

SHIFNAL AND SHERIFFHALES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.00 P.M.
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ASTON STREET, SHIFNAL, TF11 8DW.**

Responsible Officer: Ann Almond

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Present:

Members of the Committee:

Shropshire Council

Stuart West (Chairman)

Gordon Tonkinson (Vice-Chairman)

Shifnal Town Council

Eileen Briscoe

Jane Blackstock

Sheriffhales Parish Council

Janet Jones

Peter Young

Officers:

Andrea McWilliams

Ann Almond

Community Action Officer

Committee Officer

Also present:

Chris Edwards

Ian Kilby

Alice Dilly

Chris Shepherd

Sgt Richard Bailey

PC Nick Allbutt

John Pritchard

Area Director

Development Manager

Principal Engineer

Neighbourhoods Manager

West Mercia Police

West Mercia Police

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

There were approximately 27 members of the public at the meeting.

14. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

14.1 The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

15. Apologies for absence

15.1 Gordon Tonkinson would be arriving late.

16. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

16.1 Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

17. Notes

17.1 **RESOLVED:**
That the Notes of the meeting of the Shifnal and Sheriffhales Local Joint Committee held on 3rd July 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

18. Local Policing Update

18.1 PC Nick Allbutt and Sgt Richard Bailey were in attendance for this item and provided the following figures relating to incidents reported within the Shifnal and surrounding villages for the period between 29th July and 30th October 2012.

18.2 Vehicle crime - 19
Assaults – 11
Anti Social Behaviour – 47
Criminal Attempts (breaking and entering damage) – 9
Burglary – 16
Theft – 31
Criminal Damage – 9
Make off without payment – 20
Robbery – 1
Road Traffic Collisions – 33 (including the M54)

18.3 Questions were raised by those present with PC Nick Allbutt and Sgt Richard Bailey providing the following responses:

- a. Convictions were generally achieved for those who had committed an assault as the culprits were usually known, however it was obviously more difficult with burglaries as generally the culprits were not known;
- b. Children under the age of 17, who had caused anti social behaviour, were returned to their home address and parents were made aware of the child's behaviour;
- c. It was no longer possible to use the Bridgnorth constabulary speed gun as it had reached its expiry date and re-calibration would not be taking place as costs were too high;

- d. The local police could not use the local speed watch camera as it did not comply with West Mercia's requirements;
- e. The future of Shifnal police station was unknown until after the Police and Crime Commissioners Election on 15th November; and
- f. Those present should contact their local Shropshire Councillor, or Shropshire Council directly, to report any overgrown hedges that conceal speed limit signs.

18.2 The Chairman thanked the Officers for the information provided and the responses to questions raised and presented PC Allbutt with his donation of a SmartWater torch, as agreed at the previous meeting. Furthermore a member of the public expressed her appreciation and gratitude of the local police who had responded to a recent incident.

19. Housing Landlord Services

19.1 Chris Shepherd, Neighbourhoods Manager, was in attendance for this item and gave a brief overview of housing allocations, during which the following points were noted:

- a. Shropshire Council owned 4,200 properties, approximately 424 were within the Shifnal area and 27 in the Sheriffhales area;
- b. Since January 2012, approximately 17 properties had been allocated;
- c. Applicants on the Housing Register were divided into four bands, Priority, Gold, Silver and Bronze in accordance with Shropshire's Affordable Housing Allocations Scheme;
- d. Consultation on the proposals to form a new organisation to run council owned homes had ended on 1st November, Shropshire Council's Cabinet would be considering a report on 14th November that would include details of the Arms-Length Management Organisation (ALMO), the 4,200 properties would remain under the Council's ownership but would be managed by ALMO;
- e. Recommendations to be considered included the requirement for any future applicants to demonstrate any local connections, whereas currently it was only based on need and not location; and would allow people who live in larger properties to request to downsize which was currently not available;
- f. If the new proposals were accepted by Cabinet, they would be introduced from 1st April 2013;
- g. Medical assessments were undertaken by HomePoint;
- h. HomeSwapper was a national scheme available to tenants who wanted a home swap;
- i. Shropshire Council charged rent up to 80% of the current market rent rate and did not generate enough surplus income to enable the council to purchase land to build on nor to purchase ready built homes; and
- j. Funding had been achieved from the Homes and Communities Agency to develop 64 properties over the next 5 years, a feasibility study would be required to identify the areas in most need.

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- 19.2 The Chairman thanked Chris Shepherd for the information provided and the responses to questions raised.

20. Shropshire Fire and Rescue

- 20.1 John Pritchard was in attendance for this item in place of Mark Weaver who had sent his apologies, he then gave a brief update on Shropshire Fire and Rescue, during which the following points were noted:

- a. There had been a relatively small number of fires within this area, between April and October there had been 1 commercial fire, 2 dwelling fires and 2 road vehicle fires;
- b. The fire service pro-actively worked with the elderly to ensure smoke alarms were fitted to homes that met specific criteria;
- c. Generally there were more cars on the roads and subsequently there had been an increase in Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's);
- d. He was not aware of any compulsory redundancies nor closure of the fire station, and commented that a number of safeguards had been implemented for the period ending 2015;
- e. Financial figures would be available from 24th December 2012; and
- f. It took approximately 8 minutes to reach Shifnal from the nearest fire station.

Councillor Tonkinson joined the meeting during this item.

- 20.2 The Chairman thanked John Pritchard for the information provided.

21. Planning Policy

- 21.1 Ian Kilby, Shropshire Council's Development Manager, was in attendance for this item and gave a presentation on Planning and Localism, including the duty to co-operate, community right to bid, neighbourhood planning, community right to build, strengthening enforcement rules and reforming the community infrastructure levy. During the presentation the following points were noted:

- a. Although it had been announced on the news, guidance had not been received regarding relaxing permitted development rights;
- b. Not aware of any changes regarding building regulations;
- c. Would provide information regarding the next steps for the SAMDev document;
- d. Understood there was a perception that Shropshire Council did not agree with Town / Parish Council's comments on planning applications, however the evidence obtained from Shropshire Council's Planning System indicated that 90% of applications were agreed in accordance with the Town / Parish Council wishes;
- e. The online public access register contained all comments received regarding applications, including a copy of the officers report and the final decision;
- f. Decisions were made with sound / robust planning reasons that

Ian Kilby /
Andrea
McWilliams

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- could be defended if taken to appeal, and legal advice was provided to Members of the Planning Committees at their meetings; and
- g. Town and Parish Councils would have an important role for future planning within their areas, Shropshire Council had asked communities what they want to see in their villages in the future and Shropshire Council would have the role of allocating to these areas.

21.2 The Chairman thanked Ian Kilby for his presentation and responses to questions raised.

22. Highways

22.1 Alice Dilly, Shropshire Council's Principal Engineer, was in attendance for this item and gave a brief update on speed limit policies and schemes in the area, during which the following points were noted:

- a. The existing speed limit policies were being reviewed with the intention of creating one overarching Road Safety and Speed Management Policy that would provide deliverable measures and speed limits that were enforceable;
- b. Discussions were ongoing regarding the A5 Burlington junction scheme, which aimed to create one entry point with enhanced traffic signs and extended double white lines;
- c. Interactive warning signs and maintenance work would be undertaken at the A464 Upton Crossroads;
- d. Following discussions with Shifnal and St Andrews Primary schools regarding parking issues, traffic regulation orders would be sought to cover the yellow zig zag line areas;
- e. The results from the monitoring of the 50mph at Crackley Bank were awaited;
- f. Discussions to commence regarding extending the 30mph limit along the A464 Priorslee Road towards the Cricket Ground; and
- g. Maintenance schemes to take place this year included the A4169, A41/B4379, Lamledge Lane, High Street cul-de-sac and the Market Place.

22.2 Questions were raised by those present with Alice Dilly providing the following responses:

Alice Dilly

- a. Stanton Road was not included within this years programme of works;
- b. Was not aware of any further resurfacing works along Cheapside, however would look into the matter regarding the parking bay areas;
- c. The double white lines along Park Street had not been replaced following the resurfacing works as they were considered unnecessary due to there being a 90° bend and a 30mph zone, if there was a problem with parking, double yellow lines could be considered;
- d. The new roundabout signage had been displayed on the right hand side of the roadway as there was insufficient space along the left hand side of the roadway, however it was temporary signage that would only be displayed for 3 months;

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- e. Would need to look into the matter regarding the junction at Church Road to ensure road markings were included instead of kerb stones;
- f. In order to assess whether further signage was required at the new roundabout, an officer would need to check the visual appearance of the footpath in relation to the roadway;
- g. Although there had been a number of road repairs required following the recent weather conditions, Shropshire Council was prepared for the winter period; and
- h. Would need to check the gritting routes to ensure the entrance roadway into Idsall School was included.

22.3 The Chairman thanked Alice Dilly for the information provided and the responses to questions raised.

23. Lets Talk Time

22.3 In response to questions raised, the Chairman agreed to:

- a. Clarify the situation regarding the Christmas lights;
- b. Would obtain a response from the relevant officer regarding replacement windows at Idsall School;
- c. Would contact the sports centre to establish access routes during evening hours; and
- d. Work was still being undertaken at the public toilets, but should be open during February 2013.

Stuart
West

24. Funding Applications Summary

24.1 The Community Action Officer presented her report and provided a brief update regarding each application received.

24.2 The Committee discussed each application and it was:

RESOLVED: that the following applications be approved:

<u>Application</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Shifnal Tennis Club	£408.00
British Red Cross – Shropshire Young Carers	£347.55
Shifnal Local History Group	£967.20
The Walled Garden Project	£1,000.00
Friendship Centre, Shifnal	£900.00
Shifnal Bowling Club	£1,000.00
Sheriffhales Village Hall	£1,322.25
Total amount	£5,945.00
Remaining Budget	nil

24.3 Councillor Blackstock wished to advise those present that the Community Service Volunteer Group would be providing approximately 30 volunteers, over two days, to help restore the Scouts and Guides

Hut building.

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25. Future Agenda Items

- 25.1 Contact Andrea McWilliams, Community Action Officer, with any suggestions for potential agenda items for consideration at future meetings of this Committee.

26. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

- 26.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held during July 2013.

The Chairman thanked those present for attending.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....