



#### Committee and Date

South West Shropshire LJC  
meeting  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
Marton Village Hall, 7pm

#### Item

1

Public

### **SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

#### **NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY AT MARTON VILLAGE HALL 7PM**

**Responsible Officer** Mathew Mead  
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**Committee Members Present:**  
**Shropshire Council**

Nigel Hartin Clun (Chair)  
Heather Kidd Chirbury and Worthen

**Town/Parish Councils**

John Croxton	Clunbury Parish Council
Abbie Naiad	Bishops Castle Town Council
Valerie Whately	Bettws-y-Crwyn Parish Council
Felicity Bevan	Chirbury Parish Council
Godfrey May	Lydbury North Parish Council
Jonathan Roberts	Clungunford Parish Council
Jack Limond	Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn
Philip Rogers-Coltman	Myndtown Parish Council

**Officers Present:**

Mathew Mead, Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council  
Ian Hutchinson – Clun Town Council and Chapel Lawn

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Councillor Nigel Hartin Chaired the meeting in place of Councillor Jonny Keely. Other apologies were received from Ralph Graves (Worthen with Shelve); Jonathan Roberts (Clungunford); Andrew Beavan (Llanfairwaterdine Parish Council) and Jonathan Kemp (Bedstone and Bucknell). Apologies were also received from Jane Carroll with Abbie Naiad acting as substitute for Bishop's Castle Town Council and Philip Rogers-Coltman represented Myndtown Combined Parish Council.

## **2. Note of the Previous Meeting**

The Committee members agreed that the draft notes of the LJC meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 should be adopted as an accurate note of that meeting.

Mathew Mead gave a brief update on SpArC and said that the repair of the changing rooms at the centre would be taking place shortly, and should be completed by mid-March. Work on securing the future of the leisure centre continued and a soft market testing process for the future operation of the centre was now underway.

He also apologised for the cancellation of the LJC meetings in October and November. This was due to the Future Fit programme being postponed and so speakers from the Clinical Commissioning Group had not been available to attend the meetings. It was still not clear when that consultation would reopen.

## **3. Report on the South West Shropshire Community Grants scheme**

Councillors received a report on the grant scheme.

£1,850 remained in the funds budget and the Committee had previously agreed the funding criteria would be a maximum grant of £150. The fund was open to voluntary and community groups in the LJC who could demonstrate their project helped support South West Shropshire residents.

Four applications had been received since the last meeting

### **SWS LJC 9 – Bishop's Castle Guerrilla Gardeners Playing Fields Project**

The Guerrilla Gardeners are a group of volunteers who look after and improve areas of community land in Bishop's Castle by weeding, planting and maintaining plants in the area. Their aim is to improve community spaces for everyone.

Their latest project is to improve some areas of Bishop's Castle's Park which have become overgrown and untidy. The project will tidy the area and plant new flower beds and bulbs thus improving the area for residents and visitors to the town.

The total project costs are £515 and the group requested a grant of £150 from the LJC

**Committee decision: Award a grant of £150**

### **SWS LJC 10 – Bishop's Castle Christmas Lights Festival**

The annual switch on of the Christmas lights in Bishop's Castle has always been a popular event for tourists and residents, but in recent years the organising committee has lost volunteers and the lights themselves need replacement.

A new Christmas lights group has been established, who aim to reinvigorate the annual Christmas lights switch on with new lights and a range of activities and stalls to complement the lights switch on. Workshops with local children and care homes to make lanterns will happen before the event, and a digital record of the lights switch on will be made to be stored in the towns Heritage Centre.

Total project costs are £7,280 and the group are requesting a grant of £150

**Committee decision: Award a grant of £150**

### **SWS LJC 11 – Brockton Rainbow Girl Guides**

A new Rainbow Girl Guide group has been set up in Brockton under the Girl Guides umbrella and 16 girls aged 5-7 now attend the group. They undertake a range of activities designed around the Guides core messages of caring; challenging; empowering; fun; inclusive and inspiring.

This project is to purchase some outdoor equipment including torches, florescent jackets, a fire pit and fire-starting kit and outdoor foam seating, which will be used to support the groups outdoor activities.

Total project costs are £154.74 and the group are requesting a grant of £77

**Committee decision: Award a grant of £77**

### **SWS LJC 12 – Marton Defibrillator**

Like many rural communities residents in Marton are keen to have an accessible defibrillator unit in their village, for use in cases of cardiac arrest. Having such a unit available in rural areas has been shown to significantly improve the chances of recovery if they can be treated quickly through the use of a defibrillator.

This project aims to purchase a unit for Marton, and recruit volunteers who can use the unit and administer CPR until an ambulance arrives

Total project costs are £2,161.00 and the group are requesting a grant of £150

**Committee decision: Award a grant of £150**

The Community Enablement officer asked Committee members to promote the South West Shropshire grants scheme through their local networks, and to ask any groups interested in applying to contact him for the application forms

**4. Report on Youth Commissioning**

The Community Enablement Officer reported that a public consultation had taken place late in 2017 on the future of Youth Commissioning funding and a report on it would be made to cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Under that report the LJC would have £4,000 to allocate to youth activities in 2018/19.

That decision needed to be ratified by Shropshire Council so no formal decisions on how to spend the money could yet be made, however it would be useful if Committee members could think about potential projects in their area who might be interested in applying for the funding.

The Committee also had £1,680 remaining in its 2017/18 budget and had received two applications which needed to be reviewed at this meeting. No money can be carried forward from 17/18 into the next financial year

Applications received were:

**Application 10.13 Shropshire Youth Association – Young Health Champions Mental Health Project**

Young Health Champions works to support young people to identify, and tackle, health issues impacting on young people in Shropshire. Through the Shropshire Youth Association a group of youngsters in Bishop's Castle have been developing a project looking at mental health issues affecting teenagers in rural areas. This looks at issues including isolation, mental health issues and the impact of drugs and alcohol.

An information pack and posters have been produced as part of the work and the group would now like to make this pack more widely available to youngsters across Shropshire to help them better understand mental health issues

Total project costs are £1,122.74 and the grant requested is £922.74

**Committee decision: Award a grant of £922.74**

**Application 10.14 SpArC Arts Bishop's Castle – Street Dance Project**

This application is to run a street dance project at SpArC in the Spring/Summer term, involving primary and secondary children in the area.

Street Dance has become popular amongst many young people, and has increased participation in dance amongst boys in particular. This project aims to provide a forum for young people to learn new dance skills. It will also help primary children meet secondary school youngsters which should aid their transfer from primary to secondary school.

The street dance classes will run every 2 weeks during the spring/summer term.

Total costs of the project are £1,740

**Committee decision: Award a grant of £750**

## **5. Update on Future Fit Shropshire**

Over the last 3 years the Committee have received a number of presentations from the Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group on Future Fit – which outlined the potential changes to hospital services in Shropshire. The impacts of changes to the types and locations of services offered could have big impacts on South West Shropshire

The final, preferred options for Future Fit, including the locations of Accident and Emergency services; day care and outpatient clinics had been due to take place in autumn 2017, and LJC meetings were arranged to allow a presentation to be made. However the Future Fit plans have yet to be approved by NHS England, its thought due to budget issues within the plan. It's not yet known when the consultation will reopen.

The LJC members reiterated this was a very significant issue for the area, and agreed to schedule any future meetings if/when the Future Fit consultation reopens so that representatives of the CCG can attend local meetings.

Committee members expressed concerns that the delay in Future Fit was already having an impact on local services – such as the maternity unit at Ludlow. They also felt that original proposals to include better local community services through Future Fit had not been followed up.

The Community Enablement office agreed to work with colleagues in the CCG to make sure that as soon as Future Fit consultations restarted that an LJC meeting would be set up to discuss them

## **6. Police Commissioner proposals for merging the Police and Fire Services**

Previous meetings of the LJC had discussed this issue, and Councillor Hartin provided an update.

The Police and Crime Commissioner had now compiled a report on the recommendation, which had been sent to the Home Secretary to make a decision. The report won't be in the public domain until the Home Secretary had made her decision. This had been expected in early 2018 but as yet no decision had been made. Shropshire Council and the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service had opposed the move and also submitted their own evidence.

Committee members asked if the changes are approved, whether this might impact on the number and locations of fire stations in Shropshire. Nigel said there were no plans to close any stations, but part of the case for merging the services was to save money, and that could only really be done by reducing staff numbers and the sites operated. The Committee also expressed concern that call centres might move into other areas, which could impact on call response times too.

The Committee would receive a further update once the Home Secretary had made their decision.

## **7. Shropshire Council consultation on Children's Early Help programme**

A consultation is taking place looking at the future delivery of support for young children and their families. Currently the services tend to be focused at Children's Centres across Shropshire including the Crowgate Centre in Bishop's Castle.

The new proposals look to focus services in 6 main hubs; and through more direct support for families in their homes and in more informal community settings. This will allow the services to be better targeted at the families most in need of the services.

However South Shropshire Councillors are concerned that these changes haven't properly considered the impact on rural communities, where travel to larger areas is often impossible due to lack of public transport. Councillors also feel publicity about the consultation has been poor with very few people attending the drop-in consultations at Ludlow, Highley and Bishop's Castle.

The consultation runs until the first week in March and Councillors urged members of the public to have their say

## **8. Any other business**

No additional items were raised by the Committee

## **9. Updates from Town and Parish Councils**

Clun Town Council had been reviewing their street light contract and looked to be able to make savings by working through a new company. Similar savings might be possible for other Parish Councils.

A number of Parish Councils raised concerns about the condition of the rural roads following the winter. Pot holes are a significant problem across the area. There was support for the Shropshire Council teams who helped grit roads in the winter weather before Christmas, but general concerns were raised on the impact of cuts to the highways budget and transfer to a new contractor in the spring.

**10. Date of Next Meetings and Future Agenda Items:**

Parishes, including Myndtown Parish Council, expressed concerns about decisions made by Shropshire Council planning officers, and how they didn't acknowledge or take account of Parish Council views. There also seemed to be a problem with enforcement issues. Having a senior officer and portfolio holder attend a future meeting would be appreciated.

An update on the new highways contract with Kier, which starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April would also be useful for the Committee to hear about, so an invitation to the meeting to highways staff and portfolio holder could also be considered.

As highlighted elsewhere in the meeting an update on Future Fit would also be needed when that consultation started.

No formal date for the next meeting was set, but it was felt a public meeting in June could be arranged to talk about these issues. The Community Enablement Officer would work with Council officers to look at suitable dates.