



**TERN AND SEVERN VALLEY
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2017
7.00 PM – 8.30 PM
AT
CROSS HOUSES COMMUNITY CENTRE, CROSS HOUSES**

Responsible Officers Mathew Mead and David Fairclough
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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Claire Wild Severn Valley Electoral Ward

Town/Parish Councils

Phil Roberts	Upton Magna Parish Council
Malcolm Colclough	Astley Parish Council
Richard Purslow	Berrington Parish Council
Ian Lawrence	Cressage, Harley and Sheinton Parish Council
Lesley Stone	Withington Parish Council
Viv Amos	Wroxeter and Uppington Parish Council
Tim Roberts	Cound Parish Council
	Kenley
Martin Speak	Bomere Heath Parish Council

Officers Present:

Mathew Mead	Community Enablement Officer
David Fairclough	Community Enablement Officer
Ben Walker	Connecting Shropshire

1. Welcomes and Apologies for Absence

Claire Wild thanked everyone for attending the meeting

Apologies had been received from Shropshire Councillor John Overall, Lynne Padmore (Uffington), Brian Nelson (Wroxeter and Uppington), Louise Cowley (Bomere Heath)

2. Substitutions

Martin Speak was representing Bomere Heath Parish Council; Viv Amos represented Wroxeter and Uppington PC

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made at the meeting

4. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the meetings held on 15th October 2015 at Cross Houses Community Hall were approved as an accurate record of the previous meeting

5. Presentation – Ben Walker, Connecting Shropshire

Ben thanked the LJC for their invitation to the meeting and started the presentation with some back-ground to the project.

The project had so far delivered three phases of development of the superfast broadband over the last 3 years, and 60,000 premises had been enabled to access super-fast broadband. Funding in phase 1 and 2 of the programme had been with BT and their Outreach Programme and had generally focused on upgrading exchanges in towns and villages where more people lived in order to provide access to broadband for as many people as possible. In this LJC area 2500 premises in the area can access 24mbps. This is classed as super-fast. Ben circulated a map of the area showing the location of these services.

He did stress that BT and Council funding was used to supply the network and make super-fast broadband available. Residents do still need to pay for the service through their chosen network provider – and in most areas there are a range of providers available, not just BT.

Work was still taking place on the phase 2 developments and in this area. Eaton Constantine would be upgraded around April 2017, and further work in Berwick Wharf, Harley, Merrington, Montford Bridge, Uffington, Uppington will follow.

Reps from parish had received the new service but is a mixed picture depending on where there exchange is located

Area around Eaton Constantine is due soon but as fibre to the premises is taking longer than hoped but will provide ultra-fast speeds 100mbps. Should be complete by March and orders taken in April

However, after this phase ends there will still be around 16,000 properties that won't have access to high speed broadband. A further £11.5 million is available to address this issue

and a tender for the work has been issued and tenders are currently being reviewed and contracts likely to be awarded in late spring.

This is the most difficult phase of work as it tries to address the lack of broadband in Shropshire's remote areas, which by their very nature are small numbers of properties where the cost of providing a service per property is much higher. It's not certain all those without broadband will receive it in this final phase of the programme. People can see which phase their property falls under via the link below or by calling the Connecting Shropshire office

www.connectingshropshire.co.uk/when-and-where/

Where properties aren't likely to get a better service as a result of the Connecting Shropshire project there are still solutions available. Wireless and fibre solutions are likely to be the main options for most people. Where people have less than 2mbps they can apply for up to £350 to help pay for the installation of either fibre or wireless services. People can also group together as a community and work with BT to have a Community Service provided, but each new exchange box costs approximately £30,000.

The Connecting Shropshire project are happy to speak to individual property owners to talk through their options with them. As technology improves there might also be additional services available such as 4G and 5G

Questions from the Committee

Withington Parish had its exchange upgraded but so only Talk Talk and BT were available as commercial operators in the area, which was quite limited. Ben replied that the Connecting Shropshire project couldn't intervene in this. However it was important residents registered their interest with other providers to encourage them to offer a service in their area.

Berrington and other Parish Councils raised the issue of new housing developments in their area, and how broadband would be provided to them. Ben explained that currently new developments don't have to provide broadband to the premises, and if new developments were some way from an exchange they might have a poor internet speed. Parish Councils should raise this with developers when new housing is being considered, and people buying properties should check what internet speeds they got and not just assume because the house was new they would get high speed broadband.

Ben said that the Connecting Shropshire team would be happy to attend individual parish council meetings to talk about specific broadband issues in their area.

Claire thanked Ben for his presentation.

6. Youth Activity update

The Committee considered a report on Youth Commissioning in the LJC from the Community Enablement Officers.

The £3,000 funding in 2015/16 had been allocated to projects at Cound Tennis Club and at Withington. The Cound project had gone well and the new tennis practise wall helped the club provide more training to young people in the area. Unfortunately the project at Withington had not taken place so £500 had been returned to the Youth Commissioning fund.

The LJC had £3,000 available to spend in 2016/17 and a further £2,250 between April and December 2017 and a criteria for spending this money was required from the LJC.

The Community Enablement officers explained that as there were few youth groups in the area, there hadn't been good tack up of the previous grants scheme. They therefore recommended that the remaining funding the LJC had should be used to pilot youth clubs in Cross Houses and Bomere Heath – the two largest population settlements in the LJC.

Through working with the Shropshire Youth Association the funding could be used to run youth clubs using qualified youth workers. They would help eshtablish the clubs and work with the community to recruit and train volunteers to support the clubs in the long term, potentially with some financial support from the Parish Councils in the future. Reps from Bomere Heath and Berrington Parish Councils supported these proposals.

The Committee debated the proposals in the paper and felt it was the best way for the funding to be allocated. It was resolved that the Community Enablement officers would work with the Parish Councils and the Shropshire Youth Association to help establish these clubs.

7. Local Plan Review

Shropshire Councils Local plan, in the form of SAMDev was being reviewed by the Council. The review was to make sure the plan was up to date and met national policies. Slides outlining the scope of the review were circulated to the Committee members.

The main issues being consulted on were the scale of development in Shropshire between 2016 and 2036, and whether the scale of growth should be maintained at existing levels or increased to help facilitate more affordable housing. The review also had scope to look at whether more development should be in Shrewsbury and the larger market towns, or whether maintaining development in rural areas could help with sustaining these communities in the future.

The consultation was the starting point for developing new policies for Shropshire and would continue during the year. Parish Councils wanting to comment on the proposals should look at the information on the Shropshire Council consultation webpages and comment by 20th March.

8. Police Report

The Local Police Officer Dave Harte had retired before Christmas and been replaced by a new officer, PC David Walton. No new crime statistics for the area had been produced since Dave Harte left but it was agreed to invite PC Walton to a future JC to meet the Committee and update them on any issues.

Within the area there had been some high profile drug raids, and issues of rural burglaries remained a concern. Anyone witnessing suspicious behaviour in the area was encourage to report it to the Police using the 101 phone number

9. Public Question Time and area updates

Members of the Committee felt that the areas roads remained a big cause for concern for residents. Increasing use of rural roads by HGV's and large agricultural vehicles was causing damage to the road and seemingly there was no follow up with operators when this occurred. Residents in Withington, and Upton Magna regularly found large HGV's in their area blocking roads and causing damage to verges.

In some areas large amounts of mud on the roads by agricultural vehicles was also causing a hazard. While it was acknowledged the area was rural and relied on agriculture it was felt some contractors did not take care to clean up mud on the road which could lead to accidents. The Community Enablement Officers said issues about the highways, including mud on the road could be reported to Shropshire Council on 0345 678 9006. Where mud was a problem Shropshire Council could clean the mud and charge those responsible for the works.

Claire Wilde provided an update on the Buildwas Power station site, which falls within the LJC area. Now the station has been decommissioned it was to be sold off and new development would take place there. However, due to the minerals and contamination on the site a lot of work would be required to make the site suitable for development. Some buildings would also have to be retained due to their links to the National Grid. It was an important issue for the area and one the LJC should receive updates on in the future.

10. Date of next meeting(s)

As local elections would be taking place in May, with the potential for new Councillors to be elected, it was felt that the next meeting date should be agreed after May. It should take place in the summer and include an update on the Youth Commissioning work.