

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS from 2 December 2009 meeting

Local Joint Committee for Whitchurch and Prees

| Comments/Questions/Suggestions | From | Response Requested From | Response/Action |
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| Public toilet at White Lion Meadow Car Park had no water, soap and the hand dryer was not working. There was water on the floor. | Cllr Dakin on behalf of Rob Walker | Bob Ellis | <p>The toilets are checked at least twice a day, but I would encourage members of the public to report any problems to the Customer Service Centre.</p> <p>Unfortunately there have been problems with some of the taps in the toilets meaning that on a few occasions, the attendant has had to temporarily shut the water off. However, on each occasion the problem has been reported to the Council's Property Maintenance department who have responded. A new fixture is on order, which should resolve the problem permanently.</p> <p>New soap dispensers were recently installed and an additional one has been ordered. The hand dryers are tested every time the toilets are checked and the attendant has not noticed a problem with them. He will continue to monitor.</p> |
| On the exit from the Waymills Industrial Estate site onto the main road, there are various signs advertising local services. They impede the view from the right-hand side as you exit the estate. Could the signs be placed further inside the industrial site itself, so as not to cause an obstruction? | Cllr Dakin on behalf of a member of the public | Hugh Dannatt/ Dave Gradwell | Divisional Highways Office for this area advises that as the Highway Authority we are responsible for approx. 1.8m verge width from existing kerb line. The issue of the signs has been raised with them several times however, because most of the signs are situated on private land, they are unable to do anything about it. Obviously, the owner of the land could have them removed if necessary. The only other people that may be able to take action are Planning under the Advertisement Regulations. |
| Are business rates going to be reviewed? Currently in North Shropshire sports clubs get an 80% discount, but recently at a sports forum I attended I heard of clubs in South Shropshire receiving 100% discount. Can this be looked at please? | Don Pearce, Whitchurch Cricket Club | Neil Wilcox/ Council Tax/Business rates team | There is currently a discrepancy in the award of NNDR discretionary charitable relief inherited from the former districts/boroughs. A new policy will award relief consistently and is currently in draft form. This should go to Council soon. An update will be provided once a new policy has been drafted". |

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| Business Grants to new businesses were currently available for £1,000 if this was match funded. A question was asked if this could be reduced to £500, as often fledgling businesses could not always raise such a large amount. | Peggy Mullock | Tom McCabe | Business start-up grants under the Shropshire Business Enterprise Fund are open to anyone not in employment who wants to start up their own business – capital grants are available from £500 to £1500, the £500 grant only needs a match of £125. So a grant of £500 is already part of the scheme. Business Booster Grant is for businesses that have been trading for 3 years so not new businesses. Grants need to be matched 50:50 and are from £1000 to £5000. |
| Information was requested about how road repairs were prioritised, particularly in Prees. Officers referred to a presentation on this that had been made to the September 09 meeting. | Public | Bob Ellis | Contact Bob Ellis, Head of Environmental Maintenance (North) and Head of Highways directly if you have any specific questions or queries. Phone 01939 237508 Mobile 07912 164655 |
| Concern was expressed at the potential loss of the station car park at the Waylands if a housing development were to go ahead there. Officers assured that they were looking at this in conjunction with the Local Development Framework. It would be discussed at a forum meeting shortly. | Public | Edwina Smart | |
| Update requested on the Skatepark. New Generation Youth (NGY) had yet to hold an AGM and confirm their plans for the future. | Julie Gallacher | Julie Ruler | Following the AGM, anticipated in early 2010, an update can be given. The Community Regeneration Officer meanwhile confirmed she was working towards getting the community together to host the Skatepark at the Market Hall in Whitchurch on 16 February 2010. This was subject to sufficient volunteers being trained fully in the erection and dismantling of the equipment. An update will be given at the meeting. |