

**Committee and Date**

Shifnal and Sheriffhales  
Local Joint Committee

**17 March 2015**

**Item No**

**3**

Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2014  
AT SHIFNAL VILLAGE HALL**

**Community Action Officer:** Andrea McWilliams  
Email: [andrea.mcwilliams@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.mcwilliams@shropshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01743 257866

**Committee Members Present**

Kevin Turley	– Shropshire Council
Stuart West	– Shropshire Council
Gordon Tonkinson	– Shifnal Town Council
Janet Jones	– Sheriffhales Parish Council
Peter Young	– Sheriffhales Parish Council

**Officers present:**

Andrea McWilliams, Community Action Officer  
Kate Garner, Locality Commissioning Manager

**Also in attendance:**

PC Nick Allbutt	– West Mercia Police
PCSO Jacqui Fletcher	– West Mercia Police
Adam Mathews	– Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

**1. Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED: that Councillor Kevin Turley be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

**2. Appointment of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED: that Councillor Stuart West be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

**3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

None were disclosed.

**4. Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**5. Confirmation of Notes**

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **6. Partners and Communities Together (PACT) – West Mercia Police and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service**

PC Nick Allbutt updated the meeting on the latest crime statistics for the area. He advised there had been no difference to the levels of crime following the street lights being turned off at midnight. However, he did advise that thefts of certain high powered vehicles were being targeted currently and that extra vigilance was needed for owners of that type of vehicle.

He advised that the station was still being used although it was officially classed as being closed and that volunteers were still manning the front desk at certain times during the week. Following concerns expressed by the meeting, PC Allbutt confirmed that tickets have been issued recently to vehicle owners parking on the zigzag areas outside the Co-op.

PC Allbutt also announced his retirement from the service after 34 years. The Chairman and members present thanked PC Allbutt for his commitment to Shifnal and wished him well for his future.

Adam Mathews updated the meeting on behalf of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service. He confirmed that £4m had been removed from the budget and that there was still £900k to find but that the service was confident these savings could be found by 2020. As industrial action was continuing, he asked that people be extra vigilant about checking on elderly neighbours during this period.

## **7. Broadband Update**

To note the latest update received from Connecting Shropshire.

Stuart West confirmed that Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service were currently looking at a new broadband supplier which could help to improve supply to other rural areas. More details would follow in time.

## **8. Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan – Introduction and Progress on consultation**

Bob Vincent, one the team of volunteers involved in the work on the Neighbourhood Plan explained what a neighbourhood plan is and why it's felt it's important for Shifnal to have one and he advised there was increasing evidence to suggest that the government was now taking notice of neighbourhood plans as a formal planning document with the legal framework.

He explained that the process would take around a year and had started with distribution of leaflets to raise awareness of the process and the start of public consultation that was now underway. He confirmed that questionnaires had been distributed to every household within the Shifnal parish boundary and other forms of consultations with individual groups and drop in sessions were also ongoing.

The LJC members thanked the group for their hard work to date and asked them to keep the meeting updated with progress into the future.

## **9. Youth Commissioning and LJC update**

Kate Garner Shropshire Council's Local Commissioning Manager, confirmed that there was no funding available for youth commissioning for Shifnal and advised that those areas that had been awarded budget for this purpose would be working closely with LJC's to ensure the best deal for their area's needs.

Both Kevin Turley and Stuart West confirmed they were unhappy with the criteria applied to the funding allocation, as there had been a needs based approach and they felt that Shifnal's situation had not been properly taken into account.

There was also discussion around the future role of the LJC and whether there would be any scope for linking into other local well established groups.

**ACTION** - that Kate Garner meet with the local members to discuss this allocation further and that discussions start on how to move forward with different working arrangements for the LJC.

## **10. Other issues of concern raised at the meeting**

**Flooding / Infrastructure concerns** – some concerns were raised about whether the new development in the town would be too much for the current infrastructure. There was concern about the riparian ownership of Wesley Brook and dumping of garden waste into the brook. Kevin Turley advised that there was now a new Shifnal Flood Partnership in place that would be looking at such issues.

**Cost of Travellers** – Dusty from Rural Watch raised the issue of the costs associated with clearing sites following occupation by the travellers and suggested that Shropshire Council should be more robust in dealing with this problem. Kevin Turley assured the meeting that action would be taken as appropriate to deal with this issue.

**Street signage** – Stuart West raised a concern about the increasing number of “A” boards and other street signs appearing on the footpaths advertising local businesses. Although some signs were covered by planning permissions already in place, this issue was becoming a bit of a hot potato and a balance had to be met between helping local businesses to survive against the street clutter and obstruction. Stuart West said he would speak to the relevant planning officer to see if there was an enforcement issue.

## **11. Potential issues for next meeting.**

- Update on the road infrastructure proposals
- Update on the concerns raised on the capacity of the local schools
- Update on the flood risk situation regarding the capacity of the sewers in view of the approved development.