



Committee and Date
Bridgnorth, Worfield,
Alveley and Claverley
Local Joint
Committee

Thursday 20th
February, 2014

Item No

A

Public

**NOTES THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY AT 7:00PM
ST JAMES'S CHURCH HALL, LODGE LANE, BRIDGNORTH
(7.00 – 9.30 p.m.)**

Responsible Officer Tom Brettell

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Christian Lea
Les Winwood
Michael Wood
Tina Woodward
John Hurst-Knight

Town/Parish Councils

Andrew McDougall, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council
David Tooth, Beckbury Parish Council
Edward Marshall, Bridgnorth Town Council
Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council
Lawrence Chitty, Quatt Malvern Parish Council
Kathryn Ward, Stockton Parish Council
Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council
Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council
Ian Amos, Kemberton Parish Council

West Mercia Police

Sergeant Richard Bailey
PCSO Amanda Leek

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

No officer present

ACTION

2. Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received on behalf of William Parr, Shropshire Council; Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council; Julie Bedward, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council.

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- Cllr E Marshall- Bridgnorth Museum funding application
- Cllr I Amos- Kemberton defibrillator funding application
- Cllr D Tooth- Beckbury Playing Fields funding application
- Cllr L Ball- Worfield defibrillator, Bowling Club and Friends of Stanmore funding applications
- Cllr K Ward- Stockton noticeboard funding application
- Cllr L Winwood- Bridgnorth Tennis Club funding application

4. Welcome to St James's Hall

Dave Tonks from the Hall's management Committee gave a warm welcome to the recently refurbished hall and thanked members of the LJC for their financial support to the project.

5. Community Safety

5.1 Sgt Richard Bailey and PCSO Amanda Leek from the newly formed Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) covering the Bridgnorth area gave an overview of recent activity in the area and answered a range of questions from the audience:

- No major crime spikes had occurred since the update at the last LJC in October.
- Some domestic burglaries in Bridgnorth West and Tasley in the last few weeks where jewellery and small electrical items had been taken. Member of the LJC and the public were asked to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity
- **ACTION ALL**
- There had been a recent increase in trespassing in rural areas. Rural Watch was promoted as a key tool in fighting rural crime
- The 2014 motorcycle safety campaign would soon be underway
- In answer to a question it was confirmed that the 101 telephone number is a national service where the caller's location is recognised and should be directed to the appropriate force
- Concerns were raised over waiting times on the 101 number and Sgt Bailey agreed to feed these concerns back

All members

Sgt Bailey

- It was confirmed that exact locations of crimes were not disclosed on the crime map system and that crimes are uploaded as soon as a crime is logged on the police system
- Concerns were raised in relation to the recent road closure on the A442 where police vehicles had ignored the road closure notices. Sgt Bailey agreed to take this concern back

Sgt Bailey

6. Minutes of the last meeting

- 6.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on the 16th October 2013 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

7. Presentation by Sue Adams, Managing Director, Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing (STAR)

- 7.1 Sue gave a presentation (slides attached) on STAR and in particular their wider support offer and then answered a number of questions:

- The “Bedroom Tax” had made an impact locally with 64 STAR tenants affected in the Bridgnorth area. Across Shropshire this figure was around 400, representing 10% of tenants
- STAR and other Social Landlords are working hard to minimise the impact of this and are working with their tenants to find individual solutions
- Help is provided to any tenant wishing to downsize, however a recent survey showed that 80% of tenants would prefer to stay in their current property and pay more
- STAR’s housing stock numbers are remaining fairly static. The Right to Buy scheme is still available with 30 sold in 2014 already and a range of new developments are in progress.

Sue introduced Emma Feely and Lauren Woods who are Resident Involvement Officers for STAR. Their role is to support residents, local groups and organisations and is not limited to STAR housing tenants. STAR have a small Community Grant scheme that groups were encouraged to apply to via Emma and Lauren.

8 THE FUTURE OF LJC’S

Tom Brettell and Cllr Les Winwood gave a very brief overview of the future of LJC’s:

- Exciting potential role as part of the ongoing work to move towards the commissioning of services and redesign of local governance
- Review of LJC’s has demonstrated they are very much

appreciated and has highlighted some clear strengths, weaknesses and opportunities

- Bridgnorth have put themselves forward as a pilot to look at new ways of working
- The next stages should become clear in the next 2-3 months and a meeting early in the new financial year needs to take place to discuss this further

9. 2013/14 Finance Report, including update on funding requests for consideration

Tom Brettell confirmed that this was the final round for applications for the LJC following the withdrawal of delegated funding from all LJC's for future financial years.

The Bridgnorth LJC has £31,238 left to be committed at the February meeting and any unspent funds would have to be returned to contribute to cost saving measures.

As such a great deal of work had been undertaken by the Committee and Tom to ensure that as many groups apply and benefit from this final round as possible. Thanks to this work a total of 35 applications had been received from a wide range of groups and organisations for consideration at the meeting.

The overall funding request for funding is £70,780, some £39,542 or 56% over budget and as such the LJC had taken considerable time at their preparation meeting to find a way of distributing this funding as fairly as possible.

This proposal (attached) was presented and was agreed unanimously.

10. Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items

A suggestion was made that the Environment Agency be invited to a future meeting to talk about flooding and watercourse management.

Cllr Christian Lea confirmed that Tom Brettell will be moving to cover the Shrewsbury area as of 1st April following changes to the Community Action Team. The Committee expressed their thanks to Tom for all his hard work and support over the years.

In relation to this news a question was raised about support to local groups, particularly with the withdrawal of the LJC grant. It was confirmed that the CAT will continue to provide support to groups.

Tom Brettell

11. Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed to await confirmation of the future direction of LJC's before confirming a date for the next meeting.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....