

STRETTONDALE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON 9 JULY 2009 7.00 pm – 8.55 pm
at
Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton**

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

David Evans	Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division
James Gibson	Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division
Cecilia Motley	Corvedale

Town/Parish Councils

Tom Beaumont	Church Stretton Town Council (substitute for Peter Relph)
Mel McFarland	Rushbury Parish Council

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Liz Nicholson, Lead Officer
Miranda McLaven, Support Officer
Peter Dunhill, Community Regeneration Officer
Amanda Holyoak, Committee Officer (Notes)
Martin Withington, Head of Transportation
Samantha Tharme, Principal Transport Planner

There were approximately 50 members of the public present at the meeting.

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| <p>1. Election of Chair</p> <p>It was resolved that James Gibson be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.</p> | |
| <p>2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Lynne Gray, Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council and Peter Relph, Church Stretton Town Council. Tom Beaumont substituted for Peter Relph.</p> | |
| <p>3. Appointment of Vice Chair</p> <p>It was resolved that Mel McFarland be appointed Vice-Chair for the ensuing municipal year.</p> | |
| <p>4. Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> | |

5. Chairman's Welcome

5.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He explained that Local Joint Committees had been set up to allow people and communities to influence the new Shropshire Council and, if necessary, call the officers and elected members to account, set local priorities for action and provide resources for local community initiatives based on those priorities.

The Committee consisted of Shropshire Councillors whose wards cover the LJC area and one representative each from the Town and Parish Councils within the area. The Committee had a budget of £22,000 to allocate.

6. Proposed Name of the Committee

6.1 'StrettonDale Local Joint Committee' was agreed as the name of the Committee henceforth.

7. Access to Broadband

7.1 Ian Binks, Regional Manager, BT, provided a short presentation on Broadband which covered how it worked, the local network, the bigger picture and the local picture (a copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes).

7.2 He answered questions from members of the public and committee on problems with access to broadband and explained how it could be possible to improve broadband speed and performance. He also referred to issues with infrastructure, eg, small exchanges and distance from exchange which could all impact on broadband access. Proposed solutions to broadband speed and access such as 'fibre to cabinet' would not be cost effective to implement in rural areas.

7.3 His presentation referred to several websites from which help could be obtained and he particularly recommended www.thinkbroadband.com as very useful site with lots of information.

7.4 Those present were concerned to find out when it was likely that rural locations would have access to an equitable broadband service. Mr Binks explained that it was likely that recommendations on communications infrastructure and ways to fund this made in the recent 'Carter Report' was the likely means. Solutions to rural access problems would not be achieved by the private sector alone as it was not profitable. Mr Binks was asked to lobby for a better broadband service in rural areas at any opportunity he was able to, and he referred to a Rural Regeneration Conference he would be attending in Ludlow.

Ian Binks

7.5 Mr Binks was thanked for attending the meeting and answering questions.

8. Community Matters of Interest

8.1 Members of the public were asked to identify local matters of interest and priority areas.

8.2 The issue of a proposed trial of a one way traffic system in Church Stretton was raised. Many people spoke on this issue including representatives of the Chamber of Trade, Town Councillors, members of the Church Stretton Traffic Management Implementation Team and local business owners.

8.3 A number of people present raised concerns about the proposals, particularly related to consultation and communication around the proposed trial, the timing of it and proposed direction of the one way system.

8.4 The Head of Transportation and Principal Transport Planner explained a public consultation had shown strong support for a one-way system on the understanding that it would reduce traffic on the High Street and create a more pedestrian friendly environment. They reported on the history of the consultation and work to date and the reasons for proposing a north bound one way system trial.

8.5 In the light of the comments and concerns raised, the Head of Transportation said the views expressed at the meeting would be discussed with senior officers and the local members and portfolio holder before further preparations on the proposed north bound trial.

8.6 It was apparent that a very clear explanation of the pros and cons of a northbound and southbound one way system was needed and he reassured those present that a consultation exercise would be undertaken to seek views from residents, traders and others on the options before any decision was made to introduce any one-way trial on the High Street.

8.7 He did however warn on the difficulties of achieving a consensus and that a possible outcome of a consultation would be a 50/50 split. A trial would be the most effective way of finding out whether or not proposals worked.

8.8 The Chairman thanked the Head of Transportation and Principal Transport Planner for attending the meeting and addressing concerns.

Principal
Transport
Planner/
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9. Community Chest Fund

9.1 It was agreed that:

- A Community Chest Scheme should be established with the aim of providing community and voluntary groups an opportunity to bid for money to fund local projects.
- An initial value of £5,000 be allocated to the scheme.
- The maximum amount of grant to be awarded should not normally exceed £500 for any one project

9.3 The Chair of Church Stretton Area Partnership urged the publication of criteria and guidance for both the Community Chest and the remainder of the £22,000 allocated to the LJC. He urged that the remainder amount be used as strategically as possible and guidance provided on accessing it.

LJC Lead
Officer and
Community
Regen
Officer

9.4 It was noted that the closing date for applications to be considered at the meeting of the Committee on 29th September 2009 would be *Tuesday 1st September 2009*

9.5 For applications to be considered at the meeting of the Committee on 6 January 2010 would be *Friday 20 November 2009*.

9.6 Attention was drawn to the availability of application forms and financial procedure notes at the rear of the meeting room.

9.7 It was reported that application forms and financial procedure notes were also be available from **www.shropshire.gov.uk** by clicking on *Council and Democracy*, then clicking on *Local Joint Committees*, or by contacting Peter Dunhill, Community Regeneration Officer, tel 01746 713230.

9.8 Completed forms should be returned to Peter Dunhill, Community Regeneration Officer, Shropshire Council, Westgate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 5AA, 01746 713230.

10. Suggested Items for Future Meetings

10.1 Those present were invited to suggest items for future meetings.

Suggestions made were:

Flooding - how Shropshire Council is addressing the Pitt Review on Flooding and Drainage issues – progress, particularly in relation to local drainage issues.

Tackling Climate Change - what is Shropshire Council proposing in

relation to tackling climate change and meeting government carbon emission reduction targets

Consultation – improvement of consultation processes

Members of the Committee said it was important to see the Local Joint Committee as a means for improving communication with Shropshire Council and a chance to bring issues to its attention.

As a result of a comment that the meeting needed to improve its consultation process, it was suggested by members of the public that meetings be run in a less formal way with a different room layout. The possibility of theming meetings was also discussed.

*Clarification of the Role of LJC*s compared with the role of Town and Parish Councils was also requested.

Suggestions for future agenda items left on post it notes were:

“Youth Issues within the town and local area. Let’s discuss these, perhaps contribute to strengthening the position of our young people”

“Improved pedestrian access to play park on West Side of Sandford Avenue without necessity to cross three roads, two with ‘green man crossings’. Recent experience with toddler and buggy highlighted this problem”

“provision of digital radio service”

Suggestions already received included demand responsive transport, traffic management, sports and leisure facilities, infrastructure, youth services and dog fouling.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

It was suggested that the next meeting should be held in Rushbury.

Tuesday 29 September 2009 - 7.00 pm – ***Rushbury Village Hall***

Wednesday 6 January 2010 - 7.00 pm, venue to be confirmed

Thursday 18 March 2010 - 7.00 pm, venue to be confirmed

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.