



Committee and Date
The Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee
28 th of April 2016
7pm

Item
4

FIVE PERRY PARISHES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th APRIL 2016 AT 7.00PM, HORDLEY VILLAGE HALL, WHITTINGTON

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee, Parish Councillors, Clerks and Parish Plan Steering Group Representatives:

Nicholas Bardsley	Shropshire Council (Ruyton and Baschurch Division)
Patricia Budgen	Baschurch Parish Council
Sarah Richards	Baschurch Parish Council
Frank Davis	Whittington Parish Council
Jean Duncan	Hordley Parish Council
Kirsty Pearson Wright	Hordley
Lynda McCormack	Hordley Parish Clerk

Officers:

Kate Garner	Shropshire Council Locality Commissioning Manager
Phil Wilson	Shropshire Council Service Delivery Manager (Learning&Skills)
Corrie Davies	Shropshire Council Community Enablement Team

1. Welcome and Introductions from the Chairman

Cllr Nick Bardsley welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Steve Charmley Shropshire Councillor for Whittington Division, Baschurch Parish Council Cllr Bernard Leeden, David Curtis for West Felton Parish Council, Colin Case Ruyton Xi Towns Parish Council, PC Crump West Mercia Police and Melissa Bebb Shropshire Council, Rural, Business and Cyber Crime Co-ordinator.

3.

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.

4. Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on the 7th of October were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Partner and Communities Together (PACT)

5. Corrie explained that apologies had been sent from West Mercia based on shift changes. Melissa had not been able to attend but had sent an update in her absence. She particularly wanted to draw attention to the Farm walkabout in Stanwardine which would enable local people to learn more about how they could protect their property. Corrie encouraged local people to attend.

6. Planning for the Future

School Place Planning

Phil Wilson, Service Delivery Manager for Learning and Skills at Shropshire Council introduced himself. He would be updating on funding and place planning and would touch on school academisation. Phil explained that Shropshire is bucking the trend nationally. Shropshire has a demographic challenge which would mean that sustainability and school places could be an issue in the near future. Phil noted that the predicted numbers for children were so low that the schools cannot fund the same number of teachers and financial sustainability would be compromised. Phil explained that they could predict numbers for school census in October and from this the funding formulae. October 15 was the last census, from which they were able to predict effectively. Over Shropshire, Phil highlighted, that the forecast in pupil numbers is in decline. There would be a 30% reduction.

The URL for the Shropshire Learning Gateway is <https://www.shropshirelg.net/services/school-place-planning/>. The School Place Planning document link is accessible from this page, as are the links to the appendices for the individual place planning areas appendices. Besides the Baschurch appendix, LJC members can access the Ellesmere and Oswestry appendices.

Phil explained that between now and 2022 schools have to become an academy based on national government white paper. Phil noted some schools may opt to enter an academy trust but this has to include at least 2500 pupils and often this meant a large catchment area of schools coming together. Phil posed the question that if we have got no authority to provide places - how can we then fulfil our statutory obligations. If noted that in order to fulfil that they would need to be given the teeth to do so. From data indication of an 8.7% - reduction for West Felton, Weston Lullingfields, Baschurch and Ruyton xi towns. Phil noted we also factor planning and housing development into the yield. Frank noted that new build only tends to yield 1 extra school place, which was much lower than they had thought. Phil explained that it was often new big employers that brought with it new families as opposed to planning and new housing developments.

Shropshire had not been funded fairly for quite some time and in 2015/16 received a windfall. Phil explained this however took some Shropshire schools eyes off sustainability. Shropshire get an allocation and then this is distributed on pupil numbers.

Phil noted it would be increasingly important for the schools to talk to each other and share resources. West Felton and Nescliffe for example have come together.

Jean asked about colleges- however this was separate although lowering numbers would start to have an impact and knock on impact to colleges in due course. Jean noted that surely having a MAT or groups of schools would have

a knock in impact on transport.

Kirsty asked if there is a model for what a MAT would/ could look like in the best circumstances. Phil noted that they had just sent an invite to all primaries and secondary's to talk about options and models. Some have a CEO with super head or some have a flat MAT where they have shared admin and systems but keep the autonomy in each school. Kirsty is a governor at Weston Lullingfields and noted they would have to look at the numbers to see if it could work. Phil noted the LA would be providing transitional support with all the schools - HR, premises, catering, school improvements or trade out the service. A school that is not doing so well would be pushed towards academisation. The committee asked about other partnership working and examples from other counties that could be used as a comparison. Phil explained Worcestershire might be a useful guide however it was difficult to make comparisons.

Cllr Nick Bardsley explained that we need to monitor the situation - the Corbet catchment is quite severe. They would need to build on Parish Council, Shropshire Council, governor's understanding and attitude to development and also a sense of community.

A partnership approach in designing the future of our local services

Kate Garner, Locality Commissioning Manager updated on the current financial situation and strategy at Shropshire Council. She explained the locality community enablement team roles and provided current examples around savings being made, including work around library services. The council has been saving over the past 5 years but there is a big gap. Adult social care is having a big impact on the budget. The grants are reducing and proportion of business rates. Kate noted that the funding formula for Shropshire doesn't work well for Shropshire and does not go in our favour, based on our rurality and needs around adult social care and ageing population.

This coming year the Council have 22 billion to save. Shropshire are well on the way to delivering the savings for 2016/17. However Kate noted 2017/18 we have a problem on how the savings will be made. Some services will have to close unless we can take a look at details locally and work in partnership to find solutions. Kate noted we have to find ways of new finance and delivery arrangements for Libraries, leisure centres, car parks and open space for example. Kate noted that for some of those areas we have already found solutions. 7 libraries are in new arrangements. 6 larger libraries are not threatened by closure but looking to commission space within to bring in additional income. Kate noted that they have started conversations with each of the market towns about whether the town councils have any interest in taking on those services.

Kate indicated that the team are currently focusing on playgrounds and open spaces. These are currently maintained under the Ringway contract up until 2018 and included additional costs around tree surveys and Rospa inspections that areas could start to work towards taking these on. Nick questioned how savings could be made before if they were still tied into the Ringway contract. Nick asked about street lighting and whether that was an area that could be looked at with most parishes having some street lights already in their ownership.

Baschurch indicated that they had agreed to increase their precept in light of potential changes coming and were keen to look at what this meant for them particularly with ground maintenance. Frank noted that they as a parish had

increased their precept gradually over the past few years in preparation as well. Whittington had also undertaken a lighting project and discussed contractors that they had. Corrie raised whether any joint contracts were possible to bring costs down further. **Actions: corrie to look at getting any details of costings around play areas and open spaces in the five Perry parishes patch.**

Cllr Nick Bardsley raised CIL and that Baschurch wanted to start looking at accessing funding. Kate explained details based on training that had taken place during the day for parish councils. CIL local would need to be considered one element of funding alongside others for projects. There would be competing projects under CIL local from education for example, highways and there would be a need for strong business plan and worked up projects. Neighbourhood Funding would come straight out to Parish Councils and they would need to show spend of this money or utilise it alongside the CIL local. **Action: corrie to send out information relating to NF guidance for parish councils and share any learning.**

7. **Shropshire Council Updates, Local News and Information**

Corrie had placed several pieces of information on the table including information on cardboard recycling and handout from Melissa Bebb on rural crime prevention. Also included a handout about the Bigger Picture Archive Project which asked local people for any home movies of local events in the Oswestry area pre 1980's. The Bigger Picture Archive will preserve memories of rural community life. Anyone participating would get footage back along with a free digitalised version of your video to keep. The footage would be played as part of the 2016 Oswestry area Heritage Open Days programme at Kinokulture. Please contact biggerpicture@artsalive.co.uk or 07796687134 if you have any old footage and can help.

8. **Any other business**

No further business

9. **Date of next meeting**

Cllr Nick Bardsley suggested they would not plan a date now but would look for a date in September.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____