



**Committee and Date**  
The Severn Loop Local Forum  
  
Tuesday 10 May 2016  
  
7.00 pm

## THE SEVERN LOOP LOCAL FORUM

### NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2016, 7.00 PM AT THE GATEWAY EDUCATION AND ARTS CENTRE, CHESTER STREET, SHREWSBURY, SY1 1NB

**Responsible Officer:** Lucy Roberts , [Lucy.roberts@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.roberts@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel 01743 252328

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Shropshire Council:**

Andrew Bannerman – Chair  
Anne Chebsey  
Amy Liebich

**Shrewsbury Town Council:**

Alan Townsend

#### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Sgt Richard Coles (Safe Neighbourhoods– West Mercia Police)  
Matt Johnson, Strategic Transport and Contracts Manager, Shropshire Council  
Gary Dymond, Project Manager, Mouchel  
Gary Farmer, Operations Manager, Shrewsbury Town Council

There were approximately 38 members of the public present at the meeting.

#### 1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
Cllr Bannerman also welcomed Cllr Amy Liebich, Shropshire Councillor for the Belle Vue Ward.

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

#### 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.

#### ACTION:

#### 4. **NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

**Agreed** That the notes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman

Re Licensing – The Town Council have invited a Shropshire Council licensing officer to come and speak to them. Members of the public are able to attend but should give notice to the Town Council.

Re Swimming pool consultation - A member of public felt that financial matters in connection with swimming pool consultation options were still not correct.

#### 5. **SHREWSBURY INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PACKAGE**

**Matt Johnson and Gary Dymond were in attendance to talk about the forthcoming Shrewsbury Integrated transport plan consultation.**

Matt Johnson delivered a presentation on proposed details for SITP consultation; package of transport measures designed to improve the transport system in Shrewsbury and stimulate a new period of sustainable economic growth within the town and the surrounding area.

The proposed package included key junction improvements, implementation further phases of the SCOOT network (split cycle offset optimisation technique), enhancements to pedestrian and cycle links, improvements to pedestrian wayfinding within and around the 'river loop', and enhancements to public realm.

The information can be found here:

<https://new.shropshire.gov.uk/media/2437/shrewsbury-itp-consultation-boards-progress-final-low-res.pdf>

Funding for the proposed SITP has been secured and will compromise a total of £12.1m investment in the town. This funding has been secured through The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Regional Growth Fund (50%) and Shropshire Council's Developer contributions (50%).

Formal consultation starts in February and will last for 6 weeks and during that time key stakeholders, Town council and residents will be spoken to.

Details of the consultation can be found here:

<http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/shrewsbury-integrated-transport-package/>

**Q-** When will shared space be looked at, no traffic signals?

**A-** Each junction will be looked at in each situation. Shared space can be seen in the Town centre.

Changes are proposed to express travel and traffic flow around the town, increased signage and key areas of intercept will help to suggest alternative routes.

Concern was raised that traffic will back up into the retail park at Meole Brace. MJ responded saying, traffic at the retail park is an issue but tackling this issue is beyond the scope of funding or mandate of the SITP

work which is to future proof the junctions and what could be achieved with the funding although this could be seen as Phase 1 and there could be opportunity to look at the issues in the future.

**Q-** What proportion of the spend is on roads here and Town centre?

**A-** About 20%

**Q-** Park and Ride – can it be included as part of the integrated approach?

**A-** There has been a renegotiation of the P&R fleet and within two years a fully hybrid fleet will be running.

A 'SCOOT' network (split cycle offset optimisation technique) will pull in four junctions allowing them to work in the most efficient way. New proposed infrastructure uses traffic information to regulate traffic flow.

Tier 2 VMS (variable messaging signage) gives travellers within the town integrated information on travel times and parking availability.

Comment was made on the fact that VMS locations are already in the town and was this is too late to stop people coming into the centre.

MJ responded, Tier 1 VMS is on the outskirts of the town will give information to travellers and enable them to make an informed choice for their journey. Tier 2 VMS will give those who have already made their choice to come into the Town centre, information on parking and travel times.

**Public realm enhancements** - Enhancements are looking to be made on cycle routes and pedestrian routes, utilising funding at 'pinch points' – as part of the consultation people will be asked for information on where needs improvement or areas that do not work.

Pride Hill public realm enhancements are proposed in refreshing pedestrian areas, updating street furniture and then expand out to other areas.

English bridge gyratory- modifications are being proposed to try and bring the 'town feel' further out.

**Q** –The St Julian's Friars car park turning is extremely bad, what is being done?

**A-** It is proposed that the lanes over the English bridge will go down to 2 lanes (in/out)

This is all open to discussion.

The Bellstone and Shoplatch junction and back of the market hall is proposed to be a 'shared space' allowing for loading at the Market Hall but creating a safer space for pedestrians. It would look to change the emphasis to pedestrians not vehicles.

A comment was made about shared space only working in areas with traffic flow of less than 90 vehicles an hour and there are more than 90 vehicle movements in an hour at Bellstone so it can't be a shared space.

GD said that shared space definitions vary. People are invited to give their ideas and opinions as part of the consultation.

**Q-** Is the loading bay at the back of the Market Hall being taken into consideration?

**A-** Yes there have been on-going discussions with the Market.

**Q-** Does the scheme add or detract from the built environment of the whole town?

**A-** The historic fabric of the town has been taken into consideration.

**Q-** What number of cars will be cut out?

**A-** GD will get the figures

The SITP consultation will be advertised and formal consultation will start on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and end on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

There will be a public exhibition of the scheme proposals in the town centre. Officers will be on hand to answer any queries people may have. Details to be confirmed \*

## **6. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE**

### **Sgt Richard Coles**

Late licence information – The Police are partners in the Licensing process and go to Licensing committee.

Any problems with Licensing breaches can be brought for review, although the majority of premises that have been identified as having issues have co-operated in providing the requested information, policies and procedures and therefore it is difficult for West Mercia Police to raise objections when all requests are complied with.

The Police will always keep a watching brief on the Town centre and if things need reviewing, it will be.

Triage Centre – The Police, Street Pastors and St Johns Ambulance ran a triage centre over the Christmas and New year period to offer assistance to people who may be vulnerable to the effects of alcohol or drugs. It was very successful in diverting non- urgent cases away from A & E. The cost for a single ambulance call out is around £400 so the triage centre has saved several thousand pounds over the busy period. It is hoped that this will be extended out.

Alternative Giving scheme- the Alternative giving scheme (AGS) was launched yesterday offering an opportunity to support the homeless by giving directly to the charities and organisations that help and support them via the 4 AGS money canisters that can be found around town.

Around 50% of the assumed homeless people seen on Pride Hill actually have a home to go to and often people give them money in good faith but it will not necessarily be used that way.

Any funds collected in the secure cash canisters are distributed between the Rough Sleepers Team and Shrewsbury Ark ensuring it is used by those in most need.

**Q-** Has any consideration been given to Gift aid?

A town centre resident commented that the situation in the town has deteriorated – issues with vomit, human excrement, vagrancy and drug taking.

**Q-** Who decides where the money is spent?

**A-** The 'Rough Sleepers task force' made up of Police, Shropshire Council, the Ark meet every three weeks and look at where funding is needed.

**Q** – Response to issues in the town can be down to the Night time economy – consumption of alcohol. Takeaways also cause a lot of the problem litter – is this something that can be tackled by Licensing?

**A-** When Subway applied for their Licence they said they would have hourly litter picking during the night as commitment to the area in which they operate.

Members of the public commented that people who benefit economically from the night-time economy should contribute to things like toilet attendants to enable service to remain open.

New licences in the last four years have been required to have CCTV images in colour and store images for 28 days.

**Q** – How many Police officers are on duty tonight?

**A-** The Town centre Policing unit has officers at Raven Meadow. The Town centre foot patrol has RC and two others as well as two PCSO's. Monkmoor Police station also has ten response officer, traffic and armed response officers available.

## **7. FUNDING CRISIS**

Information was shared with the forum on information from the Big Conversation, this included headline information:

*By 2020/21 the Government's £44m revenue support grant will end. By the time this grant ends, it is estimated that we will be a further £77m worse off, due to the combination of inflationary increases in costs, particularly in adult social care, and further cuts in Government grants.*

*The council's forecast budget for 2020/21, recently published in its Financial Strategy, is estimated to be £188m. £163m (87%) of the budget will be allocated to core services.*

*This will leave just £25m (13% of the overall budget) of money to spend on the remaining 150 plus services the council currently provides. This is a reduction of 75% from the £100m the local authority currently spends on these services.*

*This means the council will have to stop delivering some services, and need the public to tell it which services are important to them and what they can do to help and make the remaining resources it has go further.*

*In the meantime, the council will continue to look at ways to raise income, redesign services and work with local communities who are willing to run services themselves*

**Q-** What are the levels of Council reserves? Can this be used?

**Q** Veolia Contract – has this been renegotiated?

**AC-** they are being renegotiated and Shropshire Council has been pushing for this.

Attendees were then asked to note down ideas that may support reducing cost, saving money.

**8. HAVE YOUR SAY**

**Q-** Could the toilets be open longer?

RC – Purple Flag recommended that they should be open for longer.

**Q** –Is there such a thing as Community Money left?

**A-** The Town council has funding available of £1000 per Ward per year. Information can be found on the Town council website.

<http://www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk/finance/grants>

Comments were made on the Non-statutory service provision – pressure is being put onto the Voluntary sector to take these on.

**Q-** Have business rates coming back into the council been taken into account?

**A-** We don't generate the income that Telford and Wrekin have but its not expected that amount generated in Shropshire will ease the situation that much.

Comments from the public were made on funding is being cut to former Council services, Stonham Home group is going to close its doors due to changes to Government funding. This will affect homeless 16-22yr olds. This will increase the impact of funding for Shropshire Council and the Ark. And, if there is the possibility for volunteers to run services – some service areas need professional expertise and can't be run by volunteers alone especially the arts and library services. Funding is being lost and reducing the quality of service the libraries can provide.

It is important that cataloguing and conservation need professionals.

Comments were also made suggesting that the Council could publish different scenarios on what cuts might happen and with regards to the Budget Consultation, not enough information is being shared on the outcomes of decisions being made.

Councillor Bannerman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

**Signed:** .....  
**Chairman**

**Date:** .....