

SHREWSBURY WIDE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, FRANKWELL QUAY, SHREWSBURY

7.00 p.m. – 9.25 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Ken James

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Councillor Andrew Bannerman
Councillor Karen Burgoyne
Councillor Vernon Bushell
Councillor Ted Clarke
Councillor Tony Durnell
Councillor Miles Kenny
Councillor Alan Mosley
Councillor Peter Nutting
Councillor Liz Parsons
Councillor Malcolm Price
Councillor Mansel Williams

Shrewsbury Town Council

Councillor Dean Carroll
Councillor Ioan Jones
Councillor Kath Owen
Councillor Alan Townsend

Shropshire Council Officers Present

Clive Wright, Area Director
Gill Jones, Community Action Manager
Gwyn Bevan, Community Action Officer
Ken James, Committee Officer
Fiona Howe, Committee Officer

There were approximately 120 members of the public at the meeting.

ACTION**1. SHREWSBURY FORUM**

The Chairman, Councillor Alan Mosley, welcomed everyone to the first Shrewsbury Forum to be held by the Shrewsbury Wide LJC and explained the format for the evening. He indicated that the purpose of the Forum was to discuss the big issues, ideas and developments affecting businesses and organisations working in Shrewsbury with the aim of exploring opportunities to work more closely together to maximise the benefits that joint efforts and investments could bring for the town and all of those who work in, live in or visit it.

Clive Wright, Shropshire Council's Operations Director, set the scene for the evening putting forward a framework as the basis for the regeneration of Shrewsbury, including: increasing the profile and understanding of the town as an investment and tourism location; encouraging the development of a strong, diverse economy and sustainable economy and a skilled workforce; developing a town which supported strong communities, with access to jobs and services and a town which protected its environment; improving accessibility to the town whilst reducing the negative effects of traffic; and improving the town centre and developing it beyond the 'loop' to help realise its full potential. Clive Wright then highlighted planned developments and those already underway impacting on the town, including the Destination Shrewsbury Partnership - increasing the number and profile of national and regional events held in Shrewsbury, introduction of the new Shrewsbury brand – "Shrewsbury – The Original One-Off" and redevelopment and re-opening of Shrewsbury's old Music Hall; redevelopment of the Darwin, Riverside and Pride Hill shopping centres; development of the park and ride network; improved walking and cycling routes; two major development extensions to the west and south-west of the town – providing housing, community and employment opportunities; improvements to Shrewsbury's 'gateways'; regeneration of historic Flax Mill; the proposed Business Improvement District (BID); and sustainable river energy proposals. Clive Wright concluded his presentation by emphasising how the Forum would provide participants with the opportunity to share aspirations for the future, and explore with other town based organisations opportunities to work together and get things done for each other's mutual benefit.

The Chairman indicated that, prior to the event, businesses and organisations had been asked to identify up to three matters that they wished to be discussed at the Forum. He also indicated that organisations had been asked to identify developments within their organisations that they wished to bring to the attention of the Forum and invited those organisation to speak on those matters. The developments reported included: The Fire Service advocating commercial and residential sprinkler systems on new build; the Music Hall redevelopment which was due to be completed in late 2013; the River Festival to be held in June 2013 to promote greater use of the river and water safety awareness; the work being undertaken by inmates at Shrewsbury Prison on the River Canal Trust Project; the community work undertaken by Shrewsbury Town Football Club; the arts and social inclusion projects undertaken at The Hive with the support of local

businesses; and the music opportunities for younger people offered through the Shrewsbury and District Arts Association. In addition, Peter Bettis of Caterpillar drew attention to the group of employee volunteers from his company that was available to work on community projects and invited organisations to get in touch with him with proposals for community projects that could be undertaken in the coming spring/summer.

The Chairman referred to the Themes and Topics papers that had been circulated around the Chamber and explained that the suggested topics for discussion received from businesses and organisations fitted into the following themes: Traffic and Transport; Visitor Economy; Future Development; Joined up Working for a Strong Community; and Town Centre Environment and Business.

A vote was taken using the pod voting system to select the themes and topics to be discussed and the two main areas selected for discussion were the Visitor Economy and Future Development.

Following discussion of the selected topics workshop style by groups of participants at tables, each group then gave its feedback on a number of ideas to benefit the town which were captured for appraisal and action.

The ideas put forward from the discussions proposed a number of initiatives relating to: the development of a range of trails through the town; improved promotion and co-ordination of a programme of events and festivals in the town; use of the river as an asset; canal developments; the promotion of the town; the movement of pedestrians and traffic around the town; the Flax Mill project; housing provision; redevelopment of existing buildings; future development projects; and education and youth provision.

In conclusion, the Chairman asked participants to provide their email address and indicated that he would contact them to give an update on how the matters raised in the discussion were progressing.

2. DITHERINGTON FLAXMILL

Elizabeth Perkins, Shropshire Council's Project Manager for the Refurbishment of the Flax Mill indicated that work was proceeding on the preparation of a second stage bid, to be submitted in March 2013, for Heritage Lottery Funding, following the award of £21m Lottery Funding to progress Phase 1 of the development for which tenders had been sought for completion of the works by 2015.

Claire Cox of Shropshire Council's Business and Enterprise spoke to a visual interpretation showing the proposed Masterplan for the refurbishment of the whole site which was displayed at the meeting, and emphasised the commercial opportunities that would be available for the space to be used for retail employment, cafes and residential, and highlighted the proposed infrastructure works to be carried out with the reinstatement of the canal at the front of the site and the provision of car parking to serve the wider development including a possible hotel.

Marion Blockley, the consultant for the Refurbishment of the Flax Mill, working on interpretation, business planning and future activities for the scheme, referred to the community space to be provided as part of the development and the activity and business plan being prepared for those areas. She indicated that ideas on how the space could be used had been developed but the public's views on features to maximise the economic, social, and cultural benefits of the proposed development, particularly the use of the community space, was wanted. She encouraged local residents to let her have their views by phone, email or by completing the questionnaire that had been circulated at the meeting.

In response to questions from local residents and Members, the following points were made and indications given:

- There was huge interest in the refurbishment scheme in the United States.
- The amount of car parking provision was being reviewed.
- The car parking areas should be made less obtrusive.
- A Park and Ride bus stop would be provided outside the Flax Mill.
- A walkers and cyclists route to the Flax Mill from the town along the old canal towpath was being worked on.
- The refurbishment of the Flax Mill was a key part in the regeneration of the northern corridor to the town.

In conclusion, the Chairman, Councillor Alan Mosley, indicated that the consultation responses arising from this evening would be used to assist the formulation of action plans for the development.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Adams, Beverley Baker, Anne Chebsey, Hannah Fraser, Mike Owen, Keith Roberts and Jon Tandy (Shropshire Council) and Councillors Jackie Brennand and David Farmer (Shrewsbury Town Council).

4. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

With reference to the funding applications from Shropshire Youth Theatre and Shrewsbury Summer Season, Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that he was involved with the projects.

5. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting held on 17th May 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

6. DECISION REPORT - FUNDING APPLICATIONS

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

RESOLVED:

That the following applications funded from the 2012/2013 budget, be approved:

**Gwyn Bevan/
Gill Jones**

Application	Amount
St Chads Festival 2013.	£2,000
Shrewsbury Sibling Group.	£694
Shropshire Youth Theatre – Performance of A Mid-Summer Night's Dream.	£2,000
Surround sound installation at The Hive media centre for Shrewsbury Film Society	£1,400
'Look up' trail – Parents Association of Wakeman School and Arts College	£2,000
Development of the Shrewsbury Amateur Swimming Club development squad	£840
Bookfest in The Square	£1,100
Creative workshop for people with learning disabilities living with bereavement and loss.	£865
Cake and culture/Tea with Tchaikovsky – Shrewsbury and District Arts Association.	£575
Shrewsbury River Festival 2013.	£2,000
Creative Workshop Week – Collective Light Culture.	£626
Shrewsbury Summer Season brochure 2013.	£2,000
Shrewsbury International Cartoon Festival – 10 th Birthday.	£800
Kaleidoscope Project – Shop in the Loop	£1,500

The Hive Street Party	£1,985
Chess (a musical production) Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society	– £2,000 (this only to be paid if there is a need to under-write)

7. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that arrangements be made for meetings to be held in June/July and November 2013.

**Ken James/
Fiona Howe**

Chairman:.....

Date:.....