



Committee and Date	Item No
Shifnal and Sheriffhales Local Joint Committee 22nd March 2016	Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2015
AT SHERIFFHALES VILLAGE HALL, SHERIFFHALES**

Community Enablement Officer: Andrea McWilliams

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Committee Members Present

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

Officers present:

Chris Edwards, Shropshire Council

Andrea McWilliams, Community Enablement Officer

Elaine Moss, Shropshire Council

Also in attendance:

PC Matt Picken	- West Mercia Police
PCSO Steve Breese	– West Mercia Police
Adam Mathews	- Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

4. Confirmation of Notes

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting held on 15th May 2015 be signed by the Chairman.

5. Partners and Communities Together (PACT) – West Mercia Police and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Police

PC Matt Picken was introduced and welcomed to the meeting as the new PC for the area. He updated the meeting on the latest crime statistics for the area and directed

anyone who was interested in looking at specific statistics to view the West Mercia Police webpage on www.police.uk. He advised that he didn't want the public to be alarmed that there appeared to be a rise in crime figures, as there had been changed to the way in which crime was now recorded.

He confirmed that Shifnal and Albrighton stations had now closed and that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams now all operated out of the Bridgnorth station. However, he understood that there were discussions underway about how the police could have a presence at Shifnal Library. He also assured the public that in the case of emergency, the nearest response patrols to the incident would be despatched most probably based at Telford.

Councillor Gordon Tonkinson expressed some concern about the apparent quick sale of the police station and that Shifnal Town Council were now in discussion with the PCC about the issue. PC Picken was unable to give any further information on the issue.

Following a query from Councillor Turley on whether was any linkage to street lights being switched off after midnight, PC Picken also advised that most rural crime was undertaken in the countryside where the areas are not covered by street lights. He also felt that the ASB associated with Jubilee Park play area couldn't be associated with the street lights as the majority of problems were being experienced either in the day time or before the lights were switched off.

One member of the public expressed concern about speeding traffic through Sheriffhales and asked whether the police could park up occasionally in the layby as a preventative measure.

Fire

Adam Mathews, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, gave a brief update on the healthy financial position of the fire authority and confirmed that savings had been made. He confirmed that they were looking at income generating initiatives.

He also confirmed that incident rates had dropped by comparison to last year and explained that they were now working on risk management plans with the police in connection with bonfire night and in particular non-organised events.

Following a question from a member of the public Adam advised that the service was now attending more RTCs than house fires. They were also undertaking work with the Institute of Advanced Motorists and were attending local bike events/rallies with their outreach vehicles to promote safer driving.

He also confirmed that the service were in discussions with other emergency response organisations about co-responding. Councillor Stuart West advised that public consultation was currently underway on the fire service being taken over by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Adam assured the public that where new developments were being built the service did undertake several access checks with an appliance.

Following a question from the public he confirmed that there should be no change to response times for Sheriffhales as there were currently no plans to close and nearby stations.

6. Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-Submission Consultation

Bob Vincent presented an update report on progress with the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan. (attached to the agenda)

He advised that the process had taken around 12 months to get to this point and there was probably another 6-12 months left in the process. He advised the meeting that the Neighbourhood Plan wouldn't be able to prevent future development in Shifnal but would be able to influence sites and designs into the future.

7. Sheriffhales Parish Plan

Councillor John Webb gave an update on the work of the Sheriffhales Parish Plan group to highlight the need for the existing plan to be revised. He emphasised the need for additional volunteers to get involved and advised that they would be using the local Parish Magazine to promote this.

8. Shifnal Forward

Chris Edwards, Shropshire Councils Commissioning Director updated the meeting on the work being done to draw up plans for Shifnal's Town Centre Enhancement Scheme.

Members emphasised the need for the consultation to be far reaching throughout the community.

On the issue of traffic, concern was expressed about traffic speeding through the village of Sheriffhales and Councillors confirmed that the parish council would be considering options currently being developed to address these issues.

9. Shifnal Library, Public Open Spaces and Car Parks

Chris Edwards also gave an update on the consultation currently underway on the options for the future delivery of the library services, public open spaces and car parks within Shifnal. He explained that the Transformation Challenge Fund that Shropshire Council had secured could be used to undertake improvements to the library if the consultation gave a positive way forward and the Town Council officers would then be able to relocate to the library.

10. Road Safety concerns around Sheriffhales

Some concern was expressed about the safety of a junction off the A5 at Burlington and the meeting was advised that the neighbouring parish clerks would be getting together with Alice Dilly to look at options.

11. Date of Next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be during February 2016.