



<u>Committee and date:</u>
Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee
Thursday 8 March 2012
7.00 p.m.

<u>Item/Paper</u>
<b>3</b>
Public

**WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2011 AT HIGHER HEATH VILLAGE HALL, NEAR WHITCHURCH**

**Responsible Officer:** Karen Nixon  
 E-mail: karen.nixon@shropshire.gov.uk  
 Tel: 01743 252724

**Committee Members Present:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>
Mr Gerald Dakin (Chairman)	Shropshire Council (Whitchurch South Ward)
Mr Tom Biggins	Shropshire Council (Whitchurch North Ward)
Mrs Peggy Mullock	Shropshire Council (Whitchurch North Ward)
Mr Paul Wynn (Vice-Chairman)	Shropshire Council (Prees Ward)
Mrs Doris Ankers	Whitchurch Town Council
Mrs Jean Betteridge	Ightfield Parish Council
Mr Ian Henderson	Prees Parish Council
Mr Peter Thompson	Whitchurch Rural Town Council

**Officers Present:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Alison Brock	ICT Client Support Manager
George Candler	Area Director, North
Ann Johnson	Sports Development Team
Karen Nixon	Committee Officer
Nicki Young	Community Action Officer [CAO]
PC Tony Jones	Whitchurch Rural Local Policing Team

There were approximately 50 members of the public at the meeting.

**1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies or substitutions; everyone was present.

Mr Gilling, Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch gave his apologies for the PACT item (see agenda item 4), due to a clash of meetings.

The Chairman highlighted that the Shropshire & Telford Hospitals Trust would be holding a public meeting on Monday 21st November 2011 at 6pm at the Council Offices in Wem and all were welcome to attend.

**ACTION**

This will look at forthcoming changes to the Trust and what communities can expect. The Chairman enquired if the LJC would also like to have a similar presentation on the newly formed Hospitals Trust at their next formal LJC meeting on 8th March 2012, which was welcomed.

K Nixon

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local Joint Committee (LJC) Members declared personal and or prejudicial interests as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>
Doris Ankers	2011/12 Funding requests for consideration St John's Methodist Church Item 9(L). 79 Squadron Air Cadets Item 9 (N).
Tom Biggins	2011/12 Funding requests for consideration St John's Methodist Church Item 9(L).
Gerald Dakin	2011/12 Funding requests for consideration Prees Cricket Club, Pitch refurbishment Item 9 (K) Prees Recreation Club, Angling Section Item 9 (Q) SJT College creation of wildlife area Item 9 (R)
Ian Henderson	2011/12 Funding requests for consideration Prees Cricket Club, Pitch refurbishment Item 9 (K) Prees Recreation Club, Angling Section Item 9 (Q) Prees PC; resurface unadopted rd in Prees Item 9 (S)

K Nixon

## 3. NOTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the previous meeting held on 9 June 2011, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. The Committee also noted the 'Comments, Questions and Suggestions Action Sheet.

K Nixon/  
G Dakin

## 4. PACT MEETING INCLUDING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr Gilling, Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch gave his apologies due to a clash of meetings.

PC Antony Jones of the Local Police Team gave an update on action taken regarding matters of concern raised at the previous meeting;

- Boy racers in Prees – Section 59 Notices have been served on the offending motorists and the police were pleased to report there have been no complaints since.
- Speeding motorcyclists continues to be an issue. The Safer Roads Partnership van on the A41 has had a positive effect when used – there has been a significant reduction in speeds, which was welcomed.
- The Police were engaging positively with motorcyclists at the Raven Café, Prees Heath.

- Under age drinking in Jubilee Park was being dealt with through the issue of Level 1 Anti Social letters being issued which appeared to be having the desired effect.

The following matters/new issues were raised by local residents present at the meeting;

- Local residents urged the Committee to look at the dangerous crossroads at Broughall and a particular stretch of road along the A525 near Catteralls Lane (see Minute 10 aswell – Public Question Time). There had been many accidents recently since the road had been resurfaced. Speeding was a problem and also the crossroads was extremely dangerous to use. It was agreed that the police would liaise with Highways officers about recent collision statistics/information so that all parties were properly informed of the extent of incidents in this area.
- Speeding issues were again highlighted at Manor House Lane and noted by PC Jones, who commented that he would look at this. In the meantime, the public were urged to inform the police directly of details in respect of any speeding issues that may arise, so that these can be targeted in a quick, effective and timely manner.

**PC Paul  
Hobday  
&  
PC Brian  
Williams**

**Local  
Police  
Team**

The Local Police Team undertook to look at the issues raised over the next five months and update the LJC on outcomes at their next formal meeting in March 2012.

Guy Williams, Assistant Group Commander, Shropshire Fire Service and gave an update on the local area as follows;

Whitchurch and Prees has been relatively quiet over the last few months with the only major job being the HGV fire on the dual carriageway south of Whitchurch a few months previously. Both Whitchurch and Prees are focussing their efforts on reducing risk in the remote areas of our stations; this links to the County wide initiative of identifying and reducing risk in properties more than fifteen minutes from a Fire Station.

*If you or any of your contacts know of anybody vulnerable in the community, please contact either Whitchurch or Prees Fire Stations in person, or telephone the Shrewsbury Community Fire Safety team on 01743 260260.*

In September a large exercise took place at Whixall Moss to test the pumping capabilities of the Prees specialist equipment and also the supporting fire fighting required. This exercise is one of many that will be taking place throughout the county to enable the Fire Service to give operational exposure to our retained duty fire crews.

Prees is recruiting at present and has a recruit fire fighter waiting to join the November 2011 recruits course. This will bring Prees virtually back to full strength. Whitchurch has FF Edge joining the station shortly and Whitchurch will also be virtually full strength. Both stations have very high appliance availability statistics Whitchurch runs at 100% and Prees at 99.4%.

**Guy  
Williams**

If you have any questions, please email or telephone Guy Williams directly and he will happily respond and also keep you up to speed with any Fire related issues in your area.

Guy Williams, Assistant Group Commander  
Shropshire Rural Performance Group, North  
Tel: 01743 260217 or 07967 465873  
Email: [guy.williams@shropshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:guy.williams@shropshirefire.gov.uk)

## 5. **LOCALISM BILL**

The Chairman welcomed George Candler Area Director, North to the meeting who gave a brief presentation to the Committee on Localism and Locality Working – Shropshire Council's approach. In doing so he set out the main points of the Localism Bill;

- A fundamental shift of power from Westminster to people.
- To promote decentralisation and democratic engagement.
- To give new powers to local councils, neighbourhoods and individuals.
- Action to support and encourage social responsibility, volunteering and philanthropy.
- To make it easier for people to come together to improve their communities and help one another.

The key headlines were more power for individuals, communities and a *little* more power for Local Government.

The key areas of activity in Shropshire are;

- The community leadership role of elected members.
- Relationships with Town and Parish Councils – vital to have good working relationships.
- Place Plans – innovative, community led and to be refreshed annually. There is a Whitchurch Place Plan; see the Council website.
- Neighbourhood Planning – currently being piloted.
- Market Towns Regeneration programme - £3.5 m for Market towns.
- Capacity Building in the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- Team Shropshire approach - currently being piloted in Ludlow, Market Drayton, Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

The Chairman requested that once the Executive Summary for Localism has been approved, that George Candler be requested to come back to the LJC and update on the detail and what it means for the LJC area.

**RESOLVED:** That the presentation be welcomed and noted and that Mr Candler be requested to come back to a future meeting of the LJC once the Executive Summary has been approved by Shropshire Council with an update on the next stage of implementation.

## 6. **COUNTYWIDE BROADBAND PROJECT**

**George  
Candler**

A brief presentation was given to the Committee by Alison Brock, ICT Client Support Manager. She explained that Broadband was important for many reasons but especially because of the economic benefits it can bring, the promotion of social inclusion and to close the digital divide and to help transform public services.

To date, the following action has been taken; current broadband provision in Shropshire has been mapped. A bid to BDUK has been made and £8.2 million has been awarded to Shropshire Council with Telford & Wrekin. In addition to this a further £2 million of Capital funding would be provided by Shropshire Council.

The project aims to enable 100% of Shropshire to access a minimum of 2mbps, to deliver a superfast broadband to as much of the county as possible and to future-proof broadband in respect of mobile provision.

The next steps are to;

- Finalise the scope of the project (anticipated around 2015)
- Sign off the local broadband plan
- Complete the formal procurement process and state aid
- Demand stimulation with communities and businesses

If you want to know more please contact the broadband project manager;

[Alison.Brock@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Brock@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel : 01743 252205 or go to the website

[www.connectingshropshire.co.uk](http://www.connectingshropshire.co.uk)

Here there are questionnaires to complete on-line for businesses and/or individuals – **Please help us to help you by telling us what you want** – Hard copies are also available on request.

## **7. MARKET TOWNS REVITALISATION PROGRAMME**

Cllr Peggy Mullock updated the meeting on progress of the Market Towns Revitalisation Programme as follows;

### **Whitchurch Civic Centre and Market Hall Joint Project**

Whitchurch Town Council has provided funding for a feasibility study. The working group meets on 17 October to interview architects to complete this study. Once the architect has been chosen and the feasibility study completed, the plans will be displayed in the Civic Centre for public comment.

The Market Town Revitalisation Programme is providing £150,000 funding towards this joint project and the Town Council has ring-fenced £100,000, which includes payment of £7,000 for the feasibility study. Therefore the total amount of funding for the joint Civic Centre and Market Hall projects is £250,000.

### **The Heritage Centre Project**

This project is to convert the top floor of the Heritage Centre into small

business/start-up units or office space. There are issues with the building being a Grade II Listed Building and the Town Clerk is currently liaising with Shropshire Council regarding planning and building regulations and Listed Building Consent.

A design specification will be drafted as a way to move this project forward.

The Market Town Revitalisation Programme is providing £55,000 funding towards this project and the Town Council is providing £20,000 which gives a total amount of £75,000 for the Heritage Centre project.

### **Walking in Whitchurch Project**

This project will upgrade the walking offer in Whitchurch by improving the links between the canal, the town centre and Brown Moss, to include new signs and interpretation boards and upgrade the paths. The Informal Programme Board has approved this application and therefore the contract has been signed and work will start in November or December 2011 and is planned to be finished by April next year.

The Market Town Revitalisation Programme is providing £12,250 funding towards this project, with further match funding from Shropshire Council Outdoor Recreation department, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Whitchurch & Prees LJC and the Leader Programme through the Shropshire Way Project.

### **Mill Street Car Park**

£40,000 MTRP funding was allocated to convert land in Mill Street into a car park for Whitchurch traders and people who work in the town, to offer low cost all day car parking.

The project is now complete and Whitchurch Town Council is issuing permits at a cost of £15 per month. At the moment take-up is low, but the Town Council want to encourage more businesses in Whitchurch to take up this offer.

## **8. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

A brief presentation was given to the Committee by Ann Johnson, Sports Development Team, which covered the promotion of Active Lifestyles (activities for health and well-being in the community), Play (child initiated activity) and Sports Development (covering Club Development, Coach Education, Funding Advice, Schools and Volunteering).

This was delivered through Sport England, County Sports Partnerships (CSP's) and various delivery partners such as Local Authorities and National Governing Bodies of Sport.

To date £2 million National Lottery funding has been given through CSP's. Through 'Sport Makers launched this week, it is aimed to get 50,000 new volunteers recruited into sport and retain 40,000 of them – half in the long term.

More locally, through the Shropshire Pitch & Playing Fields Strategy, it is hoped to identify and evaluate local sports facilities and outdoor provision in consultation with relevant community groups, with a view to sourcing funding for development.

For more information contact please Ann Johnson on 01743 255071 or email [leisure@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@shropshire.gov.uk)

**9. 2011/2012 FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

A report setting out the devolved funding for this Local Joint Committee in 2011/12 and ten applications was considered by the Committee. It was

**RESOLVED:**

- a). That grant funding be awarded to the following organisations;
- I. Prees Cricket Club £1976.72 – Funding to be paid to PC&RC once match funding is secured and proof sent to Shropshire Council.
  - II. St John’s Methodist Church £300 – to complete the clock face project.
  - III. Stonham Housing £2,000 – purchase of x4 laptops and monitors to facilitate the Open Doors project.
  - IV. 79 Whitchurch Air Squadron £1,000 – contribution towards a replacement minibus.
  - V. Whitchurch Army Cadet League £210 – to be spent on trophies for the League with wording on the plaques to read “donated by Whitchurch LJC 13.10.11”.
  - VI. Whitchurch Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society £720 – to purchase a Boom Box and portable keyboard/workstation, subject to the equipment being made available for community use by other organisations with the necessary expertise to use the kit which will be kept in storage at the Masonic Rooms, Whitchurch, when not in use.
  - VII. Prees Recreation Club; Angling Section – this was NOT recommended for funding. The Club were asked to look to raise funds for this locally.
  - VIII. Sir John Talbot’s Technology College; Creation of a Wildlife Area – this was NOT recommended for funding. The school was requested to seek alternative funding in liaison with the Community Action Officer. On the evening, SJT withdrew this funding request as it was seeking alternative funding from other sources.
- b). That Community Action Officers be given delegated authority, in consultation with the LJC Chairman (or Vice-Chairman in their absence), to determine urgent and time sensitive matters and that the LJC

Constitution be amended accordingly with immediate effect.

c). That £800 be paid towards the total project cost of £10,000 to complete resurfacing work of an unadopted road in Prees (this matter was raised by the Prees Parish Council Chairman at the LJC meeting held on 9 February 2011).

d). That the deferred application by Whitchurch Town Council to install a light and electrical supply in the newly adopted footpath between Alkington Road and Wheatsheaf Drive is not recommended for funding. (Further information was received from the Street Lighting Team, Shropshire Council stating that to meet British Standards, the total cost of this project would be £6,500).

e). It was reported that earlier this year the LJC gave £8,000 specifically for Youth Funding projects. To date, there is an underspend of £3,623.74 which cannot be carried forward into the next financial year. Therefore it was agreed by the LJC that this amount of £3,623.74 should be put back into the overall LJC pot forthwith.

## **10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following issues/public questions were raised by local residents present at the meeting;

- Traffic calming was requested at Broughall/Brookfields crossing on the A525 road to Nantwich. A flashing 'SLOW' sign was requested.
- Improvements to the Broughall A525 road for about 2 - 3 miles were urged. There had been a large number of accidents recently (10 accidents in 8 months and 3 accidents within the last 2 weeks). It was requested that Shropshire Council Highways make the road safer or reduce the speed limit along that stretch of road, which is currently 60 mph. There were also issues at the junction at Catteralls Lane which was very dangerous to cross.
- Speeding along the beginning of Liverpool Road was highlighted. There was a 30mph speed limit here. It was suggested that possibly the introduction of speed humps there might reduce vehicle speeds? Officers in conjunction with the local police were asked to investigate this and report back.
- It was requested that a bollard be erected at the end of Pepper Street, thereby preventing vehicles entering the High Street, which currently happened and was very dangerous. Officers were asked to investigate this and report back.
- Parking around the junction of Alkington Road and Rosemary Lane was making entry and exit difficult due to reduced visibility. Can the provision of double yellow lines be looked at please?
- It was requested that the impact of the new car parking charges in

Whitchurch be monitored. After some discussion it was generally agreed that the charges for town car parks should all allow the first hour of parking free. It was agreed that a letter on behalf of the LJC be written to Shropshire Council to this effect, with a copy to Whitchurch Town Council.

**See  
Question  
/Issues  
Action  
Sheet**

In conclusion the Chairman thanked everyone for their valued contribution and also explained that there was an opportunity to leave questions by completing Question/Issue pro-forma's (on blue) and handing them in at the end of the meeting.

Finally, a vote of thanks was proposed by Cllr Peggy Mullock for Steve Chapman who had organised the recent Blackberry Fair in Whitchurch. This had been a great success and was enjoyed by many. She wished it to be placed on record that his excellent work was much appreciated.

**11. FEEDBACK FORMS**

Feedback forms (on yellow) were circulated at the meeting and those present were urged to take a minute to complete the forms before they left and leave with either Karen or Nicki.

**Public**

LJC's are always looking to improve, so your feedback is vital.

**12. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next area meeting for Whitchurch and Prees will be an **Informal Community Information Evening** hosted by Prees Parish Council on **Thursday 26 January 2012 at Prees Village Hall, starting at 7.00 pm.** Please continue to look at the web-site **ShropshireLJCs.com** for the latest and further information.

**Nicky  
Young**

The next formal Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 8 March 2012 at 7.00 pm at Whitchurch Civic Hall.

**K Nixon**

The Chairman suggested that the Health Authority be invited along to the next meeting to update everyone on the future of Beech ward, GP commissioning and health services generally in the local area, which was generally agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....