



Committee and Date
The Severn Loop Local Joint
Committee

12 October 2011

7.00 p.m.

Item/Paper

4

Public

THE SEVERN LOOP LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2011 AT THE GUILDHALL, FRANKWELL QUAY, SHREWSBURY

Responsible Officer: Ken James
e-mail: ken.james@shropshire.gov.uk

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council:

Andrew Bannerman
Mansel Williams

Shropshire Council / Shrewsbury Town Council:

Anne Chebsey

Others Present:

West Mercia Police:

Cheryl Hare
Mike Dulson

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service:

Shaun Baker

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

ACTION:

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Anne Chebsey be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman, Anne Chebsey, welcomed everyone to the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee. She spoke briefly on the new arrangements for LJC meetings in 2011/12, with two meetings to be held for the Severn Loop LJC area together with two meetings of the newly formed Shrewsbury Wide LJC covering the whole of the Shrewsbury urban area.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Townsend and Andrew Wagner (Shrewsbury Town Council).

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mansel Williams be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

6. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

7. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

PC Cheryl Hare provided an update on policing activities within the Coton Hill area, including priority matters and initiatives as follows:

- There had been a slight increase in vehicle crime with thefts from and damage to vehicles and this would be pursued as a matter of priority.
- Leafleting of the area would be undertaken about not leaving valuables in cars.
- Complaints had been received about drug dealing at a premises in Coton Hill and a warrant for arrest had now been issued.
- A surgery was being held at the Greenfields Stores every other Monday at 11.00 a.m. and everyone was welcome to attend.
- CSO Simon Yuile would be looking to arrange some football sessions for children during the summer.

Acting Sergeant for the town Mike Dulson provided an update on policing activities within the Severn Loop area, including priority matters and initiatives as follows:

- There had been a reduction in violent crime in the town centre.
- Non-compliance with the no entry at Belmont was being enforced. Sat Navs were taking motorists down Belmont the wrong way and this had been addressed with the Sat Nav companies.
- Anti-social behaviour at the Bus Station was being addressed. The pedestrian entrance from Raven Meadows where youths congregated would be altered to assist in this and CCTV coverage of the Bus Station linked to the Monitoring Centre for the town was being explored. Three Crasbo's had been served to repeat offenders of anti-social behaviour at the Bus Station.
- Motorists failing to turn right at the Church Street exit into Dogpole. 80 motorists had been referred to the courts for prosecution and penalty notices had been served. The matter would continue to be monitored.
- The busker on Pride Hill causing a nuisance with anti-social behaviour after excessive drinking had now left town to Blackpool and the beggars on Greyfriars Bridge had now gone.
- Cycling on the pavement was being enforced with 30 warning notices issued to offenders.

- It was found that incidents of ID fraud were being committed with false ID being used in an attempt to get into licensed premises. If found, driving licenses were being returned to the DVLA and passports returned to the passport office so the owners would have to pay to get them back. It was hoped that this would put a stop to the practice.
- 300 people had now been banned from licensed premises under the Pubwatch scheme.

PC Cheryl Hare and the Acting Sergeant for the town Mike Dulson answered questions from members of the public present at the meeting, during which Mike Dulson indicated that the police did check that any scrap metal dealers calling on residents were licensed.

The Chairman thanked PC Cheryl Hare and Acting Sergeant for the town Mike Dulson for their updates and invited Mr Richard Goodchild, the Pubwatch Scheme Manager to address the meeting.

Mr Goodchild reported that there had been a 25% drop in violent crime in the town centre over the last two years and there had been only one serious violent crime this year. Pubwatch membership had now increased to 55 premises and if a person was banned from one premises in Pubwatch then they were banned from them all.

It was considered that the scheme was succeeding in helping to reduce incidents of violence, public disorder, drug related incidents and other criminal offences in the town centre. A presentation of the scheme had been made to the Home Office and was being used as a national guideline.

In response to questions from members of the public, Mr Goodchild indicated that there were five licensed premises in the town centre that were not members of Pubwatch but two of these would now be joining shortly. In addition, he confirmed that being a member of Pubwatch could not be made a condition of the license.

8. SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE UPDATE

Shaun Baker of Shrewsbury Fire and Rescue addressed the meeting on the work undertaken by the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

He indicated that fire incidents across Shrewsbury had reduced since the suspect of arson attacks at Herongate had been arrested. He referred to the large amount of education work undertaken and smoke detectors provided in homes by the Fire and Rescue Service but warned residents to still be aware of the dangers from fire.

He referred to the Fire Service's funding changes and stated that the response to attending to incidents would remain unaffected. However, smoke detectors could no longer be provided in homes as a matter of course but stressed that home fire risk assessments would continue and that the Brigade would be able to fit smoke detectors which had been privately purchased.

He reported that the river lifebuoys project had been completed, with all lifebuoys now accounted for and numbered according to their location. If a lifebuoy was found along the towpath/riverbank in future then where it had come from and to where it should be returned would be known immediately.

Questions were then invited from the local residents, during which the following issues were raised:

- Butcher Row - obstructions from car parking, 'A' Boards and use of the public pavements for café/bar trading particularly in the evenings when there was a lack of parking enforcement. Shaun Baker reported that four fire appliances had attended Butcher Row during both the day and night and on each occasion access could be obtained following the moving of any vehicles and tables and chairs being pushed aside. He had spoken to the hotels and businesses in the area to make them aware of the issues and he was satisfied that there was no permanent hinderance preventing the Fire and Rescue Service from reaching any part of Butcher Row.
- Licensing applications – why the Fire and Rescue Service does not comment on access issues. Shaun Baker stated that the Fire and Rescue Service was required to comment on the fire safety issues within the premises.
- The Chairman indicated that arrangements would be made to include items on the agenda for the next meeting on the increasing use of public pavements for trading including the growing 'Café Culture' in Shrewsbury town centre, with a planning officer and a licensing officer invited to attend to comment; to clarify the position on the display of "A" Boards and the enforcement action being taken; and to clarify the position on parking enforcement in the evenings.

Gwyn
Bevan

The Chairman thanked Shaun Baker for his update.

9. CONNECT2 WALKING AND CYCLING PROJECT

Alison Kennedy, Transport Planner at Shropshire Council, and Emma Bullard, Travel Plan Co-ordinator at Shropshire Council, addressed the meeting on the consultations for the proposed alterations to the junction of Raven Meadows and Smithfield Road forming part of the Sustrans funded Connect2 Walking and Cycling Project in Shrewsbury project to provide better connections for walking and cycling along Smithfield Road and between the town centre and north Shrewsbury.

Alison Kennedy indicated that the proposals included the conversion of the northern footway on Smithfield Road, between Frankwell footbridge and Severn Terrace, to a shared use footway/cycle track with the widening of the footway from the Boxing Gym to Severn Terrace; an upgrade of the traffic signals at the junction of Raven Meadows and Smithfield Road that would improve the movement of all vehicles through the junction; and improved access for buses into the bus station.

The plans for the scheme would be available in the Guildhall and Shirehall receptions and could be viewed on the Council's website until 3rd June 2011.

Comments were invited from local residents, during which the following points were raised:

- The original plan for the route of the cycle path behind the boxing gym could not be pursued due to structural, flooding and security issues.
- The revised traffic signals at the junction of Raven Meadows and Smithfield Road would link into and synchronise with any traffic signal alterations at the Chester Street gyratory.
- Concern was expressed about inconsiderate cycling on pavements where there was no shared use with pedestrians. The Chairman asked residents to inform the police of such instances so that action could be taken. Emma Bullard stated that the growth in cycling had led to an increase of cycling on the pavement. Police warning notices and leaflets, produced in consultation with the Cycle Shrewsbury office at the Council, explaining to offenders where cycling on pavements was permitted, had produced a reduction in cycling on pavements in the town centre. Alison Kennedy indicated that the shared use of the pavement on Smithfield Road for cyclists and pedestrians was intended to take the cycling connection from The Quarry to the bus and railway stations but there were no other shared use proposals for other town centre streets.

The Chairman thanked Alison Kennedy and Emma Bullard for their attendance and presentation and encouraged all those present to respond to the consultation.

10. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

Gwyn Bevan, Community Action Officer, presented his report setting out details of two grant funding applications that had been received.

It was noted that the application from the Summer Gardens Residents Association in Belle Vue for the purchase of outdoor play equipment for the provision of a communal play area had been withdrawn. Gwyn Bevan indicated that the applicants were reviewing the project and it was expected that the application would be resubmitted at a later date.

RESOLVED:

That the following application for funding from the 2011/2012 budget be approved:

Application	Amount
Darwin Community Centre, Frankwell – Improvement to Disabled Access and Toilets	£939

**Gwyn
Bevan**

11. COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE

Gwyn Bevan reported to the meeting on recent activities in the area. He stated that as the new Community Action Officer for the area he was keen to meet with all groups and invited everyone to take one of his contact cards available on the table at the back of the Chamber.

Recent initiatives in the area included the refurbishment of the riverside frontage at Coton Hill, community activity days, extra signage and bins for dog mess, dealing with crime and disorder issues in Porthill and anti-social behaviour issues at Burrs and Becks Fields and working with groups in Belle Vue developing applications for funding.

12. SHROPSHIRE BUS STRATEGY 2011-2016 – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Chairman indicated that copies of the report submitted to Cabinet on 11th May 2011 on the results of the consultation exercise and the recommendations for service changes were available on the table at the back of the Chamber. The Cabinet decisions could be viewed on the Council's website.

Mr Peter Gilbert, Chairman of the Shropshire Bus Users Group, who was present at the meeting, stated that the Cabinet had taken the decision to stop evening and Sunday bus services and had not followed the recommendation of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group for a further review of those proposals.

The Chairman indicated that Shrewsbury Town Council was looking into whether it could provide any financial assistance to maintain services which had a low subsidy, particularly the hospital route.

Mr Peter Gilbert suggested that the provision of the subsidised Shropshire Link service around the villages, which was not included in the review, should be reviewed as it had no significance to the economy of the county unlike the regular bus services.

13. HAVE YOUR SAY – QUESTION TIME

The Chairman asked all those present to complete and return the feedback forms circulated before leaving.

The Chairman then invited questions/comments from local residents and the following points / questions were raised:

- Shrewsbury Castle – no functions/events being held at the Castle this year. Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that no events were being permitted until emergency exit provision had been improved to the fire officer's satisfaction. The Chairman stated that the latest position on this would be checked
- Chester Street/ Smithfield Road – need to improve pedestrian priority for crossing Smithfield Road from Chester Street. Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that this was looking to be addressed as part of improvements to the Chester Street gyratory. Alison Kennedy undertook to take up the resident's comments with the Council officers concerned.
- St. Julian's Friars housing development – concern about the inordinate length of time being taken to complete the scheme, with

**Gwyn
Bevan**

**Alison
Kennedy**

the area continuing to be in a very unsightly condition and the difficulty experienced in obtaining any definite information on when the works, including the provision of the loop road from English Bridge to Beeches Lane, would be finished. Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that he would be happy to share the information he had on this with residents. Councillor Mansell Williams stated that engineering difficulties had been experience with connecting the loop road to Beeches Lane and he understood that it was hoped to have this resolved and completed by October 2011. The Council officer who was the Project Manager for the scheme was Andy Savage. Gwyn Bevan indicated that any update information on the timescale for works would be placed on the "You Said We Did" section of the LJC's webpage.

**Gwyn
Bevan**

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee would be held on Wednesday 12th October 2011 at 7.00 pm at The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury

7.00 pm to 9.05 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: