

ST OSWALD AND LLANYMYNECH LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.00PM, MORDA VILLAGE HALL, MORDA, 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 Vivien Byrne	Oswestry Rural Parish Council
Councillor Mrs Shelia Bruce	Kinnerley Parish Council
Councillor Dilys Gaskill	Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council
Councillor Bob Thomas	Llanyblodwel Parish Council

Officers:

Corrie Davies	Community Action Officer
---------------	--------------------------

There were approximately 22 members of the public at the meeting.

1. 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.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Miranda Lawson, Councillor David Ward substitute (Knockin Parish Council).

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

4. Notes of the Previous Meeting

AGREED: That the notes of the meeting held on 11th June 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Partners and Communities Together Meeting (PACT)

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Rik Klair to the meeting. Rik introduced himself to the meeting and his background within West Mercia Police and criminal investigation. Inspector Klair updated on restructure within the Police force and that officers would have access to IT so no need for officers to be in

the office but could be updating information whilst in their patrol car. Inspector Klair provided an update on recent crime figures within the area. There had been 7 burglaries, 3 of which were in Edgerley and one male had been charged. Inspector Klair reminded the public that this time of year opportunistic crime could be prevalent and a reminder to lock up out buildings, garages and cars carefully. There had been a 70% decrease in crime across the West Mercia Policing area. Inspector Klair explained that local people could access the 101 number but it may take residents through to the Powys Police and reminded people to ask for the correct police force if within the West Mercia division.

Councillor Gaskill requested update on incident in Llanymynech. Rick Chilvers noted that Trefonen had seemingly spiked on the crime radar at the moment and had wondered whether there were any particular reasons for this. Inspector Klair indicated there had been a couple of incidents including a child knocked over on the pedestrian crossing but generally opportunistic crime.

Councillor David Lloyd requested whether there was anything that the area could do collectively to tackle telephone scams. Inspector Klair indicated that there was a balance of providing local people with information without scaring but CSO's would gladly support.

Cllr Barrow asked Inspector Klair whether he felt that West Mercia would amalgamate with Fire and Rescue. Rik indicated that this would be a decision taken at Home Office. The West Mercia Police were however on track with their savings to date.

Request from Rick Chilvers about opportunity to meet the Crime Commissioner. Cllr Barrow and Cllr Broomby noted that he had attended an Oswestry Rural Parish Council meeting and he was very willing to attend and meet local people.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Klair for attending the meeting and for the informative update.

6. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

The Chairman welcomed Ceri Flavell, Crew Manager and Business Fire Safety Inspecting Officer. Ceri introduced his role in helping businesses to comply with safety. From a resident perspective Shropshire Fire and Rescue were currently reminded and raising awareness of chimney fires and encouraging residents to withhold a good maintenance scheme and to get their chimney and log burners checked twice a year.

Ceri indicated that finance within the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service was being squeezed exceptionally and this would have an impact of their fire and safety strategies. They would not be able to hand out fire detectors in the same way as before but they would still be available to those over 75, for those with a disability or unable to fit themselves. Home safety advice was also still available to every household.

The Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service are running a narrow access scheme encouraging residents to let them know where there may be particular limited access in the area for a fire rescue vehicle. Ceri noted they were keeping a

database of this information.

Cllr Broomby asked whether Shropshire Fire and Rescue whether they would be able to help with a water hydrant in conjunction with the fire and Sychtyn. Ceri explained that likely not and that a conversation could be had with Severn Trent as they tend to install them. Shropshire Fire and Rescue can pull from local water systems but again if this was not available it would be useful to know this in relation to their collated database. Shropshire Fire and Rescue brought a water carrier as a result of problems such as Sychtyn. Ceri advised that where there is no water system nearby it is worth properties investing in a water sprinkler which in turn can reduce insurance. He noted on new builds this was certainly something to think about at building regulations submission.

Rick Chilvers requested whether a first responder's type model could be applied. Ceri explained that they need a minimum of four staff to mobilise so unlikely that this model could be replicated to Shropshire Fire and Rescue. Ceri noted headquarters could be called on 01734 260400.

Cllr Barrow highlighted the Taster Day for Ladies at Shropshire Fire and Rescue due to a shortage in female fire fighters. This was to be held on the 27th October at Oswestry Fire Station.

7. Previously Funded Youth Projects

The Chairman introduced Morton Minors to feedback on the grant they received from the Local Joint Committee.

Janet Brown updated that they had established a small music group in Pant and now 16 children had access to keyboards and percussion. Partners to the group noted that all the children had made the valuable connection with music and the benefits that can hold personally. Many children were unable to reach instrumental groups and ensembles in Shrewsbury so they had introduced a local ensemble. Now there is a group of young children who attend from Carreghofa and Bryn Offa Primary School. This looks at school year 1 right through to year 6, encouraging young people to form their own social musical network. Partners of the group noted that it is difficult to receive arts funding and so the funding from the Local Joint Committee greatly supported with seed funding the opportunity. The long term benefits to the young people involved and potential career opportunities from the project were vast.

The Chairman welcomed John Eglin from Morda Primary School to update on the Morda Be Active, Eat Well and Sleep Well Project. The project had received funding from the Local Joint Committee to run a pilot project that would support encouraging young people to think more about healthy eating, being active and the importance of sleeping well. The project sought to link with families to provide a holistic approach and connecting parents to education, support and wider agencies. John noted that they had linked with local business to provide healthy cheap meal learning, Wolverhampton Rhinos in conjunction with disability and opportunity to try different sports such as archery. The seed funding from the LJC and success of the pilot had enabled a successful bid to Awards for All for further project development. John thanked the committee for their support with a project that had potentially long term benefits for pupils and families in the area.

The Chairman welcomed Carol Jones and young people from Llanymynech

Youth Club to update on the skatepark at Llanymynech. Carol explained that the children had, following the mobile ramped project visiting Llanymynech, been really keen on having their own skatepark facilities. The group of young people went along to Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council and made the request for permission to explore this and look for funding. The group with the support of local parents, Tudor Griffiths, Charlotte Hartey Foundation, LJC and fundraising that the children carried out were able to secure the funds they needed to purchase some skatepark facilities. Carol explained that they have had so much use out of the ramps over the summer and really enjoying their new facilities. The Chairman personally thanked the group of boys in attendance for their drive in making the project happen indicating that with determination and encouragement young people can achieve and congratulated them on their success.

8. North Area Commissioner

The Chairman introduced Tim Smith, Shropshire Council's North Area Commissioner.

Tim Smith introduced himself and provided background to his role within Shropshire Council, explaining that he covered the whole of the North Shropshire area and provided information on Commissioning and how Shropshire Council were working to identify the key services within towns and parishes as well as working with other partners to see how the Council could deliver faster, better and cheaper as well as identifying any overlaps or gaps within services that were already being delivered. Taking a positive look at what we do and see what can be achieved collectively in a much more positive way.

Tim explained that 85 million of further savings needed to be made over the next three years. Tim indicated that reviews are taking place across a whole range of services. Procurement, contracting and assets all being re-visited within this. Tim indicated that the council are in the middle of a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme within the council and the end of November will see a budget review. There is a need for all partners to work together including the police, fire and health. There will be a need to gauge specific thoughts from town and parishes within the local areas. Knowledge of areas will be key with common solutions in mind.

John Eglin asked why if this was possible had the Council not looked to make changes a long time ago. The Chairman explained that financial implications and the economic climate have made the conditions that there has to be this change now. A resident asked why changes had not been made when local councils went into unitary. The Chairman and Cllr David Lloyd noted that steps were made during that time to make savings and had this not happened the situation could have been worse. The Chairman indicated that there needed to be a different set of people chosen with a business approach to make further changes.

A resident asked about safeguarding and zero contracts. Tim noted that if there were still needs locally then there would be more opportunity for local people to procure for business opportunities.

Laurel Roberts from Qube noted that they were using Alexander Road to park

buses and many struggling charities need that extra support. Tim noted that it was important to ensure lines of communication open so that charities could tell us what they are looking to deliver and we were then in a better position to look at what was possible.

Cllr Gaskill raised the pull back from broadplaces and that there is short notice with timescales for groups to apply for funding that had been put in place. Tim agreed to have a look at this with the Chairman.

Val Smout, Clerk to Oswestry Rural Parish Council asked whether it was really necessary to have such regular visits from Veolia for garden waste over winter months were fewer residents have a need for that service. Cllr Bruce noted that Kinnerley still have a lot of people needing this service during the winter. The Chairman asked Tim to take this back for further discussion and feed in. Tim explained that a one stop approach would not work and local need such as this was a great example.

Rick Chilvers asked for update on website issues and delay. Tim noted that he had picked up on this with member of staff and details were in hand. Lorna would be speaking with Rick to look at this further.

The Chairman thanked Tim Smith for his attendance and informative update

9. Oswestry and Northern Shropshire Visitor Economy Strategy

The Chairman introduced Alison Patrick, Shropshire Council's Tourism Officer.

Alison highlighted the overview of the Strategy available on tables and the structure within to support with delivery of the Strategy. The Destination Management Partnership would provide opportunity for Shropshire borderlands partnership working, realising in this area that there is a strong need to cross borders and work in partnership with neighbouring authorities.

Alison noted that they have a marketing group which includes big partners such as Canal and Rivers Trust. In conjunction with this group they have been asking visitors what they really like about the area, using pictures to facilitate what it means to visit Shropshire. Within that work visitors were able to choose words that they felt reflected the area best and overwhelmingly words such as green, relaxing and peaceful came through. Survey work is being undertaken until the end of October. Alison explained within that they are asking attractions are they aware of what is available and how we can best communicate with them.

The Business Product Development Group concentrates on joining up the dots. Alison noted that the group have started to develop visitor itineraries which enable to best of area to be promoted and making it easier for the visitor. The itineraries can be emailed out to business to be submitted on their websites or printed out when they have visitors staying. A familiarisation trip is being ran on the 27th of October at Meres and Moses for tourism providers in the area to have a better understanding for their visitors- enabling them to sell the area further. In the spring there would be a further familiarisation trip with a heritage Oswestry focus.

Alison updated that training has been provided for those wanting to move into Bed and Breakfast business providing business planning. Specialism interest

tourism is also being looked at including tourism interest around Churches. St Michaels Church are looking to attract a lottery bid. Alison noted that there is the possibility for link trails, making it easier for visitors to get to hidden gems such as St Michaels and Molverley Church for example. River and Canal Trust have secured their funding of £160,000 development phase work. The work that they are carrying out will increase boat movements and staying and spending in the area. The funding team are looking at European funding through the LEP to try and ensure further funding comes into the area for tourism development work.

The Chairman thanked Alison for her update on tourism a year on from the launch of the strategy.

10. Rural Transport

The Chairman welcomed Laurel Roberts from Qube in Oswestry. Laurel updated on the offer that Qube provides including community transport, befriending, art gallery and IT suite courses.

Laurel noted that they currently have 7 mini buses with 30 volunteers providing transport support to those who due to age, disability or without transport, need support. Dial a ride service will for example take people to doctor's appointment, to day care, hot meals, social get together or even just to come into town to sit or shop. Dial a Ride provide a hire out of their transport and home shopping service. Alongside this where it is not viable to use the mini bus they provide a community car scheme.

Laurel explained the connections to Shropshire Link and where they fit within their current criteria. Laurel noted there will be scope to support in some instances and they have been talking to people who used the Shropshire Link. There is a group of people from Trefonen, Treflach and Maesbury who utilised the service on a Wednesday which they feel they will be able to support with. Cllr Barrow asked whether their criteria would mean they were unable to help in some situations. Laurel noted it would be dependent on mobility, whether rurally isolated and the situation of the client specifically.

Rick Chilvers requested whether their IT suite could look at ipad training. Laurel noted that their suite had only just re-opened but that they would be happy to take calls and register interests. To date they had been inundated with informal requests.

11. Update on National Grid Consultation

The Chairman updated on the current situation. Information had been received more recently including dates for consultations that will be held at local village halls. The Chair indicated that most of the high voltage line would be carried overhead. The public enquiry started again in September but was adjourned until the beginning of October. The case from Shropshire Council was to look at the cumulative effects and the impacts of this to the area, including the environment and flooding.

Cllr Ward asked whether there would be an update on Shropshire Council's position. The Chairman noted that the relevant four Councillors were due to get together with officers to review and establish position. The Chairman encouraged local residents and attendees to go to the public meetings. Glyn

Gaskill asked whether anyone would be looking at the whole picture. The Chairman noted the cumulative effect is important to the wind farm enquiry and that Councillors would be engaging with MPS.

A local resident highlighted the traffic through Llanymynech and that they had been told it would bypass the area. Cllr Gaskill noted this would not be the case. The resident raised concern about the current condition of the bridge and that traffic currently impacted on housing conditions. The Chairman encouraged them to write in and to attend the meetings.

Cllr Ward noted that it would not be volume of traffic but disruption caused. Local people including Charles Green were putting together evidence and that it would be worth local people making contact with him but ensure that details are based on fact to ensure the case put forward is as strong as it can be to hold up in enquiries.

The Chairman noted that further updates would be provided and to receive an update from SNAP at the next meeting via Charles Green.

12. Countywide Rural Broadband Project

A written update on the Connecting Shropshire Rural Broadband Project was circulated on tables.

13. Feedback on Issues raised at Previous Meeting

Cllr Gaskill asked for clarification on point 2. Rick Chilvers requested further information and update on point five. The Chairman asked for amendment to be made to the issues log in relation to this

14. Public Question Time

No questions were raised.

15. St Oswald and Llanymynech Community Fund

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

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

8.46 Trefonen Pre School £700

8.47 Kinnerley Neighbourhood Plan Environment Group £500

8.48 Llanyblodwel Parish Council £1000 (Cllr Bob Thomas abstained from voting)

8.49 Dyffryn Tanat & Region Development Trust £400

8.50 Trefonen Village Hall £674.89

8.51 Morda Fete Group £100

8.52 Porthywaen Band Not Approved

8.53 Oswestry Border U3A (Cluster Application) £ 376 (Cllr Broomby abstained from voting)

Total: £ 3,750.89

16. 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 and reminded those present that the next deadline for applications for LJC grants was 9th January 2014.

17. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 11th February 2014 at Knockin Assembly Rooms.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____