

## THE SEVERN LOOP LOCAL FORUM

### NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014 AT THE GUILDHALL, FRANKWELL, SHREWSBURY

**Responsible Officer:** Tom Brettell, [tom.brettell@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:tom.brettell@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel 01743 252482

#### **Committee Members Present:**

##### **Shropshire Council:**

Andrew Bannerman  
Anne Chebsey  
Mansel Williams

##### **Shrewsbury Town Council:**

Alan Townsend

#### **In attendance:**

Helen Ball, Town Clerk  
Sgt Steve Fitzpatrick, West Mercia Police  
PC Kevin Roberts, West Mercia Police  
Emma Bullard, SC Sustainable Transport Team

There were approximately 9 members of the public present at the meeting.

#### **ACTION:**

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were given

#### **3. 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. It was agreed that declarations would be given under item 7, Funding Applications

#### **4. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

Agreed - Notes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

All matters arising were covered on the agenda.

## 5. OUR PLACE PROGRAMME, POLICE UPDATE AND SAFE CYCLING

Helen Ball and Tom Brettell gave a presentation to the meeting about the Our Place Programme, a national initiative led by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Shrewsbury has successfully bid to be part of this programme.

Copies of the slides are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

The audience welcomed this programme and felt that the opportunity to be part of this national programme was exciting.

Further updates would be given at future meetings of this committee.

Sgt Steve Fitzpatrick and PC Kevin Adams from the Town Centre Safer Neighbourhood Team introduced themselves to the meeting and gave an update on policing issues in the area:

- Partnership working is very strong and critical. The alliance with Warwickshire Police is going well
- Successful engagement with the community is absolutely key
- Police now target harm- not statistics, but the cause. This can only be done effectively with partners.
- 19% reduction in crime achieved through these partnerships. Lots of pride in the town centre work done.
- Street Pastors do incredible work.
- Lots of work with licensed premises to ensure compliance.
- Police are currently recruiting and will have more Police in Shropshire. Also boosting the Police Cadet scheme which is open for young people of up to 18 years in age.

A member of the audience raised the following concern:

- A strimmer and chainsaw were stolen last night from the Belle Vue area. This seemed to fit a pattern of recent opportunistic theft and distraction type burglaries and some discussion ensued around possible connections to a nearby bail hostel.

Inconsiderate cycling:

Cllr Bannerman gave the context where a lot of work has happened historically to encourage cycling in the town but over recent months there have been a number of complaints about inappropriate and inconsiderate cycling.

Emma Bullard who leads on cycling in the Sustainable Transport Team at Shropshire Council explained that 4 years ago lots of funding was attracted to Shrewsbury as a cycling town. The Project Steering Group then developed an initiative to give people guidance on safe and appropriate riding which included a flier, training and an enforcement element. Unfortunately much of this funding has since disappeared.

It was felt that there was an opportunity to look to resolve this issue through the Our Place Programme.

There was discussion about whether wearing a cycling helmet should be made law. This was recognised to be a contentious issue and there was evidence that it had led to a decline in people cycling in other countries where it had been introduced.

There was particular concern over the vulnerability of pedestrians to cyclists and particularly around the difficulties in hearing cycles.

Concern was raised over cyclists having the right of way to go in opposite direction on one way street on this front.

A key concern is people cycling on footpaths. The Police have stopped 5 cyclists over last 2 days and were initially trying to tackle this with education rather than enforcement. Focus needs to be on younger generations- wider promotion of leaflets.

Cllr Bannerman raised concerns over Princes street and The Square where drivers are using these streets inappropriately and there needs to be thought around some physical solutions. Concerns were also raised around taxis using the market square.

## **6. THE FUTURE OF LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEES**

Tom Brettell explained that the role of Local Joint Committees is continuing to develop and in particular their role in local governance and decision making. In addition the delegated funding that was available to the LJC's ceased at the end of March.

At the recent Shrewsbury Wide LJC, members had agreed that the inter-town LJC's would continue to meet outside the LJC constitution, meeting as Community Forums as and when needed. The Shrewsbury Wide LJC would continue as the main LJC.

As such, the proposal is that this meeting continues as a Community Forum for the Severn Loop area and meets to discuss issues that are of interest to the local area on a needs basis.

This proposal was agreed.

## **7. SWIMMING PROVISION IN SHREWSBURY**

The Chairman explained that lots of people are very concerned about the future of swimming provision in the town and have strong feelings about this.

Cllr Bannerman read out a statement from the Officer leading on the work to look at options for swimming provision (attached), who unfortunately could not attend tonight's meeting. As such, all questions and comments would be recorded and reported back:

- do we have an accurate figure for the refurbishment of the Quarry?

- is funding available through the Lottery etc?
- need to know exact state of current facility and what can be done
- need to clarify exact costs of a replacement facility
- what happened to the ring fenced monies from SABC?
- Cllr Williams and Cllr Townsend's constituents were very concerned that the facility should stay in its current location.
- it was felt that a presentation and discussion was needed at future meetings of this Forum and at the Shrewsbury wide LJC
- is there are minimum amount of maintenance that can be done to sustain the existing facility?

## **8. WARD EVENT FUNDING**

Members were reminded that a small sum of money had been retained to support events in the Severn Loop area and were asked for ideas on how this can be used. In addition Ward Councillors have an amount from Shrewsbury Town Council (currently £ 2,000) that can also support activity in these areas.

## **9. HAVE YOUR SAY**

A number of issues were raised:

- concern from people living in Dogpole who had received no communication about the recent closure of Wyle Cop and were very concerned over the isolation of those without cars. Both Cllr Bannerman and Cllr Williams were talking urgently to senior officers and the portfolio holder raising this concern.
- Museum charges- the example of Cardiff Castle was given where if you're a resident you don't have to pay for entry. Museum charges were felt not to be fair on local people especially from the less affluent neighbourhoods. It was felt that this should be a future agenda item for discussion at this meeting with a senior officer to be in attendance.
- In answer to a query about the status of the Town's Warden scheme, Helen Ball explained that these will be live in the autumn and will have an extensive remit with lots of partnership working.
- Promotion/ community engagement- it was reported that the Shrewsbury Town Council noticeboards were being used more and more which is positive but that their size was limiting. The possibility of using software used for council tax billing to enable residents to be targeted at town/ parish levels should be investigated. The excellent work of the Lincolnshire community engagement bus was cited and it was felt that the WMP mobile police station which has been successful could be developed to roll out more information/ services. The possibility of a Shrewsbury app was raised and it was felt that the VI Form College could be involved in its' design.
- A resident brought to the attention of the meeting that the SWSUE is under delivering on affordable homes. Things have changed since initial planning application e.g. loss of park and ride. Need to put

pressure on SC to see whether more can be done to get these built.  
It was agreed that this should be taken to the Shrewsbury wide LJC.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed and will be based on demand as agreed in item 6.

Councillor Andrew Bannerman.

**Signed:**

**Chairman**

**Date:**

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