

**Committee and Date**

St Oswald & Llanymynech
Local Joint Committee

19th February 2012

7.00 pm

Item

4

Public

ST OSWALD AND LLANYMYNECH LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.00PM,
KNOCKIN ASSEMBLY ROOMS, KNOCKIN, OSWESTRY****PRESENT:****Members of the Committee:**

Councillor Arthur Walpole	Shropshire Council – Llanymynech
Councillor Mrs Joyce Barrow	Shropshire Council – St Oswald
Councillor David Lloyd MBE	Shropshire Council – Selattyn and Gobowen
Councillor Ron Argyle	Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council
Councillor Pam Broomby	Oswestry Rural Parish Council
Councillor Mrs Shelia Bruce	Kinnerley Parish Council
Councillor Dilys Gaskill	Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council
Councillor Miranda Lawson	Knockin Parish Council
Councillor Lynne Lloyd	Melverley Parish Council

Officers:

Corrie Davies	Community Action Officer
Emily Marshall	Committee Officer (Notes)
George Candler	Area Director (North)

There were approximately 26 members of the public at the meeting.

15. Welcome and Introductions from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and asked members of the Committee and officers to introduce themselves.

Also in attendance were Sergeant Scott Barnes (West Mercia Police), Ian Kilby (Development Manager, Shropshire Council), Ann Johnson (Sports Development Officer, Shropshire Council), Gareth Egarr (Parks and Countryside Sites Officer) and Councillor Steve Charmley (Shropshire Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing). The Chairman welcomed them to the meeting.

16. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Trevor Davies (Shropshire Council).

17. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were received.

18. Notes of the Previous Meeting

AGREED: That the notes of the meeting held on 12th June 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

19. Partners and Communities Together Meeting (PACT)

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Scott Barnes of West Mercia Police to the meeting. Sergeant Barnes gave an update on the number of main crimes within the LJC area, from 1st August 2012 to the present date;

- Burglary (dwelling) – 1
- Burglary (non-dwelling) - 1
- Criminal Damage - 1
- Theft – 7

Sergeant Barnes reported that there had recently been an increase in diesel theft, with individuals targeting isolated areas and provided information on ways individuals could protect their property. He also explained that although in the St Oswald and Llanymynech LJC area, numbers of burglaries were low, across Shropshire there had been an increase in the numbers of burglaries and so Operation Citadel had been put in place which was helping to reduce the number of dwelling burglaries in the area. It was further explained that the Chief Constable had given high priority to reducing the number of burglary (dwellings) and had set stringent targets to reduce the figure across the whole of Shropshire to less than 10 per day.

In response to a question, Sergeant Barnes stated that burglaries were not necessarily connected to drug use. When asked about detection rates, he confirmed that they were presently at 18 - 20 %.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Barnes for his attendance and informative update.

20. Sports Development

The Chairman introduced Ann Johnson, Shropshire Council's Sports Development Officer who began her presentation by explaining that the Sports Development Team's main aim was to provide support and encouragement to organisations, individuals and groups to participate in sport. She explained more about the role of the Sports Development Team which was principally to support sports clubs, but also included club development, coach education, funding advice, courses and special event arrangement (e.g. Sports Relief, triathlons and disability festivals). She also highlighted other areas, including Leisure Development, raising the profile of Sport through various programmes, work with schools, play, event organisation/ management and community engagement.

A question was raised about the action being taken to encourage participation in sport for the over 65's and whether a discount for swimming was available for this age group. In response Councillor Charmley stated that he believed there was a concession available through the Be Active Scheme.

(The Chairman welcomed Councillor Keith Barrow who joined the meeting at

this point.)

The suggestion was put forward that an open day be arranged for local parishes to come and view the facilities at the new Leisure Centre. George Candler agreed to take this suggestion on board.

The Chairman thanked Ann Johnson for her informative presentation.

21. Community Green Spaces

The Chairman introduced Gareth Egarr, Shropshire Council's Parks and Countryside Sites Officer who began his presentation on Community Green Spaces by giving background on the Queen Elizabeth II Trust Project. The idea had come from Fields in Trust who wanted in 2012, the year of the Queens Diamond Jubilee to create and dedicate more open space for recreational use. Following consultation with Parish Council's 23 sites across Shropshire had been put forward. It was explained that certain criteria needed to be met, but once dedicated the site would have a level of protection from development for perpetuity and would open up access to grant funding for site improvements. Mr Egarr confirmed that there were two sites proposed within the LJC area, namely Trefonen and Porthywaen, with the proposals currently with Shropshire Council's legal team for checking and that once dedicated each site would have a plaque.

The Chairman thanked Gareth Egarr for the update.

22. Update on National Grid Consultation

The Chairman updated those present on the recent meeting that had been called by Councillor Keith Barrow and attended by Parish Council representatives to discuss National Grid's proposed connection route corridor. The Chairman reported that Owen Paterson MP had attended the meeting along with Shropshire Councillors and Parish Councillors representing the areas affected. The meeting had also been well attended by members of the public, with attendance thought to have been in the region of 250 people.

The Chairman indicated that the meeting had been very valuable and had demonstrated the immense amount of opposition to pylons crossing Shropshire. The Chairman added that neighbours in Montgomeryshire had formed organised protest groups. The Chairman introduced Mr Ian Kilby, Shropshire Council's Development Manager who began his presentation by outlining the scope covered by the 2008 Planning Act and explaining the six stages of the planning process he commented that National Grid were at the pre-application stage, which was very much driven by the applicant and where they were required to produce evidence and engage with local communities.

Mr Kilby explained the importance of local knowledge (e.g. information relating to areas that flood) and evidence gathering and how this would feed into the planning process, through Local Impact Reports. The role of local authorities was outlined in detail.

Mr Kilby also explained that Wales would be the determining authority for the Sub-Station connecting the electricity supply from existing and proposed wind farms and then connecting with the National Grid network. In response to a question regarding the appeals process, Mr Kilby confirmed that any appeal

would ultimately be heard by the Secretary of State and that the final decision would be taken by a single appointed Commissioner.

During the discussion Mr David Ward, raised the point that although he was a resident of Osbaston and was quite sure that the power lines would not be directly over his property, as his address was included within the proposed corridor, it could however affect his ability to sell his property and the value of it. He asked whether National Grid would consider narrowing the corridor to reduce the impact on properties that were on the edge of the current corridor. In response Ian Kilby confirmed that this was an issue as the current proposed corridor was up to 3 kilometres wide in some places and he would raise this matter with National Grid and explain how it was leading to uncertainty for local people.

A member of the public also questioned how the community would be able to present their feedback and local knowledge so that Shropshire Council could make the strongest case possible for the Environmental Impact Assessment. In reply, Mr Kilby explained that these details had yet to be finalised but a post box on Shropshire Council's website might be one way of receiving comments. Mr Kilby urged individuals to form groups and nominate a spokesperson. In response a member of the public urged Shropshire Council not to make the process internet based due to limited internet access in many of the rural areas directly affected by the proposals. Mr Kilby acknowledged the importance of this point.

In response to a question regarding the size of the officer team dedicated to the project, Shropshire Council's Leader confirmed that the Council would dedicate whatever resource was necessary to ensure that the process was dealt with correctly.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kilby for attending the meeting and for his informative presentation.

23. Countywide Broadband Project

A written update on the Connecting Shropshire Rural Broadband Project was circulated. Copies of the Connecting Shropshire Questionnaire had been placed on tables.

Councillor Ron Argyle reported that he had spoken to Chris Taylor, Shropshire Council's Broadband Manager, who had recently taken over the management of the Broadband project. Councillor Argyle reported that Chris Taylor had informed him that there had been a delay in relation to central government protocols around procurement. Shropshire Council had been concentrating on procurement and had now gone out to tender.

24. Feedback on Issues Raised at Previous Meetings

A list of Issues raised at previous meetings was circulated.

Mr Rick Chilvers commented on the fact that he had raised the issue of pot holes on a stretch of the A483 and that he had been asked to take photographs of the pot holes. However he pointed out that it would be extremely dangerous to take photos of the pot holes in this particular location. In response, Councillor Dilys Gaskill commented that if an individual did report problems via the Highways Authority website, then they would temporarily fix the problem

and then add it to their scheduled programme of works for a more permanent solution. Councillor Dilys Gaskill urged individuals to report problems with the road to help to demonstrate that the road was not fit for purpose.

25. Public Question Time

A member of the public reported that they were aware of a Wind Farm Planning Application that had been turned down as the road network that the traffic would have to come along was unsuitable. In response, the Chairman explained that detailed formal traffic management plans for wind farm construction would be produced and once they were available for release into the public domain he would make people aware of them.

26. St Oswald and Llanymynech Community Fund

The Committee received the report of the Community Action Officer, which detailed the bids received for the second round of funding to be considered by the St Oswald and Llanymynech Local Joint Committee.

Councillor Pam Broomby referred to application 8.20 Morda Play Area/Equipment and explained that Oswestry Rural Parish Council were acting only as a banker for the applicant.

Councillor Miranda Lawson stated that as she was Treasurer of Knockin Parish Church she would not vote on funding applications 8.22 and 8.13.

AGREED: That the St Oswald and Llanymynech Local Joint Committee awards funding to those organisations and their projects as listed below.

- 8.17 Pant Memorial Institute – Jubilee Garden – Defer;
- 8.18 St Michael's Llanbyblodwel – Community Events Project - £600;
- 8.19 Llanbyblodwel & Porthywaen Memorial Hall – Widening of vehicle entrance - £800;
- 8.20 Oswestry Rural Parish – Morda Play Area/Equipment - £1000;
- 8.21 Dovaston United Reform – Church Hall Heating - £750;
- 8.22 Knockin Amenity Area - £1000;
- 8.23 Oswestry Sibling Group – Not Approved;
- 8.24 Vehicle Activated Signs - £1500;
- 8.7 Dial a Ride – Complete;
- 8.12 Oswestry Access Group – Complete; and
- 8.13 St Mary's PCC Knockin – Deferred.

Councillor Miranda Lawson abstained from voting.

27. Community Action Officer Update

The Community Action Officer gave an update on the local projects that she had been involved in and provided information on current funding streams that were available for local groups she reminded those present that the next deadline for applications for LJC grants was 8th January 2013.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked the Community Action Officer for all her hard work and efforts.

Members of the public were urged to complete the feedback forms.

28. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 19th February 2013 at Trefonen Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____