



Committee and Date  
StrettonDale Local Joint  
Committee

21 February 2013

7.00 pm

Item

**4**

Public

**STRETTONDALE  
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD  
ON 10 OCTOBER 2012  
7.00 PM – 9.05 PM  
at  
Picklescott Village Hall**

**Responsible Officer** Amanda Holyoak

e-mail: [amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01743 252718

Fax 01743 252713

**Committee Members Present:**

Shropshire Council

Tim Barker (Chair), Burnell Electoral Division

Lee Chapman, Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division

Town/Parish Councils

Mrs Lynne Gray, Eaton-Under-Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council

Mr Paul Harris, Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council

Mr Mel McFarland, Rushbury Parish Council

Mr Allan McVittie, All Stretton, Smethcott & Woolstaston Parish Council

Mr Steve Pennington, Cardington Parish Council

Mr Tom Beaumont, Church Stretton Town Council (substitute for Mrs Claytonsmith)

There were approximately 15 members of the public present at the meeting.

**ACTION**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following members:

Cecilia Motley, David Evans and Hilary Clayton-Smith

**2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were reminded of the action they should take if they had a disclosable pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda.

### **3. Note of the Previous Meeting**

The note of the meeting held on 28 June 2012 was confirmed as a correct record.

### **4. Leader of the Council**

- 4.1 The Chair welcomed Keith Barrow, Leader of Shropshire Council, to the meeting.
- 4.2 He thanked the Committee for inviting him and explained the grave financial situation facing the Council. £86m of savings had been required over four years with £46 million delivered so far, £20 million this year and a further £20 million next year. However, it appeared that there was worse to come, with a further 30% cut in income likely.
- 4.3 Unless action was taken now, within 10 years the entire Council budget would be spent on just adult social care. To enable delivery of non-statutory activities to continue, a trading company owned by the Council had been set up, called 'IP&E' (Inspiring Partnerships and Enterprise).
- 4.4 Currently, Councils were not allowed to trade services at a profit. Recent legislation meant that if a holding company was formed, trading and making a profit was permitted. It would also facilitate a reduction in bureaucracy with council tax payers seen more as customers.
- 4.5 The Leader then went on to note comments and address questions from the committee and members of the public on:
  - Planning enforcement
  - Action taken to pursue debtors and fraudulent benefits claims
  - Use of consultants
  - Speed and quality of the Planning process
  - IP&E - locations
  - Governance of IP&E and how transfers would take place
- 4.6 In answering these questions he emphasised his desire to cut bureaucracy and change the culture of the Council to mirror that of the private sector. He explained that consultants would only be engaged if they could do a job that the Council could not do itself, and if their work would result in a significant saving. He encouraged members of the public to make contact with their local Councillor to raise any issues around the planning process.
- 4.7 It was intended that there would be small IP&E offices in the North Central and South areas of the county. When new companies were set up it was intended these be located in small market towns.

4.8 He confirmed that IP&E was fully owned by the Council. Services transferred over to the company could be moved under TECKAL regulations, as long as they were 100% owned by the Council. If there were proposals for a partnership a business case and procurement process would be necessary.

4.9 The Leader was thanked for attending the meeting.

## **5. Police and Fire Report**

5.1 Sergeant Adrian Woolley provided an update on crime in the LJC area which was similar to the same three months of the previous year.

5.2 Although no burglaries had been reported since July 2012 he warned that there had been a number of shed break ins. He emphasised that burglars could easily identify homes where no one was in if they were left in darkness and there were no cars on the drive.

5.3 He encouraged people to note and report any suspicious behaviour and also to mark their property with Smart Water to enable return if recovered. Lisa Bedford, Community Action Officer, had smart water kits with her to sell after the meeting. The kits cost £20 and contained enough to mark possessions throughout an entire household. Kits would also be available to buy from the Town Council Offices.

5.4 Those present raised concerns about speeding on Sandford Avenue, also how dark it was once lights were switched out after midnight, which caused particular concern where there was no pavement. The change from 30 mph to 40 and then back to 30 mph was also confusing.

5.5 Steve Paige from the Fire Service reported that there had been no fire crime in the Church Stretton Area. It was intended to arrange electric blanket and Christmas tree light testing before Christmas. Lee Chapman suggested that the Fire Service provide a list of Chimney Sweep contacts to help reduce incidences of chimney fires.

**Sgt  
Woolley**

**Steve  
Paige**

## **6. Stretton Area Partnership and StrettonDale LJC**

6.1 The Chairman reported on discussions held to move forward partnership working between the LJC and the Stretton Partnership. The report before Members proposed that two representatives from the Stretton Partnership be co-opted onto the LJC. It also proposed that £4000 of the LJC's budget be allocated for a small grant fund to be administered by a sub-committee of the LJC, focusing on a number of area priorities.

6.2 Bob Welch, Chair of the Stretton Partnership, confirmed that the Partnership's membership were keen to become more involved with the LJC. He said it would be down to the Partnership to continue to prove it had a role.

6.3 The Nominated Partnership representatives for Membership of the LJC were Nicola McPherson and Richard Hubbard.

6.4 **RESOLVED:** that

A Two representatives from the Stretton Partnership are co-opted onto the Local Joint Committee with full voting rights (other than when considering grant applications – but see recommendation C below). These representatives will be nominated annually in line with Parish and Town Council representation.

C £4,000 of the LJC budget for 2013/14 is allocated to a delegated small grant fund, to be administered by a sub-committee of the LJC made up of the two Strettondale Area Partnership nominees plus the two Shropshire Councillors for the Church Stretton and Craven Arms Division. The fund will allow grants of up to £350 to be awarded.

D The fund would be for projects that focus on the following area priorities identified by the LJC and Area Partnership:

- Tourism and Recreation
- Community resilience and inclusion
- Sustainability and development
- Learning, education and schools
- Youth engagement and provision

A report on the delegated small grants budget should be brought back to each meeting of the LJC.

E Annual priorities will be agreed by the LJC and include a review of Church Stretton Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Priorities.

Recommendation B of the report was not approved.

## 8. Updates and Issues from Parishes

8.1 Allan McVittie drew attention to highways issues especially severe flooding, overgrown hedges and mud on some roads in the All Stretton, Smethcott & Woolstaston Parish area. He reported that work was underway on a Parish Plan.

8.2 Lynne Gray reported on a longstanding footpath problem in the Eaton-Under-Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish. She also

expressed concern about potholes and the darkness of Sandford Lane at night,

- 8.3 Steve Pennington also mentioned mud on roads in the Cardington Parish, and encouraged the clearing of grid covers following hedge cutting.

- 8.4 Mel McFarland reported that the broken jetting head between Longville and East Wall was due to be fixed. He provided an update on the new sewage developments and was pleased to pass on information about the imminent Apple Pressing Day at Rushbury Village Hall.

He also reported on Rushbury Parish Clerk's disappointing experience with a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme co-ordinator. The Chairman suggested that Sgt Woolley feed this back to Inspector Thomas.

Sgt  
Woolley

- 8.5 Paul Harris reported on severe problems caused by flooding in Leebotwood and Longnor. All roads in and out had been inaccessible at one point and he felt work on the bridge would need close monitoring to ensure it was satisfactory.

He also reported on problems regarding notification of planning applications with difficulties experienced at times accessing the on line system. When notification was received by post, it was sometimes too late to make a meaningful response before the deadline.

There was some progress with the Parish Plan and it was intended to resubmit a lottery application for the new village hall.

- 8.6 Tom Beaumont reported on several developments in Church Stretton including new gateway signs from the A49 (north and south) and new information boards showing the location of the Visitor Information Centre.

The SAMDEV working party would be meeting in the next week.

17 shops were currently participating in the scheme which allowed visitors who had purchased a car parking ticket to receive a discount if spending over £10.

## 9. FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- 9.1 *SD 20.7 Church Stretton Chamber of Trade Christmas Light Committee – 2012 Christmas Lights*  
**Agreed** to fund £800 towards costs.

*SD 20.8 British Red Cross – Shropshire Young Carers*

Funding not be agreed. The Chairman agreed to write to the Red Cross regarding the funding application, indicating that local action would be supported. The Committee asked to be informed at the next meeting if the Red Cross was able to secure alternative funding.

*SD 20.9 Ley Gardens Community room – New AV equipment*  
**Agreed** to fund £765 towards project costs

*SD 20.10 Church Stretton Cricket club – Repair of mower and pitch upgrade*  
**Agreed** to fund £629.72 towards costs

*SD 20.11 Brooksbury Sensory Garden - Purchase of soil and plants*  
**Agreed** to fund £2,000 towards total costs

- 9.2 It was suggested that £1000 from the Committee's current financial year's funds be made available to the new small grants fund. A further £500 could also be made available this financial year if needed. The remaining allocation could then be released to the fund at the beginning of the new financial year.

Lisa  
Bedford

## 10. Community Action Officer Report

- 10.1 Mathew Mead drew attention to correspondence with Parish and Town Councils regarding setting priorities for any Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding generated.
- 10.2 He also drew attention to the Lottery's 'Awards for All' programme which was currently piloting the award of grants for repeat and on-going activities. Support for applications was available from the Community Action Team and he encouraged potential applicants to make contact with him.

## 11. Public Questions

Concern was expressed that developers would now be required to 'pay up front' for undertaking development in Shropshire. This might cause problems, particularly for smaller developers, and encourage them to go elsewhere.

The Chairman suggested that relevant statistics be obtained for the next meeting and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Prosperity be invited to talk about the Community Infrastructure Levy and related issues.

Tim  
Barker

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 21 February 2013 at 7.00 pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Date: 21 February 2013