

**COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS from 13 July 2010 meeting****Shifnal and Sheriffhales Local Joint Committee**

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Comments/Questions/Suggestions</b>	<b>Response From</b>	<b>Response/Action</b>
1	Neil Grove said that there was no guidance on the use of Chinese lanterns but that he would look into it. The Chairman (also Chairman of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service) said that he was due to meet with the Fire Minister in the next few days and that he would take this up with him.	Stuart West	Met with the Fire Minister and he confirmed that he has received complaints from throughout the Country concerning the nuisance caused by the use of Chinese Lanterns. The Minister said that it was not clear which Government department was responsible for them, but that they could be considered under the same legislation as fireworks. The Minister said that he would take this matter further.
2	A resident asked why it was that Shifnal had not been included as a market town for funding purposes. It was explained that this was not the case and Shifnal is included in the Market Towns programme.	(a) Mark Pembleton Head of Economic Development  (b) Kerry Rogers Community Regeneration Officer (CRO)	(a) The Market Towns revitalisation programme consists of £3.5M of capital funding over the next 5 years. In order to ensure maximum economic, social and environmental benefit from the programme it has been targeted as follows:-  £2.5M has been targeted on the larger market towns and has taken into account the role each town plays in supporting its wider hinterland and on how to thereby maximise the impact of funding on the county as a whole.  £0.5M has been targeted on the remaining 12 market towns, Shifnal is one of these so it has been included for funding purposes. The £0.5M of funding will be made available for the towns to bid into via a capital challenge fund. There will be a joint Town Council and Shropshire Council local members meeting in the autumn in Shifnal to work up applicable schemes to

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			<p>share in this funding.</p> <p>The final £0.5M is from the Community Fund and will be available from 2011 and will be targeted at the remaining rural settlements across Shropshire.</p> <p>Shrewsbury is not included although of course it is a market town as it already has a significant programme of investment through Growth Point and the Vision work.</p> <p>(b) Since the meeting, the CRO has forwarded all the relevant information available to date to the resident and will be keeping in close contact with the Town Council on further developments.</p>
3	<p>A resident said asked whether Shropshire Council would be providing further funding for transportation and said there was a lack of a cohesive bus service. The Lead Officer said that this would be clarified. It was suggested that perhaps someone from Arriva be invited to a future meeting.</p>	<p>Jon Hayes Team Leader Public Transport Policy</p>	<p>As the passenger transport authority Shropshire Council is able to subsidise local bus services where the commercial market does not provide transport. However, we have a finite budget for this and this is coming under increasing pressure as budgets are reduced and the cost of transport is increasing. The public transport budget is fully committed and unfortunately there is no scope for providing additional subsidy at this time.</p> <p>We need to carefully target our subsidy to provide services in line with our priorities to meet the majority of passengers needs in as fair a way as possible. We have started a review of the Public Transport Network in Shropshire which will be consulted on later this year. The purpose being to ensure we are prioritising our subsidy correctly and that the process is clear to everyone, particularly if difficult decisions have to be made.</p>

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			<p>Many of the services in the Shifnal area are commercial and operated by Arriva. We work with commercial operators to try to make sure that the overall bus network provides appropriate connections and coverage but we are aware that it is not always possible to meet everyone's needs.</p> <p>Jon Hayes, Team Leader, Public Transport Policy would be happy to receive any specific comments about the lack of cohesion in the bus services and will arrange for these to be looked at with Arriva to try and resolve them if possible.</p>
4.	A resident said that syringes had been found on the Five Ways traffic island when work was being carried out by volunteers and asked that this be checked out.	PC Allbutt	It could have been possible that they had been discarded from a vehicle. We do not have a huge problem in Shifnal with the misuse of drugs requiring the use of syringes and have had no further reports of this nature both at that location or elsewhere.
5.	Another resident said that the Police Station was not open for long enough. PC Allbutt said that to reduce costs, the Police Station was only open for a few hours each week.	PC Allbutt	We have a voluntary counter clerk at Shifnal who usually comes in once a week for a few hours during the day otherwise officers open the station when we are in but if all are out we naturally lock the building up for security. We do not get enough callers at the station to justify employing a full time counter clerk and there is a facility for visitors to speak directly to the control room via a wall mounted speaker, they in turn will call an officer and if available they will return to see the visitor. This will not change in the future.
6.	Another resident said that on Sunday morning cars were parked in Victoria Road close to the Five Ways traffic island and in his view were parked in such a way as to cause an obstruction. PC Allbutt said that	PC Allbutt	Officers have been monitoring the situation and report that it is not too bad and that there were no offences disclosed upon those visits made.

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	he had not been made aware of this before but that he would have a look at this issue now it had been raised.		
7.	A resident asked whether the testing of electric blankets could be mobile as most of the testing would be for elderly people. Neil Grove said that he would report this to the Community Fire Safety people.	Neil Grove, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service	The electric blanket testing sessions are being run in conjunction with Trading Standards. There are six sessions planned to cover as much as the county as possible. The venue to cover the Shifnal and Sherrifhales area is Telford Central fire station. The testing sessions are planned to take place in the last week of September.
8.	Concern was also expressed about a farm which was being used to store tyres. The worry was that there were thousands of tyres and that although the owner had been asked to remove them they were still being stored. Neil Grove said that the owner of the site had until 1 September to reduce the number stored to 1000. Others present were concerned that the owner would not comply with this requirement.	Neil Grove, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service	Information from Jill Reeves from the Environment Agency is that the expiry date for the reduction of the tyres is the 30 <sup>th</sup> September. After having contact with the owner of the farm, she is confident that the matter will be resolved by the end of the month.