

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS from 1 March 2010 meeting

Local Joint Committee for Whitchurch and Prees

Comments/Questions/Suggestions	From	Response Requested From	Response/Action
Charity Collection bags delivered through letterboxes. Were they legitimate or not? Profuse at the moment in the Whitchurch area.	Peggy Mullock on behalf of a member of the public	David Edwards, Trading Standards	<p>Clothing collections are made by a range of businesses, not all of them charities. As a general rule it is possible to determine the nature of the collection by carefully reading the information on the bag or leaflet that is posted through letterboxes. Businesses that are not charities tend to use words suggesting that they are 'helping children in...' rather than stating that they are charities as such.</p> <p>Care should be taken as non-charities sometimes declare a company registration number in such a way that the casual observer presumes that it is a registered charity number. Most genuine charity collections are clearly marked and are from well known causes.</p>
<p>Can the litter around the Tesco car park, especially in and around shrubs be cleaned up?</p> <p>There is also lots of litter in the shrubs nearby and leading down to the brook.</p>	Public	Victoria Ashmore, Street Scene Manager (North East)	<p>Litter picking in the car park is the responsibility of the supermarket.</p> <p>Shropshire Council does have responsibility for the brook in this location. Litter picking was carried out along the banks of the brook recently, after consulting with the Whitchurch Watervole Society.</p> <p>This area will be monitored and litter picked as required.</p>
<p>Several big potholes have emerged on entrance to the Tesco supermarket car park in Whitchurch.</p> <p>Can they be filled in?</p>	Public	Bob Ellis	<p>These potholes have now been repaired. Shropshire Council owns the car park, but responsibility for the maintenance of the surface structure and litter picking is the responsibility of the supermarket.</p> <p>It is understood further improvement works to the car park are</p>

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			<p>to be carried out by Tesco's shortly.</p> <p>For general pothole questions or any other highway questions or queries please contact Bob Ellis, Head of Environmental Maintenance (North) on 01939 237508 or Mobile 07912 164655.</p>
<p>The Public Toilets in Whitchurch were poor. Could they be improved please?</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Steve Brown, Head of Environmental Maintenance</p>	<p>A review of Public Conveniences for Shropshire has been undertaken, following a consultation exercise with Town and Parish Councils. Options from the review will be considered by Shropshire Council in June, and then the draft proposals will go out for consultation. One of the key issues is the poor quality of some of the public toilets across the county and the arrangements for operation.</p>
<p>Dog fouling - we need more dog bins in Whitchurch. Problem areas cited; Mile Bank Road, Brownlow St, Claypit St and Wrexham Road.</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>T McCabe</p>	<p>The Council is very much aware of dog fouling issues in Whitchurch and indeed across the county. Often in these situations residents are aware of who is causing the problem and letters to residents have helped identify irresponsible dog owners. However if residents cannot identify culprits, they can provide us with useful information, such as times of day when dog fouling occurs and descriptions of owners and their dogs. This information can help us target enforcement patrols in the area and greatly improve our chances of identifying those responsible.</p> <p>In addition to writing to local residents, the Council has also increased street cleaning in the area and responded to reports of dog fouling that have been made known to us. The Dog Warden and Street Warden have also increased patrols in the area and we are working in partnership with the local police.</p> <p>With regard dog waste bags, the Council does supply these free of charge; they are available from the Council Offices in Wem. However it is the responsibility of every dog owner to</p>

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			ensure they have dog waste bags with them before they walk their dogs.
The issue of flooding and drainage problems generally were discussed, especially in Tilstock.	Public	Eddie West	See Site Allocations agenda item for 17 May meeting.
The issue of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and CRB checks being too bureaucratic was discussed generally. Did the local authority have any guidance to give LJC's and community bodies on the implications and new rules of ISA?	Public	Sam Hine	See Shropshire Council Guidance attached.
<p>Several questions were posed regarding the poor state of various roads in Moreton Say and the surrounding area;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moreton Say Crossroads; water runs diagonally across the junction and it has been icy during the cold weather. This road is used for taking children to Moreton Say school. 2. Moretonwood Crossroads; the ditches have been cleaned out and rodded by the farmer on both sides of the road, clearly there is a problem with the pipe under the road. 3. Kennels Farm; the road outside has been jetted several times by the council, but problems persist. 	Susan Bowers	Ian Walshaw	<p>In response;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moreton Say Crossroads – this has been jetted and is now clear and working. An order has been raised to clean out the ditches adjacent to the pipe. 2. Moretonwood Crossroads – the drain has been jetted and found to have collapsed. An order has been raised to renew the drain and carry out some work to the ditches. 3. Kennels Farm – the gully adjacent to Kennels Farm has been cleaned and jetted, however, the ditch into which it outfalls is blocked stopping the gully from emptying. The farmer who is responsible for cleaning the ditch has been contacted and asked to do so. <p>The issues @ 1 and 2 were not reported to the local highway maintenance office and as they were unaware there was a problem, no action was taken. If this had been reported either via the customer service centre on 0345 678900 or via email to northshropshirehighways@shropshire.gov.uk when</p>

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			the problems first arose a more prompt response could have been arranged.
From previous meetings;			
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	The Highway Authority is responsible for approx. 1.8m verge width from the existing kerb line. The sign issue has been raised with the Divisional Surveyor several times before, but because the majority of signs are situated on private land, the Council is unable to remove them. This matter has now been passed onto the Council's Planning Officer to deal with formally because the signs are obstructing the public highway.
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 shortly after the election. An update will be provided once a new policy has been drafted".
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	Mark Pembleton	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 Grants' are available for existing businesses, which have been operating from 9 to 36 months. Applications can be made for £500 up to £5,000 and applicants have to contribute an amount of funding equal to the amount of the grant.

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<p>Update requested on the Skatepark. New Generation Youth (NGY) had yet to hold an AGM and confirm their plans for the future and what they intended to do with the public funds awarded to them.</p>	<p>Julia Gallacher</p>	<p>Julie Ruler</p>	<p>The Community Regeneration Officer confirmed the portable Skatepark was hosted at the Market Hall in Whitchurch during half term in February 2010. This had been possible due to volunteers assisting with the erection and dismantling of the equipment. 23 people attended and good contacts have been made for future use. It was hoped to host the next event at Sir John Talbot's school during the Easter break in mid April.</p> <p>The Lead Officer reported that he last spoke to Mike Ralph approx. 6 months ago when Mr Ralph shared a copy of NGY's accounts that were subsequently reported onto the LJC for their information. He was not aware of an AGM being held recently and no more had been heard from Mr Ralph about the future plans of NGY.</p>