

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS from 9 September 2009 meeting

Local Joint Committee for Whitchurch and Prees

Comments/Questions/Suggestions	From	Response Requested From	Response/Action
Concerns were raised about Pepper Street, Whitchurch. There was no access onto the High Street and it was dangerous. Officers undertook to look at this and report back.	Peggy Mullock	Hugh Dannatt	This was previously raised by Whitchurch Town Council. We have a scheme in our works programme for this financial year. The proposal is to close the road at the High Street end to vehicles with a bollard. This will require a Traffic Regulation Order which will be subject to statutory consultation which we hope to carry out in the next couple of months.
The backlog of property searches across the county was raised. The Director of Community Services assured that searches were now being turned around and processed within four weeks; this was the maximum period of time currently and officers were working to reduce this further.	Peter James	Tom McCabe	Since the September LJC meeting the time period has reduced further. It is now taking nearer two weeks for searches to be processed.
The link on the website for Land Registry entries did not appear to be working currently. Officers undertook to check this out.	Peter James	Tom McCabe	The link has been checked and is working now.
The issue of outcomes and measuring the success of grants awarded by the LJC was raised.	Peter James	Julie Ruler	Officers are developing project feedback/evaluation and a report will be made to the March 2010 meeting.
From earlier meetings;			
Does Whitchurch Town Council have an aspirational plan for the future development of Whitchurch. Could the Town Council supply a report on this, together with details of any current applications or concepts that may be applicable	John Dodson	Whitchurch Town Council	A formal response on behalf of Whitchurch Town Council was duly copied and forwarded to John Dodson during July 2009. At the September meeting Mr Dodson requested that it be recorded that this response from WTC was inadequate. He was concerned because it contained a lot of Local

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			<p>Government speak. Again, he requested the LJC contact the Whitchurch Town Council and ask them to revisit this and explain any benefits for the people of Whitchurch in the future.</p> <p>Town Clerk, Peter Martin, has said he will consult with partner organisations and respond asap. The LJC has requested that the response be made directly to Mr Dodson.</p>
<p>Centre North East youngsters were looking at getting an allotment and were looking for funding to help towards the purchase of equipment and activities please.</p>	<p>Yvette Gratton</p>	<p>Julie Ruler (CRO)</p>	<p>The Community Regeneration Officer (CRO) has met with this group and the Chapel Centre group. A joint allotment plot has been obtained and a joint funding application will be submitted to the Young People's Fund shortly.</p>
<p>The start of The Sandstone Trail at Sherrymill Hill in Whitchurch was considered to be of substandard quality surface. Would it be possible to put hardcore down to improve the surface and make fit for disabled access?</p>	<p>Tom Biggins</p>	<p>Neil Willcox</p>	<p>This is an access trail. There is no money to bring this up to footpath standard. A housing application is imminent. When this is considered, there will be a condition as part of the planning permission stating that it will be necessary to bring this part of the trail up to footpath standard.</p>
<p>The last public consultation about a new Rural Transport Scheme took place in Autumn 2007 and the scheme was put into practise in 2008. Since then critical questions have been asked about the workings of the scheme and the local Senior Citizens Forum awaits answers to some of those questions.</p> <p>On July 9th a review of the scheme will take place at the Lantern Centre and consultants have been charged with undertaking this review. Bearing in mind the expertise within the council, why are consultants needed and at what cost to the tax payer?</p>	<p>John Dodson Senior Citizens Forum</p>	<p>Jon Hayes</p>	<p>A locally based, specialist consultant has been sub contracted to undertake a number of focus groups, the results of which will feed into the review of the ShropshireLink service. Consultants were employed as we do not have the resources to undertake this aspect of the review within the allotted timescales. It was also felt that this element of the review should be undertaken by someone impartial and removed from Shropshire Council officers who had undertaken the planning and implementation of the service. The consultants being used have significant experience in demand responsive transport services and the requirements of transport users in rural areas. It is preferred not to release the cost of the consultants commissioned to undertake this part of the study due to the</p>

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			commercial sensitivities involved. Update: Consultants report to be considered by the Development Services Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2009.
Use of the Portable Skatepark	Julie Gallacher	Neil Willcox	A meeting was held with all stakeholders on 3 September 2009. It was a positive meeting with full and frank discussions, which cleared up a lot of misunderstandings. All are jointly looking to site the portable Skatepark in the Whitchurch area during the half term holiday break in October. Ngy has its AGM in October to discuss the future. An update will be given at the next LJC meeting.
<p>The Square at Prees Local resident Paul Nash advised that a public meeting of Prees residents had been held recently. It had been well attended by 88 residents and 10 had given their apologies; so nearly 100 residents in the village were concerned about this issue.</p> <p>All residents share the view that this can't go on any more and they want action now. Local Cllr Paul Wynn has taken on the challenge and this is welcomed. Mr Nash asked why the Council had not used its powers to resolve this matter. The outward general appearance of the site had not improved and he very much doubted that the owner of the property would complete works by December 2009.</p> <p>The Chair noted Mr Nash's comments and sympathised but could only point him in the direction of officers, and suggest they meet to discuss a way forward, as the LJC had minimal powers in respect of listed buildings.</p>	Paul Nash	Phillip Belchere	<p>A meeting between the Residents Action Group and Officers has been arranged.</p> <p>An update on the outcome will be made.</p>

