



Committee and date  
Whitchurch & Prees  
Local Joint Committee  
  
17 June 2015

Item  
  
**3**  
  
Public

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## WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

### NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015 IN WHITCHURCH CIVIC CENTRE AT 7PM

#### Committee Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>
Mr Paul Wynn	Shropshire Council
Mr Tony Neville	Whitchurch Town Council
Mr Will Allen	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council
Mr Paul Gill	Prees Parish Council
Mr Gerald Dakin	Shropshire Council
Mr Tom Biggins	Shropshire Council

#### Officers present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Nicki Young	Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council
Neil Willcox	Locality Commissioning Manager, Shropshire Council
Claire Greenaway	Safer Neighbourhood Team Sgt, West Mercia Police
Shaun Sutton	Parking Enforcement Supervisor, Shropshire Council

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

#### ACTION

#### **26. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone, each member of the Committee introduced themselves and the Chair explained the nature and remit of the Local Joint Committees (LJs).

#### **27. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Shropshire Councillor Peggy Mullock and Ightfield Parish Councillor Jean Betteridge.

#### **28. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

## **29. Notes**

It was RESOLVED that the notes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Paul Gill  
Seconded: Tom Biggins – the meeting notes were duly signed.

## **30. Partners & Communities Together (PACT)**

Sergeant Claire Greenaway, Safer Neighbourhood Team, West Mercia Police reported:

- Retail crime is down – Shopwatch is working well.
- Violent crime is down – landlords of public houses are keeping control
- Public parks are on the radar for summer
- Talbot Street has been door-knocked by the local policing team regarding the street lights being switched off and reports of damage to cars – no issue has been found

## **31. Reporting and Scrutiny (Hot Topics) – Youth Commissioning**

A presentation was made on the latest work that the LJC have done regarding Youth Locality Commissioning in the Whitchurch area. The presentation will be made available to see via Shropshire Council website. Youth Locality Commissioning is referring to the on-going provision of youth services/activities, not the future of the youth buildings.

In summary, Whitchurch LJC members have worked closely with youth stakeholders on the youth commissioning process; they have attended Focus Groups with young people as well as distributed questionnaires. Data from both the questionnaires and Focus Groups was shared within the presentation. Whitchurch LJC have made a recommendation on how to spend £15,580, the amount allocated to the area to spend on youth provision in one year. This funding is available for 2 years.

Questions were naturally asked about the future of Centre NE building. Shropshire Councillor Paul Wynn stated that, to date, no decision had been made about the future use of Centre NE. Talks were on-going, the building will not close but how it is used is under review. Shropshire Council want to make the best use of the building.

The importance of the ball court/MUGA to young people was made and how it gave access to all.

Comments were also received about the ‘disgraceful way in which youth workers have been treated’. Positive Activities team members reported that they have received ‘at risk of redundancy’ notices which last for 45 days, this period had come to an end and no further notice had been received.

It was recognised that current youth services at Centre NE have worked very closely with young people over social and personal issues, including identifying individuals’ potential; alleviating the levels of vandalism in the town; working with Tesco over levels of ASB by young people. The LJC also understand, especially following feedback from focus groups and questionnaires, young people need to have a safe space to congregate and socialise that they can call their own. The LJC also recognises that youth provision is needed within the town and that the youth population in Whitchurch is higher than the County average.

Therefore, Whitchurch LJC recommend:

- that the budget of £15,580 be used to provide youth worker time within a 'club' setting and the delivery of local outcomes. This will include 3 sessions per week, including junior and senior sessions.
- 'Club' means a space where young people feel safe, secure and welcome. A place to socialise with their friends, have fun and relax and is accessible for all.

The agreed way forward is:

- Organise a further stakeholder meeting and focus groups with young people to feedback on LJC's decision.
- Invite youth workers and young people to be part of a working group going forward.
- Working group to jointly write the Invitation to Quote document and assess the returns.
- Any eligible organisation can apply to the Invitation to Quote; private or community sector.

Representatives of the Higginson Trust advised that the LJC could submit a bid for funding to provide match-funding for the LJC money. Further discussion agreed that community investment is required and that Centre NE needs to be kept for young people.

### **32. Shropshire Council Update**

Mr Shaun Sutton gave feedback on a question raised about parking on pavements in Claypit Street - covered in Item 33.

A further enquiry about parking on pavements was made about Talbot Street, as well as driving on pavements, parking in the wrong direction and damage to parked vehicles. A request was made to raise all the lowered curb-stones. The Police encourage people to report, especially witnessed, incidents and Police officers can be deployed at high traffic times.

Comments were also made about the new layout of Five Ways Traffic lights at the Brownlow/Bridgewater Street junction. It was reported that there is not enough turning space for HGVs to turn into Station Road and cars were being clipped. **Action: Sgt Claire Greenaway said that she would discuss this with the Police Highways division.**

A wider discussion took place on obstructions by vehicles:

- Cars causing obstructions to mobility scooters and buggies through bad parking or parking on the pavements. The Police advised calling 101 to report the incident with a registration number.
- Footpath parking is a problem everywhere and central Government are looking at bringing in a ban, when this happens Civic Enforcement officers can then fine these vehicles.
- Cyclists on pavements – again report to 101 with date and time and Police can access CCTV.
- Sherry Mill Hill – parking all the way down the hill is causing congestion at the mini roundabout.

### **33. Question Time**

Question from Mr Young – 'Why are cars allowed to park on pavements in Claypit Street, blocking and obstructing the pavements?'

- Shaun Sutton, Shropshire Council Parking Enforcement team – cars parking on

footways is a criminal matter and needs the Police to deal with it. Parking Enforcement officers can fine vehicles where there is a parking restriction with signage or lines on the roads.

- The Police are required to deal with vehicles obstructing the road for emergency vehicles.
- Claypit Street has no [–] bars on the road; if it is deemed parking restrictions are required Shaun Sutton will liaise with Shropshire Council Highways Department to paint lines.
- Parking in front of the Roman Catholic Church was highlighted, the cars are so close to the entrance door that people with wheelchairs are unable to enter the church to attend the service.
- **Action: Sgt Claire Greenaway to visit homeowners with a housing association representative regarding parking.**
- **Action: Police to ticket cars parked in front of Roman Catholic Church.**

The Committee opened the meeting to questions from the floor.

- Question on the need for a skate park and whether young people still required one. The LJC Chair asked young people present to respond and they strongly supported the on-going work to provide a skate park for young people of the town, saying that it was still wanted.
- Question about Five Ways traffic lights – if HGVs mount pavements this could cause an accident, is it possible to put restrictions on HAVs using the turning?
- A letter from Mrs Gallaher to Whitchurch Town Council was read out by Cllr Gerald Dakin regarding the amount of litter along the by-pass and roads approaching the town centre. Mrs Gallaher has spoken to Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance Dept about the problem and he explained that “they have a system of “Remedials” which means that to fulfil their contract the contractor must respond to any littering complaint which falls OUTSIDE the 30 mph speed limit within 20 days and WITHIN the 30mph speed limit within 5 days. It would seem that unless there is an actual complaint registered, the contractor does not have an ongoing litter picking schedule.” It was suggested that perhaps work with the Community Payback scheme could start again.

### **34. Next Meeting**

The dates for the 2015/2016 round of Whitchurch LJC meetings are:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in Higher Heath Village Hall

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in Tilstock Village Hall

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in Whitchurch Civic Centre

The meeting closed at 21:05.

Signature (Chair) .....

Date: .....