



Committee and date:
The Severn Loop Local Joint
Committee

13 October 2010

7.00 p.m.

Item

(4i)

THE SEVERN LOOP LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON THE 12 JULY 2010 AT THE GUILDHALL, FRANKWELL QUAY, SHREWSBURY

Responsible Officer: Liz Sidaway
e-mail: liz.sidaway@shropshire.gov.uk

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council:

Mansel Williams

Shropshire Council / Shrewsbury Town Council:

Anne Chebsey

Shrewsbury Town Council:

Alan Townsend

Others Present:

West Mercia Police:

David Walton

Cheryl Hare

Safer Shrewsbury Shop and Pubwatch:

Richard Goodchild

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service:

Simon Roberts

There were approximately 40 members of the public present at the meeting.

ACTION:

13. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee and each member introduced themselves.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Shropshire Councillor (and Committee Chairman) Dr Maxwell Winchester, Town Councillor Andrew Wagner and several local residents.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on the 10 May 2010 were confirmed.

17. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mike Owen, Portfolio Holder and Cabinet Member, Claire Porter, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic) and Steph Jackson, Head of Exchequer Services to the meeting who gave a presentation on the Revenue Budget for 2011/2012. A copy of the presentation can be found on the Council website.

Claire Porter explained that the Leader of the Council together with the Corporate Management Team had agreed that the budget consultation for the forthcoming year should be brought forward due to the significant constraints placed upon the Council following the coalition government cuts recently announced.

Mike Owen went on to explain that the funding crunch would be of an unprecedented level and was likely to represent cuts in central Government funding of about 25% over the next three to four years which would equate to around £47 million. Cuts of over £9 million were also having to be found in the current financial year.

He went on to confirm that the Council had started to put in place an ambitious transformation programme in the way public services would be delivered over the next 3 years. He indicated that in the long-term (30 year) more fundamental changes were required to ensure that all Shropshire residents enjoy a good quality of life. The transformation was likely to change the way staff work by trying to meet the needs of service users differently, and was also likely to result in the scaling back of some service provision and the cessation of some services in their current form. The new arrangements may also commission the voluntary or community sector organisations to undertake some service provision as well as working more closely with the Health Service, Police, Fire and Rescue as well as Town Councils.

Over the next six months, the Council would be looking at all options available to reduce its spending. As part of its decision making, the Council would be consulting widely on its proposals and the feedback would influence the Council's approach to its financial plan. Those present were advised that there would be an online consultation, which would commence following consideration by Cabinet on 21st July.

The following points were raised during the course of the discussion:

- Which service areas are likely to be charged for in future?
- Will the crematorium bring in additional revenue?
- With reference to the consultation undertaken in December, the majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they would rather see council tax rise than see cuts in local services - disgruntled that the consultation results had been ignored.
- Reference to the 'excessive' salaries of the Chief Executive and

Senior Management Team.

- Consideration should be given to council employees having to pay for parking at Shirehall
- What about combining Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Councils?
- What is the definition of an 'essential' post?
- Would it be more cost effective to have temporary posts rather than using agency based employees?
- Shrewsbury is served by 8 secondary schools - spoiled for choice in this area, reference made to the reduction in child numbers, is this an area where economies could be made through reorganisation.

Mike Owen, Claire Porter and Steph Jackson undertook to feed the comments raised back to the Council Leader and the Corporate Management Team. The Vice Chairman thanked Mike Owen, Claire Porter and Steph Jackson for their attendance and urged local residents to get involved in the consultation and to make their views known.

18. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

PC David Walton and PC Cheryl Hare updated everyone on policing activities within the Severn Loop area and answered questions.

An invitation was extended for everyone to get involved in the PACT (Police and Communities Together) process either by completing a PACT survey either online, by visiting the Riverside Police Station or by attending the weekly PACT surgery held at Poppies Tearooms every Wednesday afternoon between 2.00 and 3.00 pm.

A local resident paid tribute to the work undertaken by CSO Tomlinson with the local children in Coton Hill.

Local residents raised several issues which were taken on board by the Local Policing Teams including the lack of a direct (and local) telephone number to contact police, anti-social behaviour and cycling on pavements.

Richard Goodchild briefed those present on success of the Safer Shrewsbury scheme.

Simon Roberts briefed the local residents on the work undertaken by the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Chairman thanked the representatives of West Mercia Police, Safer Shrewsbury Shop and Pubwatch and Shropshire Fire and Rescue for their attendance and updates.

19. COMMUNITY WORKING UPDATE

Ruth Mansfield, Community Regeneration Officer outlined the work and projects undertaken within the Severn Loop area (a copy of the presentation is appended to the signed minutes). She also gave an update on some of the successful funding applicants and organisations.

In response to a comment about the public conveniences in Shrewsbury Town Centre, Anne Chebsey gave an update on the current position. A

Town Council Working Group had undertaken a review of the public conveniences in the town; as a result a full refurbishment would be undertaken and a planned programme of deep cleansing would be implemented. In addition, the opening hours for the public conveniences had been extended until 7.00 pm and that improved signage was also planned. Anne Chebsey indicated that any specific comments should be directed to the Operations Manager at Shrewsbury Town Council.

20. BUDGET REPORT

Andy Goldsmith presented the Budget Decision report and presented a powerpoint presentation in respect of matters requiring a decision by the Committee on grant funding applications.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following project funded by the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee 2010/2011 budget be approved:

Local Policing Team - Coton Hill - Football Coaching Sessions:
that £936.25 be funded for football training for children between the ages of 8 and 16 years throughout the summer holidays.

2. **Coton Hill Community Bus** - that the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee recognised and thanked the local residents for their hard work and enthusiasm in endeavouring to establish a commercial viable community transport scheme. However, in light of the need for ongoing subsidy for such a scheme determined that no further funding be committed to this initiative and encouraged residents to make use of the Shrewsbury Dial a Ride service.

21. HAVE YOUR SAY / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / UPDATE

Each member of the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee gave a brief update on matters within their respective wards.

Local residents were encouraged to have their say and the following points / questions raised:

- Real-time bus information is no longer displayed at bus stops. Andy Goldsmith stated that funding for real-time bus information had ceased and residents were advised to contact Shropshire Council for bus timetable information.
- Traffic lights at Claremont Bank / Bridge Street - the newly installed yellow box junction needed to be extended to prevent vehicles from blocking the junction. The traffic lights were out of sync and needed to be adjusted. Local residents were advised that the traffic management system at Claremont Bank / Bridge Street / Smithfield Road had not been fully completed and works to the installation of a new traffic light controller were in progress.
- Will there be a crossing across Raven Meadows towards Roushill Bank? Andy Goldsmith confirmed there were plans to examine a crossing at this point.
- What are the access arrangements when the Quarry is closed off for events such as the Flower Show or concerts? Anne Chebsey agreed

to clarify the access arrangements with the Town Council.

- Is there any feedback on noise levels following the concert at the Quarry on the 9 July 2010? Andy Goldsmith stated that few complaints had been received by him to date, one resident registered a complaint about the fireworks.

The Chairman encouraged those present to complete the update forms with any specific comments or to contact their local councillor.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 13 October 2010 at 7.00 pm in the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury.

7.00 pm to 9.45 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

**SEVERN LOOP LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE -
COMMENTS & QUESTIONS ARISING
FROM THE MEETING HELD ON THE 12 JULY 2010**

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0.	COMMENT / QUESTION / ISSUE	RESPONSE
1.	What are the access arrangement to the Quarry during concerts or the Flower Show?	<p>Shrewsbury Town Council has confirmed that there is no right of way through the Quarry. The Town Council endeavours to keep the Quarry open to the public as often as possible. however there are occasions when the Quarry needs to be closed such as the flower show or concerts (last year 3 days in total). These dates are publicised at least two weeks in advance. It is not a requirement but it is undertaken out of courtesy.</p> <p>In the past concert promoters or the flower show have escorted public through the Quarry out of courtesy. However having had stewards verbally abused, this good will gesture was stopped. To continue with this arrangement in future is at the organisers discretion, but it is not a requirement, and the Town Council we will not seek to change this policy.</p>