



Committee and date
Whitchurch & Prees
Local Joint Committee

15 October 2014

Item

3

Public

Responsible Officer: Nicki Young

Email: nicki.young@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 07990 085187

WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th JUNE 2014 IN ASH VILLAGE HALL, ASH MAGNA AT 7PM

Committee Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>
Mr Paul Wynn	Shropshire Council
Mrs Peggy Mullock	Shropshire Council
Mr Gerald Dakin	Shropshire Council
Mr Alan Chesters	Whitchurch Town Council
Mr Will Allen	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council
Mrs Sheila Cummings	Ightfield & Calverhall Parish Council
Mr Paul Gill	Prees Parish Council

Officers present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Nicki Young	Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council
George Candler	Director of Commissioning, Shropshire Council
PC Stuart Leclere	WH Local Policing Team, West Mercia Police
Nicola Carter	Manager, MacDonald's Whitchurch
David O'Toole	Head Teacher, Sir John Talbot's School

There were approximately 22 members of the public at the meeting.

ACTION

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Gerald Dakin, seconded by Alan Chesters and duly **RESOLVED**: that Paul Wynn be elected as Chairman of the Whitchurch and Prees LJC for the ensuing year.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Shropshire Councillor Thomas Biggins

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Paul Wynn, seconded by Peggy Mullock and duly **RESOLVED**: that Paul Gill be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Whitchurch and Prees LJC for the ensuing year.

5. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None received

6. **NOTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the previous meeting held on 27TH February 2014, be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION ON NEW FORMAT FOR WHITCHURCH LJC MEETINGS

7.

It was explained that in the future Whitchurch LJC will run in 4 parts, namely:

- a. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – to influence and challenge the strategic CIL Board on decisions of local CIL funding spend and to be the joint body where updates of the Place Plan is coordinated on an annual basis.
- b. Reporting and Scrutiny (Hot Topics) – to hold Shropshire Council, town and parish councils and partners accountable; to offer the opportunity to question councils and partners; to use the LJC as a scrutiny body; 'one stop shop' to hear feedback from partners; to enable questions to be asked on local 'hot topics' to relevant partners.
- c. Shropshire Council Update – to provide dedicated time for Shropshire Council officers to update on relevant matters and the future of Shropshire Council; to provide one meeting where the public and town and parish councillors can attend to hear the same information; update on how councils work and provide an understanding on the role of local Government.
- d. 'Question Time' – to have a 'Question Time' section to enable public questions to be answered – these questions can be submitted beforehand by completing a form in the local media or downloading from www.shropshireljcs.org website. To give feedback on questions asked.

8. **PACT MEETING**

PC Stuart Leclere reported on the following items:

- Shopwatch – majority of national chains in the town had signed up and was working well
- Shed burglaries – raised awareness as there is an increase in the summer months
- Pubwatch – talked about the potential funding application regarding training courses for pubwatch banned people
- PACT online – available to all and local mobile PACT meetings had taken place but little take up
- West Mercia Police force way ahead – that the force was going to be streamlined, the focus would now be on reducing crime levels and not on meeting targets
- SJT – PC Leclere regularly visits SJT to get young people to meet the Police

Questions:

- How are the mobile PACT sessions advertised? A: Posters, online and

correspondence. PM suggested using Whitchurch Gossip to advertise the mobile PACT sessions - the Police hold 4 x 1.5hour sessions per month.

- What is happening to the Whitchurch Police station? A: the Whitchurch Police Station will close at some stage, but the local policing team will have a presence somewhere in the town.

9. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)** There was nothing to report

10. **REPORTING AND SCRUTINY (HOT TOPICS)**

Sir John Talbot's School – Academy Status

In response to a question from Mr Michael Gallacher listed below in para 12b, Mr David O'Toole, Head Teach at Sir John Talbot's school gave a presentation covering the following points:

- Thanked Whitchurch LJC for funding for sports equipment
- An Interim Education Board (IEB) was tasked to find a solution for the future of the school.
- Solution; local people of Whitchurch want a good quality school for the young people of the town and for the school to be at the heart of the community
- A decision had been made to apply for Academy status and to join with The Marches Academy, Oswestry. This Academy opens in September 2014.
- SJT Academy will partner The Marches Academy Trust to:
 - Share expertise
 - Implement efficiencies of scale
 - Enable access to resources
 - Share training
- Accountability:
 - OFSTED
 - Funded and governed by Central Government
 - Will still engage with the Local Education Authority
 - Committed to local partnerships
- Parental representation will be by local parents
- Academy Trust will maintain accountability
- The Trust and School will establish a governing body which is truly representative of the local community
- It will be an independent school but will be able to tap into resources of the Trust
- The local Governing Board will consist of 6-8 members:
 - Teachers and non-teaching staff
 - Partners and business people
 - 2 parents will be elected onto the Governing Board
- Admissions and Exclusions
 - There are no plans to change the admissions policy
 - The school aims to provide the best education for all ability students

Mr O'Toole issues an open invitation for anyone to visit the school. He was unable to report on the outcome of the recent OFSTED inspection as the result had not been made public.

The School currently has 500 students, it is a comprehensive school and representative of the whole community.

The Local Education Authority will be involved with SJT once it becomes an Academy as they have an obligation to provide education places for young people. The Academy should be able to accommodate all students from Whitchurch area.

The Academy will continue to follow the national curriculum based around the Baccalaureate and it will become a Healthy School, by promoting healthy eating. The school is very much aware of national standards.

The School is involved in Sport Whitchurch.

Q. Who will determine conditions for staff? Career development plans will be in place for each member of staff. The Pay & Conditions will be determined by the Trust. Existing staff will be TUPE'd across to the Academy.

Q. Will the school, along with the sponsoring Marches Academy Trust, come directly under the control of the Secretary of State and, if so, how will the school be best served when so many other schools will be competing for the Department's attention? Yes, the school will come directly under Department of Education's control. The Trust will be able to bring experts in, this is more beneficial than accessing LEA training – the Academy has the option to buy in to all LEA training and services. SJT Academy will continue to buy into local services, but can now also look around.

MacDonald's Whitchurch Franchise – Littering

Nicola Carter, Business Manager at MacDonald's Whitchurch franchise talked about MacDonald's and 'Our Local Environment'. The majority of MacDonald's outlets are owned and run by local business people, recognising that part of the success is down to how well we integrate with the local community.

As a large employer and large business MacDonald's recognises that they have a clear duty to minimise the impact on the environment. By 2016 75% of MacDonald's energy will come from waste and wind.

Whitchurch MacDonald's recognises the local concerns of residents with regards to litter and has been involved, and will continue to be involved, in the town 'Big Litter Picks', offers volunteers to help clear up litter after events, such as Party in the Park, Blackberry Fair and Christmas lights switch-on.

At the restaurant there are 6 large rubbish bins and these are emptied 3-4 times a day and MacDonald's encourage their take-away and Drive-Thru customers to dispose of their rubbish responsibly.

In recognition that the many of MacDonald's customers take away their food and may not dispose of their litter as responsibly as they would like, the restaurants have completed 3 external litter patrols a day collecting all litter, not just that from MacDonald's.

As part of MacDonald's commitment 'Good Food, Good People, Good Neighbour' and to minimise the litter impact locally, MacDonald's staff are working with local volunteer groups to improve the area beside the canal and will be working with SJT on

improving the local environment. This work is being pioneered by Sarah Adcocks, who is the Planet Champion in Whitchurch.

Q. How far are the litter walks? Due to Health & Safety the litter route stays on the main highways into town and returns via a different route.

A public thank you was given to MacDonald's staff for their hard work.

11. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE**

George Candler, Director of Commissioning, Shropshire Council gave a presentation on the process Shropshire Council are undertaking to commission services.

Commissioning Council:

- Commissioner as opposed to direct delivery
- Enabler and market shaping role
- Apply commissioning principles to all our work – whether delivered externally or in-house or by eg ip&e
- Focus on outcomes for customers
- Analyse, Plan, Do, Review

Redesign & Business Plan:

- Identifies what we need to change and redesign over next 3 years to respond to financial pressures and to improve outcomes
- Sets out what will be done and when - the 3 year Business Plan will be linked to the Commissioning Strategy
- Fundamental restructure of the workforce – leads to a need to be clear about our relationship with the customers

The approach Shropshire Council will be taking is shown in the middle of the diagram below



Strategic Commissioning

- About looking at larger, area based or countywide need and then, wherever possible, aligning this with partners to deliver against the identified need.

Local Commissioning

- The localised version of the above as sometimes a countywide approach will not be appropriate nor will it work. Commissioning to meet the need locally.
- The LJC can act as the governance around this.

Town and Parish Councils

- 18 market towns plus Shrewsbury
- Far more Parish Councils

What they do varies in each area:

- Town Councils can manage car parking, Town Wardens, green spaces, play, environmental maintenance as well as Civic buildings
- Parish Councils can do all of this but tend to be much smaller in day to day running of services
- Both have Councillors that are elected by local constituents

Business Sector

- Business Board
- LEP
- SME's huge market place in Shropshire

CCG and broader Health activities

- What they do and how we work – commissioners
- Adrian Johnson is directly engaging with GPs with the development of his ASC pilots - the CCG is involved, but the GPs are getting involved

Police and Fire

- Again close working with them

Work with VCS:

- Valued relationship with the VCS as provider, stakeholder and community resource
- They have been developing principles around good commissioning for a couple of years – these have been refined as practice has developed and based on learning

Local Joint Committees

- Commissioning and shaping services at a local level
- Decisions – greater opportunity to make collective decisions especially around the annual Place Plan update
- Scrutiny and challenge – also about intelligence and feeding back to inform decision making
- Using the Place Plan documents as an evidence base, the Place Plans are key and LJC ideal vehicle to bring key priorities together for all partners
- Commissioning – Youth Activities
- Co-ordinating where appropriate, some of the activity of town and parish councils and strategic partners

Q. What would happen if ip&e crash? Ip&e is a business start-up and Shropshire Council have been cautious to grow the business with known gaps

the market place. The company is registered with Company's House and the accounts are audited separately. A local authority business has strict controls and is monitored very tightly.

12. QUESTION TIME

- a. Why is the Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan completely disregarded by both planners and developers when it comes to recommendations for housing, growth and the environment?

Response received from Planning Policy, Shropshire Council - "In the course of preparing the emerging Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan, Shropshire Council has embraced the idea of 'localism' in developing settlement strategies and site allocations for the County's towns and villages. This has included several public consultation stages since 2010, with Town and Parish Councils acting as key local consultees throughout. Many areas, such as Whitchurch, have up-to-date Town and Parish Plans, and these documents have proven particularly important in capturing the broad aims and aspirations of communities in supporting this 'localised' approach to plan making. The SAMDev Plan is nearing completion and will be submitted to Government in July in order to be examined by the planning Inspectorate, with a view to adopting the Plan early in 2015.

Whilst this 'localised' approach to plan making has been a particularly important facet of the plan making process, decision making on planning applications must by law take into account a wide range of material considerations, which importantly includes the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced by the Government in 2012. Currently Shropshire cannot demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites, which is an important factor in the 'weight' the Council can apply to competing issues when taking decisions on planning applications. Local community views, including those expressed in town and parish plans, continue to be an important factor in decision making, but the Council must also respond to other considerations including the need to boost the county's housing supply. However, new proposals must continue to demonstrate they are sustainable development in order for them to be acceptable, and that they would not put undue pressure of local infrastructure. Up to date town and parish plans will continue to have an important role to play in this decision making process."

- b. In the event of SJT becoming an academy, whether free-standing, in a chain or a federation, what will be its relationship with the local community, other schools, the Local Education Authority and Secretary of State?

Response given at the meeting by presentation from Mr David O'Toole, Head Teacher SJT. (para 10 above)

Questions from the floor:

- c. Question concerns objections to the Anaerobic Digester plant. The on-going electricity supply issues in Whitchurch and the current misconceptions surrounding these, within the context of the planning application as submitted by Grocontinental for an Anaerobic Digester on Shakespeare Way. I understand that there is not a shortage of electricity, but lack of the necessary

infrastructure to bring in the heavy supply required for the site. (full question available upon request to Community Enablement Officer)

Response from Gerald Dakin: 12-15,000 houses are due to be built and there is no electricity available to support these homes. Currently Scottish Power state that there is not enough electricity coming into the town. The Environment Agency will submit an annual report on how well the company is running the Anaerobic Digester. The AD has to have an Environmental Permit, which will be revoked if the AD plant is not being run properly.

13. FEEDBACK FORMS

The Chair drew to the attention of the audience the green Feedback forms and requested that these be completed by attendees.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Whitchurch & Surrounding Area Local Joint Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th October at 7pm in Fauls Green Church Hall, doors open at 6.30pm.

Please submit questions for the 'Question Time' part of the meeting by Friday 5th September 2014, to either the Community Enablement Officer via email or by completing a form in the local press and handing it into the Whitchurch Herald offices on the High Street.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signature:
(Chair of Whitchurch & Surrounding Area LJC)

Date: