



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Oswestry Local Joint Committee
28 February 2012
7.00pm

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

## OSWESTRY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

### NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT WOODSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL (HALL), GITTIN STREET, OSWESTRY.

7.00pm – 8.30pm

**Responsible Officer** Shelley Davies

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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 Romer Hoseason	Oswestry Town Council

##### Officers:

Kate Garner	Community Action Manager, Shropshire Council
George Candler	Area Director - North
Sgt Scott Barnes	West Mercia Police
Richard Parkes	Positive Activities Manager, Shropshire Council
Jamie Bryant	Serco (Managing Agent for Oswestry Leisure Centre)
Shelley Davies	Committee Officer, Shropshire Council (Notes)

**There were approximately 20 members of the public at the meeting.**

#### 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A Welcome Note had been circulated which gave a brief explanation and background about the purpose and powers of the meeting.

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Keith Barrow, Mr John G Jones and Val Schofield (Substitute).

#### ACTION

**ACTION****3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

3.1 None received.

**4. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 **AGREED:** That the notes of the meeting held on 14 June 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PACT MEETING (PARTNERS & COMMUNITIES TOGETHER)**

5.1 Sgt Scott Barnes attended the meeting to discuss local policing matters. It was reported that:

- There had been 79 crimes less than for the same period last year and Oswestry was still considered to be a low crime area;
- There had been a 31% solve rate which was an improvement in the right direction;
- The Police had a good relationship with Oswestry residents;
- There had been a focus recently to reduce the number of burglaries in Shropshire with an aim for less than 10 reports to be received a day. It was added that this was not a problem in Oswestry;
- The Police were continuing to get warrants to search the houses of individuals involved with drugs;
- There were ongoing Police operations in the Town Centre on Saturday nights to target Anti Social Behaviour (ASB); and
- The Community Support Officers continued to visit areas where ASB was an issue. Following incidents of ASB involving young people a letter was sent to their parents.

5.2 In response to questions Sgt Barnes confirmed that:

- Policing numbers in Oswestry had not reduced;
- There had been a change in relation to staffing in that Oswestry no longer had their own inspector;
- There had been no issues reported recently in relation to drug use at Swan Lane;
- There was no truth to the rumours that Oswestry Police Station was closing;
- There had been no decrease in policing on Saturday nights;

- The Police were consulted in relation to late night premises licence applications;
- The issue of people queuing in the road at Church Street would be discussed with door staff; and
- It was best practice for door staff to search individuals before entering the premises.

5.3 Sgt Barnes thanked Oswestry taxi drivers for the role they play during the night time economy to ensure people get home safe.

5.4 In relation to a question concerning the future of CCTV in Oswestry, the Chairman reported that a meeting would take place next month to look at the Issue. Kate Garner added that funding for the CCTV had been secured for the next 12 months which would allow adequate time to address the future of the CCTV in Oswestry.

5.5 In response to a request for Public Questions the following issue was raised by Mr Bickerton:

*The Shropshire Star reported that the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) was taking up to 25 minutes to reach people - was this normal practice - if so it was unacceptable.*

The Chairman agreed to make a note of the question and suggested that the WMAS be invited to a future meeting to discuss this issue and the issue that a large number of employees were taking retirement. In the meantime Mr Bickerton was advised to contact Councillor Gerald Dakin, Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

## **6. COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM – UPDATE ON CURRENT WORK**

6.1 The Community Action Manager's update had been circulated on tables.

## **7. IP&E GROUP LIMITED**

7.1 The Chairman advised that the DVD due to be shown was not yet available.

## **8. OSWESTRY LEISURE CENTRE**

8.1 Mr James Bryant (Serco) gave a presentation about the changes taking place within the Oswestry Leisure Centre. Mr Bryant explained that the Shropshire Community Leisure Trust was formed this year with Serco as managing agent to 5 sites throughout Shropshire.

8.2 The main changes to the Oswestry Leisure Centre were outlined as follows:

- The first floor changing rooms had been removed to extend the Fitness Suite and new easy to use equipment had been installed in a more welcoming layout with dedicated work zones.
- Membership prices had been reduced.
- The youth and vending machine area had been removed to accommodate a retail outlet and café which was due to open in 2 weeks.
- The media presence had been increased and the Leisure Centre was now on Facebook and Twitter.
- New initiatives for young people would be developed including pool parties and discos to put the fun back into swimming.
- 125 additional swimming lesson spaces had been made available without any impact on the pool timetable.

8.3 In response to questions, James Bryant confirmed that;

- The issue with poor airflow in the Sports Hall had been reported and a solution was being sought;
- Discussions were ongoing in relation to the piece of land to the side of the Leisure Centre;
- The bedding plants at the front of the building would be maintained;
- The issue of opening the Leisure Centre earlier was currently being looked into; and
- He would look into the possibility of introducing long mat bowling.

**9. MYPLACE**

9.1

Mr Richard Parkes (Positive Activities Manager, Shropshire Council) gave a presentation in relation to the new MyPlace building. The new building replaced the old Centre North West facility in Oak Street. A slide show of photographs of the new building was shown.

9.2

Mr Parkes detailed how the project had been funded and noted the building's eco-features, explaining that these enabled the running costs to be very low. He added that the building would not be run by one council team and that it was hoped that in time the building would be open 6 – 7 days a week.

- 9.3 Partner organisations were listed as St Johns Ambulance, Shropshire Youth Association, Fusion Arts Oswestry and a Skateboard social enterprise. It was added that a local youth charity was also hoping to relocate into the building.
- 9.4 Mr Parkes stressed that the main focus of the project was on young people, who had been involved throughout all stages of the project. It was announced that the building would be fully open by October half term.
- 9.5 In response questions Mr Parkes confirmed that at present the Centre would be open 5 days and 4 nights a week and the Skateboard Social enterprise would operate on Saturdays.
- 9.6 The Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Vince Hunt who had supported the project from the start.

## 10. **GOOD NEWS STORIES**

- 10.1 The Chairman drew attention to the Chatterbox Newsletter which had been circulated and which provided updates from Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Council.
- 10.2 Councillor Betty Gull announced that Oswestry in Bloom had received a gold award and paid special thanks to the Woodside School choir who sang for the judges.
- 10.3 The Chairman announced that candidates were needed for the Youth Parliament and asked everyone to encourage any 11 -18 year olds to stand. It was also noted that a Consultation on health was on the way and a link would be available on Shropshire Council Website.

## 11. **FUNDING DECISIONS**

- 11.1 The Committee received the report of the Community Action Manager (copy attached to the signed Notes) which considered the devolved funding allocated to the Oswestry Local Joint Committee for the period 1 April 2012 up to 31 March 2013. Six applications had been received by the deadline.
- 11.2 **It was AGREED that the LJC fund those organisations and their projects as set out in Appendix A to the report, as follows:**
- i. **Final decision in relation to the application for £10,000 to contribute towards the costs of producing the Oswestry 2020 Town Plan to be made by Shropshire Council's Cabinet Members.**

**ACTION**

- ii. **£1,000 to Shropshire Young Carers to contribute towards costs of running the Shropshire Young Carers project in Oswestry.**
- iii. **£736 to the Oswestry and District First Responders to purchase equipment and uniform for new recruits to the organisation.**
- iv. **£500 to the Oswestry Sibling Group to contribute towards the running of the Sibling Group in Oswestry.**
- v. **£10,000 to the Gatacre Playing Fields Project to undertake a feasibility study and consultation on the proposed changes to Gatacre playing fields including the relocation and new build pavilion.**
- vi. **£966 to Fusion Arts Oswestry to support the launch of the FAO social enterprise at The Centre (MyPlace) where it will be providing music and art services to young people and the wider community. The launch will be an opportunity to raise public awareness and provide opportunities for tutors and potential students to start to get to know each other through workshops and performances.**

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 12.1 The next meeting would be held at 7pm on 28 February 2013, venue to be confirmed.

**ME**

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

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