

THE SEVERN LOOP LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 2 MAY 2012 AT THE GUILDHALL, FRANKWELL QUAY, SHREWSBURY

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

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council:

Andrew Bannerman
Anne Chebsey
Mansel Williams

Shrewsbury Town Council:

Alan Townsend

Others Present:

West Mercia Police:

PC Cheryl Hare

There were approximately 17 members of the public present at the meeting.

ACTION:

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Andrew Bannerman be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Anne Chebsey be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

4. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman made an introductory statement welcoming everyone to the meeting and gave a brief explanation and background about the purpose and powers of the meeting.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alan Townsend – Personal Interest in respect of the funding application from the Belle Vue Community Arts Festival as he was a supporter of the festival which he had helped to set up.

6. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting held on 12th October 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

7. UPDATES

The following updates on actions arising from the previous meeting were received:

- Alterations to the Smithfield Road and Raven Meadows Junction – Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that the works had gone very well and provided much needed improvements.
- Shrewsbury Castle – Gwyn Bevan reported that improvements to emergency exit provision to enable increased attendance for events still needed to be implemented. Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that this would continue to be pursued.
- St Julian's Friars Gyratory – Councillor Andrew Bannerman reported that the gyratory road had not yet been completed as further difficulties had been experienced with the bridge over the old town wall. He understood that this had now been resolved and work would proceed once again and was expected to take at least another two months to complete. The proposed traffic flow of the gyratory road was still anti-clockwise through the development with traffic entering from Beeches Lane and exiting at the English Bridge junction. Councillor Alan Townsend enquired about how the passage of pedestrians along the narrow part of St Julian's Friars could be safeguarded. Councillor Mansell Williams indicated that this would be designated as a priority pedestrian route for use by vehicles for access only but pedestrians would have the right of way.
- Bus Services – Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that Shrewsbury Town Council had been unable to provide any funding for bus services. In response to a query, he also indicated that the bus operators were responsible for displaying timetables in bus shelters.
- Littering/Take-Aways – Councillor Mansell Williams stated that littering continued to be tackled as a high priority. Gwyn Bevan indicated that the Council's enforcement team had been working closely with the police on this and 28 fixed penalty notices had been issued recently. A local resident enquired whether posters could be placed in take-aways to help tackle the problem. Clive Wright reported that the Council did speak with shopkeepers if a lot of rubbish was being left around their premises and could speak with take-away establishments about putting up posters about littering inside their premises.

**Gwyn
Bevan/
Councillor
Andrew
Bannerman**

**Councillor
Mansell
Williams**

**Clive
Wright**

Councillor Andrew Bannerman reported that planning applications had been submitted for two further take-aways in the town centre, including a mobile take-away outside the Buttermarket which he believed could lead to littering problems and nuisance to residents. He stressed that local residents needed to register their views on the proposals if they did not want them to proceed.

- Litter Bins – Local residents commented on the need for more litter bins to be provided throughout the town centre and around the bus and train stations to help keep the area clean and tidy. Councillor Alan Townsend stressed that every litter bin provided added to the cost of maintaining and emptying. Therefore, unless further funding was allocated then the provision of litter bins had to be rationalised and consideration needed to be given to whether this should be made a priority as Shrewsbury was a visitor town. Councillor Andrew Bannerman stated that on litter picks cigarette butts always had to be collected as the street cleansing machines were unable to sweep them up. He expressed the view that every establishment with smokers should provide receptacles for the disposal of cigarette butts and he would continue to pursue this.
- Pavement Obstructions/Café Culture – Gwyn Bevan reported that enforcement officers were monitoring the situation and dealing with any infringements. IA local resident enquired about restricting the café culture in The Square. Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that the planning application to extend the shop fronts of Princess House had been granted approval. He indicated that he would be contesting the reduction of the highway caused by the proposal as it could lead to the tables and chairs outside premises being moved further out into The Square. Councillor Alan Townsend indicated that Shrewsbury Town Council had objected to the proposal on similar grounds.

**Councillor
Andrew
Bannerman**

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8. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

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

Coton Hill

- **Action on Drugs**
A warrant had been issued and an arrest made on 30th March.
- **Gravel Hill Lane**
Concern had been expressed at a PACT meeting about drug abuse and littering in Gravel Hill Lane. Patrols of the area had been stepped up and the problem had been alleviated.
- **Burglaries**
An arrest had been made and the person charged after a small spate of burglaries in the area. A number of sheds at the recently opened Coton Hill allotments had been broken into and local residents were asked to call-in anything they thought was suspicious.

Town Centre

- **Mobility Scooters**
A number of problems had been encountered with mobility scooters being driven recklessly around the town centre and the issue was receiving attention.
- **Hills Lane**
There had been crime and disorder incidents occurring around Hills Lane and the Police were working with the establishments there to address this and seeking CCTV camera coverage of the area. The Police were working with Pubwatch to pursue incidents of disorder and promoting the positive work with Pubwatch in the media.
- **Church Street**
Enforcement action continued to be taken against motorists going against the one way restriction on Dogpole to access St Mary's Place from Church Street.

9. NORTHERN GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Samantha Tharme, Principal Transport Planner, and Alison Kennedy, Transport Planner, at Shropshire Council addressed the meeting on the Northern Gateway Enhancement Scheme and the consultations that had been undertaken on the scheme for improvements to traffic, pedestrian and cycling conditions and the general environment around the Smithfield Road, Chester Street, Cross Street and Castle Foregate gyratory.

Samantha Tharme and Alison Kennedy indicated that the scheme included the provision of additional signal controlled pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities, the widening of pavements, the conversion of footways to shared use for walking and cycling, changes to on-street parking arrangements on Chester Street, landscaping and lighting improvements particularly under the railway bridges on Castle Foregate and in the Cross Street tunnel, upgrading of existing traffic signals and the resurfacing of road and pavements to a high standard. In addition, it was anticipated that the works would assist in resolving issues that presently lead to delays in bus services through the gyratory and vehicle activated advanced warning signs would be provided on the approaches to the gyratory to alert HGV's to the low bridge ahead.

A two-day consultation event at The Gateway Education and Arts Centre had been well attended and over 100 feedback forms had been received during the consultation, with high support for the proposals which were due to be undertaken in two phases after the Flower Show until November 2012 and then from January to March 2013 .

The results of the consultations would be submitted to the Central Planning Committee on 10th May for consideration and approval of the scheme.

Samantha Tharme and Alison Kennedy answered local resident's questions, during which the following points were raised and indications given:

- The new traffic lights at the Welsh Bridge included a longer wait for pedestrians to cross due to the volume of traffic to be moved through the junction for safe crossing to be achieved.
- Traffic signals would be synchronised and linked to others in the network to ensure that the optimum running time was provided for vehicles to keep delays to a minimum.
- Over-run areas on the footway around the Coton Hill/Cross Street pedestrian refuge would be built into the detailed design to enable HGV's that had missed the advance bridge warning signs to turn back and avoid the bridges.
- Representations were being made to the Sat Nav companies to include the preferred lorry routes on their devices.
- It was accepted that the works would result in disruption in the area but all the various elements of the scheme would be undertaken at the same time for a comprehensive improvement of the area and traffic conditions to and around the gyratory.
- The pedestrian refuges at the junction of Chester Street/Smithfield Road would be widened to assist pedestrians crossing Smithfield Road to and from Chester Street. The traffic modelling for the scheme did not support the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing at the location.
- The scheme would cost £1.6m and would be delivered entirely through external grant funding secured from Growth Point money, the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, Connect2 (Sustrans) and developer contributions.

10. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

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

RESOLVED:

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

**Gwyn
Bevan**

Application	Amount
Coton Hill Youth Club – Set up costs and equipment.	£870
Belle Vue Community Arts Festival – Costs involved in staging of the event.	£1,500
United Reformed Church – Refurbishment works.	£1,500
St. Michaels Gate Old Canal Path – Enhancement works.	£2,040
Shrewsbury Film Society – Replacement of old audio visual equipment at The Hive where the Society is based.	£2,000

Shrewsbury Town Centre Residents Association – Additional music events at the Bandstand in The Quarry.

£2,000 (subject to a fully costed programme of events being prepared and submitted)

Gwyn Bevan

11. COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE

Gwyn Bevan referred to the display board showing details of the achievements of this LJC and the 34 projects it had assisted in its lifetime. The funding issued to the assisted projects had amounted to £75,000 which had helped to attract a further £183,000 of additional funding.

In addition, Gwyn reported on the arrangements for the Olympic Torch relay which would be passing through Shrewsbury on 30th May and events taking place over the Diamond Jubilee weekend, particularly the River Festival being staged on Sunday 3rd June.

Gwyn then drew attention to the campaign to bring superfast broadband to Shropshire and encouraged all to register their support.

12. HAVE YOUR SAY – QUESTION TIME

Councillor Andrew Bannerman asked all those present to complete and return the feedback forms circulated before leaving.

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

- Pubwatch – Richard Goodchild reported that the great efforts made over the last 3 years had produced a 50% reduction in violent crime. He indicated that since retail exclusions had commenced in June 201, retail crime had reduced significantly in the town centre. On town centre cleaning, he stated that by 7.00am each morning the town centre had been cleaned and all bins emptied from the previous evening. The street cleansing team was also undertook cleaning at 4.30am after closure of night time venues and McDonalds was also clearing litter from the streets in the vicinity of their premises.
- Plans to cut the cost of the subsidy for Theatre Severn – Councillor Anne Chebsey stated that leisure and cultural facilities such as Theatre Severn had always necessitated the provision of a subsidy to assist their provision as a key visitor destination. Clive Wright indicated that the Council was looking at improvements in the operation of Theatre Severn to enable the subsidy to be reduced.
- Understanding that no smaller independent shops would be offered units at the new Riverside Shopping development – Councillor Andrew Bannerman stated that owner had control over the letting of shop units and he understood that the shopping centre was to take

on more national chains of shops and restaurants and the smaller independent shops would be located in the historic core of the town centre. Clive Wright indicated that a wide range of size of shop units was to be made available and asked local residents to let him know if anyone was excluded from the shopping centre.

- Relaxation of car parking charges to encourage people to stay longer in the town – Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that various options were being examined by use of varying parking regulations.
- The future of the Quarry Swimming and Fitness Centre – Clive Wright indicated that a private sector operator (Serco) would run the centre from 1st July 2012 on a medium term contract (around 10 years). The staff at the centre would transfer to the new operator under the TUPE legislation retaining their existing terms and conditions. In respect of the maintenance of the building and plant, the refurbishment or replacement of the facility was a consideration forming part of the contract but no decision had yet been made. He indicated that it was the Council's intention to always have a swimming facility in and around the town but that it might not always be at the present site. In response to a query raised about future opening hours and charges, Councillor Andrew Bannerman stated that commercial considerations would apply. In conclusion, Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that he was seeking further information on the matter from the officer responsible and Portfolio Holder so that he could update local residents.

13. DATE OF MEETING

Ken James

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Severn Loop Local Joint Committee would be held on Wednesday 24th October 2012 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury.

7.00 pm to 9.10 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: