

Committee and date

Whitchurch & Prees
Local Joint Committee

27 February 2014

Item

4

Public

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WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2013 IN BARGATES HALL, WHITCHURCH AT 7PM

Committee Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>
Mr Paul Wynn (Chair)	Shropshire Council
Mrs Peggy Mullock	Shropshire Council
Mr Peter Lea	Whitchurch Town Council
Mr Will Allen	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council
Mrs Jean Betteridge	Ightfield & Calverhall Parish Council
Mr Tom Biggins	Shropshire Council

Officers present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Nicki Young	Community Action Officer, Shropshire Council
Ian Walshaw	Manager of Highways, Shropshire Council
CSO Graham Baines	Local Policing Team, West Mercia Police
Simon Griffiths	Whitchurch Fire Station Head of Watch, Shropshire Fire & Rescue
Ian Johnson	Shropshire Fire & Rescue

There were approximately 21 members of the public at the meeting.

ACTION

15. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone, each member of the Committee introduced themselves and the Chair explained the nature and remit of Local Joint Committees (LJCs).

16. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Gill, Prees Parish Council; Gerald Dakin, Shropshire Council; Sergeant Claire Greenaway, West Mercia Police; Edward West, Policy Planning Officer, Shropshire Council; and David Gilling, Neighbourhood Watch.

17. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or Voting of any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate. Shropshire Councillor Peggy Mullock disclosed that, as the Chair of Town Plan Implementation Committee, she had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest with regard to funding Application L – Whitchurch PIC application for funding to market town events.

18. **NOTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the previous meeting held on 25 June 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

19. **PACT MEETING; INCLUDING UPDATES FROM SHROPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE**

CSO Graham Baines read an update provided in the absence of Sgt Claire Greenaway, Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant for Whitchurch, Wem and Market Drayton. The update, in summary, stated:

- West Mercia Police have pledged not to reduce front line policing, in terms they have maintained the numbers of uniformed officers on the streets.
- Officers are no longer station-based, they are issued with a patrol area and an SNT laptop which means they are no longer reliant on admin functions in the Police station, work can now be done from patrol cars ensuring greater coverage of officers controlled by GPS tracking by the deployment control room.
- The Safer Neighbourhood Team are new and have a wealth of experience in their field, working with a new and positive approach to policing. This team are the problem solvers of the Police, working with partner agencies and voluntary organisations to assist and maintain the quality of life of our community.
- The Team urge people to pass information, no matter how small or insignificant they think it is, it will help form part of a bigger picture and help us make communities better places to live and work.
- Crime is lower this year and our working practices will ensure this continues in the future.
- The Safer Neighbourhood Team are now more easily contactable through station visits, via telephone on **101**, through email, Twitter and Facebook. The Team are also supported in the role to reduce ASB by Shropshire Council and the Anti Social Behaviour reporting line - **0345 678 9020**.
- Naturally, if the matter is an emergency please still dial **999**.

Simon Griffiths and Ian Johnson, Shropshire Fire & Rescue were in attendance. Simon gave an update on recent activity:

- Whitchurch Fire Station, stating that there were now 18 staff,

- which was nearly full strength, more daytime staff are required.
- The station has a small 4x4 with a pod system which was good in heavy snow and also works in assisting neighbouring Brigades in Wales and Cheshire.
- It had been a busy summer, especially with regard to grass fires, noting Grinshill.
- Shropshire Fire & Rescue are still working proactively with regard to home fire safety visits and the campaign for smoke alarms. These alarms are now only available to vulnerable adults.
- In September Whitchurch Fire Station hosted a fire fighter reunion. The new building was built in 1960 – over 90 people attended and even a 90 year old man who served at the old fire station, he still lives locally in Whitchurch.

Simon went on to read out a statement from Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service – 2020 Process. Over the 10 year period from 2010 until 2020 the Service is predicting that the budget will not increase. For this to happen the Fire Authority is predicting that it will need to reduce its running costs by approximately 25% in order to cover inflationary rises.

The Fire Authority has plans in place that are already stripping out £3.2million up to 2015. This has involved a 10% cut in firefighters and support staff and a 25% reduction in senior officers. This has been achieved with minimal impact on the front-line services that the communities of Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin receive.

The Fire Authority's '2020 Process' is the method it is using to develop its plan. This will culminate in the publication of the Fire Authority's new Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015/20 in Summer of 2014. For more information on this plan and to make comment please go to Shropshire Fire & Rescue web-site <http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/>

20. PLANTING ON THE ROUNDABOUTS

Ian Walshaw, Manager of Highways (North), Shropshire Council gave a presentation on the planting of wildflowers on the Whitchurch by-pass roundabouts. He explained that Shropshire Council contractors, Ringway, had sown the wildflowers seeds in the autumn 2012 following advice from the Shropshire Council Ecologist. Unfortunately, the winter had been extremely wet, followed by very late snow and it is believed that the seeds had rotted. Therefore, the decision was taken that Ringway should mow the roundabouts when no wildflowers had shown growth. Ringway will reseed the Wrexham and Tilstock road roundabouts in Spring 2014, at their cost, and a close eye will be kept on progress.

Ian presented photographs of the 7 roundabouts around the Whitchurch by-pass, suggesting that sculptures could be sited or more trees could be planted on these roundabouts, inviting the audience to make suggestions.

Sponsorship of a roundabout costs £1,000/year per company and this money is put towards the maintenance of the island and providing appropriate signage advertising the company who are sponsoring. Companies can get in touch direct with Ian Walshaw if they wish to take up this opportunity.

- Q. There is still flooding at Waymills and Sedgeford – what is being done about this?
- Ambulance station pipe is owned by Welsh Water. Following an inspection via a camera it has been noted that the pipework is too narrow. Shropshire Council could lay a new pipe, but would need permission from Welsh Water. Talks are on-going.
 - Waymills – access to the pipes is difficult as they run underneath Landia on the industrial estate. The outside gulleys run underneath taking the outfall from industrial estate. Highways are aware of the flooding.

21. SITE ALLOCATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (SAMDev)

A written report was received from Edward West, Policy Planning Officer, Shropshire Council and is attached to these minutes.

22. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

- Calverhall & Ightfield Parish Council - plans have been passed for 16 houses in Ightfield.
- Whitchurch Town Council reported that general maintenance of all playground equipment is being undertaken. Whitchurch Civic Centre refurbishment has begun and in the meantime the Town Council office is situated upstairs in Heritage Centre, the opening hours are between 9am and 1pm. The Town Council had achieved the opening of the toilets in Jubilee Park - no damage has been reported to date. The Town Council have taken on the maintenance of benches within the town – so far 10 benches in total have been located and the Town Council Facilities Staff will be repairing and maintaining these benches. Benches which have been removed will be returned to original sites. A benchmarking survey undertaken in November 2012 highlighted the requirement for a bench halfway up High Street. It was also mentioned that the bench in Rosemary Lane will be reinstated.
- Comments from the floor were that the workmen on the Civic Centre Project and the Scottish Power team working in the High Street were to be applauded for their good communications.
- Whitchurch Rural Parish Council. It was reported that Whitchurch Rural Parish Council have 2 vacancies. The Parish Council had also convened a public meeting to talk about sewage and local development, this meeting had been well attended.

23. 2013/14 FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

A report setting out the devolved funding for this Local Joint Committee in 2013/14, plus five funding applications and notification of a decision made under delegated powers, were considered by Members.

After discussing each application in details the Committee approved the following grants:

RESOLVED:

- i. Shropshire Council Leisure Services – new equipment for Tot-tastics; £500.00 – Conditions: that the group is advertised more widely, that information on

how to borrow equipment is circulated, and that the equipment is used in the school holidays.

- ii. Shropshire Wildlife Trust (Whitchurch Branch) – Greenfields Local Nature Reserve Guide; £393.00
- iii. Prees Cricket & Recreation Club – Dugouts for Adult Soccer; £2,000.00
 - It was noted that funding of £530 allocated to Prees Cricket & Recreation Club to provide qualifying training for children's cricket teams would be returned to Whitchurch LJC funding pot.
- iv. Prees Community Led Plan Steering Group – refreshing the Prees Community Led Plan; £1,000.00
- v. Whitchurch Town Plan Implementation Committee (PIC) Markets & Events group – marking events in Whitchurch; £2,000.00
- vi. Blackberry Fair – funding for Bees & Trees Show; £350.00 – agreed using delegated authority and ratified at the meeting.

Total awarded at the meeting = £6,243.00

24. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- i. There is a bad trip hazard outside The Herald offices on the High Street – Nicki Young, CAO, undertook to feedback this information to Shropshire Council Highways Department. **NY**
- ii. Cyclists are using pavements and pedestrian areas within the town centre which is causing a hazard to pedestrians – cycling on the pavements has been against the law since 1835. The main areas where this was happening was outside Tesco, in Bredwood Arcade and the Bullring, the busiest parts of the town. CSO Graham Baines undertook to feed this back to PC Stuart Leclere. **GB**
It was also noted that the pedestrian footpath from SJT shares the pathway with cyclists for part of the way into town – Shropshire Councillor undertook to request that the Head of SJT point out to students about using the correct cycle paths and not cycling through pedestrianized areas of the town. **PM**
- iii. A further hazard was highlighted about cars parking on pavements, especially up the High Street, thereby causing difficulties for people with wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs/prams. Nicki Young, CAO, undertook to feed this back to Shropshire Council Enforcement Team. **NY**
- iv. It was highlighted that two roundabouts within the town centre need to be repainted and the signage improved, namely:
 - a. The roundabout outside Colour Supplies, the junction of Newtown, Watergate Street and Mill Street, and
 - b. The roundabout in Newtown as you leave Pepper Street car park.Nicki Young, CAO, undertook to feed this information back to Shropshire Council Highways Department. **NY**

25. ITEMS FOR FUTURE LJC MEETINGS

Whitchurch & Surrounding Area LJC Chair, Councillor Paul Wynn, asked the audience to suggest items which could be discussed at future Local Joint Committee meetings. These suggestions could be noted on the questions sheets and given to Nicki Young as they leave the room.

Attention was drawn to two items of information distributed, namely:

- i. Connecting Shropshire Broadband Programme Update – August 2013, and
- ii. Whitchurch Community Alcohol Partnership Resident Survey – What do you think about underage drinking in your local area?

26. FEEDBACK FORMS

Feedback forms were circulated at the meeting and those present were urged to take a minute to complete the forms before they left and leave with Nicki Young on their way out.

27. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next Whitchurch & Surrounding Area Local Joint Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday 27th February 2014 in Tilstock Village Hall.**

28. TO NOTE

The deadline for grant applications for the next meeting is Friday 17th January 2014. The Local Joint Committee Application Form and guidance on grant applications from voluntary/community groups is available on the Shropshire LJsCs web-site www.shropshireljs.com or by contacting Nicki Young, Community Action Officer on 01939 237429 or 0758 200 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: