



<u>Committee and date:</u>
Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee
14 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
7.00 p.m.

<u>Item</u>
<b>5</b>
Public

## WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

### NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 8 MARCH 2012 AT EDWARD GERMAN ROOM, WHITCHURCH CIVIC CENTRE

**Responsible Officer:** Shelley Davies  
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#### 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

#### Officers Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Cllr Simon Jones	Portfolio Holder (Car Parks)
Zoe Mortimer	Engineering & Contracts Manager (Car Parks)
Karen Nixon	Committee Officer
Nicki Young	Community Action Officer (CAO)
PC Tony Jones	Whitchurch Rural Local Policing Team
Ian Johnson	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

There were approximately 64 members of the public at the meeting.

#### 1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies or substitutions; Mr Peter Thompson was not present.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

**ACTION**

### 3. **NOTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the previous meeting held on 13 October 2011, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 4. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL FINANCE UPDATE**

The Chairman referred to the Shropshire Council Budget Briefing paper included within the agenda papers and noted that any questions be included on the LJC question cards and handed to officers at the end of the meeting.

### 5. **PACT MEETING INCLUDING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

PC Jones of the Local Police Team gave an update on local policing issues. He noted that the main concerns in the area at present were speeding and shoplifting, adding that shoplifting was a significant problem in the town and the Police had actively targeted a group of known shoplifters which had resulted in two individuals being held in custody.

In response to the Chairman's query about the 'ring around system' traders previously used to alert other traders that shoplifters were operating in the area, PC Jones explained that this system was no longer in place but if traders would like to start up such a system the Police would be happy to support it.

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

- Concern was raised in relation to the number of HGVs cutting through Whitchurch on the advice of their satellite navigation (Sat Nav) device. PC Jones explained that this was an issue for the Highways Team but he was willing to do an evaluation outside the property in question where this was causing a problem. Councillor Simon Jones added that this was a national issue and meetings had taken place with Sat Nav companies to try and resolve the issues.
- In response to a concern in relation to cars parking on Greenfields Rise, the Chairman reported that David Gradwell from the Highways Team had been notified and was looking into this issue.

Mr Gilling, Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch gave a short presentation on the background of the group and the benefits members can receive. The interest to establish a Neighbourhood Watch group in Tilstock was noted by Mr Gilling.

Ian Johnson, Crew Manager, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service gave an update on local issues. He explained that parked cars in Talbot Street had obstructed access for a Fire Engine on an emergency call. It was also reported that home safety risk assessments were to be extended to rural

areas and would remain free of charge although smoke alarms were no longer automatically free.

**6. RAF SHAWBURY – SQUADRON LEADER NEIL HOPE**

An apology for absence was received from Squadron Leader Neil Hope due to illness.

**7. PARKING CHARGES**

Cllr Simon Jones, Portfolio Holder for Car Parks and Zoe Mortimer, Engineering & Contracts Manager (Car Parks) were present to discuss the issue of Parking Charges recently introduced in Whitchurch.

Cllr Simon Jones explained that there would be a full review of parking charges in April 2012 with the outcome in May to go forward for public consultation. He stated that parking charges were here to stay but the system of charges could be amended. He noted the review would take into account the views of local residents and hopefully resolve the issues that had arisen since the introduction of parking charges. It was added that a recent meeting with the Chamber of Trade, a number of useful suggestions had been made.

Zoe Mortimer gave an update on the Shropshire Parking Strategy for Whitchurch (copy of presentation attached to the signed notes).

Following the presentation the Chairman invited local residents to have a 10 minute group discussion on the issue of parking charges.

Cllr Simon Jones and Zoe Mortimer made the following comments in response to questions raised by members of the Committee and local residents:

- The income figure stated for Whitchurch car parks was the revenue figure from the parking machines;
- The initial figures given for income might have been unrealistic;
- Income was affected by a number of issues;
- The meeting with the Chamber of Trade had been positive;
- Proposed changes included not to charge for parking on a Sunday and a banding of charges for different times;
- The introduction of bands would resolve a number of issues raised; and
- A breakdown of the cost of Enforcement Officers would be provided.

The Chairman requested that notes from the group discussions be handed in to Officers to be collated and feedback would be available at the next meeting.

## 8. **MARKET TOWNS REVITALISATION PROGRAMME (MTRP)**

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

- The Whitchurch Civic Centre Complex project would now cost in the region of £1.6 million in total.
- £250,000 MTRP money and £100,000 Town Council money would start phase 1.
- Phase 1 would upgrade the electrics and heating system, reconfigure the foyer and put a new façade on the front of the building.

Cllr Peggy Mullock introduced Kevin Slack, Greenspace Architects to give a presentation on the MTRP plans for the Whitchurch Civic Centre Complex.

The following key points were made in relation to the project:

- Aim to get people into the town and link the key three areas of the Civic Centre, Jubilee Park and Bull Ring;
- Encourage people into the town by other means than the car;
- Aim for markets, people on the street, festivals;
- Appeal to all – young, old, businesses and visitors;
- Reduce running costs of the Civic Centre drop by 70%;
- Ideas for new public space outside the building;
- Funding to be spent by September 2012 and implemented by March 2013; and
- A phased approach would ensure that the building would not have to be closed completely during the work.

Kevin Slack made the following comments in response to questions from local residents confirmed that:

- Following work the size of the hall would be slightly increased;
- The roof required repair but explained that this was a separate issue to the project;
- The project was a long-term solution rather than a quick fix; and
- The project was already creating a positive feeling for local residents and the Civic Centre an ideal place to start a project in the town.

The Chairman thanked Kevin Slack for an informative presentation.

## 9. **2011/2012 BUDGET REPORT AND FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

A report setting out the devolved funding for this Local Joint Committee in 2011/12 and 14 applications were considered by the Committee. It was

## **RESOLVED:**

- T. Prees Primary School -£500.00 – Outdoor Learning and Reflection Garden Area.
- U. Party in the Park – £1,885.00 -Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.
- V. Whitchurch Town Council - £2,000.00 - Civic Centre Business Plan.
- W. West Mercia Police - £1,350.00 - Mobile Skate Ramps
- X. Leisure Centre & Whitchurch Hockey Club - £939.00 - Whitchurch Hockey Club Development.
- Y. Ightfield & Calverhall Bowling Club- £1,000.00 - Bowling Green Shelter.
- Z. Active Whitchurch - £500.00 - Whitchurch Community Games.
- AA. Whitchurch Cricket Club - £1,000.00 - Scoreboard Security Shutters.
- AB. Playbus - £1,500.00 - After School/Holiday Activities.
- AC. Whitchurch Allotment Association - Not recommended for funding - Purchase of Strimmer.
- AD. Town PIC - £800.00 - Wild flowers on roundabouts.
- AE. Tilstock Bowling and Tennis Club - Not recommended for funding - Floodlights.
- AF. Whitchurch TV - £1,000.00 - Filming community events for on-line local TV.
- AG. Friends of Whitchurch Heritage - £500.00 - Recording History.
- b) The Whitchurch & Prees LJC ratified a decision made out of Committee for the payment of £2,000 to Whitchurch Town Council, to fund a business consultant to write a business plan for the Whitchurch Civic Complex to support the Market Town Revitalisation Programme funding application - See Application V. above.
- c) The Whitchurch & Prees LJC agreed to carry over any surplus funds to the financial year 2012/13 in accordance with the Whitchurch & Prees LJC priorities, which will include an allocation of £200 per Parish Council, to use for Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June 2012 .

## **10. LJC PRIORITY SETTING**

The Chairman asked local residents to complete the question cards if they have an issue they would like to be discussed at a future meeting.

**11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

Concern was raised in relation to the sponsorship of roundabouts. It was agreed that they should be attractive and help bring people into the town.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked everyone for their valued contribution and also explained that there was an opportunity to leave questions by completing Question Cards and handing them in at the end of the meeting.

**12. 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 Shelley or Nicki.

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

**13. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The meeting of Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 7.00 pm at Tilstock Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....