

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE FIVE PERRY PARISHES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2010

7.00 p.m. – 9.07 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Fiona Howe

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Present:

Members of the Committee:

Steve Charmley	Shropshire Council
Frank Beech	Hordley Parish Council
Trevor Benyon	Baschurch Parish Council (Vice Chairman)
David Curtis	West Felton Parish Council
Pat Raine	Whittington Parish Council
Ros Slowley	Ruyton-XI-Towns Parish Council

Officers:

Bobby Mulheir	Head of Customer Services (Lead Officer)
Carol Fox	Health & Safety Manager (Support Officer)
Trish Grantham	Community Regeneration Officer
Fiona Howe	Committee Officer
Laura Rowley	Director of Resources
Stephen Chandler	Assistant Director Adult Social Care
Martin Cavalot	Area Manager (North)
PC Simon Clarke	Local Police Officer

There were approximately 56 members of the public in attendance

1. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and duly resolved that Councillor Trevor Benyon be appointed Vice-Chairman of The Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Aggie Caesar-Homden (Shropshire Council) and Councillor Greg Hickman (Whittington Parish Council). Councillor Mrs Pat Raine was in attendance as his substitute.

ACTION

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL:

MEMBER/OFFICER	ITEM	REASON
Councillor S. Charmley	Minute 11(b)	No. He was a member of the Whittington Rugby Club. He took no part in the consideration of or voting on the application.

4. Note of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the note of the meeting held on 18 May 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

That Councillor Trevor Benyon (Baschurch Parish Council) was in attendance.

5. Chairman's Introduction

The Vice-Chairman welcomed members of public to the meeting and indicated that he would be handing over the running of the meeting, on this occasion, to Councillor Charmley.

Councillor Charmley advised that Rob Price from Shropshire Council's Benefits Department, Alison Teece and John Harrison, Shropshire Fire and Rescue and Neil Felton, Extra Care Housing PFI Scheme Consultation, would be available to speak to throughout the meeting for advice or information.

6. Shropshire Council Budget

The Director for Resources, Laura Rowley, was in attendance. She advised the meeting that Shropshire Council needed to make savings of £9.7 million in the current financial year and then a further £47 million over the next 3 years.

It was noted that the government had confirmed that Council Tax would not increase over the next 2 years and in order to address some of the funding issues the Council was facing, it was reviewing the way it provided services to the public in the future.

Ms Rowley indicated that they would be liaising closely between Council departments and with partners to ensure that the duplication of services were kept to a minimum to ensure that essential savings were achieved. It was noted that the Council

offices were being used to house not only Council services, but also groups such as Citizens Advice Bureau, the Police, Shropshire Housing Group and HM Revenues and Customs to ensure those locations became a hub for community facilities.

Residents were advised that the Council were going to be consulting the public over the next few months to assess priorities and were intending to attend Local Joint Committee meetings in the autumn to provide an update on proposals.

The following questions were raised in response to the presentation:

- Library services were being looked at to deliver a more efficient service to the public. It was noted that a Task and Finish Group were reviewing service provision and would be feeding back their findings. Residents were advised that a self service system had been trialled and would be rolled out to other Libraries across Shropshire. It was noted that staff reductions, efficiencies and locations of libraries would be look at down the line.
- The Council's carbon footprint and energy saving issues had been looked at and it had set a target of 7% energy reduction over the next 5 years. It was noted that the Council's current expenditure on utilities were £14 million. In conclusion it was stated that they were looking to achieve a 35% carbon reduction over the 5 year period.
- Shropshire Council was currently reviewing staff reductions and the salaries bill, but stated that a lot of services, such as residential care, building maintenance and home care were outsourced and that a lot of the staffing provision was within the private sector.
- Staff may be redeployed if their post becomes redundant. It was noted that a large proportion of savings would come from staff costs.

Councillor Charmley thanked the Director of Resources for her presentation and aiding the debate.

RESOLVED:

That the Outcomes of Budget Consultation report be noted.

7. Shropshire Fire and Rescue

John Harrison, Shropshire Fire & Rescue, addressed the meeting stating that Shropshire currently had 24 fire stations and 4 of these were staffed fulltime. It was noted that the remainder of the stations were staffed by on-call or retained fire officers who came from a wide cross section of the community.

Mr Harrison advised that they had received in excess of 7,000

calls in the past 12 months and that 60% of these calls were concentrated within urban areas. He advised that the Five Perry Parishes area was serviced by 3 stations and they had dealt with 100 callouts over the past 12 months.

Alison Teece presented information on Community Safety advising the public of the different services they provide, including fire alarm testing in conjunction with Trading Standards, electric blanket testing and general fire safety educational talks.

Councillor Charmley thanked Mr Harrison and Ms Teece for their attendance and informative presentations.

8. Older Peoples Services

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Councillor Simon Jones, the Assistant Director for Adult Services, Stephen Chandler, and North Area Manager, Martin Cavalot were in attendance.

Mr Chandler advised the meeting that they provided a broad range of services for older people, both across Shropshire and locally. He stated that the service worked closely with the voluntary sector, the local community and partners to provide the best provision possible.

Mr Cavalot advised that they provide direct services as well as commissioning other providers to carry out work on their behalf. He stated that there were day centre facilities available in the area such as Meres Day Centre and the Bradbury Day Centre in Whitchurch which provided services such as lunch clubs, nursing support and a general community meeting place for older people. It was noted that the Council were working with partners to promote living at home instead of having to move into residential care homes. They are helping to provide essential equipment to ensure the projects success.

In response to questions raised by residents, Officers provided the following information:

- Meals on Wheels review was currently ongoing. The meeting was advised that a Task and Finish Group were due to meet at the end of July 2010 and would be making recommendations to Cabinet in due course. Mr Chandler stressed that the Meals on Wheels service was not being phased out, but the Council were looking at all options available to them at this time.
- Teletalk and Telecare were a major part of the Council's strategy and a Task and Finish group would be receiving a presentation on service proposals. It was noted that there were a whole range of services available and they would be a major part of the future strategy.

9. Rural Broadband Provision

Councillor Charmley welcomed Mr Ian Binks, Partnership Director BT, to the meeting.

Mr Binks provided an overview of provision within rural areas and the problems being encountered. He advised residents that there were no simple answers to resolve the current problems.

It was noted that the signal strength and broadband width varied depending on how far the residence was away from the exchange, weather conditions and existing cabling, but stated that there were ways that residents could help improve their service. This included fitting a splitter plate to the main socket to separate data and audio signals. It was noted that this would help reduce interference from other electrical wiring within the accommodation.

He concluded that broadband provision in the United Kingdom was the best within 8 countries and that 99% of the country had a 2 mg service or above, but reiterated that the exact speed would be reduced depending on how far they were from the exchange, weather conditions and other electrical interference.

Residents raised the following issues in respect of their Broadband provision:

- There were 26 houses within the Lower Frankton area who's provision fluctuated between 0.3 mg and 0.8 mg within any one day and that 2 premises were unable to receive broadband at all. The resident indicated that an engineer had advised that their line was worn out and needed replacement before the service could be improved. Mr Binks advised the meeting that every line had optical capabilities, but most of them were not ASDL suitable. He stated that there was no universal obligation to provide a broadband service and that only telephone services were compulsory. It was noted that Ofcom had been tasked to set up a competitive market and that money was not available to invest in the rural areas and a return on investment was not significant.
- A resident stated that Shropshire Council would be providing a 400mg service into secondary schools and 100mg service into primary schools and requested that a service be made available for rural areas to piggy back off those services. Residents were advised that the Council had looked at this provision on several occasions, but advised that there were issues with security and billing which would need to be resolved before they could progress this project.
- A resident requested that BT look into the feasibility of straightening the existing copper lines. Mr Binks advised that BT were not planning to undertaken the suggested

work at present, but stated that he would take the request back for further consideration.

- A resident addressed the meeting advising that a group of residents had managed to improve their provision by using a wireless connection from Chirk. It was noted that they had taken over equipment from a broadband provider and now had an extremely good service. Mr Binks reported that they were looking at alternative ways to address the provision in rural communities and agreed that a wireless connection may be a way to resolve these issues in the future.

Councillor Charmley thanked Mr Binks for his presentation and assistance during the debate.

10. Partners and Communities Together (PACT)

Sgt Jim Stafford was in attendance and provided an update on police activity since the last Local Joint Committee highlighting crime figures for the Five Perry Parish area.

A local resident raised the issue of parking on pavements in the village of Whittington, and Castle Meadow Estate in particular, stating that it had been causing a problem for wheelchair users and mothers with pushchairs.

Sgt Stafford advised that it was an offence to obstruct a public highway, but that parking in general was the responsibility of Shropshire Council, but the police could get involved to resolve the issues being experienced. He advised the meeting that if the drivers were regular offenders then the residents could pass on registration numbers to their local police officer who could speak to them about the problem, issue an advisory notice or issue a fix penalty notice for obstruction.

11. Local Joint Committee Budget

The Vice-Chairman introduced the report, which set out details of grant funding applications, which had been received (copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the following projects funded from the 2010/2011 budget, be approved:

- (a) West Felton Summer Activity Club – That a contribution of £400 be approved to fund to costs of a dance tutor.
- (b) Whittington Rugby Club car park resurfacing – That a contribution of £1,500 be approve to fund the resurfacing of the car park.

Lead Officer/
Finance

- (c) Ruyton XI Towns Under Bell Tower Project – That a contribution of £2,000 be approved towards raising the ringing chamber, providing toilet and kitchen facilities.
- (d) Age Concern Lunch Club Ruyton XI Towns – That a contribution of £480 be approved to fund coach hire for a summer lunch trip to Llandudno.
- (e) Baschurch Village Hall Trust – That a contribution of £2,000 be approved towards the cost of replacement windows at Baschurch Village Hall.
- (f) Weston Lullingfields Village Hall Committee – That a contribution of £2,500 be approved for drainage and restoration of the village hall car park.

That the following application be refused:

- (g) West Felton Parish Council – That a contribution of £2,303 be refused.

Members considered that it was not clear from the application that there was a wider need for this facility in the area. It was also not clear who would take responsibility for the storage, maintenance and insurance of the equipment or how it would be accessed by others who might want to use it.

That the following application be deferred:

- (h) Oswestry Martial Arts Centre

That the application be deferred so that additional information can be sought from the applicant about how the total project costs will be funded, and other clarifications about the application can be obtained.

Community
Regeneration
Officer

12. Public Question Time

No questions, comments or suggestions were received at this point, but the Vice-Chairman requested that all those present put forward any comments on the sheets provided.

13. News and Information

There were no news or information items raised at this point.

14. Date of Next Meeting

That the next meeting of the Five Perry Parish Local Joint Committee would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 19th October 2010 at Hordley and Bagley Village Hall.

Signed (Chairman)

Date