



<u>Committee and Date</u> Oswestry Local Joint Committee
27 January 2011
7.00pm

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

OSWESTRY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2010 AT 7.00 PM
AT WOODSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GITTIN STREET, OSWESTRY**

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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
Mrs Val Schofield	Oswestry Town Council

Officers:

George Candler	Assistant Director, Culture and Leisure, (Lead Officer)
Arren Roberts	Corporate Performance Improvement Officer (Support Officer)
Kate Garner	Team Leader, Community Regeneration (North)
Nicki Young	Community Regeneration Officer (North)
Sergeant Pugh	West Mercia Police
Jim Stabler	Countryside Access Development Officer
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)

There were approximately 15 members of the public at the meeting.

	Action
1. Welcome, Introduction and Chairman's Statement	
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 then introduced themselves.	
2. Apologies for Absence	
2.1 An apology was received from Mr Keith Barrow (Shropshire Council).	
3. Declarations of Interest	
3.1 Mrs Channon declared a personal interest in application M (Agenda Item 10 – Oswestry Community Chest) as she was the Town Council's representative on Oswestry Youth Café Management Committee.	

4. Notes of the previous meeting

4.1 **AGREED:** That the notes of the meeting held on 22 July 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Feedback from Previous Meeting

5.1 The Community Regeneration Officer gave verbal updates on the following:

- Wilfred Owen Green

A meeting had been arranged to set up a 'Friends of Wilfred Owen Green' group and a local artist was to proceed with production of the tactile metal map of the Green.

- Signage Audit

Audits had been carried out of the fingerposts and street nameplates. The Steering Group needed to discuss the way forward for the road and car park signs audit.

- Good Neighbour Scheme

Work had begun to start a Good Neighbour Scheme in Oswestry for which a small grant was available from the Community Council of Shropshire.

- Safer Routes to School Scheme

The Community Regeneration Officer updated the Committee on the review of Our Lady and St Oswald's Safer Routes to School Scheme on Upper Brook Street which had been reported to the North Planning Committee (Oswestry) on 7 September 2010.

- Glentworth Woods

It was reported that the BMX track had been removed from Glentworth Woods and a new smaller track was to be sited at the teen area near Morda Village Hall. A 'Friends of Glentworth Woods' had been formed in order to progress community initiatives.

The Community Regeneration Officer informed the Committee that a more challenging BMX track was being built at the rear of the new Oswestry Leisure Centre.

5.2 The Chairman informed the Committee that a renaming ceremony was to be held at the Town Green at 1pm that Saturday (9 October 2010).

6. Project to Extend the Shropshire Way Long Distance Footpath

6.1 The Countryside Access Development Officer gave a presentation – copy of slides attached to the signed Notes – which set out plans to develop a new extension to the Shropshire Way long distance footpath to bring it into the North West of the County and to create six new short circular walks from places of interest utilising existing canal towpaths where possible.

Action

6.2 The Countryside Access Development Officer explained that the two year project was due to start in November and that a part time Project Officer had been appointed. It was hoped that this project would establish Oswestry as a walking centre.

6.3 The Countryside Access Development Officer went on to discuss the project partners and the various funding sources. He reported on the work to be undertaken on the ground which included replacing stiles with kissing gates for easier access. A guidebook and map based website resource were to be developed together with geocaches and a Geocoins Project for local school children.

6.4 In response to a query, the Countryside Access Development Officer explained the desire to have as much of the footpath as possible accessible to wheelchair users and to that end had released an Easy Access Guide. He confirmed that if kissing gates were required, they would be wide enough for wheelchairs to pass through.

6.5 In terms of a timeline, the Countryside Access Development Officer informed the meeting that the project would start on 8 November 2010. It was hoped that the main routing would be established by late Summer 2011 and that following research, work on the circular walks would start at that time and be available by Spring 2011.

6.6 In response to a query it was confirmed that a Steering Group would be set up to look at organising a walking festival.

6.7 The Chairman thanked the Countryside Access Development Officer for his informative presentation and for answering questions.

7. a) PACT Meeting (Partners and Communities Together)

7.1 Sergeant Pugh drew attention to the question cards and urged the public to complete the cards if they had any issues or concerns that they wished the Police to look into.

7.2 Sergeant Pugh invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern. Issues raised included:

- Speeding on Gobowen Road

Sergeant Pugh confirmed that this had been identified as an issue and that there was an investigation currently ongoing. A suggestion was made that the speed limit be reduced to 50mph. It was agreed for this issue to be raised with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Inspector Stafford. It was felt that the speed camera on Gobowen Road was in the wrong place and should be located on the bends, this would be raised with the Road Safety Partnership.

- Cyclists riding on pavements

A query was raised as to whether any Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued to cyclists riding on pavements. In response, Sergeant Pugh agreed to check and report back to the next meeting.

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- Using mobile telephones whilst driving

Sergeant Pugh reported that motorists were stopped if they were seen using mobile phones however the incidents were getting fewer as it was increasingly considered to be antisocial.

7.3 At the Chairman's request, Sergeant Pugh updated the Committee on the GHB situation in Oswestry. He explained that GHB was an industrial drain cleaner mixed with water and had been an increasing problem in Oswestry for the past 6 or 7 years. It was a Class C drug which was now known to be addictive and which led to serious side effects and personal safety issues if mixed with alcohol. Sergeant Pugh confirmed that dealers and users had been arrested and taken to Court. It was felt that it would only be a matter of time before there was a fatality. West Mercia Police were doing a lot of enforcement work and a lot of education with schools and teachers etc.

b) Public Question Time

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

- Castle Street Crossing

Mr Hunt reported that these works were on a priority list and he agreed to obtain an update.

- Cars parking on white lines in Llwyn Road and Gittin Street

This issue would be raised with the Highways Department.

- Severn Trent works in Victoria Road

The Chairman reported that Severn Trent were installing water tanks to prevent flooding. The scheme was originally for six months and he agreed to obtain an update from Severn Trent.

7.5 In response to a query the Lead Officer confirmed that feedback from the Tourism Workshop had been provided to the Tourism Strategic Board which had been tasked with developing a cross county tourism strategy. The Team Leader, Community Regeneration (North) explained that the information obtained at the workshop would be passed to the Destination Management Partnership for Oswestry and North Shropshire which worked on the ground, gathering information about the tourism offer. It was suggested that tourist information and events be pulled together into a monthly list.

8. Community Regeneration Officer – Update on Current work

8.1 The Community Regeneration Officer updated the meeting on her current work.

- Heritage Open Day

The Heritage Open Day event had been a success with an overwhelming positive response to all events. The Oswestry and District Heritage Forum continued to work on further projects and a programme for 2011.

VH

MB

- Oswestry Association for the Elderly

The Community Regeneration Officer reported on the 'Get Your Questions Answered' event when various organisations and service providers had been available to answer questions and offer advice.

- Landlord Services – 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' Event

This event had been attended by over 300 people and feedback had been very positive. It was planned to hold a similar event in 2011.

- Hate Crime

The Community Regeneration Officer informed the Committee that a launch event had been held to promote Walford & North Shropshire College as a reporting point for Hate Crime. Members of the Community Working Team were being taught how to deliver Hate Crime Awareness training.

- GHB

The Community Regeneration Officer expanded on the comments made by Sergeant Pugh about the effects of GHB and informed the Committee of the work being done by the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership.

- Footfall

It was reported that the empty shop project group had changed the window in the old Motorworld premises to display a celebration of the group's achievements and promotion of the Tour D'Os Cycle for Climate Change that was taking place at 10am that Sunday (10 October).

- Town Plan

The Community Regeneration Officer reported on a meeting of the Oswestry Town Plan Steering Group that had taken place the previous evening when it had been agreed to undertake a refresh of the existing plan.

9. Market Towns Revitalisation Programme

- 9.1 The Chairman gave a presentation – copy of slides attached to the signed Notes. The Chairman explained that the Market Towns Revitalisation Programme recognised the uniqueness and importance of Shropshire's key settlements and provided funding for investment opportunities to improve the economic and social vitality of the town.
- 9.2 The Chairman went on to discuss the objectives of the programme and the criteria for prioritising projects. He explained that Shropshire Councillors would be working with Town Councillors and local stakeholders to identify schemes for consideration.
- 9.3 The Chairman then requested ideas for investment within the town and the following priority areas were suggested:
- Improving Town Centre Playground
 - Create a Centre for Arts
 - Improvements to Oswestry and District Agricultural Showground
 - Improved facility at Gatacre Pavilion
 - Investment in Powis Hall

Action

9.4 The Chairman confirmed that these suggestions would be fed into the process and he informed the meeting of the consultation event being held at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 23 November 2010.

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 10 September 2010 and provided an update on the devolved budget.

10.2 The Chairman informed the Committee that Application O had been withdrawn as alternative funding had been obtained.

10.3 **It was AGREED that the Oswestry Local Joint Committee allocates funding to those organisations and their projects as set out in Appendix A to the report, subject to the above.**

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 27 January 2011 at Walford and North Shropshire College, Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____