



Committee and date
Whitchurch & Prees
Local Joint Committee

1 March 2017

7.00pm

Item

4

Public

Responsible Officer: Nicki Young, Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council
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WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER 2016 IN ASH VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM

Committee Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>
Mr Paul Gill	Prees Parish Councillor (Vice Chair)
Mrs Bev Duffy	Whitchurch Town Councillor
Mr Gerald Dakin	Shropshire Councillor
Mr Tom Biggins	Shropshire Councillor
Mrs Peggy Mullock	Shropshire Councillor (Chair)
Mr Paul Wynn	Shropshire Councillor
Mr Will Allen	Whitchurch Rural Parish Councillor

Officers present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Nicki Young	Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council
Neil Willcox	Locality Commissioning Manager, Shropshire Council
Karen Higgins	Clinical Commissioning Group

There were approximately 25 members of the public at the meeting.

ACTION

12. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone, each member of the Committee introduced themselves and the Chair explained the nature and remit of the Local Joint Committees (LJCs).

13. Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Jean Betteridge, Ightfield & Calverhall Parish Council.

14. 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.

15. Confirm Notes of LJC meeting on 6th July 2016

It was RESOLVED that the notes of the previous meeting held on 6th July 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Gerald Dakin:
Seconded: Bev Duffy – the meeting notes were duly signed by the Chair.

16. To receive feedback from matters arising at 6th July LJC meeting

a. Whitchurch town centre – loading bay proposal. Shropshire Council are arranging for Traffic Regulation Order plans to be drawn up by Mouchel, the Shropshire Council consultants. These plans will then be sent out for informal consultation with local businesses and the town council to see what the initial views are to the proposals. If Shropshire Council go straight to formal consultation where the proposals are advertised in the press, they incur legal and advertising costs and, if changes are required, further costs would be incurred as the consultation would need to be readvertised.

Shropshire Councillor Tom Biggins recorded his opposition to the town centre loading bay scheme, stating that it was not a good idea for Whitchurch.

17. Partners & Communities Together (PACT)

PC Deb Wheeler reports that there has been nothing of real interest in the Whitchurch area regarding incidents.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team regular foot patrols are being carried out, speed checks on Station Road and monitoring the parking problems.

I have been made aware of drivers going through the no-entry sign of St Mary's Street and have been monitoring it and will report anyone if caught. (Numerous drivers have been reported for not wearing seat belts and using mobile phones whilst driving).

The two local homeless people are no longer in Whitchurch and the shop front has been boarded up.

No recent reports of anti-social behaviour in Whitchurch.

18. Reporting and Scrutiny (Hot Topics)

(a) Whitchurch Doctor's Surgery – Karen Higgins, Clinical Commissioning Group.

The Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) take very seriously the situation that has occurred in Whitchurch with regard to Richmond Surgery.

Karen explained how the CCG was positioned under the Department of Health:

- Department of Health – policies
- NHS England – decide how policies are enacted across the country
- CCG – money held locally to fund actions, run by GPs

Within the last few months Shropshire CCG have recently taken back responsibility for GPs, NHS England were responsible for GPs prior to this.

The local position is that Richmond Surgery will closed on 31st October and Shropdoc will run the new GP service from the Community Hospital from 1st November. The former ward at the

Community Hospital is being made fit for purpose with GP & nurses rooms currently being built.

Shropdoc have agreed to take on the practice following the end of the procurement process as a caretaker service, the provider who had submitted a tender pulled out of the process.

Options to consider in Whitchurch:

- Possibility of putting patients to other surgeries
- Can current GPs provide another service? Legally they cannot do so.

Karen Higgins reassured the audience that:

- Name: Claypit Medical Practice
- Tel no: will stay the same
- Staffing: all, apart from 2 members of staff, will be transferring to the new medical practice
- Two of the GPs have given a verbal commitment to also transfer

Q. How can guarantee the GP premises at Whitchurch Hospital site in next 18 months when there is a threat that the community hospital may close? [Rob Hewson]

A. There are NO plans to close Whitchurch Community Hospital.

- 18 month period is not enough time to go to full tendering process, therefore Shropdoc will be providing a caretaking service and there is nothing to stop them continuing delivering services after 18 months.
- The local GPs decided not to merge surgeries.
- The GP surgeries merging long-term is a good idea, this would provide resilience to general practice as there is a shortage of GPs nationally.
- Primary Care Committee, Clinical Commissioning Board, have committed to look immediately at the long-term future of Claypit Street surgery and to understand the commitment for the 3 local practices to come together – ideally in the same building. Primary Care Committee bring together local services and Whitchurch is a priority from 1st November.
- Primary Care = care received close to home.

Q. Funding was available, then not – it was given then taken away. The Dr's are not all going, but patients are worried about consistent care and a named GP? [Anne Griffiths]

A. Named Doctor – patients will have named doctors and GPs will be employed on long-term contracts. Shropdoc have been clear that temporary GPs will be used for the first few days/weeks.

Karen Higgins has put a strong report together on how this situation has caused trauma and people to be upset. The main concern – how am I going to get healthcare? Karen Higgins apologised on behalf of Shropshire CCG.

Questions followed:

- How did Whitchurch get into this position? CCG have agreed to look into after 1st November, there is a lot to be learned. Current CCG members have helped have helped to pick up the pieces, Karen stressed that it is not the current staff who got the

CCG into this position. There have been numerous changes to CCG management, none of the original CCG management team are still in post.

Karen said she now had the contact details of 88 people, who have pushed and helped the CCG to get a solution. Thank you to the people of Whitchurch.

Q. Whitchurch Ambulance Station is still standing empty, no official plans have been submitted.

A. Julia Gallaher explained that the Ambulance Station belongs to NHS England. Dr Sullivan had found out that the building would cost £180,000 and £500,000 to kit it out. A company had contacted Richmond Surgery to say that it would kit out the ambulance station as a Dr Surgery, but rental would be £65,000pa and currently Richmond Surgery pays £13,000pa rent.

Karen Higgins explained that there is a 'priority funding pot' where surgeries are looking for new GP practices – limited pot and others in Shropshire are already receiving money. There is a £42million CCG deficit.

Julia Gallaher said the 'Save Our Surgery' demo was well attended and thank the Shropshire Councillors for joining in.

It was reported that Shropshire Council Leader, Malcolm Pate and the Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council have jointly sent a letter to Jeremy Hunt protesting. Whitchurch Town Councillors have also written.

Q. There won't be enough parking at the hospital for GP surgery patients as well, the car park is already very busy. Where can patients park?

A. It was acknowledged that there will be challenges around parking, especially at certain times of the day. Parking will not be great, but there will be more parking than there is at the current Richmond Practice. There will be no specific parking for GP practice patients. The planned car park for the new surgery will not now be built due to lack of funds.

Q. Can Shropdoc still provide care to care homes patients? [Diane Broders]

A. Karen Higgins did not know the answer, but would take Diane's details and contact her direct.

Q. 88 people have made contact, but there are 3,915 who are still distressed but have not been contacted. [Antony Smith]

A. Karen Higgins is supporting local people and anyone who has made contact she has taken the details and kept all informed of developments. She is happy to take contact details and add to the list.

Q. If people live on the Wales/England border can they apply to a Welsh GP?

A. NHS England still picks up the tab of any patient at a Welsh GP surgery who lives in England.

Q. People have been asking ‘what should I do’ for my GP care into the future?

A. Official line “Stay where you are.” Other answer, every patient advised to do what is right for them.

19. Shropshire Council Update –

(a) Update on Locality Commissioning in the Whitchurch area – Neil Willcox, Locality Commissioning Manager, Shropshire Council – gave a presentation on the potential to commission local services in the Whitchurch area. The following questions were asked:

Library

- What is the cost per head of each library user, if the cost of the Whitchurch Library is £100,000?
- What is the age profile of library users in Whitchurch?
- Are figures quoted in the presentation for book borrowers or do they include groups/activities? Quoted figures in the presentation are only for book borrowers, but it would be an interesting exercise to find out how many other people use the library.
- Mobile libraries are not being reviewed at the moment. **Action: NW**

Youth Activities

- Paper going to Shropshire Council cabinet giving information on reduction in funding. Work has been taking place locally to try to ensure there is match-funding from a local charity and Whitchurch Town Council to keep the youth activities as they currently run.

Public Open Spaces

- Maps will be obtained and shared with Town & Parish Councils on the current public open spaces which Shropshire Council maintain. **Action: NY**

Q. Shropshire Councillor Paul Wynn asked; if Parish Councils contribute to services where does the money go?

A. Neil Willcox said, hypothetically, that money would be paid to the organisation running the service.

20. Question Time

Q. Julia Gallaher praised the front of the Civic Centre, stating how superb the hanging baskets looked, but raised concerns over the number of plastic banners hanging from the building.

A. Whitchurch Town Councillor Bev Duffy said that the banners were on the building to get more people to use the Civic Centre and get passing people interested in the activities. Bev will take back the comments to the Town Council meeting. **Action: BD**

21. Feedback Forms – people were reminded to complete their feedback forms and offer any suggestions for topics for the next meeting.

22. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Whitchurch area Local Joint Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st March 2017 in Whitchurch Civic Centre.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 20:55

Signature (Chair) Date: