



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item No</u>
<p>Albrighton Area Local Joint Committee</p> <p>20 April 2016</p>	<p>Public</p>

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2016
IN THE RED HOUSE, HIGH STREET, ALBRIGHTON, WV7 3LU**

Community Enablement Officer: Andrea McWilliams

Email: andrea.mcwilliams@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 257866

Committee Members Present

Malcolm Pate	– Shropshire Council
Stuart West	– Shropshire Council
Sylvia Pledger	– Albrighton Parish Council
David Thomas	- Boningale Parish Council
Peter Mycroft	- Tong Parish Council
Hugh Kirton	- Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Officers present:

Andrea McWilliams, Community Action Officer

Peter Banford, Shropshire Council

Also in attendance:

Acting Sgt Sarah Knight - West Mercia Police
PC Matt Picken - West Mercia Police
David Beechey - Healthwatch

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: that Councillor M G Pate be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED: that Councillor S West be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

5. Confirmation of Notes

The notes of the meetings held on 11th November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

Police

Acting Sgt Sarah Knight was introduced and welcomed to the meeting as the new Sergeant for the area. She reassured the meeting that there would be no reduction in police community support officers covering the Shifnal & Albrighton areas. She 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. However, she was able to confirm that there appeared to be a general downward trend in offences being recorded.

Some concern was expressed about speeding within the village and the apparent reduction in speed camera usage. Sgt Knight confirmed that the PCSOs were due to be trained to use speed cameras in the near future but that the Safer Roads Partnership could also do enforcement if they are advised of problem sites such as the A41 at Cosford.

She reminded everyone to use the 101 number for reporting any non-urgent crimes and that she could be contacted on that number. However, 999 should still be used for emergencies.

Fire

Councillor Stuart West gave a brief update on the healthy financial position of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue service and confirmed that they were now recruiting in Albrighton. He confirmed that the Police and Crime Commissioner was still considering taking over responsibility for the fire authority but that Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Councils would have to approve this.

7. Local Commissioning – Albrighton Library

It was noted that the refurbishment of the library had been completed and the Parish Council had relocated to the new office. Albrighton was one of 6 libraries (Albrighton, Bishops Castle, Broseley, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms and Shifnal) that had either moved into new community management arrangements or were about to do so. Sessions had also been held with Locality who had been commissioned using part of the DCLG's Transformation Challenge Award to support this process and to help build confidence and capacity.

Councillor Pledger confirmed that this was a success story for Albrighton as the whole process from start to finish had only taken 7 months to complete and that there had been around 45 people who had attended the recent official opening.

8. Healthwatch

Councillor David Beechey explained the benefits of Healthwatch as an organisation who were there to represent the views of the patient and also to signpost as necessary. He confirmed that they were 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 Commission.

Councillor Beechey also confirmed that they work cross boundary with Telford and Wrekin which is working well although each area had different priorities.

9. South Shropshire LEADER Programme

Peter Banford, Programme Manager for the South Shropshire LEADER programme gave a presentation on the new Leader programme which would bring £2.54m into southern Shropshire. He explained that the overall purpose of the funding was to improve the economic wellbeing of the area through sustainable development.

He advised that there was a short outline application document that needed to be completed by applicants but then if the project was deemed to be appropriate to investigate further then Pete would work closely with the applicant to build an application. The challenge for Pete was to create a total of 74 jobs out of the programme.

Match funding was expected for all applications and he explained that spend is monitored closely and audited regularly.

10. Swimming Pool

Councillor Pate reported there had been a good turnout of around 40 people at the recent Swimming Club AGM. There was a suggestion that 2 bodies be formed – a governing body and an operating group. The Parish Council had confirmed that it would cover the funding gap for this year while new memberships, funding issues and increasing membership numbers were sorted.

11. Albrighton Railway Ramp Project

Chris Edwards, Shropshire Council confirmed that Network Rail had delayed work to the bridge until Easter 2017. He confirmed that Shropshire Council would continue to work with the ramp team and parish council towards completing the ramp project during this year and that a risk assessment report was due imminently.

12. Albrighton Post Office

Councillor Pate confirmed that the Parish Council had considered an application for the current post office to move to the Spar but that this had been recommended for refusal on parking grounds. There was general concern about the future of the post office for the village but it was understood that the current operators were reconsidering their position.

13. Public Questions

Parking – concern was expressed about HGV parking along Cross Road and the issue had been passed to the police and highways to resolve.

Social housing – a question was raised as to whether STAR housing had any plans to develop the garages at Ashgrove. George Evans, tenant representative on STAR housing advised that he was not aware of any plans at the moment.

Highways – Malcolm Pate confirmed that the Ringway contract would be ending in 2018 and that discussions were underway with Parish Councils for local grass cutting contracts.

A41 Gypsy Camp – Confirmed that this appeared to be an inappropriate use of land and that a retrospective planning application would probably be submitted.

Shropshire Council could take enforcement action now but this was a lengthy process so it would be better to wait for the retrospective application to come in and then to refuse that on the grounds of inappropriate development with the green belt.

However, the applicant would probably appeal.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was schedule to be held on Wednesday 12th October at 7pm.