



Committee and Date
Whitchurch and Prees Local
Joint Committee

9 June 2011

7.00 pm

Item

5

Public

**NOTE OF LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2011
AT FAULS CHURCH HALL**

7.00 pm to 9.15 pm

Responsible Officer Karen Nixon

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Present:

Committee Members

Doris Ankers
Gerald Dakin (Chair)
Ian Henderson
Peggy Mullock
Peter Thompson
Paul Wynn (Vice-Chairman)

Shropshire Council Officers

Tom McCabe, Lead Officer
Karen Nixon, Committee Officer
Nicki Young, Community Action Officer
Julie Ruler, Community Action Officer

West Mercia Police

PC Karena Evans
PC Antony Jones

Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust

Debbie Vogler, Director of Strategy

Shropshire County PCT

Professor Rod Thomson, Director of Public Health

There were approx 50 members of the public present.

Apologies & Substitutions

1. Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Tom Biggins. There were no substitutions.

Declarations of Interest

2. Ian Henderson declared a personal interest in the Prees Noticeboard funding application (agenda item 9, Appendix B). When being considered, he left the room and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on this item.

Peggy Mullock declared a personal interest in the Angling Pool Access funding application (agenda item 9, Appendix B). When being considered, she left the room and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on this item.

Chairman's Welcome

3. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Whitchurch and Prees Local Joint Committee meeting, including guest speakers Debbie Vogler and Professor Rod Thomson, for agenda item 5.

Note of Meeting

4. The note of the previous meeting held on 6 October 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 6 October 2010, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital: Reconfiguration of Services

5. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Debbie Vogler, Director of Strategy, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Health Trust, and Professor Rod Thomson Director of Public Health, Shropshire County PCT to the meeting. They were both present to give an update to the LJC on 'Keeping it in the County'; securing the future of hospital services in Shrewsbury and Telford.
- 5.1 Briefly the key goal was to keep services in Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals. The essential requirements were to make services safer and sustainable now and in the future, whilst resolving dilemmas in acute surgery, inpatient children's services and leaving the RSH Maternity Unit before the building fails.
- 5.2 A presentation was made which covered the following main points;
 - The people we serve; Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Powys
 - 4 options had been developed to resolve the three dilemmas
 - The Preferred Option
 - Key services available from the Trust's RSH site and the PRH site under the proposals being consulted on
 - New issues arising
 - Opportunities being looked at
 - The Timetable of consultation and implementation
 - Have your say – contact details given

5.3 A Question and Answer session ensued.

Q: A midwifery unit in Whitchurch would be welcome. Was there any chance of this?

This would have to be staffed and would ultimately cost. There were currently five midwifery units across the county and no more were planned at this time. A balance has to be struck.

Q: Has the small hospital in Whitchurch been taken account of in your presentation?

No. This is currently an acute service hospital. However in the future the range of services it provides are hoped to be extended and used more effectively e.g. telemedicine, the introduction of new devices to take medication etc.

Q: If services currently in Shrewsbury move to Telford, then for a resident of Higher Heath, there is currently no bus service to Telford, so how could those without their own transport get there?

This was noted. Professor Thomson said that such views were welcome because it enabled them to test if their proposals were robust. They very much wanted to make the correct informed decision.

Q: Are facilities at the Princess Royal Hospital already good for the new Maternity services going there or is a new build required?

It will be a mixture of new build and some refurbishment. Once complete it will be a state of the art building, providing privacy and dignity for patients and a better quality environment.

Partners and Communities Together: PACT Meeting

6. PC Tony Jones (Whitchurch Rural) and PC Karena Evans (Whitchurch Town) gave an update on action taken regarding matters of concern raised by residents at the previous meeting in October 2011;

- PC Evans reported that they continued to monitor parking on Brook Road and Anchor Close, Whitchurch, at school drop off and collection times.
- Concerns about parking opposite Greenfield's Way, going into Greenfields Rise remained.
- Anti-social behaviour in Claypit Street had been alleviated. The matter had been well addressed by the police, the Chairman and the multi-agencies involved. A face to face survey had been undertaken and currently there were no issues. A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had been introduced and Meres and Mosses were now positively engaged.

The following matters/new issues were highlighted by local residents present;

- Sadly, there had recently been a fatal accident on the A49 Prees Green bends (Saturday 5 February). This followed on from a spate

of similar serious incidents over the past few months, culminating in several residents and local business owners calling for a reduction in the speed limit on that particular stretch of the road in Prees Green. This was an emotive issue and PC Jones assured that he would meet shortly with highways officers to review the situation.

- A question was asked about CCTV in Whitchurch. Was this now up and running and if so, was it proving effective? PC Jones answered yes, all was operating well and yes it was proving most effective. The link to Shrewsbury police station was still being pursued.
- The ongoing problem of parking on Smallbrook Road, opposite Greenfields Rise was raised. The Police confirmed that they had strenuously tried on at least two previous occasions to deal with this difficulty, but to no avail. Grasscrete as a possible solution to this problem was being investigated and a response from Meres and Mosses regarding a financial contribution was awaited.

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 June 2011.

Shropshire Council's Budget Update

7. The Lead Officer gave a brief presentation on the latest position regarding Shropshire Council's 2011/12 budget and the key messages arising (copy of powerpoint presentation attached to signed notes). As a result of government spending reductions, Shropshire Council had recently taken a number of difficult decisions to deal with its reduced funding and the situation was changing frequently. The Council had already agreed savings of £10 million for the current financial year 2010-11 and just over £30 million for 2011-12. The final budget for 2011-12 would be set at Council on 24 February. A further £46 million of savings would then need to be identified over the next three years, making a savings total of £76 million over 4 years.
- 7.1 In response to a public question, asking if income could be increased by chasing outstanding council tax, the Lead Officer confirmed that comparatively speaking, Shropshire Council did very well to collect in excess of 98% of its council tax, whilst constantly striving to maximise income collection, which was noted.

The Market Towns Revitalisation Programme

8. Cllr Mullock gave an update on progress to date with the Market Towns Revitalisation Project (MTRP) since the last LJC meeting;
 - Commercial Electricity Enhancements - this project has been put forward at a regional level and is considered a priority. The cost far exceeds the amount available through the MTRP.

- Retail shop improvements - Cllr Mullock and the Community Action Officers have visited retailers and property owners within the town centre. A high level of interest was shown in a possible shop front scheme. Officers from finance, funding and conservation are looking at it the viability and make up of a scheme.
- Long stay car parking – this is considered a priority and a number of possible sites are being considered.
- Improvements to Whitchurch Civic Centre/Market Hall - two meetings have taken place. A number of possible actions have been identified to support economic vibrancy within the Market Hall and Civic Centre. Costings will be considered and discussions are taking place with past and present service users to gauge their interest in the proposed schemes.
- Roundabouts - A project idea of enhancing the gateway roundabouts by introducing art and enhanced planting. This was considered outside the scheme but may be taken forward by local sponsors.
- Waterway Park/Canal Enhancement - Project proposals are being considered and talks are taking place with Shropshire Council Officers and interested parties.
- Beechtree and Brownlow Centres - These organisations both require funding to improve their premises. Shropshire Council Officers are meeting with interested parties to explore their needs.

In conclusion, Cllr Mullock reiterated that if individuals or organisations had any ideas to put forward or suggestions for a project scheme they would be very welcome.

West Midlands Ambulance Service: Plans for Becoming an NHS Foundation Trust

9. The Committee received a summary document entitled “We need your views, because it’s your ambulance service” by the West Midlands Ambulance Service explaining their plans for becoming an NHS Foundation Trust in the future. The Chairman urged the public present to become involved join as a member of the new Trust; application forms were to be found at the back of the booklet or to telephone their offices on 01384 215 555 or email foundationtrust@wmas.nhs.uk

The Chairman was concerned that in the grand scheme of things, Shropshire may become marginalised if there was not enough local representation on the Trust and urged as many as possible to apply to become members.

Shropshire Transport Consultation

10. The Committee noted the current transport consultation underway by Shropshire Council, taking place between January and March 2011 on proposed changes to local bus services. A specific question was raised by a member of the public on bus services for Prees in the Local Transport Plan and an inconsistency in the information received. The Lead Officer directed them to contact Jan Cook directly with this on 01743 253066 or e-mail jan.cook@shropshire.gov.uk.

Whitebrook Meadow Social Housing, Prees

11. The Chairman introduced Cllr Malcolm Price to the meeting; Housing Portfolio Holder, to give feedback and answer questions on this particular development of social housing in Prees.
 - 11.1 Mr Price was well aware of the local dissatisfaction of local residents in Prees who were concerned at changes made by the developer, contrary to those approved in the original planning permission. A review of the housing association concerned and the process had been requested at an earlier LJC meeting. The original application for the housing development at Whitebrook Meadow, Prees, was for mixed housing; 10 social houses, 10 of mixed tenure and 5 houses for sale privately. However it transpired that the housing association was now advertising 20 houses for rent/social housing, none of which were for private ownership. Local Parish Councillor Mr Henderson strongly believed that the matter should be investigated by Shropshire Council, to examine what had happened and to ensure this did not happen again elsewhere in the county in the future.
 - 11.2 The current registered social landlord at Whitebrook Meadow was Shropshire Rural Housing Association (SRL) (originally it had been Bromford Housing). They had been invited to attend the meeting, but did not attend.
 - 11.3 Mr Price clarified that the approved planning permission had been for an 'allocated a site of affordable housing for general use', not local people. In reviewing the matter, he confirmed that he had investigated the possibility of getting shared ownership, but sadly this had not been possible, due to the poor economic climate. On a positive note, he was pleased to announce that a local lettings policy was currently in the process of being approved with SRL. Looking forward he believed all parties had learnt from this experience and would be better equipped to deal with such matters in the future. Finally he urged everyone to become involved in the SAMDEV and tell the council if they agreed with what was contained in this important document or not.
 - 11.4 Mr Henderson thanked Mr Price for attending and again expressed his dissatisfaction at the way the development had been handled by the housing associations involved, Shropshire Council and the planning inspectorate. Mr Price acknowledged everyone's disappointment and confirmed he would take that message back to Shropshire Rural Housing. However he

- 11.5 It was stated that an individual applicant had given detailed financial information to SRL, but had not received any response back. Prees Parish Council had also written to SRL asking for details of their financial criteria. Again, to date no response had been received. Mr Price undertook to look into this following the meeting.
- 11.6 A member of the public stated that there were 5 further plots on the site with planning permission and asked if they would be sold as market value houses or might they be subsidised? Mr Price could not comment on this. It was up to the landowner and not Shropshire Council.

Funding Requests

12. The Committee received a report setting out five new funding applications, two projects deferred from the 6 October meeting and two youth projects for endorsement from the Youth Panel. It was confirmed that all 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 an unspent balance of £379 carried forward from 2009/10, making the total budget available to the LJC for allocation in 2010/11 of £50,379.

- b. The Committee noted that grants totalling £37,808.40 had been allocated to date.

- c. The Committee approved the following grants;
- | | £ |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Prees Notice boards | 2,000.00 |
| St Johns Clock face | 2,000.00 |
| Whitchurch Circular Walks | 636.40 |
| Angling Pool Access | 2,020.00 |

The funding application by North Shropshire Grass Track Club for £2,000 was not approved by the LJC.

- d. Two applications deferred from the 6 October meeting were reconsidered by the Committee;

It was agreed approve £3,000 to Tilstock Village Hall towards a hearing loop, soundproofing and x10 lightweight tables.

In respect of the application by The Hollies Tennis Club for their Floodlight Project, which had been detailed in the report as for £5,000, but should have read £4,000, the Committee did not approve any further funding.

- e. The Committee noted that on page 2 of the report £500 for Whitchurch Alport Club should have read £1,600 as in the Appendix. The LJC fully endorsed the following youth applications;

Whitchurch Alport Junior Football Club	£1,500
Travellers Go To London	£500

Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items

12. The Chairman invited public questions from the floor and suggestions for future agenda items. The following were received/discussed;
- The Chair of Prees Parish Council requested the LJC look at the problem of a dilapidated road surface on land around the war memorial and the lane leading up to the primary school at Prees (he circulated a plan to the committee highlighting the area of concern). The Parish Council had already made enquiries as to who owned the land but to date had drawn a blank. The Parish council ultimately wished to see the surface improved and the lane up to the school lit, as this was hazardous, especially in the winter. It was hoped that a partnership approach be generated with the LJC and Shropshire Council and other partners to help resolve this issue. The Chairman agreed to take this forward.
 - Mr Dodson stated that there was only one GP Led Commissioning Consortia in Shropshire and it was highlighted that currently there was no representative on this from the north of the county which was extremely disappointing. He asked if a suitable representative from the local area could be appointed. The Chairman undertook to take this matter up. He had a meeting with the PCT later that week and would pursue this and report back in due course.
 - It was requested that funding recipients be asked to come back to the LJC to give a brief presentation on what they had done with their funding. It was also requested that more general knowledge about the funding applications be made available and that any discussion on each application be made in public by the Committee, so that the process was more transparent. The Community Action Officer undertook to look into this and pick up for the next meeting.
 - The Localism Bill, intended to shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils was highlighted as a new topic area for the LJC. Implementation of the Green Paper would be of interest to a number of local people.
 - The future budget of the LJC for 2011/12 was queried. The Lead Officer confirmed that it would be reduced down to £23,500 and the number of meetings reduced from 4 meetings per year to 3, in light of the council's budget cuts.

Future LJC Meeting Dates

13. It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 9 June 2011 at 7.00 pm at Ash Village Hall.

Other provisionally agreed dates for future LJC meetings were;

- Thursday 13 October 2011 at Higher Heath Village Hall
- Thursday 8 March 2012 at Whitchurch Civic Hall.

It was also agreed that an informal Community Meeting be held on Thursday 26 January 2012 at Prees Village Hall.

All meetings will commence at 7.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE