



Committee and Date
Bridgnorth, Worfield,
Alveley, Claverley
and Brown Cleve
Local Joint
Committee

Tuesday 6th October
2015

Item No

A

Public

**NOTES FROM THE BRIDGNORTH, WORFIELD, ALVELEY, CLAVERLEY
AND BROWN CLEE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 7:00PM AT BRIDGNORTH YOUTH
CENTRE, INNAGE LANE, BRIDGNORTH.
(7.00 – 8.30 p.m.)**

**Responsible
Officer**

Tracy Johnson

email: Tracy.johnson@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 07990 085122

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Christian Lea
John Hurst-Knight
Tina Woodward

Town/Parish Councils

Sue Morris, Astley Abbots Parish Council
Howard Lane, Billingsley Parish Council
David Cooper, Bridgnorth Town Council
J Mottershead, Chetton and Ditton Priors PC
Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council
Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council
Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council

West Mercia Police

Sgt Richard Bailey
PC Stuart Lippitt

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Fire Officer Ashley Brown

1. Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Christian Lea be elected Chairman for this municipal year.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Tina Woodward be appointed Vice-Chairman for this municipal year.

3. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence

Cllr Christian Lea welcomed everyone to the Bridgnorth Youth Centre, Bridgnorth

Apologies were received on behalf of the following:-

Cllr Les Winwood, Shropshire Council,
Cllr William Parr, Shropshire Council,
Cllr Michael Wood, Shropshire Council,
Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council,
Isley Jackman, Alveley Parish Council.

4. Declaration of interest

None

5. To consider and approve the notes of the meeting held on 25th February 2015

The notes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

6. Community Safety

6.1 Sgt Richard Bailey reported that Crime and Disorder nationally was going up due to new crime recording procedures for sexual offences.

6.2 Sgt Richard Bailey stated if you want to know more about crime in your area even down to street level to use the following website:
<http://www.police.uk/>

6.3 Later this month there will be a "We don't buy Crime" campaign this will be spear headed by 1,400 smartwater kits being delivered to households in Cleobury Mortimer. This is being followed by Officers

	going around 2 nd hand retailers and checking items for smartwater.	
6.4	For information smartwater should be used by the used by date on the product but it does last for 5 years from that date and in some cases even longer up to 10 years.	
6.5	There has also been an operation (Vulture) in Sutton Maddock and Norton area. 160 vehicles were stopped leading to 6 arrests. West Mercia Police are encouraging people to join Watch Schemes in their areas to find out more about watch schemes please go to the following website: http://www.westmercia.police.uk/watch/	
6.6	Sgt Bailey commented on the recent Bridgnorth Town CCTV enhancement with the new HD technology producing better recognition.	
6.7	John Hurst-Knight requested a member of the local policing team to attend the Southern Domestic Abuse Partnership as there currently was no representative from the Police. Sgt Bailey commented that he did MARAC and Bronze Level Tasking meetings.	JHK to pass future dates to Sgt Bailey
6.8	A member of the public asked about ASB and who to report it to. Sgt Bailey said if it was disorder eg fighting outside pubs to report to the police other ASB such as noise, dog mess, littering etc should be reported to the Shropshire Council ASB team. Both the police and the Shropshire ASB team work together on some issues.	
	Police ASB Telephone No:101	
	Police and Emergency Services Telephone No: 999	
	Shropshire Council ASB Telephone No:0345 678 9020	
6.9	Shropshire Fire and Rescue Fire Officer Ashley Brown stated that the Bridgnorth Fire Station had vacancies and if anyone was interested they could come along on a Tuesday evening 7-9 at Bridgnorth Fire Station or contact Shropshire Fire and Rescue 01743 260 200 or email enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk . website: https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/	
7.	Bridgnorth Area Youth Partnership Scott Lawrence sent his apologies and would be more than happy to attend the next LJC. Di Phillips informed the LJC that both junior and senior youth club would starting again at the youth centre on Monday	

2nd November.

8. Big Conversation – Clive Wright, CEO of Shropshire Council

Clive Wright Chief Executive of Shropshire Council states that over the past few years, central government has and continues to severely cut the funding it gives to local authorities. As a result of this, Shropshire Council has been working hard to maintain quality services for Shropshire people within a reducing budget. Since 2009, we have responded to these cuts and have made efficiency savings of £146m, through redesigning our services in more cost effective ways. Now there is a need to do even more.

By 2021, the £43m revenue support grant we receive from central government will end and we estimate that the Council will be around £80m worse off due to the falling income coming in to the council and rising costs.

However recent news from the Chancellor indicated changes to the business rates. Currently the collected business rates by Shropshire Council which only keeps 50% the other 50% is given to the Government. This recent change will mean that eventually over a five year period that Shropshire Council will be able to retain 100% of the business rates this will give Shropshire Council an increased income of £40M this will of course come with some additional responsibilities with regards to developing and supporting businesses in the area.

However Shropshire Council are still faced with the need to make further substantial savings in the coming years, because the revenue support grant of £43M received from central government will still end in 2021, so we have to ensure our priorities are driven by what Shropshire people expect us to do. Therefore we need you to tell us how to prioritise our budget.

Currently Shropshire council runs 164 services, these services will have to be reduced. The services that the council have to provide are Adult Social Care, Looked after vulnerable children plus other services such as Highways and education which receive their own grants from Government and collecting the bins.

The Big Conversation will continue for years to come and it is not just something Shropshire Council are doing alone. As with all Public Sector organisations such as the local NHS and Police, we need to ensure that the public services we deliver meet the needs of our local

communities.

Questions:

Cllr Cooper requested information regarding timescales. Clive Wright stated that the timescale for this will take place over the coming months, starting with a special cabinet paper going to full Council on 28th October and then from the end of October to March we shall be consulting with residents, we will ensure that everyone in Shropshire gets the opportunity to give their views on the services they value, the services they don't and the services they may consider to deliver themselves, or as part of their community. The council intends to engage with residents by having meetings, video, website, survey monkey, citizen's panels.

Ms Dixon asked why BTC could not work closer to SC with regards to clearing the steps/watering the flowers and that there are particular problems with the brambles/dog mess on St Mary's Steps, Cartway Steps. Clive Wright agreed that Shropshire Council will need to work closer with all Town and Parish council over the coming years and residents would have to decide what is more important to them e.g. providing adult social service or cleaning up other people's dog mess and that there needs to be a balance of what councils can provide and what communities can do for themselves.

Ms Dixon made further comments about the customer call centre and on how difficult it was to contact anyone. Clive Wright stated that it would be best that customers contact the council through the customer call centre **Tel No 0345 678 9000** because all calls would be answered and that calls are logged and the calls are referred to departments and then followed up for actions taken. The website also needs up-dating. <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-service/how-to-contact-us/>

Coming back to the consultation on services Cllr Sue Morris wanted to know if costing of services would be in the public domain so people could see exactly what services are delivered and the costs associated with them. Clive Wright said that with the cabinet paper which is going to full council will also have the strategic financial plan.

Mr Moorhouse suggested that the council should not trim bits from everywhere and only do what matters. Clive Wright commented that we have already saved 180 Million and that services have already been transformed to deliver better outcomes for value for money and that Shropshire Council is still a top performing council.

Cllr Whittle commented on the business rates and economic development of the county and that planning was holding schemes back because of the long delays and that it took 3-4 times longer to get

a planning application through. Clive Wright agreed that it was taking longer and this was due to the number of planning applications had doubled and that there are less staff to deal with them.

Mr Ellis commented on the importance of Adult Social Care and in particular adults with learning disabilities, he stated that the consultation on the Adult Day Care Centre in Innage Lane had taken too long and he was concerned that the decision and the centre would be taken by someone who is not from Bridgnorth. Clive Wright explained when consulting the public with regards to service the council have to follow statutory guidelines and time frames after the consultation the lead officer would write a report which would take into account the consultation and make recommendations the final decision if it is under ½ million it would be taken by the Portfolio holder if it is over ½ million it would go to full council for a decision.

Cllr Mottershed asked about the Ringway contract because some of the current refurbishment of pot holes were not adequate. Clive Wright said that pot holes needed to be filled properly or they would have to be done again at a cost to the Council

Public Question Time / Future Agenda items

9. Mr Grocock raised the issue of speeding on the Danesford, Kidderminster Road, Well Meadow and Pale Meadow again. Cllr Christian Lea had discussed this with Alice Dilly with regards to improvements on the road.

10. **Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th April 2016 TBC**

Signed Chairman

Date