

**Committee and Date**

Loton, Longden, Ford and Rea  
Valley LJC

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, The  
Function Room, Cock Inn  
Hanwood

**Item**

1

Public

**LOTON LONGDEN FORD AND REA VALLEY  
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**AT  
THE FUNCTION ROOM, COCK INN, HANWOOD**

**Responsible Officers** Mathew Mead

e-mail: [mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01743 252534

**Committee Members Present:**

**Shropshire Council**

Roger Evans	Longden Ward
Nick Hignett	Pontesbury and Minsterley Ward
Ed Potter	Loton Ward

**Town/Parish Councils**

Duncan Fletcher	Pontesbury Parish Council
Geoff Brown	Minsterley Parish Council
Phil Brooks	Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council
Neil Evans	Longden Parish Council
Bill Clyne	Ford Parish Council
Jonathan Percival	Great Hanwood Parish Council

**Officers Present:**

Mathew Mead	Community Enablement Officer
Richard Parkes	Shropshire Youth Association

## **1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chair**

As this was the first meeting of LJC during the Council year votes for chair and vice chair for the coming year were taken. Ed Potter was elected as Chairman with Roger Evans and Nick Hignett as joint vice chairs

## **2. Welcomes and Apologies for Absence**

Ed Potter welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending particularly Councillor Nick Bardsley Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People at Shropshire Council and Richard Parkes from the Shropshire Youth Association.

Apologies were given from Tony Hill (Montford Parish Council), John Fox (Great Hanwood Parish Council) and David Sandbatch (Westbury Parish Council)

## **3. Substitutions**

Jonathan Percival attended the meeting on behalf of Great Hanwood Parish Council

## **4. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made

## **5. Notes of the last meeting**

The notes of the meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017 were accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.

## **6. Police Report**

The Local Police Team were unable to attend the meeting but a copy of their Newsletter was circulated. They also asked that special care was take over the Christmas period against leaving valuables on show in cars or homes, as these could provide opportunities for criminals to steal belongings and high value items

## **7. Presentation – Youth Commissioning Consultation Councillor Nick Bardsley Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People at Shropshire Council. Richard Parkes Shropshire Youth Association**

Ed Potter introduced this section of the meeting, and outlined that Shropshire Council was consulting on the future funding criteria for Youth Commissioning in Shropshire. This was of interest to the LJC as 5 clubs were supported by the funding, and their future maybe in doubt if the funding was removed. Ed than asked Nick Bardsley to give a short presentation on the subject.

Nick thanked the Committee for their invitation to the meeting. He started by explaining that the Youth Commissioning Consultation was open, and ran until January and stressed that no decisions had been taken. The proposals set out

in the consultation were just proposals and might change depending on the responses. It was really important people responded to the consultation especially those young people themselves.

Nick explained that Shropshire Council's overall budget was reducing due to less funding coming directly from Central Government and some statutory services like Adult Social Care costing the Council more each year. So, savings were needed across all departments. The consultation proposed to allocate the £134,000 available for youth commissioning to the 6 major market towns. This was because there was a higher percentage of young people in these towns and concentrating the services there would be beneficial.

However, these were just proposals and feedback from rural areas had already expressed concern about this approach. The Council were keen to learn about the benefits that youth commissioning funding had brought to different areas, and to hear alternative proposals for allocating the funding. Nick did stress that the overall budget for youth commissioning was unlikely to change, but that the way it was allocated was not set in stone.

Richard Parkes then talked about the role of the Shropshire Youth Association (SYA) They are independent from Shropshire Council, but do receive funding directly from the Council to act as a support body for volunteer led youth clubs in Shropshire. Volunteer youth clubs get support for training, data checks etc. SYA are also a partner organisation in some clubs, where they provide professional staff to help run youth clubs. In many cases, such as at Minsterley and Westbury, these clubs are funded through youth commission grants

Ed Potter then asked representatives from the different youth clubs in the LJC to give a brief update on their clubs activities.

Ford – This club had run for a number of years at the local village hall, initially as a volunteer led club. However there have been some challenging behaviours at the club, so a few years ago the Parish Council partnered up with SYA to employ a professional youth worker to support the club. The grant from the LJC helps meet the cost of this worker. The club also attracts youngsters from outside the village of Ford.

There have been issues of anti-social behaviour involving young people in the village and there is no public transport into Shrewsbury in the evening, so the club is important as it gives young people something to do. The cost of employing the youth worker is around £3,500 and the total precept of the Parish Council is £14,000, so it would be very difficult for the Parish Council to fund the club using their own funds.

Hanwood – This club started as a volunteer led club 6 years ago, initially at the Cock Inn but later it moved to the village hall. The club was popular with young people but finding volunteers proved difficult so the Shropshire Council funding has helped employ a professional SYA youth worker, who supports the volunteers and young people at the club. Having an independent worker who

isn't from the village helps young people discuss issues with them that they might not be able to with a local volunteer.

In addition to the weekly activities the club runs, which aims to deal with a range of issues, the club also does one off trips and events. 55 young people are on the books of the club and 39 attend regularly. The club had a float at this year's Shrewsbury Carnival and won their category.

Great Hanwood Parish Council are very supportive of the club, but their total annual precept is £24,000 they would have to increase the precept to cover the costs of the youth worker.

Nesscliffe – This club has similar issues to those at Ford and Hanwood, where a volunteer led club was started, but the involvement of a professional SYA youth worker has really benefitted the club and the young people who attend and helped support the volunteers. Due to its location the Nesscliffe club has a lot of children from outside the parish attend, so it would be difficult for the Parish Council to justify funding the full cost of the club.

The club has 45 members and on average around 32 attend each week. As well as the sessions the club does regular trips to local attractions including the pantomime. Nesscliffe is due to get more housing over the next 5 years so expects to get more young people wanting to attend the club over that period. The Parish Council is also being asked to contribute to other Shropshire Council services, such as Nesscliffe Country Park which also puts pressure on their budgets.

Westbury – This club was started 18 months ago and is fully funded by the LJC grant. SYA are employed to staff the club. Initially the club was restricted to year 5-6 children, but this age range has been expanded to allow more children to attend. Around 25 children attend regularly.

Westbury Primary School closed recently, and the youth club has been helpful in allowing Westbury children to meet together and socialise, which also helps them integrate into their new schools. Rural isolation is a significant issue for young people and clubs help support children who might be experiencing mental health issues. There have also been some anti-social behaviour issues in the village and the club has helped reduce these. Like other parish councils Westbury has a small precept and funding the club

Minsterley – Like Westbury this club is funded by the LJC and was established using an SYA youth worker after previous volunteer led clubs had folded. The club started slowly, and initially didn't attract many young people, but the day of the club clashed with training for the local football club so when the days we altered attendances started to rise. Finding parents to volunteer at the club has been difficult but some older children have now taken leader training and are helping out at the club.

Questions from the Committee to Nick Bardsley were then taken.

Nick Hignett made the point that larger urban areas, who were proposed to get the funding, were probably better placed to raise income to run clubs as they have a bigger population. He hoped funding for rural areas would be looked at but not spread so thinly that it wouldn't be effective.

Roger Evans made the point that the Council budget had not yet been signed off so the Council could still decide to maintain or increase youth funding, and cuts would not be needed. Nick responded by saying that all Council budgets were being looked at, and existing services like adult social care were costing more to run each year. So tough decisions had to be taken. However, the consultation on youth funding was a genuine one.

Duncan Fletcher pointed out that the Shropshire Council Economic Strategy was designed to attract more young people to Shropshire, so it seemed counter-productive to develop a youth strategy which penalised young people already living here. Shropshire should be investing in its young people.

Roger Evans pointed out that the scrutiny panel looking at youth activities had recommended that funding was allocated on a geographical basis, but this isn't reflected in the strategy out for consultation. Nick said that the consultation was based on officer recommendations and these had not yet been approved by Cabinet. Policies may change as a result of the consultation

Jonathan Percival said that from past experience of other consultations Shropshire Council didn't always listen and asked for reassurances that this time it would be a genuine consultation. Members of the public agreed with this statement.

Bill Longmore, part of the group who now own and manage the Cock Inn, argued that community groups and social enterprises were needed to meet the gaps created by Shropshire Council services being withdrawn. He hoped that the Cock Inn would be successful and in the long term be able to support young people in the village. However, some transition funding to keep existing services going was still needed.

Ed Potter thanked Nick for attending the meeting. He encouraged all those at the meeting to take part in the consultation and said that the LJC would need to review their policies on youth funding in the area once decisions had been taken by Shropshire Council

## **8. Local Plan Review**

Mathew Mead gave a brief update on the review. The plan is being revised to make sure Shropshire's development plans are up to date and meet national policies. The current consultation is about the number of properties to be built over the 20 year plan period, and where they should be located. Shropshire

Council is proposing to build around 28,000 homes in that period which is a slight increase on current plan levels. Another change is that the new plan aims to put slightly more development in Shrewsbury and the larger towns rather than the countryside. Those rural areas wanting to accommodate some development will need to be listed as hubs or clusters, and a new scoring system through which hubs will be designated has been drawn up.

The new policies will mean some changes for communities within the LJC, such as Ford, who will become a hub. It is important for Parish Councils and members of the public to take part in the consultation which runs until 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

## **9. Public Question Time**

Roger Evans said that the new year would see a review of Local Joint Committee's by Shropshire Council and members of this LJC should give their views on it and what the role of the LJC's should be in the future.

## **10. Future agenda items and dates of next meeting**

Suggested items for the meeting included a presentation on how Shropshire Council and the Police tackle speeding. An update on Future Fit and the future of Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals would also be important once details of the proposals are available.

A provisional date of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 was set for the next meeting.

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_