

STRETTONDALE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2011 AT LEEBOTWOOD VILLAGE HALL, LEEBOTWOOD SY6 6NB

Present:

Shropshire Council

Tim Barker Burnell Division
Cecilia Motley Corvedale Electoral Division

Town/Parish Councils

Lynne Gray Eaton-Under-Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council
Des Jaques Leebotwood & Longnor Parish Council
Allan McVittie All Stretton, Smethcott and Woolstaston Parish Council
Vivienne Riley Rushbury Parish Council
Andrew Seabury Cardington Parish Council
Bob Welch Church Stretton Town Council

Co-Opted Members

John Sumner Strettondale Partnership

Shropshire Council Officers

Tim Ward, Committee Officer
Lisa Bedford, Senior Community Regeneration Officer

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

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from: -

David Evans, Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division,
James Gibson, Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division
Mel McFarland, Rushbury Parish Council. (Vivienne Riley substituted)

The Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting and welcomed those present to address the Committee.

2. Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was made:

Councillor Bob Welch [prejudicial] – Member of Church Stretton Town Council making application to the LJC for funding

ACTION

3. Notes of the meeting held on 16 June 2011

RESOLVED:

that the Notes of the meeting held on 16 June 2011 be approved as a correct record.

4. Report from PACT - Police and Communities Together

Police Sergeant Mike Dulson introduced himself as the new local police Sergeant for south Shropshire.

He reported crime statistics in the Church Stretton area and commented that in general crime figures were low, although there had been a spate of burglaries from houses centred on 2 weekends, 1 in July and one in October. He informed the meeting that as a result of this patrols had been increased in the town with local police officers from Craven Arms and Bishops Castle also doing patrols. He went on to inform the meeting that a Senior Action Day was being held at the Mayfair Centre where crime prevention advice could be sought and that he was also giving a talk to Age Concern on the 1 November.

He informed the meeting that the PACT priority for the forthcoming period would be speeding and that the Safer Camera Partnership now had sites in Leebotwood and Church Stretton and would be doing regular checks.

He advised members that a senior safety event 'well and wise' would be held on 12th November 10 - 1pm at the Mayfair Centre and that this would give advice on household security and other such information.

5. Update on Countywide Broadband Project

Ian Binks and Mark Pembleton gave a presentation on the countywide broadband project. They gave an outline of the current technology and the current situation for Shropshire and advised that the initial aim of the project was to ensure that the whole of Shropshire got at least a 2mb download speed for broadband. They went on to advise that £8.2 million funding had been secured from Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) for a joint project with Telford and Wrekin Council and that a project team were working to produce a joint local broadband plan and to identify a technical partner to deliver the project. Mr Pembleton advised the meeting that a key part of the project was demand stimulation with businesses and communities and urged all those present to complete the on line questionnaire which could be found at www.connectingshropshire.co.uk. Mr Pembleton also advised the meeting that hard copies of the questionnaire could be obtained from

Alison Brock at the Council.

6. Update on Walking with Offa Cross Border Co-operation Project

Claire Fildes (Development Officer AONB) gave a presentation on the Walking with Offa project which was aimed at improving the economy of the Welsh English border area by gaining more economic benefit from walking and that the project was a collaboration between Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership and adventa which was the group managing the LEADER project in Monmouthshire and that other partners included the Wye Valley AONB, the Clwydian Range AONB and the Brecon Beacons National Park, in conjunction with county councils and the Offa's Dyke National Trail.

Ms Fildes explained that the main project activities included improving the walking product including information and interpretation, ensuring engagement between local businesses and the local communities and developing training, walking promotions and sustainable transport solutions and also the sharing of good practice.

Ms Fildes then outlined the activities that were taking place within the Shropshire Hills which included the development of 12 circular walks starting from pubs and local shops, the holding of 8 guided walks, improvements to the Shropshire way, training and familiarisation trips for walks leaders and PR and marketing work including improvements to the Shropshire Walking website and the walking pages on the AONB website. She went on to say that a lot of work was being done in and around Church Stretton including joint working with the Walking for Health and Walkers are Welcome groups and the development of new themed and seasonal guided and self guided walks, and the promotion of Church Stretton as a walking destination within the Shropshire Hills.

Several present commented that the scheme was very worthwhile and that walking played an important part in the tourist economy of the area.

The Chair thanks Ms Fildes for her presentation.

7. Updates from Parish Councils

Parish Council representatives updated the meeting on issues within their area.

Allan McVittie - All Stretton, Smethcott & Woolstaston PC

- Issues with the closure of the pub in Picklescott
- Broadband provision
- Number of issues with planning, councillors feel that the responses of the parish council were not taken heed of and also some problems with planning enforcement

Andrew Seabury - Cardington PC

- No major issues
- Parish Council is hoping that some affordable housing will be built in the parish

Des Jaques - Leebotwood & Longnor PC

- Ongoing major project to rebuild the village hall
- Council has concerns regarding speed of traffic on the A49

Lynne Gray - Eaton under Heywood & Hope Bowdler PC

- Carrying out a village plan issues highlighted by questionnaire – speeding, transport and access to local towns, fuel poverty
- Ongoing problem with a blocked footpath which the Rights of Way Officer was dealing with.
- Problem with getting hard copies of planning applications.

Vivienne Riley - Rushbury PC

- Currently carrying out update of parish plan

Bob Welch - Church Stretton Town Council

- Opening of the revamped Silvester Horne Institute next Thursday
- Issues with planning – need to look at infrastructure and also housing for young people to ensure future of schools in the town.
- Work progressing to create a Travel Hub in the town
- Concerns re budgeting. In order to maintain services that Shropshire Council may cease providing may be necessary to put as much as £50,000.00 on the precept.

8. Changes to the LJC Constitution

The Chair informed the meeting that changes to the Local Joint Committee Constitution giving Community Action Officers the power to award grants following consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair had been agreed at the Council meeting in June but that it was up to each LJC to decide whether they adopted the power. He went on to say that the matter had been discussed by members at the agenda setting meeting and that they felt consultation should take place with all members of the committee and that the power should only be used where the application was considered urgent.

It was **resolved** to adopt the changes to the LJC constitution subject to an urgent need for the grant being proved and consultation with all committee members prior to making decision.

9. Local Joint Committee Grant Applications

The Community Action Officer presented the funding report that detailed the current criteria for grant allocation and explained that the LJC had a budget allocation of £14,000 for the 2011/12 financial year and that, together with the transfer of funding previously available for community arts projects, the budget for allocation by the LJC in the current financial year totalled £19,216.

The Community Action Officer then took the meeting through the applications received and those applicants that were present answered questions.

Several members of the public present questioned the need for CCTV in Church Stretton. The Community Action Officer informed them that the scheme had the support of the local policing team as it would cover the main route in and out of town and would aid in tracking movements.

RESOLVED:

Organisation	Summary	Amount Agreed
Church Stretton Croquet Club	Creation of second croquet lawn	£1000 subject to remaining match funding being obtained
React Theatre Company	South Shropshire Community Pantomime	£1125.00
Strettons Mayfair Trust Ring & Ride	Contribution towards operating costs	£2500.00
Silvester Horne Events Group	Purchase of an electric piano	£1300.00
All Stretton Village Hall	Urgent roof repairs	£2500.00

LB to arrange payment

Church Stretton Christmas Lights/Fayre Committee	Contribution towards costs of event	£1400.00
South Shropshire Youth Forum	2 youth programmes focussing on transition from primary to secondary school and around youth enterprise.	£2500.00
Church Stretton Town Council	Provision of CCTV	£2500.00 subject to remaining match funding being obtained (<i>Cllr Welch having declared an interest did not vote on this item</i>)
Church Stretton Indoor Bowls Club	Purchase of mat handling equipment	£400.00

It was also resolved that as there was only in the region of £1400 left in the budget there would be no grants awarded at the next meeting and any budget remaining would be carried over to the next financial year and ring fenced for community celebrations in light of possible jubilee events.

10. Public Question Time

Mr Woolmer expressed concern that the agreed criteria were not being adhered to when making funding decisions. The Chair asked him to see him after the meeting with specific examples of his concerns.

TB

11. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the StrettonDale LJC would be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 16 February 2012 at Church Stretton School.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.