



DRAFT

Committee and Date
StrettonDale Local Joint
Committee

6 November

7.00pm

Silvester Horne Institute

Item

3

Public

STRETTONDALE LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2014 AT THE SILVESTER HORNE INSTITUTE, CHURCH STRETTON 7.00 PM – 8.45 PM

Responsible Officer Lisa Bedford

e-mail: lisa.bedford@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 07990085656

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Tim Barker (Chair), Burnell Electoral Division

Lee Chapman, Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division

David Evans, Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division

Town/Parish Councils

Paul Harris, Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council

Lynne Grey, Eaton-Under-Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council

Mel McFarland, Rushbury Parish Council

Jeremy Dale, All Stretton, Smethcott and Woolstaston Parish Council

Steve Pennington, Cardington Parish Council

Hilary Clayton-Smith, Church Stretton Town Council

Lee Crowhurst, Condover Parish Council

Gareth Ball, Acton Burnell Group Parish Council

Co-opted members

Nicola McPherson (SAP and Mayfair), Ann Sutcliffe (SSHA), Dianne Williams (SSHA), Bob Welch (CSTC), Jean Jarvis (SSFS – Vol sector rep),

Also present: -

Chris Edwards, Area Commissioner, Shropshire Council

Michael Lewis, Library Services Manager, Shropshire Council

Rawden Parslow, Area Manager for Library Service, Shropshire Council

Sgt Adrian Woolley, West Mercia Police

PCSO Ross O'Neil, West Mercia Police

Steve Paige, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Lisa Bedford, Community Engagement Officer Shropshire Council

There were approximately 40 members of the public present at the meeting.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council), Michael Braid (Church Stretton Town Council) and Bill Higgins (Church Pulverbatch Parish Council)

2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared

3. Notes of the Meeting held on 22 May 2014

AGREED:

That the notes of the meeting held on 22 May 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

TB/LB

4. Community Safety Update

Sgt Woolley explained that crime trends were still low and broadly similar across the LJC area and both policing divisions, with a small number of metal thefts, catalytic converters and other parts of landrovers, theft from vehicles and thefts from sheds and oil theft.

WMP were continuing the stop check work on the A49 and Bishop's Castle.

The crime reduction initiative was still continuing and all were encouraged to ensure their property is protected through locks, lights, smartwater etc. A home and personal safety event to take place at the Mayfair Centre on Friday 21st November, 9.30 – 12.30pm

A drugs raid was undertaken in Church Stretton recently as part of the ongoing work with suspected criminals. An arrest was made of a travelling burglar responsible for multiple thefts in the county.

There had been a distraction theft at the cashpoint In Church Stretton recently. CCTV from shops has been used to try and identify those responsible.

New volunteer recruit to assist with newsletters and other community activity.

Fire Service:

Steve Paige explained that Church Stretton had not been affected to date by any cuts.

Incidents continued to be low. Electric blanket testing events had

taken place, but not in Church Stretton this year. All were reminded about the need to keep chimneys swept.

5. The future role and operation of StrettonDale Local Joint Committee

The report circulated in advance of the meeting was presented and discussed. It was proposed to accept the recommendations to increase the geographical area of the LJC to include Condover PC, Church Pulverbatch PC and Acton Burnell Group PC and to co-op the Local Governance Board members. All subject to cabinet approval.

AGREED:

TB proposed, seconded by LC, all in favour.

6. The future of the services delivered from the library building in Church Stretton

Cllr Chapman gave an overview of the rationale behind the proposals for the services in the building, specifically the reduction in budget available to the service areas that work in the library building. £80 million pounds of savings had to be made in this three year period by the Council, £1.3 million to be saved from library services alone.

LC explained that a working group had been formed which included the Town Council, Mayfair and the school alongside Shropshire Council had developed these proposals over the last four months.

The proposals are:

- To relocate the library to the secondary school
- To deliver the customer information from the Mayfair Centre and the Town Council offices
- To commission a town centre based organisation to deliver the visitor information

LC explained that the event during the day and the LJC was the first chance that people have had to make comments. Residents were invited to leave their comments before the 19th December. Online, or at the library and Town Council office

<http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/church-stretton-library/>

School library proposal can be viewed here:

<http://www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk/Files/Temp/Library%20bid%202.pdf>

Questions and comments:

Q how can this be an option if there is no confirmation of funding for

the library?

We are seeking comments on proposals, it is not a confirmed plan.

Q Fragmenting the VIC is not a good idea, it needs to be in one place with experienced staff?

Ideally it would be located on one place.

Q Why is Shropshire Council investing in libraries elsewhere and not here?

There has been no library service investment in any public libraries in the last two years. Any investment has been made by other departments working on the development of council service hubs.

Q Safeguarding of children would not be to a suitable standard and how would plans for the community to use the cafeteria meet with safeguarding criteria.

Safeguarding was the first discussion that took place when the proposal was raised.

Q Would there be extended opening hours?

SC would want to include some evening opening as part of any agreement with the school.

Q Would it be open in school holidays?

Yes, it would be open in school holidays.

Q What happens to the existing staff?

The branch manager is the only member of staff with a permanent contract. All other members of staff are on temporary contracts.

Q Surely there is a safeguarding issue with the proposal to have volunteer student librarians?

Q Please can the visitor information have extended opening hours until the end of October as Church Stretton is still busy during October?

Q Why can't we develop a hub at the library building?

This would not generate any savings.

Q Please can the safety of pedestrians be considered. Walking on narrow pavements and at the school at the start and the end of the day is hazardous.

Q Where would there be any parking?

The school and the leisure centre would be available for use.

7. Place plans

.An overview of place plans was given and the change in the annual review process was explained. It was agreed that the LJC would look at the collective responses from all of the parishes in the spring to identify any common issues that could be looked at collectively

LB

8. Update on Connecting Shropshire Broadband

A hand out was distributed to those in attendance giving an update on the high speed roll out project. This highlighted which exchange areas had been enabled and the current status regarding those not currently enabled.

9. Updates from Parishes

Rushbury – Sewerage treatment plant now in operation

Eaton under Heywood and Hope Bowdler – issues with planning and plans for a defibrillator in the parish.

Cardington – nothing to report directly from the parish but expressed support for retaining the visitor information provision in the town.

All Stretton, Smethcott and Woolstaston – currently issues around planning, experience a lack of communication and feedback which is frustrating for parish councillors.

Leebotwood and Longnor – a village tidy contractor has been appointing and this is working really well in the parish.

Condoover – a number of new houses being proposed and planning concerns expressed by the PC regarding decisions being delegated to officers.

Acton Burnell group – concerns raised by the PC regarding planning permissions.

Church Stretton – SamDev submission to the inspectorate has been made regarding New House Farm. The transfer of Rectory Wood from Shropshire Council to the Town Council is being progressed with work around the governance of the site taking place. The Town Plan would be finalised in December and would form the basis for the Place Plan submission. Christmas lights switch on the 22nd November, free parking from 3pm, frost fair at Mayfair all day.

10. Flood Forum

A hand out was circulated to all present regarding recent works and support available from the council.

All were asked to forward any local concerns to their Shropshire Councillor or Community Enablement Officer.

11. Public Questions and Suggestions for Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Youth activity in Condoover parishes was raised. The Community Enablement Officer explained that there was to be a youth stakeholder meeting in Church Stretton on the 27th November at the school. Amongst other items, the youth commissioning plans from the council would be explained.

Planning application for New House Farm, Church Stretton – advice

was sought from Town Council representatives regarding how they should respond to the planning application. Town Council representatives agreed that they would produce some guidance for residents and circulate through community messaging.

12. Future meeting arrangements

Thursday 12th February, 7pm, Venue TBC

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed..... Chairman

Date: 2014