



Committee and date:
 North East Shrewsbury Local
 Joint Committee
 16 July 2013
 7.00 p.m.

Item
5

**NOTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2013 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

Amanda Holyoak, Scrutiny 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:

PC Cheryl Hare

Severnside Housing:

Mark Pragg

		ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Mosley (Castlefields and Ditherington), Councillor Dean Carroll (Shrewsbury Town Council) and Neil Maguire, Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service.	Noted
2.	Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	
	Cllr Price declared a pecuniary interest; his son was a director for Sports Jam – a link arose later in the agenda on the funding report (item 11.C) - Shrewsbury Skate Club; additional apparatus requested at Shrewsbury Village.	Noted
3.	Notes	
	The notes of the previous meeting held on 3 July 2012, were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.	

	<p>The Chair updated on actions/developments since the previous meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking issues outside Robson's Stores – Police confirmed that double yellow lines were not an option. It was agreed that the installation of two large planters on the 'island' be requested through Shrewsbury Town Council for an experimental period and then reviewed. 	Tim Sneddon
4.	Welcome and Introductions by the Chairman	
	<p>The Chairman extended a warm welcome to those present and gave a brief explanation about the background, purpose and powers of the meeting. It was stressed that local resident's input including questions and ideas for potential agenda items in the future were very much welcomed.</p>	
5.	PACT Meeting (Partners and Communities Together) including Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service update	
	<p>The Chairman announced that PC Andrew Gardner had been moved to a different patch – Castlefields, Ditherington and Bagley recently. He wished to place on record his sincere thanks to PC Gardner for his excellent work in the Sundorne and Battlefield area which was much appreciated. He then went on to introduce PC Cheryl Hare, West Mercia Police, to the meeting. PC Hare along with PC Kerry Hawkins would now lead the Sundorne and Battlefield local policing team, supported by three CSO's; Jason Amplett, Kathy Taylor and Will Tyler.</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>PC Hare 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"> • Problem teenagers hanging around Meadow Farm Drive, Downton Close and around the old canal bed, all appeared to have moved on and no more problems had been reported. • It was pleasing to note that the number of burglaries locally had dropped significantly since an offender had been apprehended. <p>PC Hare updated on recent problems experienced in the local area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Thefts – had been quite high, but since introducing a high visibility presence in affected stores, this had now reduced quite significantly. • Anti- Social Behaviour outside the Lantern – this appeared to have calmed down due to the individuals concerned moving on elsewhere. • Drugs – there had been a drugs raid recently in a property in Moston Road. A small amount of cannabis had been seized and a warning issued. Joint work with Severnside continued, which was welcomed. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There had been an armed robbery at Robson's Store (knife). This was an ongoing inquiry. <p>New issues of concern were raised;</p> <p>There was an untaxed/abandoned red car on Moston Road, which had been reported to the police, but still remained. PC Hare replied she was aware of this and confirmed it would be moved shortly.</p> <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>	PC Hare
6.	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service	
	Unfortunately no-one from the Fire Service was able to attend on this occasion. Therefore, no updates were given.	
7.	Benefit Changes (Welfare Reform Bill)	
	<p>A Powerpoint presentation (copy attached to signed notes) was given by Steph Jackson, Group Manager, Customer Care and Involvement. She gave an update on the latest position regarding the Impact of Welfare Reform and what it meant for Shropshire residents.</p> <p><u>Headlines for 2013:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under occupancy – 'bedroom tax' – roll out from April 2013 Benefit cap – Roll out April to October – currently 80 claims in Shropshire Universal credit – steady roll out from October Changes are introduced by Central, not local Government Welfare Reform has no impact on older people's households. <p>It was noted that comparatively speaking, housing benefit in Shropshire was quite low, mainly due to the fact that compared to some parts of the country rents were much higher elsewhere.</p> <p>Unfortunately it was noted that some claimants would be hit twice by the changes. First by Housing Benefit cap changes and then possibly by Universal Credit, which could be quite a shock for some people.</p> <p>The increase in the amount available for Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) was welcomed, but in reality it was highlighted that the total amount available to the Council would still be comparatively small to the number of people that would probably want to access it. This in turn meant that officers would only be able to support the very needy cases.</p> <p>Shropshire Council was the lead partner in a Demonstration Project with other organisations including Bromford, Sanctuary & Wrekin Housing, CAB and Just Credit Union, and together they continued to work with Central Government to improve the rollout of the changes.</p> <p>In conclusion Mrs Jackson confirmed that Shropshire Council would endeavour to get 'the message out' to everyone about the forthcoming changes and also make the best of resources available to them.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mrs Jackson for her excellent presentation which he found</p>	

	<p>most informative.</p> <p>Contact details were given out as follows if anyone had any queries or concerns or if they wanted any advice;</p> <p>Benefits Line : 0345 678 9001</p> <p>Website Link: http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/counciltax.nsf/open/CF811D695BBD22D180257AB1004F448F</p>	
8.	Scrutiny at Shropshire Council	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed Amanda Holyoak, Scrutiny Committee Officer to the meeting. Ms Holyoak presented and amplified a briefing sheet prepared by Cllr Tim Barker, Chairman of the Scrutiny Chair's Group, about what scrutiny was and more importantly how the general public could help set the scrutiny agenda in future.</p> <p>Scrutiny was one of the building blocks of local democracy. It held Cabinet to account for the decisions it made, challenged performance and made suggestions for improvement. It was explained how scrutiny work was undertaken; select committee style sessions, in depth reviews by Task and Finish Groups or Inquiries, what Call-in was, pre-decision discussions and analysis, one-off reviews and listening to the views of local people.</p> <p>Various ways in which the public could be involved were highlighted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bring matters to the attention of your Local Councillor or Local Joint Committee ✓ Suggest topics for review using your knowledge of local services and concerns ✓ Use the new Facebook page 'Shape My Shropshire' -a new tool that had been introduced for the public to interact with the Council. ✓ Use Public Question Time at Scrutiny meetings ✓ Cllr Tim Barker, Lead Scrutiny Member on tim.barker@shropshire.gov.uk ✓ Jane Palmer, Senior Committee officer on jane.palmer@shropshire.gov.uk <p>The Chairman commented that personally he welcomed more pro-active work rather than re-active as currently.</p> <p>In response to a public question about why the Council was using Facebook to publicise this, Ms Holyoak replied that this was using social media to complement the more traditional methods used.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Ms Holyoak for her informative presentation.</p>	
9.	Sevenside Housing	
	<p>Mark Pragg from Sevenside Housing gave a verbal update on recent work in the locality by the Housing Association;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently much work was underway to organise and publicise Welfare Reform for tenants and what it meant for them individually. An event would be held towards the end of February to highlight what the 	

	<p>changes meant and to give Welfare Advice. This could also be accessed on-line via Severnside's website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Sundorne Resident's Group had recently been set up and it was hoped to expand the membership very soon. • A Neighbourhoods Standards Group (NSG) was also being run by Sue Groom. People were urged to join this if they wanted to help shape services in their local area. • On the fun side, Mark reported that a Sportsjam event would soon be held at the Shrewsbury Sports Village – details to be announced • It was reported that 'Starter Tenancies' were proving to be a good innovation. • If anyone has any issues with Anti Social Behaviour they were urged to notify officers as soon as possible. <p>There were no questions.</p>	
10.	Shropshire Council News & Reports	
a.	<p>Cllr Karen Burgoyne said that she was pleased to see that the rubbish outside Mr Patel's shop had been cleared. She thanked officers for undertaking this.</p> <p>In recent Place Plan meetings Ms Burgoyne reported that the following issues had been highlighted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need for more Dog-bins. • Better road markings requested outside local schools and at The Lantern. • Skatepark improvements <p>Finally Ms Burgoyne reminded that Councillors would be holding a joint surgery at the end of the month if anyone had any questions or issues they wanted to raise with them directly.</p>	
b.	<p>Cllr Malcolm Price updated everyone on the stretch of Sundorne Road up to the Welti Club, where the top dressing had failed – mainly due to the timing of laying the material and also the severe weather conditions experienced. He was pleased to announce that the contractors concerned had agreed to resurface this stretch of road again, when conditions improved, at no extra cost to the council.</p>	
11.	2012/13 Finance Report including an Update on Funding Requests for Consideration	
	<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 provisionally agree provisional recommendations. Four applications were received for this reporting period and were put forward to the LJC at their agenda planning meeting on 17 January for consideration. Requests totalling £8,618 were therefore considered by the North East Shrewsbury LJC;</p>	

	<p>A. Martin Wilson School Breakfast Club £2,818 B. Litter/dog bins £1,700 C. Shrewsbury Skate Club – additional apparatus at Shrewsbury Sports Village £4,000 D. Sundorne Youth Club – International Womens Day £300</p> <p>After some debate it was</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the following grants be approved;</p> <p>A. Martin Wilson School Breakfast Club £2,818 B. Litter/dog bins (x4) £1,700, plus an extra £200 for two planters C. Shrewsbury Skate Club – additional apparatus at Shrewsbury Sports Village £4,000 D. Sundorne Youth Club – International Women’s Day on 9 March £300</p> <p>A total of £8,818 was awarded at this meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that any remaining funding be allocated by the Senior Community Action Officer to a Community Chest, to be used for small projects that may arise.</p>	<p>Steve Cunningham</p> <p>Steve Cunningham</p>
12	Residents Issues with Public Question Time	
	<p>The following issues were raised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When were Sunday Bus Services going to be re-introduced? • Mr Kevin Pardy expressed his thanks to the Chairman and officers in ensuring that cyclists using the Seven Pitches area removed their litter on exit. This was a great improvement. 	<p>Malcolm Price</p> <p>noted</p>
13.	Dates of Future Meetings	
	<p>It was agreed that the NE Shrewsbury LJC spotlighting on Sundorne and Battlefield will be held on;</p> <p>Tuesday 16 July 2013 and Tuesday 21 January 2014</p> <p>Venue to be confirmed nearer the time of each meeting, both starting at 7.00 pm.</p>	<p>Steve Cunningham</p> <p>Karen Nixon</p>

The meeting finished at 8.55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: