



Committee and Date  
Tern and Severn Valley LJC

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Cross Houses Community  
Centre, 7pm

Item

Public

**TERN AND SEVERN VALLEY  
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON  
10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015  
7.00 PM – 8.45 PM  
AT  
CROSS HOUSES COMMUNITY CENTRE, CROSS HOUSES**

**Responsible Officers** Mathew Mead and David Fairclough  
e-mail: [mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01743 252534  
[david.fairclough@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.fairclough@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01743 252483

**Committee Members Present:**

**Shropshire Council**

Claire Wild

Severn Valley Electoral Ward

**Town/Parish Councils**

Barry Bennion	Upton Magna Parish Council
Malcolm Colclough	Astley Parish Council
Richard Purslow	Berrington Parish Council
Ian Lawrence	Cressage, Harley and Sheinton Parish Council
Malcolm Corrie	Leighton and Eaton Constantine Parish Council
Lynne Padmore	Uffington Parish Council
Helen Thomas	Withington Parish Council
Brian Nelson	Wroxeter and Uppington Parish Council

**Officers Present:**

Mathew Mead	Community Enablement Officer
David Fairclough	Community Enablement Officer
Edward West	Principle Policy Specialist
PC Dave Harte	West Mercia Police

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mathew Mead welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was the first public meeting meeting of the new Tern and Severn Valley LJC and it was hoped that the new Committee would work positively together.

Apologies had been received from Councillor John Everall (Shropshire Council); Jan Burgess (Bomere Parish Council); Tim Roberts (Cound Parish Council)

Bicton Parish Council declined to attend the LJC meetings as they did not agree with the boundary of the new LJC

## **2. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for 2015/16**

Mathew explained that under the LJC rules the meetings needed to be chaired by a Shropshire Councillor. Claire Wild was nominated and elected as Chair with Brian Nelson as vice chair

## **3. Disposable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were 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.

No declarations of interest were made

## **4. Notes of Previous Meeting**

As this is the first meeting of the LJC no minutes were submitted.

The minutes of the old Loton and Tern LJC and Burnell and Severn Valley LJC's were approved by the respective members of those Committees in attendance at this meeting.

## **5. Public Session**

PC Dave Harte from the Police Safer Neighbourhoods team which covers much of the LJC area gave a short presentation.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team covers a large geographical area and with a relatively small team it is difficult for them to be able to attend Parish Council meetings regularly, but the LJC is an opportunity for them to address a group of Parish Councillors all in one place. The team also provides Parish Councils with updates via a regular newsletter and hold drop in PACT meetings at shops and community venues in the area for members for the public to speak to them about any crime or anti – social behaviour issues.

Members of the public can also find details of the team on the Police website

[www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

On this site they can also sign up to Neighbourhood Watch updates and see details of crimes in the area. The Team also has a twitter feed that members of the public can sign up to.

Dave said that in general the LJC had a very low crime rate. However burglary and theft from rural properties was an issue. Thefts of machinery and tools from outbuildings was a particular issue. He encouraged anyone seeing suspicious behaviour to contact the Police on 101, or if a crime was taking place to call 999

Speeding is also an issue that affects parishes in the area, and the Police are working with the Safer Roads Partnership to try and carry out checks in the area and target hot spot areas. Work is also progressing to develop Community Speedwatch Schemes in the

area where residents can volunteer and be trained to carry out speed checks in their community.

Barry Bennion raised the issue of car parking outside Upton Magna Primary school. When parents drop off and pick up their children the roads become congested and the Parish Council have concerns about the safety of children. Other members of the Committee expressed similar concerns about schools in their parishes.

Dave said that the police are aware of these issues but in most cases the parking restrictions outside schools have been decommissioned so the Police can only really intervene if an obstruction is occurring. However they did regularly patrol outside schools and would speak to parents to remind them to park sensibly. The Committee felt work with children at the school to encourage safe parking should be encouraged, and where possible off road drop off points for children should be explored. This is something Upton Magna Parish Council were exploring.

Claire thanked Dave for attending the meeting

## **6. Presentation on Planning Policy – Eddie West Principal Policy Specialist Shropshire Council**

Claire introduced Eddie to the meeting and said that planning was an issue that affected all the Parishes in the LJC, and in the last two years a lot of speculative planning applications had been submitted. The aim of the presentation was to give the Committee an update on what was happening with Shropshire's policies.

Eddie thanked Claire for the invitation to the meeting. He explained that Shropshire's Planning Policies were influenced by a number of different strategies and policies.

Nationally there was the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**, which Shropshire had to consider when developing their County Policies. Shropshire's own policies are made up of the **Core Strategy** – which sets out broad planning strategies for the county and The **Site Allocations and Management of Development Document (SAMDev)** which contains more specific policies for individual communities. Parish Councils have fed their preferred policies into SAMDev during its development over the last 3 years.

Within SAMDev communities have had the opportunity to accept a certain level of housing development, by becoming a Hub or Cluster. Alternatively Parishes can decide to be Open Countryside which means open market housing is prohibited and only certain types of development can occur.

However as SAMDev has taken a long time to develop Shropshire has had to consider some planning applications based on broader National Policies, which are more likely to see development of open market housing approved. Some communities in the LJC have been subject to these types of applications and have seen development approved against their wishes.

NPPF also says that Councils must have a minimum of 5 years land supply available at any one time, and during periods of the last 2 years Shropshire has fallen below this threshold.

Shropshire Council acknowledges the issue this has created in some communities, and agrees that on some occasions development has been approved which hasn't met with local policies and aspirations. However the SAMDev policies have now gone through an inspection by a Government appointed planning officer, and the broad principles of the plan have been agreed. While some modifications to the plan are required the broad

principles of it have been agreed. This means Shropshire can give much more weight to its SAMDev policies and it can demonstrate that:

- It has a 5 year land supply
- The housing number planned for Shropshire of 26,500 are correct
- The approach to locate these homes in Market Towns, hubs and clusters is correct
- That locally produced policies made by town and parish councils for development are deliverable

In addition to this some applications which Shropshire Council has turned down, which have since been appealed by the applicant, have been turned down. This has generally been because they don't conform to local plans, or the sites are not seen as being sustainable in NPPF terms. This is important in Shropshire as it shows that while a community can accommodate new housing in a "sustainable" way, not all sites in that community will be seen as "sustainable" in planning terms. This should allow greater control on where new development takes place, although each application has to be taken separately.

While the adoption of SAMDev will be good news for the Council, planning policies at a local and national level continue to change and be reviewed. New issues which Shropshire will have to look at in the near future are changes to national policies on affordable housing, which could see developments of 10 and under no longer being required to contribute to affordable housing. This would significantly reduce the numbers of affordable homes in Shropshire and a draft policy against this proposal has been agreed by Shropshire Councils cabinet. New National Policies also dictate that the types of new homes being built also needs to be looked at and is something Shropshire Council has to address.

Eddie then took questions from the Committee.

A number of Parish Councils (Withington, Berrington) suggested that they have recently received planning applications for developments that fell outside their Parish Policies in SAMDev. How would Shropshire Council consider these policies.

Eddie responded that SAMDev policies now had more weight behind them following the Inspection of the Policies earlier in the year. While the SAMDev plans still needed to be formally agreed by the Council later in the year, it would be much easier for Shropshire Council to defend local policy from this point onwards. However each application would still have to be judged on its merits and agents are still arguing that these types of developments should be approved.

Committee members also asked how often the 5 year land supply issue had to be reviewed.

Eddie replied that it was constantly reviewed. It was based on a series of factors including recent numbers of properties built; applications approved; lapsed applications and changes to land use. However with SAMDev now having gone through the inspection process it was easier for the Council to show that suitable sites were available for development in Shropshire. The issue of the 5 year land supply was however one that agents and developers would monitor closely and is something that Shropshire Council needs to be mindful of.

The SAMDev plans should deliver around 7000 homes over a 5 year period, but this does fluctuate over time. In boom times around 1400 homes a year are built in Shropshire, but in less prosperous times this figure can be as low as 750

While SAMDev is nearly completed Shropshire Council do need to start reviewing its policies for the future. Following the election there could also be changes to National Policies which Shropshire will have to react to.

## **7. Update on Youth Commissioning**

David Fairclough presented a report on Youth Commissioning in the LJC. The Committee had been allocated £3,000 to spend on youth provision in the area.

As no formal Shropshire Council Youth Clubs existed in the area the Committee it was recommended that the LJC look to support existing sports groups and Primary Schools to deliver activities for young people in the area. This could be delivered through a grants scheme.

Committee members were asked to send details of local sports groups and societies to the Community Enablement officers, who in turn would speak to the groups and help them submit applications. Ideally these applications would be assessed in September to allow delivery to take place in the autumn.

The Committee supported these proposals.

## **8. Dog Fouling – LJC collaborative approach**

A report was presented to the Committee which outlined the legal framework for issuing enforcement notices around dog fouling. Only a few Shropshire Council officers were authorised to issue these notices, and it was not practical for them to be in communities on a regular basis to issue notices.

However a scheme was being developed which would allow local volunteers, including parish councillors, to be trained up to complete an Environmental Crime Report about incidents in their community. Offenders would then be contacted by the Council warning them about their responsibilities as dog owners.

The Committee expressed some concerns about this approach as Councillors were also local residents and it might lead to problems if they have to confront friends or neighbours.

Committee members also felt that the lack of dog litter bins in communities was an issue. Community Enablement officers said that new bins could be installed but if the bins were not on a normal collection route there would be a charge to the Parish Council for this service.

Claire Wild suggested that as this was an issue that affected most Parishes in the area the suffered from there could be an opportunity for Parishes to come together to employ a dog warden. Shrewsbury Council maybe interested in working with the Parishes on this issue.

## **9. Any other business**

Committee members suggested that the issue of high speed broadband was still important in rural areas, with many parishes still suffering from very slow speeds and no real sign that the Connecting Shropshire project would bring high speed broadband to these Communities.

David Fairclough said that a new voucher scheme for businesses to receive a grant of £3,000 to help them get fast broadband had recently been launched.

It was suggested that asking a representative from Connecting Shropshire to attend a future meeting of the LJC might help explain what the situation was with the roll out of broadband, and to look at specific issues in the rural areas covered by the LJC.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

It was proposed to arrange the date of the next meeting once more details about the Youth Commissioning process had been established. The Committee would need to meet to discuss any grant applications. It was likely this meeting would take place in late September.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_