

STRETTONDALE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2012 AT CHURCH STRETTON SCHOOL, SHREWSBURY ROAD, CHURCH STRETTON SY6 6EX

Present:

Shropshire Council

Tim Barker	Burnell Division
James Gibson	Church Stretton & Craven Arms Division
Cecilia Motley	Corvedale Electoral Division

Town/Parish Councils

Simon Blackburn	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
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Shropshire Council Officers

Tim Ward, Committee Officer
Mathew Mead, Community Regeneration Officer

There were approximately 20 members of the public present at the meeting.

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from: -

Cllr Lynne Gray Eaton-Under-Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council

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

2. Substitutions

Cllr Simon Blackburn substituted for Cllr Lynne Gray

ACTION

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was made:

Councillor Bob Welch declared an interest as a member of Church Stretton Town Council making an application to the LJC for funding for jubilee celebrations should this come up

4. Notes of the meeting held on 19 October 2011

RESOLVED:

that the Notes of the meeting held on 19 October 2011 be approved as a correct record.

5. Report from PACT - Police and Communities Together

Inspector Thomas introduced himself and the local policing team - Sergeant Adrian Wooley, PC Damon Preston and PCSO Ken Humphreys

Inspector Thomas commented that South Shropshire was a low crime area with good detection rates. He highlighted the importance of preventative measures and asked the Committee to promote in their communities the website www.immobilise.com which helped greatly in the recovery of property and capture of thieves. .

He explained that the new 101 number was for reporting historical crimes only and if members of the public wanted to report crimes anonymously then they could do so through Crimestoppers by ringing 0845 555 111. He went on to say that the 999 number should be used for emergencies and crimes in progress.

Sergeant Wooley informed that meeting that as a result of information received a drugs warrant had been executed and 25 cannabis plants had been seized, he then took the meeting through the crime figures for the past 28 days. He reported that there had been 100 incidents in the Church Stretton area which included: -

- 7 crimes – 2 cases of theft of metal (copper wire), 1 sexual offence, 2 domestic assaults theft from a shop and an assault.
- 10 cases of anti social behaviour – 1 incident of drunken behaviour on a train, incidents of car noise and inappropriate youth activity, 2 incidents with a dog in Longville.

Cllr. Welch commented that there was need for the Town Council and the police to work together to overcome the small amount of anti

social behaviour by youths in the town.

Cllr. Welch informed the meeting that this would be the last LJC meeting PCSO Humphreys would be attending as he was retiring. He paid tribute to the work he had done during his time as a PCSO. These sentiments were echoed by all present.

6. Education in the Strettondale LJC Area

The Chair introduced Mr Steve Lunt the Headmaster of Church Stretton High School who gave a presentation about the school. He informed the meeting that the school has just over 700 pupils on its roll, and each year around 145 new pupils join the school from the 15 feeder primary schools. He added that the school had recently been inspected and received a very good report, with GCSE results being above the national average, but that they were not resting on their laurels and that one of the key aims of the school was to improve attainment levels of the pupils whilst they are at the school.

Mr Lunt informed the meeting that the School also does a lot of work with the community, including pupils supporting the community to use the internet; a youth forum; support for Meals on Wheels; work with the Church Stretton Arts Festival and adult education classes. He added that the new community café and the theatre at the school were also available for community use.

In closing Mr Lunt stated that future challenges for the school included the potential fall in pupil numbers over the next 5 years, together with changes to the curriculum, but the school was planning long term to make sure these changes had limited impacts on the quality of teaching at the school

The meeting also heard received updates from the Chair of Governors of Rushbury Primary schools and the Head of Condover Primary School. They stated that the schools have a good working relationship with the Secondary School and the transition programmes between the schools worked particularly well. The schools also place great emphasis on working with the community and regularly invite members of the public into the school for events and lessons. As with the secondary school providing good quality education for relatively small numbers of pupils brings its challenges, but the support of the community and other schools was helping them achieve good educational results.

The Chair thanked Mr Lunt for his presentation and for hosting the meeting at the school.

7. Funding Update

A report updating the committee on the situation with the devolved

funding allocated to the Local Joint Committee had been circulated.

The Community Action Officer advised the meeting that the project to install a new CCTV system in Church Stretton which had been awarded a grant of £2500 may not go ahead as matched funding for the project had not been secured and that this money may become available for reallocation.

The Chair reminded members that it had been agreed that a sum of money should be ring fenced for funding for jubilee events within the LJC area and suggested a sum of £6000. Several members felt that this was excessive and proposed that the figure should be £4000.

The Community Action Officer took members through the proposed grant guidelines for 2012/13

It was proposed, seconded and duly **resolved** that

- a. The Committee receive further information regarding project SD62 when it is available.
- b. That the Committee ring fence £4000 from the 2012 – 13 budget for grants for jubilee celebrations and that a special meeting is held in early April to consider applications for this funding.
- c. That the Committee approve the grant guidelines for 2012 – 13 as laid out in the appendix to the report.

8. Update from Community Action Officer

The Community Action Officer advised the meeting that the Olympic Torch would be passing through Shropshire on the 24 May and 30 May and that the organisers were keen to see all Shropshire Communities take part in events to mark the passage of the torch and that more details could be obtained from the Arts Officers at Shropshire Council.

The Community Action Officer informed the meeting that community groups could take advantage of the community payback scheme to help them with projects in their area and that further details could be obtained from him

The Community Action Officer informed the meeting that concessionary bus passes issued by the Unitary Council would need renewing during the next 12 months and that details on how to renew the pass could be found on the Council website.

9. Public Question Time

Mr Simmonds, Acting Chair Strettons Civic Society asked about the decision by the South Planning Committee to reject the plan to widen the High Street pavement in Church Stretton, which flew in the face of repeated recommendations by the Town Council, Shropshire Council, Shropshire Council's officers and the people of the town who voted in the final consultation. He asked that Shropshire Council should review the decision of the Planning Committee. The Chair commented that he was not going to comment on the specifics of what was a democratic decision taken by the planning committee and went on to say that the only way the decision could be challenged was by judicial review which was a very expensive process.

Mr McVittie commented that the LJC had become very orientated towards Church Stretton and that there was need for better balance. The chair invited members to put forward potential agenda items for future meetings.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The meeting was advised that a special meeting would be held in early April to consider applications for funding for jubilee events and that the next meeting of the StrettonDale LJC would be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 28 June 2012 at Rushbury Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.