

SHREWSBURY WIDE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH APRIL 2011 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, FRANKWELL QUAY, SHREWSBURY
8.00 p.m. – 9.35 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Ken James

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Committee Members Present:Shropshire Council

Councillor Peter Adams
Councillor Andrew Bannerman
Councillor Karen Burgoyne
Councillor Vernon Bushell
Councillor Anne Chebsey
Councillor Ted Clarke
Councillor Tony Durnell
Councillor Miles Kenny
Councillor Alan Mosley
Councillor Peter Nutting
Councillor Malcolm Price
Councillor Keith Roberts
Councillor Jon Tandy
Councillor Mansel Williams

Shrewsbury Town Council

Councillor Jackie Brennand
Councillor Dean Carroll
Councillor David Farmer
Councillor Ioan Jones
Councillor Kath Owen
Councillor Andrew Wagner

Shropshire Council Officers Present

George Candler, Area Director
Gill Jones, Community Action Manager
Ken James, Committee Officer
Fiona Howe, Committee Officer

There were approximately 28 members of the public at the meeting.

ACTION

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Peter Nutting be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beverley Baker, Jo Jones, Mike Owen and Liz Parsons (Shropshire Council) and Councillor Alan Townsend (Shrewsbury Town Council).

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor David Farmer be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillor Andrew Bannerman declared a Personal Interest in respect of the Future Delivery of Sports, Leisure, Arts and Cultural Services as he was involved in the arts in a voluntary and professional capacity.
- Councillor Karen Burgoyne declared a Personal Interest in respect of the Skills for Change funding application as her son previously attended the organisation's youth club.

5. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting and gave a brief explanation and background about the purpose and powers of the meeting with the aim of addressing cross Shrewsbury issues, including meeting shared priorities and seeking to resolve shared problems or identify town wide solutions, by closer joint working between Members of the six neighbourhood Local Joint Committee's covering the town. In addition, a town-wide LJC provided a good opportunity to enhance joint working between Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council for the benefit of the town.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consideration was given to the report of the Community Action Manager on the proposed Terms of Reference for the operation of the Shrewsbury Wide Local Joint Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference for the operation of the Shrewsbury Wide Local Joint Committee, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Community Action Manager, and attached to the signed minutes, be adopted.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from members of the public during which the following points were raised:

- Future funding for the River Festival and what arrangements were being taken forward for the future use of the river as a tourist facility. The Chairman indicated that details would be reported to next meeting
- The layout of roads in some places in the town causing problems for disabled access and a request for consideration to be given to introducing a 20 mph speed limit in residential areas. The Chairman indicated that these issues would be raised with the Officers concerned and the Police for responses to be made at the next meeting.

Gill Jones

Gill Jones

8. SAFETY IN SHREWSBURY – FIRE AND CRIME

Shaun Baker of Shrewsbury Fire and Rescue addressed the meeting on the work undertaken by the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

He thanked the public, the Council and the Police for the collaboration in apprehending the arsonist in the Herongate area.

He reported on anti social fires occurring with wheelie bins being set alight and referred to the leaflets produced by the Fire Service with advice on when to put bins out and bring them back in to avoid fires.

He stated that the Fire Service was still attending to fires in homes without smoke alarms or where the smoke alarms provided were not working. He stressed the importance of fitting smoke alarms and keeping them in working order and although smoke detectors could no longer be provided in homes as a matter of course, the fire service would still undertake free home fire risk assessments and would continue to fit smoke detectors which had been privately purchased.

He referred to the Fire Service's recently published Annual Plan and stated that the response to attending to incidents would remain unaffected by funding changes.

He reported that the river lifebuoys project had been completed, with all lifebuoys now accounted for and numbered according to their location. If a lifebuoy was found along the towpath/riverbank in future then where it had come from and to where it should be returned would be known immediately

The Chairman thanked Shaun Baker for both his address to the meeting and the valuable work of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

9. VOLUNTEER OFFER TO SHREWSBURY LJC'S

Peter Bettis, the Project Manager for Caterpillar Remanufacturing and Components Division in Shrewsbury addressed the meeting on his company's offer to provide the services of up to approximately 40 volunteer employees from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on a Friday during the summer to assist with community projects in Shrewsbury.

The company wished their efforts to make a difference to projects identified as clear priorities in an area. It was envisaged that the volunteers could assist with anything from litter picks to community hall painting and having a Shrewsbury-wide day of action with say 6 volunteers working in each neighbourhood LJC area could be an option.

The Chairman asked Members for suggestions for community projects, during which the following initiatives were put forward:

- Painting of Bicton Heath Community Centre
- River and river bank clearance
- Conversion of ex Salop Glass Building in to young people's activity centre
- Log clearance - Mereside
- Stewarding of Shropshire Olympian Festival
- Coton Hill litter pick and leafleting re: fire safety

Peter Bettis thanked Members for their suggestions and indicated that his company would consider the suggestions put forward select a community project/projects to be undertaken in due course.

The Chairman thanked Peter Bettis for his company's very generous and helpful offer.

10. FUTURE DELIVERY OF SPORTS, LEISURE AND CULTURE SERVICES

George Candler, Area Director, addressed the meeting on the review being undertaken by Shropshire Council to identify the appropriate future delivery of leisure services in Shropshire. An independent organisation had been commissioned to appraise the options and the services forming part of the review included leisure development, outdoor recreation, leisure facilities, the arts service, archives and records management, community archaeology, museums and libraries.

He explained that strategic priorities for future service delivery included a focus on Shropshire Council's role as an enabler and facilitator and not necessarily the direct deliver of leisure services in the future; and the provision of financially sustainable services.

He indicated that findings of the review to date had identified areas where there was a potential for efficiencies to be made and of these Cabinet had agreed that the management and delivery of five leisure facilities be formally advertised on the open market during the summer for contracts to commence from the summer 2012. The lengths of contracts to be put out to tender had not yet been decided but 5 and 10 year periods were normally operated at other local authorities. The criteria for the selection of contractors would include a financial health check, what the company could bring to the community; and how the company could drive additional revenue, develop quality, increase provision and widen participation.

During discussion, the following points were raised and indications given:

- The Chairman expressed the view that separate contracts should be awarded for each facility.
- George Candler indicated that the contracts would be advertised on the open market so a range of providers would be considered including the operation of a facility by a Trust.
- George Candler indicated that Shrewsbury Swimming Baths was not one of the five leisure facilities to be advertised on the open market as there was a need for significant investment to improve the existing facility or provide a new one. In view of this it was considered appropriate to not include this facility for the time being so that further consideration could be given to how such a provision could be developed in Shrewsbury. Strict financial constraints existed and significant funding was required for the development and decisions needed to be made on how best to achieve this as it was likely that external funding would be required. It was anticipated that greater lottery funding would be available after the funding of the London 2012 Olympics and new funding streams had been announced by Sport England. The Council would need to consider how a significant amount of funding could be secured to invest in a new facility or a refurbishment.
- Councillor Mosley highlighted the success of the Grange School running the Grange Sports Centre with the amount of users, income and quality of provision increasing significantly and contended that such public facilities were better provided in the public domain rather than private contractors.
- Councillor Farmer expressed concern at the prospect of the Shrewsbury Sports Village moving to private management as this had originally been set up as an academy with a large amount of public funding.
- George Candler indicated that the refurbishment of the Shrewsbury Music Hall as a museum facility was a key project for the Council that was due to be completed in the autumn of 2012. Great efforts were being made to ensure that the facility had as wide an appeal as possible as it was regarded as a cultural attraction for the whole of Shropshire. Nevertheless, the facility would need to be run on an affordable basis for Council Tax payers and this would have to be looked at very closely.

- George Candler indicated that Shrewsbury Castle was regarded as an important part of Shrewsbury's attraction and the Council was looking to hold discussions with a range of key people on increased usage.

11. FUNDING GUIDELINES 2011/12

Consideration was given to the report of the Community Action Manager on the proposed funding guidelines for the assessment of funding applications to the Shrewsbury Wide Local Joint Committee in 2011/12.

It was noted that £32,400 had been allocated to the Shrewsbury Wide Local Joint Committee in 2011/12.

During discussion, a number of Members expressed concern about the allocation of Arts funding in Shrewsbury being vested in the six neighbourhood Local Joint Committee's covering the town and considered that it might be more appropriate for the assessment of town wide arts funding applications to be dealt with by this Committee.

The Chairman indicated that the way in which Arts funding was allocated in Shrewsbury would be examined before the next meeting.

Gill Jones

RESOLVED:

That the funding guidelines for the assessment of funding applications to the Shrewsbury Wide Local Joint Committee in 2011/12, as set out in the report of the Community Action Manager, and attached to the signed minutes, be adopted.

12. DECISION REPORT - FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Gill Jones, Community Action Manager, presented her report setting out details of four grant applications that had been received.

The Chairman invited the applicants in attendance to present their applications to those present and the Committee expressed their views prior to voting on each application.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the following applications funded from the 2011/2012 budget, be approved:

Gill Jones

Application	Amount
Skills for Change – to help young people get active for a better environment.	£1,820.00
Shrewsbury Artists Open Studios Event	£650.00

- (b) That the application from The Cornerstone Project be deferred for

Gill Jones

discussions with the Officers on a reduced funding request and evidence of match funding and alternative funding sources being sought.

- (c) That, as the proportion of the total project cost being sought was considered too high and the projects' enhancement of the core service provided by the Council was uncertain, the application from Shropshire Council's Positive Activities Team for Summer Holiday Youth Activities be refused.

Gill Jones

13. MAIN TOPIC FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman indicated that the suggestions raised during Public Question Time in Minute 7 above would be taken forward.

Gill Jones

14. FEEDBACK ON THE MEETING

All those present were asked to complete and return the feedback forms circulated before leaving.

In response to a query from Councillor Alan Mosley, the Chairman undertook to look at how the next meeting of this Committee should be promoted.

**Peter Nutting/
Gill Jones**

15. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Shrewsbury Wide Local Joint Committee would be held on Thursday 10th November 2011 at 7.00 p.m. at The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....