



Place Overview Committee
5 September 2019
9.30 am

Item
<b>3</b>
Public

**MINUTES OF THE PLACE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5  
SEPTEMBER 2019  
9.30 AM**

**Responsible Officer:** Sarah Townsend  
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**Present**

Councillor Joyce Barrow (Chairman)  
Councillors Julian Dean, Rob Gittins, Simon Harris, Paul Milner (Vice Chairman),  
Dan Morris, William Parr and Paul Wynn

**23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Boddington and Pam Moseley. Councillor Tony Parsons was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Pam Moseley.

**24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

**25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th July 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

**26 Public Question Time**

The Chairman explained that both herself and the Vice Chairman lived in Trefonen and that they would therefore leave the room for this item. It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Rob Gittins chaired this item, and upon being put to the vote, the vote was carried.

Two questions were received from members of the public.

**Question 1:**

**From:** Mr Charles Green from the Shropshire Campaign to Protect Rural England. Mr Green was in attendance to ask his question in relation to the Local Plan.

## **Question 2:**

**From:** Mr Malcolm Andrew on behalf of Trefonen Rural Protection Group Management Committee. Mr Andrew was in attendance to ask his question which also related to the Local Plan.

A full copy of both questions and responses provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee returned to the room.

## **27 Member Question Time**

There were no questions from Members.

## **28 Local Plan**

The Planning Policy Officer was in attendance to provide a verbal update to the Committee. He explained that maintaining an up to date Local Plan was a statutory requirement and that the SAMDev Plan Inspector had recommended that an early review of the Local Plan be undertaken.

The Committee were informed that the fourth stage of consultation on the Local Plan Review was currently being undertaken and ran until 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019. This 'Strategic Sites' Consultation identifies a series of preferred strategic sites, specifically:

- Clive Barracks, Tern Hill;
- Former Ironbridge Power Station; and
- RAF Cosford.

It also identifies a further potential strategic site at Land north of Junction 3 of the M54, which is currently subject to consideration but is not currently a preferred strategic site.

The three previous stages of consultation undertaken to inform the Local Plan Review were also outlined and the Committee was informed that following completion of the ongoing 'Strategic Sites' Consultation, the next stage of consultation would be the pre-submission Draft Local Plan consultation, programmed for March 2020. The Draft Local Plan would then be submitted to an independent Government Appointed Planning Inspector for examination with examination programmed to occur between July 2020 and August 2021. The work that would be undertaken between now and the pre-submission stage of consultation was outlined, along with some of the key documents currently being worked on with regard to the evidence base and some of the key areas of policy consideration.

A question was asked regarding how Members were able to scrutinise the Local Plan. In response, it was noted that a Member Working Group had been established and met regularly, and Members were welcome to respond to the consultations, all of which, had been approved by Cabinet.

In responding to a question on tackling climate change and how this featured in the Local Plan, the Planning Policy Officer explained that the best practice that was available nationally would be looked at.

Concerns were raised in relation to public transport as it was felt that, although this had been considered, the quality of the services provided had not been addressed. In reply, it was confirmed that whether public transport was available and if it was available during peak travel times had been taken into account. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer commented that the Local Transport Plan would be considered at the Committee's next meeting as it had been suggested that this would be a topic of interest.

Upon being invited to join the Local Plan Member Working Group, Councillor Dean confirmed that he would like to do so, but in the interests of fairness and as this was a politically balanced group, he would firstly consult with the Independent Group.

## 29 Highways Winter Service Plan

The Interim Head of Strategic Highways and Transport and the Operations Manager, Strategic Highways, were in attendance to present the report to the Committee. The report summarised a review of Shropshire Highways Winter Service Operational Plan in preparedness for the winter service season of 2019/20.

Members received a powerpoint presentation (copy attached to the signed minutes). Responding to questions from the Committee, Officers explained:

- Unlike several years ago, there was no shortage of rock salt this year.
- Rock salt was bought in at a fixed price and stock supplies were sufficient.
- Salt spreaders are modern, efficient and spread evenly.
- Weather forecasts are received three times a day.
- As of June 2019, there were 3,500 outstanding potholes across Shropshire. This figure dropped in July 2019 to 2,800 and as of yesterday (4<sup>th</sup> September 2019), there were 750 potholes outstanding, which equated to roughly ten days productivity.
- Continued support would again be provided this year by using informal contractual arrangements with numerous local 'farmer contractors', who provide essential snow clearance in more rural and remote areas as an adjunct to the core service provision. It was noted that they do an excellent job.
- Further consideration would be given to snow volunteers and it was noted that their work could be quite varied, from monitoring the weather forecast to helping remove snow with a shovel.
- Not all Town and Parish Councils have used their Environmental Maintenance Grant.
- Concerns regarding school routes receiving treatment had previously been highlighted to Officers, as not all schools came under The Defined Network Route - this was currently under review. It was suggested that the concerns be raised with Officers outside of the meeting and following this, if there were still concerns, the issue could be brought back to a future Committee meeting.

- A copy of the powerpoint presentation would be distributed to all Town and Parish Councils.
- The Interim Head of Strategic Highways and Transport would send out a reminder to all Town and Parish Councils regarding the procedure for reporting empty salt bins.
- There was now an option for Town and Parish Councils to buy grit bins, either empty or full.

In concluding, the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Car Parking paid tribute to the Department and commented that vast improvements had been made when compared to two years ago.

### **30 Signs, Banners, A Boards and Street Furniture**

The Chairman reported that it was proposed that a Signs, Boards and Banners Policy Task and Finish Group be set up to look at the various different policies in place, to see whether they would benefit from more coherence. In addition, it was also proposed that the best way to agree and administer policy be explored, and in particular, whether it would be better for towns and parishes, where they wished to, to agree and administer their own policies for A Boards, Banners and advertising on the highway.

The Committee approved the Draft Terms of Reference and Work Programme but commented that legal responsibilities and legal assessments should also be considered, and various disability groups should also be involved.

### **31 Pavement Permit Charges**

The Trading Standards and Licensing Operations Manager was in attendance to present the report. The advantages of a Pavement Permit scheme and the recommendations contained within the report were outlined to the Committee.

A Member questioned whether it would be more appropriate for the report to be considered by the Signs, Boards and Banners Policy Task and Finish Group, commenting that they were not happy to upset businesses, many of whom are already struggling.

In response to a question, the Trading Standards and Licensing Operations Manager advised that whilst the main pavement permit season had passed, a decision on the content of the report needed to be made.

Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place Planning and Regulatory Services, was in attendance and proposed that the report should be considered by the Signs, Boards and Banners Policy Task and Finish Group and by November 2019, at the latest. Members of the Committee were in agreement.

### **32 Work Programme 2019/20**

The Chairman reported that an Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Workshop had been held yesterday. Items for consideration at future meetings of the Place Overview Committee would shortly be added to the Work Programme.

It was noted that the Members' Portal was currently being trialled and a request was made that this be added to the Work Programme, with it possibly being considered at the Committee's November 2019 meeting.

**33 Date / Time of the Next Meeting of the Committee**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Place Overview Committee was scheduled for 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: