



<u>Committee and Date</u> Oswestry Local Joint Committee
7 October 2010
7.00pm

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

**OSWESTRY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2010 AT 7.00 PM  
AT THE MARCHES SCHOOL & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE, MORDA 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            |
| Mr Romer Hoseason  | Substitute Oswestry Town Council |
| Mrs Val Schofield  | Oswestry Town Council            |

Mr Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Mrs Laura Rowley, Director of Resources were also in attendance for agenda item 6 – Shropshire Council’s Budget Consultation.

**Officers:**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Arren Roberts          | Corporate Performance Improvement Officer (Support Officer) |
| Kate Garner            | Team Leader, Community Regeneration (North)                 |
| Nicki Young            | Community Regeneration Officer (North)                      |
| Inspector Jim Stafford | West Mercia Police  |
| John Harrison          | Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service                          |
| Philip Morris          | Oswestry Helping Hands                                      |
| Daphne Simmons         | Community Council of Shropshire (Good Neighbour Scheme)     |
| Michelle Evans         | Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)      |

**There were approximately 26 members of the public at the meeting.**

		Action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome, Introduction and Chairman’s Statement</b>	
1.1	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 and officers then introduced themselves.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.1	Apologies were received from Mr Keith Barrow (Shropshire Council), Miss Betty Gull (Oswestry Town Council) and Mr Gareth Jones (Oswestry Town Council).	

**3. Declarations of Interest**

3.1 No declarations of interest were received.

**4. Notes of the previous meeting**

4.1 **AGREED:** That the notes of the meeting held on 27 May 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**5. Feedback from Previous Meeting**

5.1 The Community Regeneration Officer gave a verbal update on the suggested 20mph zone, including a six month review of the current 20mph zone on Upper Brook Street.

5.2 The Chairman gave a brief update on progress with the signage audit, which was also referred to in the Community Regeneration Officer's briefing note (see paragraph 7.1).

5.3 Mr Hunt gave an update on the My Space project for Centre North West which had been put on hold.

5.4 The Chairman informed the meeting that funding of £138,000 had been secured from the Big Lottery fund, Shropshire Council and Developers contributions to improve/create play areas in Eastern Oswestry.

**6. Shropshire Council's Budget Consultation**

6.1 The report of the Director of Resources was received – copy attached to the signed Notes – which gave feedback on last years' Budget Consultation.

6.2 Mr Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Mrs Laura Rowley, Director of Resources from Shropshire Council gave a presentation on the Revenue Budget for 2011/12 and future years - copy of slides attached to the signed Notes. A copy of the presentation together with the key messages was handed out at the meeting.

6.3 Mr Price explained that in order for the Council to find the unprecedented cuts required over the next 3 years it was looking at a programme of transformation in order to provide services more efficiently. Consultation was ongoing and they were interested to hear the views of the public. It was hoped to be in a position to feedback progress to the LJs in the Autumn.

6.4 A question was raised after Mr Price and Mrs Rowley had left the meeting, the Chairman therefore provided an answer, as follows:

**Question: Will the LJC Budget be affected by the budget cuts?**

Answer: The Chairman explained that it was unclear at present how LJC budgets would be affected however the indication was that additional funding would be channelled to the LJs. He reported that £500,000 of capital was available for market towns to bid into via a capital challenge fund. Shropshire Councillors for Oswestry Town and Oswestry Town Councillors would look at applicable schemes to take forward and the LJC would be consulted on how to spend this funding.

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

7.1 The Community Regeneration Officer circulated a paper which updated the meeting on her current work – copy attached to the signed Notes.

7.2 The Community Regeneration Officer also reported that a Cultural Awareness Day ('Knowing me, Knowing you') would be taking place on Saturday 25 September 2010 at Woodside School.

7.3 The Chairman informed the meeting of the Heritage Open Day 'Oswestry and Beyond' taking place on 8 September 2010 which was a celebration of Oswestry's history and heritage.

**8. PACT Meeting (Partners and Communities Together)**

8.1 Inspector Stafford informed the meeting of the purpose of the PACT meetings and updated the Committee in response to issues raised at the previous meeting as follows:

- Anti-social drivers

Inspector Stafford reported that the Central Car Park was once again being closed overnight in an attempt to deter anti-social drivers.

- Vandalism of the Town Green

Inspector Stafford confirmed that it was hoped to site moveable CCTV cameras on the back of the Cambrian Railway Building and listed building consent was awaited. In response to a query, Inspector Stafford confirmed that discussions had taken place about the possibility of siting CCTV cameras in Cae Glas Park. Inspector Stafford confirmed that the cost would be prohibitive to site CCTV cameras in Glentworth Woods as there was no power supply.

8.1.1 Inspector Stafford urged the public to complete the postcards which had been circulated if they had any other issues/concerns they wished the Police to look into.

**8.2 Fire Service Presentation**

8.2.1 John Harrison from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service gave a brief presentation – copy attached to the signed Notes – which covered the following areas:

- An overview of the Service within Shropshire
- Activities within Oswestry
- Resources
- Number of calls and major causes
- Retained duty system and benefits to employer and individual
- Community Safety
- Budget pressures and service review

8.2.2 Mr Harrison reported that the Service struggled to recruit retained firefighters and that there were currently two vacancies in Oswestry.

Mr Harrison would update the LJC on changes to the service at the next meeting.

### 8.3 **Public Question Time**

8.3.1 The Chairman requested questions from the floor. The following issues were raised:

- Who was responsible for the hedge adjacent to the Cricket Club which was overgrown almost to the road.

The Chairman agreed to take this back and get an answer as soon as possible.

- On Street parking charges

The Chairman confirmed that on street parking charges would not affect Oswestry as it did not have a Park and Ride Scheme in place.

- The amalgamation of Oswestry Local Joint Committee with St Oswald or Whittington.

It was confirmed that at the Council meeting the previous day this recommendation had been deferred for further discussion. The public were urged to express their satisfaction at how the Oswestry LJC worked.

## 9 **Getting Involved**

9.1 The Chairman gave a brief presentation – copy of slides attached to signed Notes – about how the public could improve the quality of life in Oswestry.

9.2 Mr Anthony Jackson, Treasurer of the Oswestry Branch of the Shropshire Helping Hands and Mrs Daphne Simmons, Team Leader of Preventative Services at the Community Council of Shropshire gave a brief overview of the work done by Helping Hands and the Good Neighbours Scheme.

9.3 Members of the public broke into groups and were joined by a Councillor and/or an Officer who facilitated discussions around areas where future voluntary action was required.

9.4 Some of the issues raised during the workshop session included the following:

- Need to raise awareness of help that is available eg help completing forms, help for carers etc.
- A volunteer is required to coordinate the various Neighbourhood Watch groups in the town.
- Need to do more to attract employment opportunities.
- Wasteland areas need clearing.
- Need to create a play environment in Glentworth Woods.

**Action**

9.5 The Chairman informed the meeting that Officers would collate the information and the Committee would then consider how best to take these ideas forward and would report back at the next meeting.

**GC / AR  
/ NY**

**10. Oswestry Community Chest**

10.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer – copy attached to the signed Notes – which considered the applications received by the deadline of 25 June 2010 and provided an update on the devolved budget.

**10.2 It was AGREED that the Oswestry Local Joint Committee:**

**A – allocates funding to those organisations and their projects as set out in Appendix A to the report.**

**B – increases the Community Chest budget by £6,641.74 to give it a value of £10,000.**

**C – allocates £2,500 for a tactile bronze interpretation panel for the Oswestry Town Green**

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

11.1 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and informed them that the next meeting would be held at 7pm on 7 October 2010 in Woodside Primary School, Gittin Street, Oswestry.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

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

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