

CRAVEN ARMS & RURAL LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2013 AT STANTON LACY VILLAGE HALL****Present:****Shropshire Council**

David Evans Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division
 Cecilia Motley Corvedale Electoral Division

Town/Parish Councils

Donald Brooks Abdon & Heath Parish Council
 David Bytheway Wistanstow Parish Council
 David Clarke Hopesay Parish Council
 David Hedgeley Diddlebury Parish Council
 Robin Gatehouse Stanton Lacy Parish Council
 Caroline Magnus Onibury Parish Council
 Andrew Pike Culmington Parish Council
 Richard Rallings Munslow Parish Council
 Brian Norgrove Hopton Cangeford and Stoke St Milborough Parish Council

Co-opted Member

Mark Trafford Sibdon Carwood Parish Meeting

Shropshire Council Officers

Lisa Bedford, Senior Community Action Officer

There were approximately 20 members of the public present at the meeting.

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Buster Evans [Munslow PC], Mandy Fowler [Diddlebury PC], Cllr Lee Chapman and Tony Willets [Craven Arms TC]

2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No interests were raised

3. Notes of the meeting held on 17 July 2013**RESOLVED:**

that the Notes of the meeting held on 17 July 2013 be approved as a correct record.

4. Community Safety Update**ACTION****LB**

PC Preston was unable to attend the meeting. Lisa Bedford gave a brief report on his behalf. There has been issues in relation to Boy racers in the town. Section 59 orders have been served, which if broken will result in the confiscation of a vehicle. There are also CrASBO applications in process which if granted, will assist in decreasing the antisocial behaviour in the town through conditions imposed around associates, and banning orders from various locations.

5. Public Question Time

A query regarding the planning changes and south planning team was raised. The chairman explained that there would still be three planning committees, but they would all meet at Shirehall, and all of the admin will be undertaken centrally. The target is for 96% of planning applications to be delegated to a decision by officers. These proposals will be reviewed after 6 months.

There is likely to be a decrease in the planning and enforcement staff based in the south but there is currently plans being developed to arrange sufficient cover.

AGREED:

It was agreed that planning policy and CIL would be a topic for discussion at the next meeting of the LJC

LB

6. In to Work initiative (Erica Garner – Shropshire Council)

Erica Garner from Shropshire Council gave an overview of the initiative in Church Stretton looking at supporting people back in the work through the commissioning work being undertaken by Shropshire Council with partner organisations. It was initiated as a result of the statistics which showed there was a higher than average number of people claiming job seekers allowance in the town.

A multiagency team has been brought together to work with the individuals, local businesses and key partners including Job Centre Plus, Shropshire Housing Group, South Shropshire Furniture Scheme, Mayfair Centre and benefits team.

Work includes one to one weekly sessions in the town with a support worker, help with job applications, CV writing, interview techniques and work experience.

The work is different as it is bespoke to the needs of the individual and they are assigned a mentor (paid or volunteer) to work with them.

From the original 34 claimants that the project saw initially, there are only 10 remaining on the list claiming Job Seekers Allowance.

This work has shown that there needs to be careful consideration to future

support as this social model of supporting those very long term unemployed is very time intensive and therefore costly, but can make a real difference to people's lives and their contribution to their communities.

Work has recently begun in Craven Arms based at CASCA (community Centre) with those people that have been unemployed for under 12 months. From the experience of this pilot, it is this category where the most success can be achieved regarding return to work.

7. Rural Transport

Linda Cox from Shropshire Transport Consortium gave an overview of the last 10 years of transport provision for rural areas, including the recently ceased Shropshire Link. On detailed analysis there were only 300 users countywide of the Shropshire Link which cost £650,000 per year to run.

The current situation is that a similar service is now provided by the community transport schemes across the county with a minimum of one day a week provision to the market town.

The Clun Valley was the area of highest demand for the Shropshire Link service and this area has now been put out for commercial tender for transport services. Shrewsbury Dial A Ride was successful in this tender and now operates Tues, Thursday and Saturday in that area.

The Buzzard still operates in the Corvedale with journeys to Ludlow, Craven Arms and Bridgnorth. Volunteers are always needed and they are looking at how they can decrease journey times.

Ludlow Traveller is the new Ludlow area based bus which covers Ludlow, Wyson, Tenbury, Wheathill, Clee Hill areas. Currently 1 day per week but looking to 2 days.

8. Connecting Shropshire

An overview was given on the status of the Connecting Shropshire broadband programme by Chris Taylor from Shropshire Council (see attached presentation)

A team of skilled officers has now been recruited to help deliver the programme and the first areas for upgrade were announced in October as Minsterley, Montford Bridge and Ford.

The Shropshire programme area covers 72,000 properties with the . In January there will be an announcement regarding the activity and areas for the whole of 2014.

The aim of the programme is:

- Enable 100% of premises in the intervention area to have access to a

basic level of broadband (defined as 2mbps or above) by the end of spring 2016 as part of the programme.

- Provide as much superfast broadband (defined as 24mbps or above) delivered via fibre in Shropshire (excluding Telford & Wrekin) for the money available by the end of Spring 2016.

An updated map and further programme information is available on the website www.connectingshropshire.co.uk

Numerous questions and concerns raised by those present included:

- Can BT be persuaded to reach more rural areas through demand stimulation?
- What are the interim solutions? And what are the implications if these interim solutions e.g. satellite are taken up.
- There should be compensation for businesses not included in the programme.
- 2 mbps is too slow, and investment should be targeted at higher speeds.
- PR and communications need to be improved.
- Farmers and tourism in rural areas will suffer in those areas not part of the main programme.

9. **2013/14 Finance Report and Update on Funding Requests**

Members considered applications received for the second round of grant funding in the current financial year, 2013/14. It was noted that the LJC's budget for the current year totalled £15,909. Although around £2000 was expected to be returned to the budget in unclaimed grants.

RESOLVED:

Organisation	Summary	Amount Agreed
Craven Arms Town Council	Funding towards upgrade of the cricket pitch at the community centre	£2000.00
Empathy	Funding towards the costs of running the twice monthly support group for families with additional needs	£1000.00
Craven Arms Diabetes Group / Craven Crafters	Funding towards new tables, storage cupboard and new lighting	£460.79
Wistanstow Under 5's	Funding towards the costs of setting up a breakfast club and afterschool club.	£2500.00

LB to process grant payment

	TOTAL	£5960.79
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RESOLVED:

That the remaining budget of around £2000 be transferred to South Shropshire Housing Association to continue the community chest small grant scheme if no suitable applications come forward.

10. Parishes/Community Update

Parish and Town Council representatives provided an update on local issues and local news updates.

Abdon and Heath PC – Donald Brooks – The Parish Council is embarking on a parish plan 'light'.

Wistanstow PC – David Bytheway – Samdev proposals and planning are key issues currently.

Hopesay PC – David Clarke – Shop is exceeding expectations with current turnover around £1000 per week. The precept will need to increase to cover the additional administration of the Parish Council with increased responsibilities. The Parish Council has encountered difficulties in contacting the local planning department.

Munslow PC – Richard Rallings – Planning issues have been taking up Parish Council time.

Diddlebury PC – David Hedgeley – main areas for action include planning, broadband and bus shelters. They are also looking to take on the war memorial and link in with local history of the war.

Stanton Lacy PC – Robin Gatehouse – parish plan at the questionnaire stage and bar refit at the village hall ongoing.

Stoke St Milborough PC – Brian Norgrove – parish plan is drafting its proposed actions based on the consultation results.

Culmington PC – Andrew Pike – resurfacing of the roads. Local walk undertaken to identify problem areas the parish. Currently recruiting new clerk.

Sibdon Carwood PM - Mark Trafford – responded to SAMDev proposals. Roman Downs site now been sold to SSHA which has an impact as it is on the boundary of their parish.

Craven Arms TC – David Evans – South Shropshire Housing Association looking to take on the Discovery Centre in partnership with Grown Cook

Learn.

12. **Date/Time of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Craven Arms & Rural LJC would be held at **7.00pm on Wednesday 19 March 2013 at Craven Arms Bowls Club**

In drawing the meeting to a close, the Chairman thanked the village of Stanton Lacy for hosting the meeting and for providing the refreshments and venue for the evening.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.