operation of street lighting to that of a part- nightlighting regime will be undertaken in the northern and western areas of Shrewsbury. These changes were due to two main factors; financial constraints and carbon reductions.</p> <p>It was stated that 18,000 lighting columns were the sole responsibility of Shropshire Council. A pilot scheme had been run in Church Stretton, the results of which had been encouraging and resulted in the scheme being rolled out to further afield</p> <p>Works in the northern section of Shrewsbury, bounded by Sundorne Road to the south and Ditherington Road to the east will be converted to part-night</p> | |

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| | <p>lighting during the course of late September through to early January 2013.</p> <p>Posters have been erected in and around the local area providing details of how members of the public can access details relating to their address or postcode. Such information is also available together with interactive mapping via the following link:- http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/streetlighting.nsf/open/E3406493DB9E41C080257952003E2C6A</p> <p>In response to a question about location, it was explained that comprehensive Risk Assessment Criteria had been used to determine which street lights would remain lit throughout the night; such as areas where there were a significant number of road accidents or where crime rates were above average to name just two (full list circulated at the meeting and attached to signed minutes).</p> <p>It was noted that out of the 18,000 light columns, 12,500 would be turned off.</p> <p>The presentation was welcomed by the LJC.</p> <p><u>New Highways and Street Cleansing Contracts</u></p> <p>Tim Sneddon reported that since the last meeting the new highways and maintenance contracts including street cleaning were now undertaken by the private contractor 'Ringway'. This company had a large contract with Shropshire Council and unfortunately there had been some teething issues initially. He therefore urged anyone with any issues to contact him directly and he undertook to take these up on their behalf directly with the Contractor;</p> <p>Contact :Tim Sneddon on 01743 254904.</p> <p>An issue was highlighted on the castle walk cycle path. The hedge on the school side of the path was encroaching onto the path and making it difficult for more than one person on a cycle to navigate.</p> <p>In updating the meeting about the future work programme it was noted that rural speed limits were being looked at, as well as parking restrictions in Shrewsbury town centre including taxi ranks. Next to be looked at in detail was urban parking restrictions, which would include the problematic area of The Lantern, which would hopefully be dealt with during this financial year.</p> <p>Parking issues outside Robsons Stores had been looked at in detail by both police and council officers. It was confirmed that prohibitive yellow lines could not be used there, but instead it was suggested that perhaps the provision of street furniture, such as planters, may solve the problem. Officers would investigate and report back.</p> <p>In response to a question from the public about who follows up utilities after they have been dug up, Mr Sneddon confirmed that any problems should be reported to the Council if there was an emergency. Otherwise if scheduled works were undertaken, the work should be co-ordinated and completed in a timely fashion. It was reported that specific problems were still being encountered at Dounton Close after over seven months and residents were unhappy with this. Mr Sneddon undertook to investigate this and report back.</p> | <p>Tim Sneddon</p> <p>Tim Sneddon</p> <p>Tim Sneddon</p> |
| 9. | Sevenside Housing | |
| | <p>Rachael Hopkins from Sevenside gave an update on recent work in the locality by the Housing Association.</p> <p>She urged anyone who may be aware of any illegal drug activity in Sevenside's property to report any issues or problems to her. Unfortunately this was an issue – there had been three drugs raids recently, resulting in a</p> | |

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| | <p>suspended possession order.</p> <p>With regard to litter problems highlighted at previous meetings, Ms Hopkins was pleased to announce that a local warden now checked the area. If however there were any problems arising of flytipping, she urged people to report this to Severnside as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>It was announced that there were plenty of garages available to rent in the Sundorne area. If anyone was interested they were advised to contact Rachael Hopkins directly on 0845 234 2424.</p> <p>Finally it was hoped to set up a Sundorne Residents Group – again if anyone was interested in joining they were asked to contact Rachael Hopkins directly.</p> <p>Cllr Burgoyne offered to incorporate information about all of the above into a newsletter that she was preparing to get out shortly, which was welcomed.</p> | |
| 10. | Shropshire Council News & Reports | |
| | <p>Cllr Burgoyne stated that she was currently working on a local newsletter which it was hoped would be issued that weekend. It would include details about an imminent 'Funday on the Green' event at Sundorne, which was scheduled for Saturday 14 July 2012 between 12.00 noon and 4.00 pm. All were welcome.</p> <p>Cllr Price commented on the success of the relocation of the Arriva Bus Depot from St Michael's Street to Battlefield Enterprise Park. To date, no issues of concern had been raised and all seemed to be working well which was extremely pleasing.</p> | |
| 11. | Funding Applications | |
| | <p>It was noted that the devolved funding allocated to the North East Shrewsbury Local Joint Committee (LJC) for the period 1st April 2012 up until 31st March 2013 was £25,609 in total.</p> <p>Prior to each LJC, a planning meeting takes place to discuss applications for funding and agree provisional recommendations. Six applications were received for this reporting period and were put forward to the LJC at their agenda planning meeting on 18 June for consideration.</p> <p>Requests totalling £16,450 were therefore considered by the North East Shrewsbury LJC;</p> <p>A. Shropshire Playbus £960 B.Castlefields Allotment Association £2,500 C. Hope Church £640 D. Sundorne and Battlefield Fun Day £1,350 E. Castlefields & Ditherington Environmental Warden £8,000 F. Red Cross Young Carers £3,000</p> <p>Total Funding Requests = £16,450</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the following grants be approved;</p> <p>A. Shropshire Playbus £960; subject to incorporating sessions at Wingfield Close in Ditherington. B. Castlefields Allotment Association £500</p> | |

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| | C. Hope Church £640; subject to feedback to the LJC in due course D. Sundorne and Battlefield Fun Day £1,350 E. Castlefields & Ditherington Environmental Warden £8,000 F. Red Cross Young Carers £1,000 A total of £12,450 was awarded at this meeting. | |
| 12 | Residents Issues with Public Question Time | |
| | The following issues were suggested as topics for the next LJC meeting; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information on the Benefits issue again. • It was noted that the Shrewsbury-wide LJC would be held on 29 November 2012 at 7.00 pm if anyone was interested in attending. | Steph Jackson |
| 13. | Dates of Future Meetings | |
| | It was agreed that the NE Shrewsbury LJC would next meet on Tuesday 5 February 2013 - venue to be confirmed nearer the time of the meeting. The meeting will start at 7.00 pm. | Steve Cunningham |

The meeting finished at 9.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: