



<u>Committee and Date</u> Oswestry Local Joint Committee
22 July 2010
7.00pm

<u>Item/Paper</u>
<b>4</b>
Public

**OSWESTRY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2010 AT 7.00 PM  
AT THE MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL, HARLECH ROAD, OSWESTRY**

**Responsible Officer** Michelle Evans

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**PRESENT:**

**Members of the Committee:**

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr Martin Bennett  | Shropshire Council    |
| Mr Bill Benyon     | Shropshire Council    |
| Mr Vince Hunt      | Shropshire Council    |
| Mrs Elaine Channon | Oswestry Town Council |
| Miss Betty Gull    | Oswestry Town Council |
| Mr Gareth Jones    | Oswestry Town Council |

**Officers:**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Arren Roberts          | Corporate Performance Improvement Officer (Support Officer) |
| Kate Garner            | Team Leader, Community Regeneration (North)                 |
| Nicki Young            | Community Regeneration Officer (North)                      |
| Shaun Burkey           | Community & Conservation Officer, Parks and Countryside     |
| Jim Evans              | Technical/Project Manager, Finance (Accounting & Budgeting) |
| Ray Payne              | Chairman of Steering Group, Market Drayton Town Plan        |
| Peter Folwell          | Steering Group, Market Drayton Town Plan                    |
| Inspector Jim Stafford | West Mercia Police  |
| CSO Andy Neeves        | West Mercia Police  |
| Michelle Evans         | Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)      |

**There were approximately 28 members of the public at the meeting.**

**1. Election of Chairman**

1.1 Nominations for Chairman were received and it was **AGREED** that Mr Martin Bennett be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

**2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

2.1 Nominations for Vice-Chairman were received and it was **AGREED** that Mrs Elaine Channon be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

**3. Welcome, Introduction and Chairman’s Statement**

3.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief explanation and background about the purpose and powers of the meeting. The other Committee Members then introduced themselves.

**Action**

**4. Apologies for Absence**

- 4.1 Apologies were received from Mr Keith Barrow (Shropshire Council) and Mrs Val Schofield (Oswestry Town Council).
- 4.2 Apologies were also received from Mr George Candler, Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure, (Lead Officer).

**5. Declarations of Interest**

- 5.1 No declarations of interest were received.

**6. Notes of the previous meeting**

- 6.1 **AGREED:** That the notes of the meeting held on 8 March 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**7. Feedback from Previous Meeting**

- 7.1 The Community and Conservation Officer gave a brief update on the Oswestry Town Green. He reported that Shelf Bank was to be designated a local wildlife reserve and that sub soil from the Oswald Park development had been used on the site which it was hoped would encourage the growth of wildflowers. The design included sculptures, a labyrinth, an orchard and a pond and would, in due course, include a cycle path.

In response to queries, the Community and Conservation Officer explained that the majority of the site would be wheelchair friendly. He informed the meeting of access points to the site and the nearest parking and wc facilities etc. The site, which was due to open on 11 June 2010, would be constantly reviewed and would evolve over time. It was hoped that the site would act as a catalyst for further improvements in the town.

It was suggested that the site be designated an alcohol free zone (Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007).

- 7.2 The Community Regeneration Officer gave verbal updates on the Severn Trent Water mains renewal works, the bus service for Victoria Road, the request for a bus stop in Smithfield Street and the tourism agenda item.

**8. Community Regeneration Officer – Update on Current work**

- 8.1 The Community Regeneration Officer updated the meeting on her current work, as follows:
  - Cambrian Studios Project – following a successful funding application to the Oswestry Community Chest, this project had been established as a Community Interest Company and would be launching its studio and gallery space on 10 July 2010. It was hoped that the studio would contribute to the economic development of the town and would highlight local artists as part of the local workforce.

**Action**

- A steering group had been set up and were putting together a programme of free events and exhibitions for the National Heritage Weekend (9-12 September). Work was ongoing to maximise publicity and free shuttle buses would be running throughout the weekend.
  - Oswestry Youth Café would now be open to all during the day on Wednesdays and would be offering free computer and internet facilities. It was hoped that the Café would be eligible for Shropshire Broadplace status.
  - Oswestry Traders Days would take place on 31 July 2010 and would include street entertainment and information stands for anyone thinking of starting a business in Oswestry. Estate Agents were being encouraged to open empty premises to allow prospective new businesses to browse throughout the day.
  - Following the Oswestry and District Association for the Elderly AGM, it had been agreed to hold a Senior Citizens Drop in Session in the former Council Chamber, Castle View towards the end of September.
  - The Footfalls Project were working with the college to decorate the boarded up windows of 16 Cross Street. The Project would be hosting an open evening on 8 June and everyone was invited.
  - The Community Regeneration Officer reported on her work to bring together multi agency groups to identify solutions to local issues.
  - A Journey to Work event was being held on 8 June in the former Council Chamber, Edinburgh House, Wem to provide support to anyone who was on their journey into work. Following this event, a guide would be produced highlighting the support available.
- 8.2 The Chairman reported that the Town Council Archives in the basement of the Guildhall would be closed for a couple of weeks in June and July for modernisation and improvements.
- 8.3 The Chairman informed the meeting that the 25 June was the 100 Anniversary of Cae Glas Park and to celebrate, a series of band concerts had been arranged for Sunday afternoons. The public were being invited to attend and bring a picnic (weather permitting).
- 9. Extra Care Housing PFI Scheme**
- 9.1 The Project Manager discussed plans for the new Extra Care houses in Oswestry and requested feedback from the public on these plans. He explained that this was also a good opportunity for the community to influence the community facilities to be included in the scheme. In response to a query the Project Manager reported that it was hoped for building to begin in late 2012/early 2013.

**Action**

**10. Public Question Time and PACT Meeting (Partners and Communities Together)**

10.1 Inspector Stafford reported that the improvements at the Police Station in Park Street were almost complete and the station was due to reopen on 11 June.

10.2 Inspector Stafford explained that in response to issues raised at the previous meeting the local policing team had been dealing with anti social behaviour in Cabin Lane and around the Unicorn Road shop as well as in Cae Glas Park. He reported that Willow Street, New Street and Church Street had been designated vulnerable locations where anti social behaviour was linked to the night time economy. They had also been dealing with anti social driving around the town.

10.3 Inspector Stafford invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern. Issues raised included:

- Town Green

Inspector Stafford stated that the local policing team would deal with any anti social behaviour problems on the Town Green as they arose.

- Anti Social Parking at the bottom of Llwyn Road (parking on tactile zones)

Inspector Stafford would ask the local officer to look into this. He explained that a joint approach with Shropshire Council was required, which depended on the type of restrictions in place, as the police could not deal with parking issues unless causing an obstruction.

- 20mph zone in Upper Brook Street not effective

Inspector Stafford explained that Government Guidelines specified that there should be sufficient engineering works in place to self manage speed. He would however ask the local officer to do some speed monitoring.

The Chairman requested the Community Regeneration Officer to check the progress with a six month report that was due on the scheme.

- Suggestion that traffic speed in the town centre be reduced to 20mph.
- Boy racers in Wilfred Owen Road.
- Anti Social Drivers in Cabin Lane

Inspector Stafford explained how anti social drivers could have their cars seized.

- Request to narrow the pavements and widen the road in College Road.

Inspector Stafford stated that this would significantly increase the speed of the traffic.

**NY**

	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coney Green CCTV</li> </ul> <p>Inspector Stafford reported that a bid had been made to the Northern Area Partnership to renew the air time and it was hoped to find a suitable place to locate the cameras which would be signposted so that people would know they were there.</p>	
<p>10.3 Other issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern Oswestry Community Centre – woodwork in disrepair.</li> </ul> <p>It was confirmed that this issue would be passed on to the Centre Manager.</p>	
<p>10.4 The Chairman announced that as part of Shropshire Council’s transformation programme, a focus group was being set up to discuss ways of encouraging more waste prevention and recycling of plastic bottles. If anyone was interested they should let the Community Regeneration Officer have their contact details.</p>	NY
<p><b>11. Oswestry Town Plan – is one needed?</b></p>	
<p>11.1 The Chairman introduced this item and explained that the current Town Plan was out of date and needed to be refreshed. He reported the progress that had been made and the areas for improvement.</p>	
<p>11.2 The Team Leader, Community Regeneration (North) gave a presentation on Community Led Planning – copy of slides attached to signed Notes. She emphasised that it was a plan for the community by the community and would shape how residents wished the area to look like in the future. The Team Leader highlighted the advantages of having a community led plan, what it should include and how to develop the plan.</p>	
<p>11.3 The Chairman of the Market Drayton Town Plan Steering Group gave a presentation on how they were going about producing a town plan. He explained that a steering group had been set up which was currently designing a questionnaire to be distributed to every household in Market Drayton. It was hoped that the Community Plan would improve community spirit and allow money to be spent in Market Drayton where residents wished it to be spent. It could also be used to back up any grant applications and to encourage new businesses into the area.</p>	
<p>11.4 Members of the public agreed that it was a good idea to refresh the Oswestry Town Plan and the Chairman requested that volunteers for the Steering Group complete the postcards available on the tables and return them to the Community Regeneration Officer.</p>	NY
<p><b>12. Oswestry Community Chest</b></p>	
<p>12.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer – copy attached to the signed minutes – which considered the applications received by the deadline of 30 April 2010 and provided an update on the devolved budget.</p>	

**Action**

12. **It was AGREED that the Oswestry Local Joint Committee:**
- A – establishes a community Chest with a value of £16,000.**
  - B - allocates funding to those organisations and their projects as set out in Appendix A to the report.**
  - C – spends the £10,000 allocated by the Committee at its meeting on 8 March 2010 to improve the tourism offer in Oswestry on improving tourism signage around Oswestry.**
13. **Date of Next Meeting**
- 13.1 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and informed them that the next meeting would be held at 7pm on 22 July 2010 in The Marches School and Technology College, Morda Road, Oswestry.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_