

THE SEVERN LOOP LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2012 AT THE GUILDHALL, FRANKWELL QUAY, SHREWSBURY

Responsible Officer: Ken James
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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council:

Andrew Bannerman
Anne Chebsey
Mansel Williams

Shrewsbury Town Council:

Alan Townsend

Others Present:

West Mercia Police:

Inspector James Dunn
CSO Ivan Collumbell

There were approximately 24 members of the public present at the meeting.

ACTION:

1. 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.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

4. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

5. UPDATES

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

- Northern Gateway Enhancement Scheme – Councillor Andrew Bannerman stated that phase 1 of the works had commenced following a very good consultation event on the scheme at The Gateway and he hoped that the scheme would provide a great benefit for the town.
- Shrewsbury Castle – Gwyn Bevan, Community Action Officer, indicated that emergency exit provision had been addressed and the grounds were available for events for up to 500 people.
- St Julian's Friars Gyratory - Councillor Andrew Bannerman stated that a very useful exhibition and consultation on how the road would operate had been held with residents. He reported that the road would open shortly and considered that its use needed to be kept under close observation. He indicated that he would welcome comments at any time on how the scheme was working.
- Princess House, The Square - Councillor Andrew Bannerman reported that following a large number of objections to the extension of Princess House on to the public highway in The Square, the proposal would be dealt with at a public enquiry. He undertook to publicise the date for the public enquiry when it was known.

**Councillor
Andrew
Bannerman**

6. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

CSO Ivan Collumbell provided an update on policing activities within the Severn Loop area, including priority matters and initiatives as follows:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
Evening patrols around residential areas had been increased in the run up to Halloween and Bonfire Night.
- **Graffiti**
There had been a spate of graffitiing in the town and this was being attended to.
- **Burglary**
A spate of burglaries had occurred over the last 3 months and 2 suspects had now been arrested. The target had mainly been jewellery to sell off as scrap gold. Residents were recommended to take preventative measures by leaving lights and radios on if they went out, in addition to closing all windows and doors.
- **Traffic**
The issue of speeding on Ellesmere Road continued to be addressed and efforts were being made to deal with inconsiderate parking around Woodfield Road. If any boy racer activity occurred and they were apprehended, then the police would be looking to seize their vehicles.

Inspector James Dunn reported that as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review savings of just over £20m had to be made in the police budget by 2015 and following this some temporary changes had been made to the local policing arrangements with officers having to cover more than one area for a time. A final decision on the shape of the future model for policing in the area would be made after the Police and Crime Commissioner election on 15th November 2012.

Inspector James Dunn then invited questions/comments from local residents and the following points/questions were raised:

- Town Centre Police Office – Inspector Dunn indicated it was uncertain at this stage whether the operation of the Town Centre Police Office would continue and a decision on this was awaited as part of the review of the current police force estate and the development of a new model for delivering policing services, arising from the need for savings in the police budget.
- Effect on policing of the removal of bicycles from postmen - Inspector Dunn stated that in policing by consent then anything that changed the flow of information would impact on policing.
- Burglaries - Inspector Dunn indicated that operation citadel had been undertaken today to address the proliferation of burglaries in the area.
- Means of communication with Police on incidents when the Town Centre Police Office was closed - Inspector Dunn regretted that budget demands meant that the Town Centre Police Office could not remain open 24/7 and undertook to ensure that a contact number for the local police was displayed outside the office at times of closure.
- Cycling on Pavements and Footbridges - Inspector Dunn indicated that the police worked closely in partnership with the Council's Highway's Officers on an 'education, engineering, enforcement' approach in dealing with infringements. He asked residents with complaints about such incidents to pass on their details and he would arrange for Sergeant Greenaway to speak with them.
- Police and Crime Commissioner Election on 15th November 2012 - Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that details on the candidates could be obtained from the Council's elections office and were also available to view on the Council's website.

Inspector
Dunn

Inspector
Dunn

7. AREA DIRECTOR UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

Clive Wright addressed the meeting on his role as the Central Area Director in resolving local issues and implementing local initiatives and gave an update on the following key matters affecting the town:

SAMDev – It was important that residents had their say on this now, with the building of new housing and businesses around the town and major new housing developments planned for the south and north of the town coming within the next 5 years which would impact on roads and increase the population and town centre users.

Place Plans – The Council was currently working with Shrewsbury Town Council on renewing the aspirations of the place plan. Contributions from the Community Infrastructure Levy from developments would help to deliver the place plan.

Gateways into the Town – There were plans to change the feel of the roadway across English Bridge and up Wyle Cop to get across to road users that they were entering an area with a large number of pedestrians.

Northern Gateway Enhancement Scheme – Works to the Cross Street and Castle Foregate bridges by the railway station had commenced as part of the scheme. The bridges would be cleaned and repainted and new lighting provided, damaged pigeon netting would also be replaced and the brickwork and tiling under the bridges would be cleaned. Smarter synchronised traffic signals were being installed to assist traffic flows that could move large batches of vehicles through at busy times and at quiet times should allow vehicles to move through without encountering a red light. The work was due to complete by the end of March 2013 with a break in the run up to Christmas and over the Christmas/ New Year holiday.

Destination Shrewsbury – Work was being undertaken on improvements to the assets of the town and new ways of promoting the town. Extending way finding around the town was being looked at in an effort to enable places around the town to be found without them always having to be signposted.

Business Improvement District – Work was being undertaken with local business on establishing a Business Improvement District for Shrewsbury Town Centre. If businesses vote for the establishment of a Business Improvement District it was anticipated that the levy to be charges on the business would raise around £300,000 a year to be reinvested in the town by the businesses as they wish to assist them in promoting the town and getting a return on their investment.

Music Hall – The planned opening for scheme was late Summer/early autumn 2013.

Transport Policies – The transport policies for Shrewsbury would be reviewed to look at future requirements bearing in mind how the town was developing.

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

- Use of the Council's website and electronic media to provide information to the public when not all residents had personal computers - Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that public computers were available for residents in the library. Clive Wright accepted the point raised and indicated that all the matters he had referred to had been covered by the local press and local radio.
- Removal of road markings in the centre lane on Smithfield Road still required after removal of the pedestrian refuge - Clive Wright undertook to look into this and get back to Mr Jones.

**Clive
Wright**

- Possible need for additional lighting with the traffic to be exiting the St. Julian's gyratory road at the English Bridge junction – Clive Wright indicated that this was an experimental traffic order and would be kept under review. The lighting at the junction was considered to be sufficient but would be upgraded if needed.
- Traffic Lights at junction of Coton Hill and Berwick Road not indicating green to pedestrians to cross – Clive Wright undertook to look into this.
- Signing of alternative routes for pedestrians around the repaving works outside The Gateway during the Chester Street Gyratory Scheme needed to be better displayed – Clive Wright undertook to look into this.
- Extension of the Business Improvement District to cover the businesses at the bottom of Castle Gates and Railway Station area - Clive Wright undertook to look into this.
- Extension of the Xmas lighting to the bottom of Castle Gates - Clive Wright undertook to look into this.
- Extension of area covered by 20mph Speed Limit through Town Centre to include under the railway bridges at Castle Foregate - Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that he was pressing for this

Clive Wright

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8. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

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

RESOLVED:

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

Gwyn Bevan

Application	Amount
Darwin Community Centre – Hermitage Walk Community Gardens, Mountfields.	£856
Coton Hill Residents Association – Coton Hill Community Orchard.	£900
British Red Cross – Young Carers Project	£1,000

9. COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE

Gwyn Bevan indicated that work had been undertaken with the Local Policing Team and the Council's Public Protection Team to ensure that enforcement arrangements were covered. Two more staff would be recruited by the Council's Public Protection Team to undertake out of hours enforcement around the town with the Local Policing Team.

10. 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:

- Butcher Row Toilets - Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that the scheme to provide new toilet accommodation was a Shrewsbury Town Council project. Planning permission had been granted for the modified scheme that had been reduced in scale with the removal of the retractable canopy to cover an entertainment area in St. Alkmunds Square and the retention of the False Acacia tree. Councillor Alan Townsend stated that he understood that tenders were being sought for the scheme and Councillor Anne Chebsey undertook to contact the town clerk to check on arrangements for the works.
- Public Toilets at The Weir – A local resident commented that, in taking walks through The Quarry along the river to The Weir, she had always found the public toilets at The Weir to be closed. Councillor Andrew Bannerman advised the local resident that she needed to approach the Town Clerk at Shrewsbury Town Council on the issue.
- River Towpath at Frankwell - Councillor Anne Chebsey indicated that preparations were being made for the repair of the collapsed section of the river towpath but the works could not be undertaken in the winter months. Clive Wright indicated that the works would be prioritised for attention and was confident that the funding required would be allocated for the scheme, but this could not be assured given budgetary constraints. In addition, Councillor Anne Chebsey undertook to take up the issue of the towpath up to The Boathouse needing to be cleaned following flooding.
- Quarry Swimming and Fitness Centre – A local resident queried reports that they had heard that in 5 years' time the swimming pool would not be economically viable to repair. Clive Wright stated that the options for the provision of swimming facilities in Shrewsbury would need to be addressed, but it was too early to speculate where it would be considered best for the recommended provision to be located.
- Transfer of Leisure Services to an external contractor - A local resident asked whether a report on the contract would be produced. Clive Wright indicated that information on income and throughput at the leisure centres was being collated and taking a management report on how the contract was operating to a future LJC meeting was something that could be looked at. Councillor Mansel Williams stated that he had not been receiving very positive feedback and had been told that cleanliness was deteriorating. The Chairman asked that the concerns be noted.

**Councillor
Anne
Chebsey**

**Councillor
Anne
Chebsey**

- Old Mortuary, Smithfield Road – A local resident asked if the building was to be demolished. Councillor Andrew Bannerman stated that a decision had to be made on whether the building could be economically repaired following fire damage and that decision was awaited.
- Theatre Severn – A local resident commented that the wooden exterior of Theatre Severn had discoloured to such an extent that the signage on the wood could not be easily seen. Councillor Andrew Bannerman undertook to take up the issue.
- Abbey Foregate Car Park – A local resident understood that there were plans for the view of the car park from Old Potts Way to be screened by shrubs and asked if the work would go ahead. Councillor Alan Townsend explained that the clear view of the car park from the highway had been deliberately left that way so that it could be noticed. In addition, Councillor Mansel Williams indicated that reinforced concrete beneath the surface would inhibit the growth of shrubs.
- Promotion of Events in the Town Centre - A local resident stressed the need to raise awareness of town centre events so that they were not missed by interested members of the public. Councillor Andrew Bannerman indicated that he liked the suggested provision of a large noticeboard in a prominent town centre position to advertise town centre events, which was still a possibility. Clive Wright agreed that the provision of the noticeboard was a good idea and undertook to pursue this with the Town Council and elected Members.
- Riverside Shopping Centre - A local resident expressed concern at the number of unoccupied shop units and asked if the Council was taking any action to prevent the shopping centre being run down prematurely before redevelopment of the area. Clive Wright indicated that the Council was concerned about this too and had held discussions with the owners about the need to maintain the town centre retail offer as far as possible before demolition of the existing shopping centre and redevelopment of the area.
- Plastic Kerbside Collections - A local resident referred to the addition of plastic pots, tubs and trays to the kerbside recycling collections and asked if the Council had to pay Veolia any more for the extended service. Ken James thanked the questioner for giving him advanced notice of the query and indicated that he had taken the matter up with the Council's Waste Services Manager who confirmed that no additional payment was being made to Veolia for the extended service. Veolia had identified a market for expansion of the service with all reaping the benefit from increased recycling, customer satisfaction and diversion of material from landfill. The local resident then enquired about the costs of plastic recycling and the amounts still taken to landfill. In response, Councillor Mansel Williams undertook to pursue the matter.

**Clive
Wright**

**Councillor
Mansel
Williams**

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2013/14

Next Meeting

Arrangements would be made for the next meeting to be held in March 2013.

Ken James

Council Year 2013/14

Arrangements would be made for meetings to be held in June 2013 and October 2013.

Ken James

7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: