



<u>Committee and Date</u> Whitchurch and Prees Local Joint Committee  9 February 2011  7.00 pm
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<u>Item</u>  <b>4</b>  Public
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**NOTE OF LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2010 AT WHITCHURCH CIVIC HALL**

7.00 pm to 8.40 pm

**Responsible Officer** Karen Nixon

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**Present:**

**Committee Members**

Doris Ankers  
Tom Biggins  
Susan Bower  
Gerald Dakin (Chair)  
Peggy Mullock  
Paul Wynn

**Shropshire Council Officers**

James Anthony-Edwards, Head of Library Information Service  
Tom McCabe, Lead Officer  
Karen Nixon, Committee Officer  
Richard Parkes, Area Manager, Integrated Youth Support Services, North Shropshire  
Julie Ruler, Community Regeneration Officer

**West Mercia Police**

PC Karena Evans  
PC Antony Jones

*There were approx 60 members of the public present.*

**Apologies & Substitutions**

1. Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ian Henderson (Prees Parish Council) and Peter Thompson (Whitchurch Rural Council). There were no substitutions.

**Declarations of Interest**

2. Cllr Tom Biggins declared a personal interest in the application by The Hollies Tennis Club (agenda item 9). When being considered, he left the room and took no part in the discussion of or voting on this item.

## Chairman's Welcome

3. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Whitchurch and Prees Local Joint Committee meeting including guest speakers.

## Note of Meeting

4. The note of the previous meeting held on 14 July 2010 was approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Committee also noted the 'Comments, Questions and Suggestions Action Sheet'.

**RESOLVED:** That the note of the previous meeting, held on 14 July 2010, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## Partners and Communities Together: PACT Meeting

5. PC Tony Jones (Whitchurch Town) gave an update on action taken regarding matters of concern raised by residents at the previous meeting;
  - PC Evans had discussed residents concerns re. parking on Brook Road and Anchor Close at school drop off and collection times with the Head. This would now be raised by the Head at the next Governor's meeting to be held on 12 October where the setting up of a walking bus would be raised. It was noted that the situation had improved and that this would continue to be monitored.
  - Problems of inconsiderate parking on and around the roundabout at St Alkmund's Church in Whitchurch remained. Cllr Dakin considered the best way forward was to introduce double yellow lines. This was now being looked at by officers.
  - Speeding on main roads; the A41, the A49 bypass, A525 Wrexham Road, and along all roads into and out of Whitchurch continued to be monitored by local police and the Camera Safety Partnership were also actively involved.
  - Concerns about parking opposite Greenfield's Way, going into Greenfields Rise remained.
  - Shoplifting in Whitchurch had been successfully targeted.

PC Jones asked if there were any new issues anyone wished to raise. The following matters were highlighted by local residents present;

- Concerns were expressed about an increase in anti-social behaviour in Claypit Street, Whitchurch. This had recently culminated in a vehicle parked on Claypit Street being set alight which in turn had caused

extensive damage to private property. PC Jones assured everyone that the matter was being strenuously addressed by the police and the Chairman also referred to a 'Bronze Tasking Group' (a multi-agency approach) that was to meet imminently to discuss a way forward on this which might include the introduction of CCTV linked to Shrewsbury Police Station.

- Incidents of anti social behaviour in Beech Avenue were highlighted; late night drinking and broken bottles along the disused railway line were a health and safety hazard.
- Queensway was considered dangerous for cyclists and motorcyclists to travel along.

PC Evans and Jones undertook to look at the issues raised over the next three months and update the Local Joint Committee on outcomes at the next PACT meeting in February 2011.

In conclusion, PC Jones advised that the local policing teams for the area were based at Whitchurch Police Station, Station Road, Whitchurch and he reminded everyone that if they had any issues or concerns they should contact their appropriate local police team directly via **telephone no 0300 333 3000**. Other contact details people may find useful were email [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk) or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

## Neighbourhood Watch

6. Mr Gilling, Secretary of North Shropshire Neighbourhood and Farm Watch Association, gave a short presentation to the LJC about Neighbourhood Watch and all that it entailed, including improving community spirit.

The North Shropshire Neighbourhood and Farm Watch Association was set up in 1996. It was an independent organisation and a registered charity of volunteers working together with the Emergency Services to make North Shropshire a safer place to live. To date, there were 1250 households on the register. Volunteers came from all ages and backgrounds and new schemes were very much welcomed.

Locally, Mr Gilling highlighted that the scheme was well supported in rural areas and the market towns, but surprisingly there were few members in urban areas such as Whitchurch. Schemes came in a variety of sizes from households in an entire estate, a village, two or three houses in a cul-de-sac, a group of farms covering a large area to a cluster of farms on a no through road. It depended entirely on the area and what the people living there wanted. He urged anyone that was interested to join (application forms were readily available at the meeting). All it required were a few neighbours, be it in an urban area or a few farm neighbours in a rural area or a combination of the two. The cost to register was £2 per household and benefits included a monthly newsletter from the police, holiday watch, discounts from insurers, smart water at reduced rates, street signs and window stickers.

A co-ordinator's meeting was arranged for Thursday 7 October at Tern Hill Hall Hotel at 7.30 pm, with a speaker on domestic violence. Anyone that might be interested was very welcome to go along and become involved.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gilling for his informative presentation and urged anyone interested in joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme to see Mr Gilling after the meeting.

### **Youth Inclusion Funding**

7. Richard Parkes, Area Manager, Integrated Youth Support Services, North Shropshire introduced two young people to the LJC, who gave a detailed presentation on what they had spent their grant funding on from the Local Joint Committee over the last 12 months. This was noted and welcomed by the Committee.

### **Innovating Library Services**

8. The Committee received a verbal update from James Anthony-Edwards, Head of Libraries and Information, on the review of providing services delivered by mobile libraries and home delivery services.

The review, agreed by Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010, had been set up to ensure that current service provision met the needs of Shropshire residents. Current service provision is based principally on historic patterns and the opportunity had been taken to look at what should be delivered and how. One of the key areas the Group wanted to look at was opportunities for partnership working to make the delivery of services simpler for the customer and more efficient for the Council.

The review is being carried out by a cross-party group of elected members, who will review current practice and usage and compare Shropshire's provision with other similar authorities. A twelve week consultation period is being held to gather the views of stakeholders, including customers, non-users, Shropshire Councillors and town and parish councils. This will be mostly by questionnaire with meetings being held for town and parish councils in Craven Arms, Ellesmere and Shrewsbury, parish councils will be notified directly of dates for the meetings.

The consultation period ended on 4 October and an initial report will be made to Cabinet at the end of November. In January 2011 a final report will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

On another note Mr Anthony Edwards announced that the refurbishment for Whitchurch Library was now on hold until the Council's capital programme had been reviewed.

Finally, he urged anyone interested in volunteering to assist with home deliveries, give their details to Library staff at the end of the meeting.

Volunteers were always welcome.

## Funding Requests

9. The Committee received a report setting out seven new funding applications. It was confirmed that all committee members had received copies of each application, along with supporting documents where provided prior to the meeting.

### RESOLVED:

- a. The Committee noted that a devolved budget of £50,000 had been allocated to the Local Joint Committee for 2010/11. There was also an unspent balance of £379 carried forward from 2009/10, making a total budget available to the LJC for allocation in 2010/11 of £50,379.

- b. The Committee noted that £16,140 had been allocated to date.

- c. The Committee approved the following grants; £
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|---|--------|
| Hospital Chapel Centre                            | 253    |
| Fauls Church Hall, window and curtain replacement | 3,000  |
| Brownlow Centre, kitchen refurbishment            | 3,165  |
| Calverhall Cricket Club, new clubhouse            | *5,000 |
| St Alkmund Church Tower Clock Restoration         | 7,000  |
| Whitchurch Waterways Signage Project              | 2,500  |
| Queensway Playing Field Fence Project             | 750    |

\* to be ring-fenced to the end of this financial year.

- d. Two applications deferred from the previous meeting were reconsidered by the Committee. It was agreed not to grant any funding to Tilstock Village Hall towards a hearing loop, soundproofing and x10 lightweight tables, due to S.106 monies that were available.

Like wise it was agreed that no further funding be allocated at this stage to The Hollies Tennis Club for their Floodlight Project, due to the fact that their fundraising was no further forward. However, both projects were invited to re-apply at a later date if required.

- e. The Committee fully endorsed the following youth applications;

Calverhall Cricket Youth Coaching	500.00
Stonham Youth Hostel	208.92
Ash to Adderley Youth Project	500.00
St Genesius Drama Group	500.00

**Total** **£1,708.92**

## Market Towns Revitalisation Programme

12. The Chairman announced that Shropshire Council had recently launched a new Market Towns Revitalisation Programme. Seventeen market towns and key settlements across Shropshire had been identified to be part of the programme. Towns will be able to access finance for investment opportunities that will improve the economic and social vitality of their area.

Local Shropshire Councillors, working together with town and parish councillors, will be seeking to identify schemes and projects that could be supported and that are considered a priority by local people.

Whitchurch is able to bid for £350,000.

The LJC is being asked to consider what the local priorities for investment through the programme might be, and to seek views from local people on what they would like to see improved in the town.

Ideas for projects were welcomed, but this was not a call for direct bids at this stage. Those present were asked to share your thoughts and to bring your local knowledge to the discussion. Project ideas would need to address at least some of the programme objective to qualify for the funding. Councillors will then take on board your views when considering what projects may be invited to bid for the funding.

Decisions will be made next spring 2011 and the LJC will be kept updated on progress.

In addition to discussions on the Market Towns Revitalisation Programme a **Community Toolkit event for Whitchurch** will be held on **20 October at the Civic Hall Whitchurch at 7.00 pm**. This will enable local people to come together and share views with Shropshire Council on what it's really like to live in Whitchurch. If you think you might be interested in joining in this event please come along on the evening or make yourself known to the Community Regeneration Officer who will send you further details.

Projects will be prioritised based on the following criteria:

- How well they meet the priorities of the Community Strategy and the objectives of the Revitalisation Programme
- Value for money, measurable, significant impact and benefits that the project would provide in terms of economic, social and physical regeneration
- Deliverability e.g. can it be achieved in a reasonable timescale, does it command local support, can all necessary approvals be obtained, can a funding package be secured, can any future revenue costs be met?

**Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items**

13. The Chairman invited public questions from the floor and suggestions for future agenda items. The following were received/discussed;

Suggested future agenda items;

- An update on the latest budget position and what it means for services in Whitchurch was requested.
- Shawbury Helicopter School – presentation suggested at July meeting.
- Queensway - state of road was poor and there were problems with public transport using the road were highlighted.

**Date of Next Meeting**

14. It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 9 February 2011 at 7.00 pm at Fauls Church Hall, Fauls.

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**DATE** .....