



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

Item Public

THE SEVERN LOOP LOCAL FORUM

NOTES ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH MAY 2016, 7PM AT THE GATEWAY EDUCATION AND ARTS CENTRE, CHESTER STREET, SHREWSBURY. SY1 1NB

Responsible Officer: Lucy Roberts , Lucy.roberts@shropshire.gov.uk Tel 01743 252328

Committee Members Present:
Shropshire Council:
Andrew Bannerman – Chair
Anne Chebsey
Amy Liebich

In attendance:
Sgt Richard Coles Safe Neighbourhoods Central Team– West Mercia Police
Steve Cunningham, Senior Community enablement officer, Shropshire Council
Clive Wright, Chief executive, Shropshire Council

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

1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the purpose of the forum

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Alan Townsend
Lucy Roberts

David Wise
Maggie McKean
Diana Harmer
Mr A Smith

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 19th January 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

5. **Shropshire Council Financial Strategy**

Clive Wright, Chief executive of Shropshire Council

Clive Wright gave an outline background to the Shropshire Council Financial strategy and that consultation undertaken through the Big Conversation and public meetings showed that public opinion had led to changes in the financial strategy.

The raising of council tax is an example of this. Over 50% of the people surveyed agreed with this, this was followed via social focus groups which largely showed a consensus of what people agreed.

High efficiency and lower cost. SC are bench marked for Adult and Social Care being one of the highest quality in the Country but spending 10% less on costs.

Shropshire Council is currently over budget. In terms of Adult and Social Care, people living longer so more has to be done with less funding. Issues of Social isolation and loneliness are things that everyone can all do something about.

Shropshire Council are currently spending 25 million pounds on what 200 million had previously been spent on (Libraries, parks, museums, etc.). which will be cut back further.

Conversations are starting with Town and Parish Councils asking them to take on some services. Some may be able to do this and some won't.

A meeting is taking place with MP Greg Clarke on Thursday and Shropshire Council will be asking for a fairer share of funding.

Point raised on Tourism from Michael Conner -

Pointed to the BID as an example of when businesses come together to support the promotion of the town. Business and those that benefit from tourism should come together to benefit tourism and promote the town.

Local resident raised point on 12m underfunded - income from council tax and income from business rates

This is something that we need to do. And we have one of the lowest council tax rates in the Country and are one the sparsest populated areas. There are challenges that this brings and cost associated.

Businesses; the largest are agricultural and the smaller businesses do not pay. We keep half the businesses rates to use locally and then the remainder comes back as part of the Revenue support grant.

As a County we are not keeping knowledge and skills in the area.

The University of Chester is a knowledge based economy and bringing the University Centre to Shrewsbury will help with this.

Resident raised point on law and order in the town -

Crime in the night time economy is taken seriously however this is a not at high crime area and we work with partners to resolve this.

Museums service in Shropshire - CW said he would like to talk to people

about how museums could run in the future whether through a trust/collective or private sector.

Finance – A Big conversation video can be viewed on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVm1izm8uxg>

Costs for a new computer system - There is a need for the new system as the license is running out in 12 months. The new system would be integrated and be more efficient than what we currently have. Over 5 years it would save 25 million pounds. Details of the Cabinet paper can be found online - <http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=3340&Ver=4>

Emails to Clive.wright@shropshire.gov.uk

**6. Safer Neighbourhood Team -Central area Local Policing update
Sgt Richard Coles, Central Safer Neighbourhood Team**

Crimes figure at flat or falling.

Campaigns at the moment are about underage ID's and discouraging public urination - "Go before you go"

'Dog poo patrols' –West Mercia Police and Shropshire council working together on education and enforcement.

There is will be a Town Centre Day of action in the square 18/5/16 between 11am and 3pm, looking at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

Team SHREWSBURY's weekly 'Operational' meetings are going well and the 'Team' approach will be rolled out in other parts of the County.

River safety is a big priority for the town. There have been more deaths inland than on the coast, the RNLi have been very active in the town to try and spread their safety message with the 'Respect the Water' campaign.

The new mural cover the graffiti tags at the Dana steps has been funded through the Central area Bronze Level Tasking Group.

Shrewsbury's half Marathon is taking place on 19 June.

Cycle Grand Prix will be held on Bank holiday Monday.

Smithfield Road - speeding problems, issues with monitoring in that location English bridge speed was also mentioned.

Community resolution was used in an incident and came to a happy conclusion.

7 Night time economy

Residents arrange a meeting on the Night Time Economy in the town, in the presence of Cllr Malcolm Price, looking at the vision for Shrewsbury. A meeting was then followed about developing a supplementary planning document to manage Development and Licensing in the town as guidance or recommendation for Planning Committees.

72 people attended and about 30 were turned away.

8. HAVE YOUR SAY

- For information – there were negative Trip Advisor comments made by people that have stayed in the town centre
- Current news about air pollution across the town – residents have been trying to get information about air pollution - why has the report been delayed and when will it be published?

ACTION - Report back at the next meeting

- Question about bus timetables at bus stops - response to. Smart phone real time updates
- Request for information on the assets of Shropshire Council to be provided.

Councillor Bannerman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Councillor Andrew Bannerman.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: