



Committee and date:
Shifnal and Sheriffhales
Local Joint Committee

6th October 2009

7.00 p.m.

Item

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THE SHIFNAL AND SHERIFFHALES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH JULY 2009 AT SHIFNAL VILLAGE HALL, SHIFNAL AT 7.00 PM

Responsible Officer: Liz Sidaway
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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council:
Gordon Tonkinson
Stuart West

Shifnal Town Council:
Les Jones
Eileen Briscoe

Sheriffhales Parish Council:
Janet Jones
Rebecca Johnson

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Val Beint, Lead Officer
Neil Evans, Support Officer
Kerry Rogers, Community Working Officer
Liz Sidaway, Committee Officer (Notes)

West Mercia Police:

Sergeant Richard Bailey
PC Nick Allbutt

There were approximately 25 members of the public present at the meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Gordon Tonkinson be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None reported.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Stuart West be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

ACTION

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND EXPLANATION OF THE REMIT OF THE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He explained that the meeting would be held on a quarterly basis and gave local residents an opportunity to have a say about local issues and service provision.

The Chairman then introduced the other members of the Committee who were all Councillors from Shropshire Council, Shifnal Town Council and Sheriffhales Parish Council. He indicated that a key aim of the Shifnal and Sheriffhales Local Joint Committee was to engage with and listen to all members of the community in each of the electoral divisions covered by the Local Joint Committee. He reassured those present that one of the main aims of the meeting was to get to the heart of the local community and acknowledged the importance of good communication with the electorate.

Val Beint outlined the work of the Community Working Team and detailed the process by which organisations could apply for funding from the £24,000 budget available. She stated that application forms were available from the Community Regeneration Team and via the Council's website www.shropshire.gov.uk

In response to a question, Val Beint confirmed that the Committee's Constitution enabled the Committee to co-opt representatives from organisations such as the police, local voluntary groups or business but confirmed that co-opted members would not have any voting rights. Gordon Tonkinson indicated that this was an issue which could be explored at a future meeting.

6. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Sergeant Richard Bailey addressed those present and introduced his colleague, PC Nick Allbutt. He indicated that this gave local residents the opportunity to meet the local policing team and to raise any issues of concern. He gave an update on the crime statistics covering the locality and was pleased to report that the area generally had a very low crime rate. He confirmed that the local policing team would be in attendance at all future meetings and encouraged members of the public to complete the PACT Postcard (Partners and Communities Together) to highlight any areas of concern within the community.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Bailey and PC Allbutt for their update reports and attendance at the meeting.

7. GRANT APPLICATION - CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

Neil Evans, Support Officer introduced his report which set out the criteria for the assessment and awarding of grant funding for applications received from local organisations. He drew attention to the additional funding criteria set out for funding applications and confirmed that organisations making a bid for funding must have a bank account in the name of the organisation. Applications forms were available from Kerry Rogers, Community Regeneration Officer or via the Council's website www.shropshire.gov.uk who would also be able to offer guidance in the completion of the application forms.

Val Beint reported that applications must be submitted to Kerry Rogers and received no later than one month before the date of the next meeting but urged members of the public to submit applications as soon as possible. The deadline for receipt of applications to be considered at the October meeting would be **8th September 2009**.

It was **agreed** that:

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- A. A Community Chest with a value of £2,500 be established for smaller grant applications and that the maximum amount awarded to each applicant should not exceed £100.
- B. Grant funding applications should not exceed £1,000 however, the Committee may, at its discretion award higher funding amounts where need and demand are justified and where good added value for the community is demonstrated.
- C. Grant funding applications and applications to the Community Chest be submitted to the Community Regeneration Officer no later than one month before the date of the next meeting and be appraised by Members of the Committee.
- D. That decisions to award grant funding be reported at each quarterly Local Joint Committee meeting.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Issues raised by members of the public included the following:

- The lack of safety railings at the unfinished new development in Market Place. The member of the public stated that this constituted a major health and safety issue due to the deep drop and asked for this to be investigated as a matter of urgency. Planning Services
- Joint Funding Applications - The member of the public was advised to discuss this with Kerry Rogers to work with other organisations to identify any possible joint funding applications and also to seek to identify alternative funding mechanisms. Kerry Rogers
- Disabled parking bays at land opposite Paton's Garage - Stuart West confirmed that consultation was being undertaken with the Highways Department. The matter would be referred to a future meeting of the Regulatory Committee. Stuart West
- Lack of knowledge of Cabinet Members at Shropshire Council - The member of the public was advised that this information was available at www.shropshire.gov.uk and was asked to leave contact details to enable the information to be sent directly to him. Information
- Scrutiny role of the Local Joint Committee - the member of the public was informed that the Committee could scrutinise local service delivery and could invite Cabinet Members or Senior Officers to attend to discuss any specific problems. Information
- Concern over the proposals to relocate the doctor's surgery - Stuart West agreed to arrange for this matter to be looked into by the Development Services team at Shropshire Council. Stuart West
- The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments and undertook to pursue these matters further with relevant Shropshire Council officers.

9. TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES FOR THE SHIFNAL AND SHERIFFHALES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

The Chairman indicated that in planning topics for consideration at future meetings,

it was important to ask the members of the public present at the meeting to identify any issues specific to the locality.

Future agenda items suggested included:

- Appointment of Co-Opted Members to the Committee.
- Service provision for the young and elderly residents of Shifnal and Sheriffhales.
- Public transport services.
- Leisure Facilities available in the area.

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10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 6th October 2009 at 7.00 pm in Sheriffhales Village Hall.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: