

Date: Friday, 15 May 2015

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: The Youth Club, Bridgnorth Road, Shifnal

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SHIFNAL AND SHERIFFHALES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

TO FOLLOW REPORT (S)

- 5 To confirm the notes of the meeting held on 17th
March 2015. (Pages 1 - 4)**
To follow.

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**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2015
AT THE OLD FIRE STATION, SHIFNAL**

Community Enablement Officer: Andrea McWilliams

Email: andrea.mcwilliams@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 257866

Committee Members Present

Kevin Turley	– Shropshire Council
Stuart West	– Shropshire Council
Gordon Tonkinson	– Shifnal Town Council
Janet Jones	– Sheriffhales Parish Council
Alan MacWhannell	– Sheriffhales Parish Council

Officers present:

Andrea McWilliams, Community Enablement Officer

Also in attendance:

PCSO Jacqui Fletcher	– West Mercia Police
Bob Vincent	- Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan Group

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Stuart West.

2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

3. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the format of the meeting would be less formal this time as a trial way of working.

4. Confirmation of Notes

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2014 be signed by the Chairman.

5. Partners and Communities Together (PACT) – West Mercia Police

PCSO Jacqui Fletcher updated the meeting on the latest crime statistics for the area. Following concern from those present, she advised that she had no information on the appointment of a new Safer Neighbourhood Officer to replace PC Nick Allbutt. She also had no information on the future of the police station and although she understood the concerns being expressed she assured those present that once information was available it would be publicised. She did advise that the station was still being used although it was officially classed as being closed and that volunteers were still manning the front desk at certain times during the week.

A member of the public suggested that all present should put pressure on the police authority to keep a local presence in the town as this was a vibrant and growing community that needed a local policing presence. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the Police Authority to express the concerns of the meeting. It was also noted that Shifnal Town Council were in discussions with Shropshire Council and the police about the options available if the police station closed.

There also currently appeared to be a problem with the logging of crimes and CSO Fletcher suggested that incident numbers should be requested for any reported crimes.

She also advised on levels and types of crimes reported in the area since the last meeting and highlighted that all the up-to-date crimes statistics were available on the West Mercia website.

6. Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan – Introduction and Progress on consultation

Bob Vincent, one the team of volunteers involved in the work on the Neighbourhood Plan gave a summary of work to date. Main work had been around producing the “Vision” and skeleton draft policies for the plan. He explained there were lots of gaps and a need for a lot of data collection. The NP group were now working closely with the action groups of Shifnal Forward to take the draft policies to a stage where they could be presented to the public.

Those present agreed that issues such as traffic management, parking and the urgent need for a medical centre should be regarded as high priority issues for the area. They felt there was a need to slow down some of the development to ensure the infrastructure needs were being properly addressed. However, it was also accepted that developers were keen to work quickly and that was why it was essential to ensure that local groups such as Shifnal Forward and the Town Council were fully involved in developing the NP to help to influence planning into the future.

There was also some concern expressed about apathy amongst respondents to consultation and how to address this, however, it was acknowledged that the best that could be done was to invite the whole community to be involved at all stages and hope to get a good engagement and high response.

The LJC members thanked the group for their hard work to date and asked them to keep the meeting updated with progress into the future.

7. Other issues of concern raised at the meeting

Traffic Modelling - On the subject of traffic congestion, there would be further public consultation on the revised proposals for improvements to the traffic flow and

possibilities of shared spaces sometime during May. Concern was expressed about Aston Street pinch points, lack of enforcement in double yellow line areas, traffic congestion outside of schools at Curriers Lane and outside of St Andrews School, Lawton Road,

There was concern expressed about the removal of the 30mph signs on the Stanton Road coming from Tong by Redrow.

A member of the community advised that double yellow lines would soon be removed from opposite Paton's Garage, which would improve parking in that area.

Care Home Provision - Concern was also expressed about the land that had been designated at the Uplands and Stanton Road for development of a care home, if no care providers were found to be interested, would there be an assurance that these sites would be safeguarded and not developed into housing.

Flooding / Infrastructure concerns – some concerns were raised about whether the new developments in the town would be too much for the current drainage infrastructure. There was concern about the riparian ownership of Wesley Brook and dumping of garden waste into the brook. Kevin Turley advised that there was now a new Shifnal Flood Partnership in place that would be looking at such issues.

Ex Shifnal Town Clerk

The meeting was advised that it was not appropriate for this meeting to consider this subject.

Street Lighting

Some concerns were expressed by residents about the street lighting going off at 12 midnight. The Chairman advised that although some people were unhappy with the situation the decision had now been taken. It was noted that if there were particular areas of concern the local Bronze Level Tasking meeting (multi-agency group co-ordinated by the police) could be requested to consider the issue which would be based on the recorded levels of anti-social behaviour as well as considerations around the location.

Alleyway from Stafford Avenue to Tanglewood

It was felt that the street light along the alleyway should be left switched and also overhanging vegetation should be removed. It was also reported that the remains of a metal fencing spike needed to be removed as this was regarded as being dangerous for users of the lane. It was noted that there used to be a "no motorcycles" sign which had disappeared and as moped and cyclist seemed to be using the lane again, it was requested that this be replaced.

Farmer's Market

Concern was raised that the market appeared to have finished. The Chairman understood that the market volunteers could no longer continue to run the project. Some attendees suggested that the location had been an issue. The Chairman also reported that the Mayor would be holding a charity market sometime during the summer.

Swimming Pool / Leisure Centre

The Chairman updated the meeting on progress regarding the swimming pool consultation and advised that there had been a poor response rate but 90% of those who had responded supported it. However, respondents felt that it would depend on the financial implications to the council tax. The future of this project was also dependent on sites available.

8. Future meetings

Some members felt that it was important for one of the meetings per year to be held in Sheriffhales, obviously this was something that needed to be considered along with the agenda content to ensure everyone would have an opportunity to engage with the issues in their areas.

- Update on the road infrastructure proposals
- Update on the flood risk situation regarding the capacity of the sewers in view of the approved development

It was intended that there would be further meetings in July and October/November along with possibly joining with the Shifnal Annual Town Meeting in May.