

THE SEVERN LOOP LOCAL FORUM

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2015, 7PM AT THE GATEWAY EDUCATION AND ARTS CENTRE, CHESTER STREET, SHREWSBURY. SY1 1NB

Responsible Officer: Tom Brettell, tom.brettell@shropshire.gov.uk Tel 01743 252482

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council:

Andrew Bannerman

Anne Chebsey

Shrewsbury Town Council:

Alan Townsend

In attendance:

Inspector Graham Preece (Safe Neighbourhoods Police Inspector – West Mercia Police)

Russ Millhouse (University Centre Shrewsbury)

Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

There were approximately 15 members of the public present at the meeting.

1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The change in venue was necessary as the Guildhall was currently undergoing a re-fit in readiness for the University

ACTION:

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mansel Williams.

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they must not participate in 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.

No interests were declared.

4. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Agreed That the notes of the meeting held on 20th May 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman

Re Item 7 – Licensing Policy Update – Members of the public sought clarification on references to EU Guidance and the determination or otherwise of a quiet period; the minutes implied that the public no longer had any rights to a quiet period. Cllr Bannerman stressed the importance of peace for local residents and he would seek clarification on this point.

Re Item 8 – Swimming – It was reported that the Consultation period was underway and there had been a public meeting on the subject. Cllr Bannerman urged those who had not yet done so to submit their comments. Members of the public questioned aspects relating to the financial information in the public domain and the fact that revised information had to be re-presented. There were also questions as to the transparency of the final decision making process; George Candler (Director of Commissioning) had committed to publicising the decision making process ahead of the conclusion of the Consultation period.

5. TEAM SHREWSBURY

Inspector Graham Preece, the Safe Neighbourhood Teams Inspector for Shrewsbury attended the meeting to update the Forum on the work of Team Shrewsbury. The over-riding aim of Team Shrewsbury was to ensure Shrewsbury remains a great town to work, rest and invest.

The Partnership included both Shropshire Council & Shrewsbury Town Council, West Mercia Police, Shropshire Fire & Rescue, the University, Business Improvement District, Safer Shrewsbury Partnership covering the ShopWatch & PubWatch Schemes and the Shrewsbury Street Pastors. The group also engaged with other organisations including Residents Associations, Registered Social Landlords, Schools & Colleges and the Health organisations.

Team Shrewsbury's primary role is to address aspects of Crime & Anti-social Behaviour in the town and through working more collaboratively together the partners can pool resources to achieve better and quicker outcomes. This process, kick-started by Department of Communities & Local Government Our Place funding in 2014 has developed to being recognised as one of the strongest partnerships in the Country and is held as best practice nationally.

Much of Team Shrewsbury's work operationally is co-ordinated every Tuesday in the Quarry Park Warden's Lodge where operatives from all organisations get together to discuss issues and concerns and as a result action plans are worked through and implemented.

Team Shrewsbury has been successful in addressing:

- Unauthorised bonfires during Nuisance Week
- Drugs misuse
- Retail theft
- Fly-tipping
- Homelessness

Mr Preece recognised that there was more to achieve and currently the matter of homelessness and begging in the town centre was a focus for the group's activities.

This project whilst focussing on the town centre is being rolled out to other areas of the town.

Members of the public raised the following:

- How the **ASB Reporting Line (03456789020)** worked and when reports could be made – it was reported that the ASB Reporting Line was a 24/7 reporting line
- How Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers were allocated across the town – the town is made up of 6 beat areas and depending on whether these were priority areas they would have 1/2 dedicated police officers and a number of PCSOs. The Town Centre beat had its own Sargent with the residential beats being overseen by another Sargent.
- How were special events dealt with – Plans for all major events were considered by the Safety Advisory Group with Safety Event Plans being shared amongst partners. Generally speaking all events are well managed and cause very little problems for the emergency services.

Cllr Bannerman thanked Inspector Preece for his attendance and well as his energy and enthusiasm and willingness to respond. He duly left the meeting.

6. UNIVERSITY CENTRE SHREWSBURY

Russell Millhouse from the university Centre Shrewsbury attended the Forum to give an update of the work of the University Centre Shrewsbury as it is due to welcome its first cohort of Undergraduate Students later in the month. The University Centre has been developed by a Shropshire Council/University of Chester Partnership and it is hoped that in the fullness of time it will become a University in its own right independent of the Council and University of Chester.

Curriculum – 2015 sees 12 undergraduate courses in:

- Design Heritage & the Built Environment
- Sustainable Business & Community Development
- Centre for Societal Innovation
- Medicine & Health

There was also a Post-Graduate Presence with an MSC in Public Health and an MBA in Management Studies available

Student Life – the University Centre was due to welcome 80-100 students on 27th September with 40-50% coming from a 25 mile radius of Shrewsbury. Fresher's Week will be the following week with the Academic

**Kevin
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Year commencing 6th October. There shall be a Proctors Officer & Student Welfare Provision.

Infrastructure – The Guildhall is to be the primary teaching base and is currently being fitted out by the University of Chester. Mardol House has been fitted out to cater for 86 students and shall be managed by Shropshire Council.

Community Liaison – The University was an active member of Team Shrewsbury and found access to the various partners invaluable. They have also presented to various groups and organisations, hold their own Community Liaison Meetings, developed strong links with the Sixth Form College and Shrewsbury College, attended various events including the Flower Show and the county Show and facilitated the very popular “Shroosbury” versus “Shroesbury” debate.

Members of the public raised the following:

- Whether there would be any parking problems with the university – Students are encouraged not to bring their cars
- Capacity of the University in the long-term – this was still a matter to consider however this development of the university was designed to be organise and would grow manageably. Generally speaking the capacity of an area to manage a university looked at a student population of no more than 10% of the total population of the area. It was envisaged that the Guildhall would cope as the primary teaching area for at least 4-5 years
- The university was an exciting and unique opportunity for the town and those involved in developing a university should be congratulated

7. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES

Unfortunately Andy Savage from The Highways Planning Team was unable to attend. Cllr Bannerman hoped that he could attend a future meeting.

8. HAVE YOUR SAY

Residential Parking – a local resident expressed her concerns about the difficulty of parking for residents in the town centre. Some had Resident Parking Passes which allowed access to Frankwell, St Julian's or Abbey Foregate Carparks, but at times of flooding or during the Flower Shows, these weren't always available. An article had been written for The Loop Magazine published by the Town Centre Residents Association in the hope of understanding the extent of the problem. A straw poll was taken at the meeting and only one resident had problems.

The resident wished to see consideration be given to allocating on-street parking purely to residents and encourage visitors and casual users of the

town to use the main car parks rather than trying to drive round the town centre looking for car parking spaces.

Friends of the Earth Proposal – a local resident wished to know whether there was any foundation in rumours that the Friends of the Earth have asked that during the development of local transport plans Shropshire Council should consider proposals to close off the High Street. Councillor Bannerman was aware of this request but felt that whilst it was desirable to have less traffic going through the town it would need far greater thought.

Corporation Lane – a local resident enquired whether construction traffic had been granted permission to go against one-way traffic at Corporation Lane as when lorry drivers have been approached they have the impression that they have. Councillor Bannerman encouraged residents to report it if they saw it again.

Town Council – The Town Clerk updated the Forum on future tree works in the town centre that were required as well as the forthcoming consultation on the redevelopment of the Play Area at the Quarry. A local resident enquired whether Town Council consultations fed into the Shropshire Council Have Your Say section on their website; the Town Clerk advised that Town Council consultations would only feature on the Town Council Website

Councillor Bannerman thanked everyone for their attendance, particularly officers

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Councillor Andrew Bannerman.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: