



<u>Committee and date</u>
Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2015

<u>Item</u>
<b>3</b>
<u>Public</u>

**Responsible Officer:** Nicki Young, Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council  
Email: [nicki.young@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicki.young@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 07990 085187

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## WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

### NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015 IN TILSTOCK BRADBURY VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM

#### **Committee Members present:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>
Mr Paul Wynn	Shropshire Council
Mr Tony Neville	Whitchurch Town Council
Mr Paul Gill	Prees Parish Council
Mr Gerald Dakin	Shropshire Council
Mr Tom Biggins	Shropshire Council
Mrs Peggy Mullock	Shropshire Council
Mrs Jean Betteridge	Ightfield & Calverhall Parish Council
Mrs Sheila Martinson	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council (standing in for Will Allen)

#### **Officers present:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Dr Julie Davies	Director Strategy and Service Redesign, Shropshire CCG
Matt Johnson	Transport Commissioner, Shropshire Council
Ben Davies	Arriva Trains Wales
Steve Howson	Arriva Buses
Julie Stiffin-Jones	Head of Tilstock Primary School
Nicki Young	Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council
PC Tim Lever	Safer Neighbourhood Team, West Mercia Police
CSO Peter Roberts	Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team
Ian Johnson	Shropshire Fire & Rescue

There were approximately 34 members of the public at the meeting.

#### **ACTION**

#### **45. Welcome and Introductions**

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

#### **46. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Jordon Pepperall, Community Relations Executive Network Rail – Wales & Border Counties.

#### **47. 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.

#### **48. Notes**

It was RESOLVED that the notes of the previous meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Paul Gill  
Seconded: Tony Neville – the meeting notes were duly signed by the Chair.

#### **49. Partners & Communities Together (PACT)**

a. Ian Johnson, Shropshire Fire & Rescue:

- Community Fire Safety – everyone is entitled to a free home safety fire assessment. Free smoke alarms are available to eligible people, the Fire Service website gives more details on the criteria for eligibility. Community Fire Safety has been running since 2005 and recently staff have found that smoke alarm batteries are failing because they are 10 years old. All bleeping batteries need to be replaced, please call the Fire Service non-emergency number if you need help with this.
- A report was given on the call-outs in the preceding 3 months, which included farm and grass fires and road traffic accidents.
- Whitchurch and Prees Retained Fire Stations are now recruiting.
- Shropshire Fire Service are progressing to working with other services in a multi-agency building.

Peggy Mullock congratulated Whitchurch Fire Service on the money raised at charity car washes, most recently they raised £360.00 and there are 3 or 4 charity car washes per year.

b. PC Tim Lever, Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), West Mercia Police:

- Updated the meeting on the action from the previous meeting with regard to Claypit Street – vehicles had stopped parking on pavements and blocking access to the church and the Police had received no further complaints. The SNT provide regular patrols in the road to keep an eye on the matter.
- Gave statistical information on the number of incidents that the Police had attended since the previous meeting, a total of 113 incidents in the area, including crimes, assisting vulnerable adults, non-crime domestic incidents, child concerns, seizure of vehicles, sudden deaths and road traffic collisions. A total of 38 crimes had been detected, 14 vehicles seized and 15 people arrested.
- The incident on the A41 in Sandford had been referred up to the Safer Road Partnership.
- During the summer months, Whitchurch town centre had very few reported incidents, but since the summer damage to toilets, benches, trees and fountain had occurred in Jubilee Park.
- The Safer Neighbourhood Team are working with Whitchurch Town Council to improve the CCTV.
- New CSOs, Peter Roberts and Chris Hiron are joining the Whitchurch SNT and CSO Louise Fowler is moving to Market Drayton.
- Reassurance was given that the SNT will continue to patrol the town on foot and make themselves available.

Paul Gill, Prees Parish Council, thanked PC Tim Lever for his support to the Parish Council, stating that speeding in the parish is of concern and that the Parish Council

and Police need to work together. PC Lever stated that Shrewsbury Police Response Team are doing speed patrols on the A41 and A49.

Jean Betteridge, Ightfield and Calverhall Parish Council, stated that drugs are a problem at Greenfield Nature Reserve. PC Lever responded, saying that there had been 2 drugs-related incidents solved with over £2,000 worth of drugs seized. A reminder that all incidents need reporting to either Crimestoppers, Police 101 or if an emergency call 999.

A request for further speed enforcement on Sundays when the motorcyclists drive to the Raven Café, Prees Heath.

## **50. Reporting and Scrutiny (Hot Topics)**

- a. Tilstock Primary School – an update was given by the Headteacher, Julie Stiffin-Jones, reporting on the issue surrounding the school field.

The fenced area green space in front of the Tilstock Bradbury Village Hall is owned and maintained by the primary school, but the community view this area as an additional play area out of school hours. The school are responsible for maintenance, grass cutting and litter picking, as well as keeping the fencing safe and secure in line with Child Safeguarding legislation.

Regulations with regard to safeguarding have increased and currently the school field does not meet safety requirements. The Headteacher stated that it was an honour to see the community using it, but that she has had to make the decision that the field is not safe and, currently, school children are now allowed to use it.

[A presentation was given, created by the schoolchildren about their school field.]

The Headteacher stated that the reason children are unable to use the field is that the fencing on the west and north boundaries is unsafe and needs replacing, to be the same wooden fencing as the east boundary fence.

The new fencing will cost circa £4,000 and the school are looking to the community to help raise this money.

Julie Stiffin-Jones stated that if £4,000 had to be used from the school budget to replace the fencing and make safe, then she would recommend to the Governors that the field should only be used by the schoolchildren in the future. If the community could come together, to raise funds for a space they use too, therefore enabling the school to spend £4,000 from their budget on other school resources, then the field would remain open to all.

Sheila Martinson, Whitchurch Rural PC, stated that they are looking for a way to support the school and fund the project, but they are unable to fund any project on Shropshire Council land.

The recommended way forward is for the school and community to jointly form a Friends of Tilstock School (FOTS) group and raise funds independently, by forming this group the Parish Council would be able to fund part of the project.

- b. Update on Merger of Doctor's Surgeries in Whitchurch – Dr Julie Davies, Director Strategy and Service Redesign, Shropshire CCG gave an update on the merger of 2 doctors surgeries in Whitchurch and their joint move up to the Community Hospital site.

An application to the Primary Care Infrastructure fund for the 2 practices to be colocated at Whitchurch hospital has been submitted.

The doctor's surgeries are currently drafting business cases for NHS England, which will be submitted by Christmas and approved in January 2016. It is anticipated that the

builders will be on site by April 2016 and the work completed by September/October 2016. Additional parking is linked into the planning application, to create 50 extra parking spaces.

Q. Whitchurch Community Hospital has been kept open to provide a hospital for the area. The concern is that there is an increasing elderly population, increasing housing development and the need to provide specialist medical care in rural areas. To what extent will increased specialist services be impacted with the loss of Beech Ward and the new doctor's surgeries moving forward?

A. Rural Urgent Care Centres acknowledge the need to increase specialist services in rural locations. Colocation adds value and will increase the opportunities for the location. NHS Trust will look at making the best use of the current site, providing the best solution for the community.

Q. Richmond House Doctor's Surgery have been served notice, a contingency will need to be look at if building cannot be secured in time.

A. Assurance was given that the team are aware of this and contingencies are being planned.

Q. Once Beech Ward is reused, it will be gone – what happens if there is a flu epidemic, for example, and extra bed spaces are required, there will be no reserves?

A. Whitchurch Community Hospital has the largest number of beds and is there to provide step-down beds from the acute hospital and to prevent trips to acute hospitals.

Dr Muir, local GP, said that there are great advantages for merging the Doctor's surgeries and locating at the Community Hospital site, this move will secure the future of the Whitchurch Community Hospital. The different practices have varying specialisms and will complement each other. Both Doctor's surgeries were happy to work with Whitchurch Patients Group.

Matt Johnson, Transport Commissioner, Shropshire Council, said that bus services to the hospital and the planned Doctor's surgery will react to the new development. He will work with Public Health to meet the requirements of patients, users and visitors.

## **51. Shropshire Council Update – Public Transport Update**

- a. Matt Johnson, Transport Commissioner, Shropshire Council, gave a quick overview of Shropshire Council's role within public transport, explaining that local transport is a statutory role of Shropshire Council and the Council is under pressure to provide services, but also needs to subsidise operators.  
He went on to talk about concessionary travel, when concessionary cards are used the operator still receives the full cost of the fare. He brought to the attention of residents that a train discount card can be received as opposed to the bus pass.  
North Salop Wheelers, the community transport service, can provide a bespoke one to one service, including direct services to the community hospital. Whitchurch also has a community car scheme.  
Shropshire Council has no jurisdiction over rail services, but works very closely with station operators.
- b. Steve Howson, Arriva Buses – is the manager of the 511 services from Shrewsbury to

Whitchurch. He was congratulated on an excellent bus service.

- c. Ben Davies, Arriva Trains Wales – explained that he looks after the Cardiff to Manchester Marches line and that the English Train services are funded by Department for Transport. The franchise has the contract to run this service and is the third best for punctuality nationally. All trains stop at Wem and Whitchurch. Arriva Trains Wales do not own the infrastructure and the station is leased from Network Rail, all the trains are leased and the time on the rail track is also leased. Arriva Trains Wales pay Network Rail for any time over the leased time and Network Rail pay Arriva Trains Wales for any delays, ie, signalling failure, etc. Ben Davies acknowledged that DDA access to the southbound platform was impossible, giving details of the free taxi service to Wem for southbound travel. He talked about the local rail users group, Crewe And Shrewsbury Passengers Association (CASPA) and said how he works closely with this group.

Q. Whitchurch railway station footbridge was set up to receive a lift, will this happen?

Q. The canopy on Platform 1 - CASPA are working with Rail Heritage Trust and Network Rail to save the existing Victorian canopy. The infrastructure needs updating but heritage also needs to be retained.

A. An enlarged shelter has been erected on Platform 2. Suggestion that s106 monies could provide better facilities at the station, including parking. CASPA supported the retention of the canopy.

Network Rail need time during November to repair the track and for one week the trains will be replaced by a bus service. The dates had not been confirmed.

Whitchurch Train Station car park – if a development at Station Motor Services proceeds, there is the case that a s106 agreement could be arranged to build a two-tier car park, potentially with the lower level underground. This would provide a sustainable future for Whitchurch Railway Station car park, providing much needed parking spaces and future-proofing the site.

Q. Chair of Whitchurch Patients Group, Shropshire Councillor Peggy Mullock, raised the problem of patients needing to travel to Princess Royal Hospital, Telford, especially pregnant and mothers with young children, now that the maternity and paediatrics had moved to Telford.

A. Steve Howson, Arriva buses, will take the request back to Arriva bus managers.

**Action: Steve Howson**

## **52. Question Time**

a. Centre NE, Whitchurch -

Funding year 15/16 = £9,090 & funding year 16/17 = £15,580

Provider: Shropshire Youth Association

Activity: Two youth club sessions a week for juniors and seniors at Whitchurch Youth Centre

Duration: Contracted to March 2017

Progress: Launch event on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015; posters and flyers distributed.

**53. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Whitchurch area Local Joint Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in Whitchurch Civic Centre

The meeting closed at 20:55.

Signature (Chair) ..... Date: .....