



Committee and date:  
 Whitchurch & Prees  
 Local Joint Committee  
  
 7 March 2013  
  
 7.00 p.m.

Item  
  
**4**  
  
 Public

**WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2012  
 AT FAULS CHURCH HALL, FAULS, AT 7.00 PM.**

**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 Parish Council

**Officers Present:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Karen Nixon	Committee Officer
Nicki Young	Community Action Officer (CAO)
CSO Graham Baines	Whitchurch Rural Local Policing Team
Steve Purslow	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

There were approximately 25 members of the public at the meeting.

**ACTION**

**29. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone and explained the nature of Local Joint Committees (LJC's).

Unfortunately he reported that Mr Barry McKinnon of the West Midlands Ambulance Service, was unable to attend the meeting that evening which was very disappointing. He apologised most sincerely on behalf of Mr McKinnon and especially to those people who had come specifically for the West Midlands Ambulance Service item.

**30 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies. All members were present.

### 31 **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate

Mrs Betteridge was a former member of the Whitchurch Photographic Society and therefore left the room when this item (agenda item 10.L) was being discussed.

### 32. **NOTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the previous meeting held on 14 June 2012, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Committee also noted the 'Comments, Questions and Suggestions' Action Sheet which also included supplementary information about Whitchurch car parks requested at the previous LJC meeting.

### 33. **PACT MEETING INCLUDING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND SHROPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

CSO Baines of the Local Police Team gave a verbal update on local policing issues. The following issues were noted:

- It was reported that levels of anti-social behaviour had decreased in Manor Place following good partnership working between the community, Police and Shropshire Council and that no further complaints had been received to date.
- Whitchurch Community Alcohol Partnership Committee had been set up recently to tackle under-age drinking in Whitchurch Town Centre. Police teams were going into local schools and calls to the Police Station about such behaviour were reducing.

Mr Gilling, Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch was also in attendance. He reported that at a recent meeting on personal safety turnout by the public had been very disappointing and he urged people to get involved. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 31 October at 7.00 pm, at Tilstock Village Hall where he understood there was a desire to re-establish a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Tilstock – all were welcome.

Steve Purslow, Assistant Group Commander, North, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service gave an update on recent local issues and was pleased to announce there were no significant trends to be concerned about in the local area. The following points were particularly noted;

- New Equipment – A new 4x4 vehicle had recently been acquired with a water tank and hose. This was a great addition to the

appliance fleet, especially good for getting to difficult to reach properties where larger vehicles struggled with access.

- Retained fire-fighters sought – there were still vacancies in the local area for ‘on call’ fire-fighters, which were proving difficult to recruit based at the Whitchurch and Prees stations. He welcomed any interest from prospective applicants. The tangible benefits to employers and individuals of becoming a retained fire-fighter were emphasised and anyone wishing to volunteer were invited to make themselves known to Steve Purslow after the meeting, contact him directly on 01743 260217 or email him on [Steve.Purslow@shropshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.Purslow@shropshirefire.gov.uk)
- Home Safety Risk Assessments – Safety Assessments were available free of charge although smoke alarms were no longer automatically free. Local residents were advised to contact the Fire Safety department on 01743 260200 if they required a home safety risk assessment.
- Road Traffic Collisions – there had been two RTC fatalities recently in North Shropshire. Working on reducing this number was confirmed as a priority for the Fire & Rescue Service, who worked hard to educate the community about vehicle hazards.

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

- Following parking restrictions that were introduced to alleviate problems caused by lorries parking outside the petrol station at Prees Heath, it was reported that this issue had now moved on elsewhere. Lorries were now parking on the Waymills Industrial Estate overnight and even in Manor House Lane, Higher Heath.
- Blocked drains along Whitchurch High Street had come to light, especially with the recent heavy rains. Particular black spots reported were by the speed hump at Liverpool House and the two grids by the Whitchurch Herald Office
- A general complaint was made that all the storm drains in Whitchurch High Street were blocked and full of rubbish.
- Overhanging greenery opposite the Greenfields Rise was highlighted a problematic. It needed cutting back.

It was agreed that these issues would be looked into and the outcome reported back.

#### **34. WHITCHURCH AMBULANCE SERVICE UPDATE**

The Chairman again apologised about the lack of representation from the West Midland Ambulance Service for this item; at very short notice Mr

Barry McKinnon informed that he was unable to attend the meeting.

Mrs Clayton requested through the Chairman, that an urgent message be sent to the West Midland Ambulance Service, to say that the local medical group were very disturbed about the proposed ambulance changes and also disappointed at the lack of contact the Service had had with medical practitioners in the local area.

The Chairman endeavoured to go through and explain the West Midlands Ambulance Service's 'Make Ready' scheme which aims to improve efficiency and response times. He did so on the understanding that if anyone had any specific questions to raise, they were to let him have them at the end of the meeting and he would personally hand them over to Mr McKinnon to answer following the meeting.

In summary he said the Make Ready project was intended to improve response needs and response times, meet the needs of the patient (right time, right place, right care), improve patient outcomes and reduce waste and efficiency.

It appeared that Whitchurch would be getting a new base for its paramedic car as the ambulance station at Sedgeford looked set to be sold by the Ambulance Service. An advanced paramedic and paramedic car would instead be based 24/7 at the Hollies, Chester Road, Whitchurch.

The present ambulance station was considered too big for its operational needs. Only one ambulance was stationed there, not two as previously, due to ambulances being sited in key response areas around the county in future.

Under the new system ambulances would be stationed within the local vicinity, for instance possibly at pods on the bypass at Prees Heath; in locations from which they can respond more quickly than being based in Whitchurch. If called out, he understood cover would be provided from Wem or Market Drayton. Everything would be controlled from Stafford, where the location of every ambulance would be monitored. Historic evidence would be used to say where and when the highest volumes of call outs were expected and ambulances would be stationed accordingly.

Concerns were raised about the time it took to get ambulances to patients currently. Cllr Dakin said he envisaged the new system should improve response times.

Expected benefits of introducing Make Ready were;

- Improved response times
- Maximise unit hour utilisation through effective readiness
- Improved vehicle cleanliness (Infection prevention and control)
- Improvement in medicines management
- Assurance of consistency on vehicle stocking, checking, servicing
- Improved asset management and control of medical devices
- Minimise Critical Vehicle Failure Rate
- Savings on drug wastage (10%)
- Savings on medical gases (10%)

- Savings on medical consumables (20%)
- Savings on stationary supplies (50%)

There would actually be more ambulance stations in Shropshire as a result; There are currently nine stations and this initiative would create 15 in total.

Mr Whelan, Prees Parish Councillor asked a specific question; “What is the evidential data to support the ‘Make Ready Project’ for improving rural response times in Shropshire above current performance?” The Chairman undertook to take this question back to Barry McKinnon for a full response from the Ambulance Service, after the meeting.

It was agreed that representatives from the West Midland Ambulance Service be urged to attend the next LJC meeting and furthermore that a report be made on the new ‘111 service’ to be introduced.

Subject to the foregoing the verbal update was received and duly noted.

### **35. STREET FURNITURE IN THE BULLRING**

Nicki Young, Community Action Officer, outlined that The Bullring in Whitchurch was a pedestrianised space where markets and community celebrations are held.

The current street furniture was set out in a linear way. Nicki was pleased to report that there was currently Unilateral Undertaking funding (from the Sainsbury’s development) available to improve the street furniture and layout in the town centre which was welcomed by the committee.

There were currently three cycle parking stands, four benches and areas of unusable space within the Bullring area. Proposals being consulted on suggested making better use of the area and possibly changing/re-using seating and better signage. The next steps would involve :

- Shropshire Council working with Whitchurch Town Council, The Farmers’ Market and key stakeholders to consult on designs.
- To get project costs and work with Highways to instruct contractors to complete works hopefully by summer 2013.

Assurance was given that nothing would be thrown away and everything would be used/re-used as far as possible. Some concern was expressed at a circular notice board.

Any feedback or input would be welcome. Please contact Nicki Young on 01939 237429 with your ideas.

### **36. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE**

#### **Whitchurch Rural Town Council**

- A hubs and clusters meeting on the SAMDEV had been held on 21 June at Ash. All feedback forms have been forwarded with the

majority of people in favour of the two parishes of Whitchurch Rural and Ightfield and Calverhall becoming a 'cluster'.

- New signs have now been installed linking the canal in Whitchurch to Brown Moss and Prees Heath via the Shropshire Way.
- The Parish Plan had now gone to print and will be delivered to all residents very shortly.

### **Prees Parish Council**

- The Parish Council were seeking new Parish Councillors and anybody that might be interested were urged to come forward.
- A Questionnaire to all parish residents had recently been circulated seeking feedback on updating the Parish Plan.
- Problems were being encountered getting roads marked and drains cleared. The centre of Prees village was also looking very neglected and it was hoped to remedy this with a meeting with George Candler, Area Director North, very shortly.

### **Ightfield Parish Council**

- Jubilee Walk was being finalised. This would soon link the two villages of Ightfield and Calverhall safely.
- Development problems re. Sewerage and electric capacity were in hand and were being overseen by Cllr Paul Wynn.
- Anyone interested in joining the Parish Council were urged to come forward as 'new blood' was needed.

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

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

### **Civic Centre Complex Project**

- Public consultations took place in September and revised plans were presented to Whitchurch Town Council on 4<sup>th</sup> October.
- Town Councillors met with the architect yesterday to view sample materials for the exterior of the Civic Centre.
- A total of £384,000 has been secured for Phase One, but the project will be completed in phases as funding become available.
- Phase 1 will revitalise the Civic frontage and reconfigure the foyer area, bringing the Civic Hall bar into the foyer and creating a reception desk and circular area around the staircase.
- Plans to get funding for Phase 2 are underway and please can I ask you to add any ideas you may have for the rest of the Civic Centre onto the flip chart at the back of the room, for instance, on what could happen in the building, or how the building could be changed to benefit the community. All ideas are welcome.

### **Walking in Whitchurch**

- This project is upgrading the walking offer in Whitchurch by improving the links between the canal, town centre and Brown Moss, to include new signs and interpretation boards and upgrade the paths.
- All the new fingerposts have arrived and will be in place within a month.

### **Whitchurch Farmers' Market**

The Whitchurch Farmers' Market received £5,000 to purchase new stall canopies to enhance the attraction, to encourage new shoppers to purchase the locally grown high quality produce and provide better weather protection for traders. An average increase of 3 traders per month has resulted, however the October market showed a doubling in traders from 14 to 28 due to the annual Blackberry Fair and a road closure – this project is now complete.

### **38. 2012/13 WHITCHURCH & PREES LJC BUDGET REPORT AND FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

A report setting out the devolved funding for this Local Joint Committee in 2012/13 plus seven funding applications and notification of a decision made under delegated powers, were considered by Members.

A PowerPoint presentation was given by the Whitchurch Photographic Society, which was amplified by Libby Middleton, a member of the Society, who answered members' specific questions as they arose. The LJC noted that to date the Society had £1,250 in confirmed sponsorship, plus £500 from fundraising and £300 in club funds. They were also hopeful of securing further sponsorship from the NFU very shortly. Current membership of the club was confirmed as follows;

23 members from Whitchurch postcode  
1 members from Market Drayton postcode  
2 members from Malpas postcode  
2 members from Woore postcode.

It was hoped to actively attract younger members to the club and it was noted that membership was free to A Level students.

After discussing each application in detail the Committee

#### **RESOLVED:**

a) That funding be awarded to the following organisations:

- H. Christmas Lights Live Music, Whitchurch Chamber of Trade £850.00
- I. Conversion of vehicle to LPG fuel, North Salop Wheelers £2,000.00, subject to the rest of the monies required being obtained from other LJC's
- J. Apportioned activity costs, British Red Cross Young Carers £1,731.09
- K. Conserving Whitchurch Herald, WRACT £1,000.00
- L. Purchase of new equipment & exhibition funding, Whitchurch Photographic Society £2,000.00, plus it was agreed that the banner publicising the contribution of the LJC be used in future exhibitions.
- M. Sir Edward German Music Festival 2014, Friends of Whitchurch Heritage £2,000.00.

b) That the award of £1,800.00 funding to Whitchurch Scout and Guide Association to fit and replace their condemned boiler in the Whitchurch Scout & Guide Hut, under delegated powers be ratified.

**39. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following issues/public question was raised by a local resident present at the meeting;

- There were a number of signs cropping up in and around Whitchurch on public highway verges. They were considered dangerous and needed removing. Examples given were outside Sir John Talbots school, on roundabouts and at some junctions e.g. on Waymills Industrial estate and on Heathwood Road in Higher Heath.

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

**40. 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 Nixon or Nicki Young.

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

**41. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next formal meeting of Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee meeting Would be held on Thursday 7 March 2013 at 7.00 pm at Prees Village Hall, Prees.

In the interim there would also be an Informal Community Meeting on Wednesday 23 January 2013 at Whitchurch Civic Centre, to which all were invited.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN:** .....

**DATE:** .....