



Committee and Date	Item No
Shifnal and Sheriffhales Local Joint Committee 22nd March 2016	Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2016
HELD AT ST ANDREWS YOUTH CLUB, SHIFNAL**

Community Enablement Officer: Andrea McWilliams

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Committee Members Present

Stuart West	– Shropshire Council
Kevin Turley	– Shropshire Council
John Horne	– Shifnal Town Council
Alan MacWhannell	– Sheriffhales Parish Council
Gordon Tonkinson	- Shifnal Town Council

Officers present:

Chris Edwards, Shropshire Council

Andrea McWilliams, Community Enablement Officer

Also in attendance:

PC Matt Picken	- West Mercia Police
PCSO Steve Breese	– West Mercia Police
Adelle Wilkinson	- Community Engagement Officer, Healthwatch

1. Election of Chair

Councillor Kevin Turley was elected as Chair.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

Councillor Stuart West was elected as Vice Chair.

3. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from Councillor Janet Jones.

5. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

6. Confirmation of Notes

RESOLVED: the notes of the meeting held on 30th September 2015 were signed by the Chairman.

7. Partners and Communities Together (PACT) – West Mercia Police and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Police

PC Matt Picken explained that a new police Community Engagement Plan for the area would be unveiled at the next Shifnal Town Council meeting. The document would show the proposed activity in the area over the forthcoming months.

He updated the meeting on the latest crime statistics for the area and directed anyone who was interested in looking at specific statistics to view the West Mercia Police webpage on www.police.uk. He advised that he didn't want the public to be alarmed that there appeared to be a rise in crime figures, as there had been changes to the way in which crime was now recorded.

Some concern was raised about the apparent rise in parking on zigzag lined areas and Matt confirmed that his team would be working the partners to pay some attention to this as police can only deal with it if the parking is classed to be an obstruction. He also said that work continued with the Safer Roads Partnership on speeding in the area including Sheriffhales and confirmed that the police community support officers were awaiting training on using speed cameras.

Fire

Stuart West gave an update relating to Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and confirmed that they had a balanced budget up till 2020. There were plans to upgrade Telford Fire Station into Silver Command and there was increased working with partners, especially police to do a joint scheme.

He advised that the Fire Service were currently contesting plans by the Police Crime Commissioner to take over responsibility for the fire service. Although they had no problem with part of the plans to introduce a duty to collaborate. Councillor West confirmed that any changes would also have to have the approval of Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council.

8. Healthwatch Shropshire

Adelle Wilkinson updated the meeting and explained that Healthwatch was an independent organisation that represents the views of the people on any issues about services funded by the NHS. Healthwatch has statutory powers so providers have a legal duty to listen to them.

They use feedback, comments and complaints to affect change and fill gaps in provision. They also get involved in local activity such as Futurefit to ensure that the public were engaged and being listened to. They have statutory powers to enter and undertake spot checks on any premises where services were provided and all issues are fed back to the Quality Care Commissioner.

Adelle also confirmed that they work cross boundary with Telford and Wrekin which is working well although each area had different priorities. One of Shropshire's priorities was the ambulance service.

9. Update on Shifnal Library, Public Open Spaces and Car Parks

Chris Edwards updated on progress for works to the library and confirmed these were nearing completion. Contracts were with solicitors and progressed and discussions were underway in relation to TUPE transfer responsibilities.

He also advised that negotiations were moving forward in relation to the car parks and public open space and confirmed that these included resurfacing and relining of Aston Street that would create an additional 30 plus spaces.

10. Shifnal Swimming Pool

Councillors Kevin Turley and Andy Mitchell confirmed that a reserved matters planning application had now been submitted with the assistance of Richard Fortune and Shropshire Council as there were time limits on submission of the application.

A member of the public raised a concern about the future sustainability of a swimming pool and Councillor Mitchell confirmed that there was still a lot of work to be done on producing a viable business plan. Councillor Turley also confirmed that Shifnal Town Council were still pursuing a financial contribution of £64k from Shropshire Council that had been negotiated some time previously.

Councillor Tonkinson expressed his concern at a membership type approach and also the impact the facility could have on Idsall Sports Centre.

11. Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-Submission Consultation

Bob Vincent presented an update report on progress with the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan.

He advised that the Plan had been submitted to the Independent Examiner and that a report was due in the next few weeks when the Examiner will make recommendations. The referendum would follow probably around June where a result of over 50% of votes made need to be a yes vote. The plan would then be submitted formally to Shropshire Council to be adopted and will become part of the statutory legal framework for planning for Shifnal.

Bob highlighted that all of the background papers and related documents were available on the website.

Councillor Stuart West expressed the Committees thanks to the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group for their hard work on this very complex project.

12. Shifnal Forward

Rob Owen updated the meeting on Shifnal's Town Centre Enhancement Scheme and reported that there had been overwhelming response in support on moving the scheme forward. Shropshire Council and Mouchel would now be drawing up plans and finance arrangements to support the project.

There was some concern about the significant level of finance required and the impact on the available budgets for funding towards education and Rob confirmed that Shifnal Forward would continue to push for an acceptable outcome.

David Curtis updated on the success of the 7.18am from Shifnal that was enabling users to get to Wolverhampton, Birmingham and onto London. He confirmed that work would continue to improve routes, timetables and reduce disruption.

There were some concerns about the impact of increased car parking that resulted from increased use of the trains and Shifnal Town Council would need to look at this when considering the improvements to the car parks and potential charging policies into the future.

13. Idsall Sports Centre – Consultation

The Committee were reminded that a period of consultation on the reduction in opening hours at Idsall Sports Centre was currently underway following the schools consideration of taking over responsibility for the sports centre where reduced hours would be necessary in order for the school to operate the facility successfully.

Some concern was also expressed at the low number of attendees at a recent public meeting at the centre.

14. Public Question Time

The main point of concern was due to HGVs coming through the town from all routes to get to the development sites. There were numerous issues regarding HGVs using routes that they should be avoiding and the impact this was having on the condition of roads. This would be reported to Shropshire Council officers for consideration on enforcement and working with the developers to avoid this practice. Robert Harrop confirmed that he would also be working with officers and developers to try to alleviate this issue.

Rob Harrop confirmed that negotiations were ongoing in relation to the proposals for the police station to become a community hub facility.

15. Date of Next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was yet to be confirmed.