

Telford and Wrekin C.V.S.,
Meeting Point House,
Southwater Square,
Town Centre,
TELFORD,
Shropshire. TF3 4HS.

Tel: 01952 291350

**Notes of the Voluntary and Community Forum
held on Wednesday 28th January 2009
at Meeting Point House**

PRESENT

Mick Lloyd, Director, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Ella Sips, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Colleen Wickstead, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Sue Howe, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Lois Breen, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Bev Harris, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Annette Cooper, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Stephanie Chidlow, Gender Matters
R. Moseley, Gender Matters
Brenda Pettman, Friends of Telford Town Park
Peter Walker, British Red Cross & Live at Home
Denise Randell, Landau
Paula Holden, Belmont Community Hall, Wellington
Connie Jones, “ “ “ “
John Dixon, Telford & Wrekin Council
R. Wibrey, Shropshire Health Authority
Derek Tremayne, Newport Cottage Care Centre
W. Jeffs, Shropshire Male Chorus
A. McGill, Connected Group
Val Mann, Y.M.C.A.
Alan Hussey, Lawley & Overdale Parish Council
Anne Watkins, Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council
Eric Wiltshire, Randlay Pensioners Luncheon Club
Alan Evitts, “ “ “ “
Ann Fletcher, British Red Cross

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Clifford, Resources, Telford & Wrekin Council
Alan Taylor, Chief Fire Officer
Linda Cern, Telford Link

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Glenys Evans, Madeley Community Orchard Project; Mandy Garrott, Newport & District Swimming Club; Ironbridge & Severn Gorge Lions; Chris Turley, Wrekin & District Horticultural Society; Judy Lewis, Sutton Hill Families Group; Caia Bryant-Griffiths. Homestart; Colin Watt, NSPCC and Alan Bates, Edgmond Karate Club.

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mick Lloyd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. **NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2008**

These were agreed.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 The Christmas Fundraiser raised £180 towards the Grassroots Fund.

5. **COUNCIL BUDGET 2009/2010 CONSULTATION (Paul Clifford, Resources, Telford & Wrekin Council)**

Paul Clifford outlined the budget both for the current year and the future – 2009/2010, covering the following:

5.1 **2008/2009 Budget**

- Overall budget for 2008/2009 is £408 million covering 700 services.
- 14% comes from Council Tax and 66% from Government for the gross budget.
- 75% of the budget is spent on Children & Young People, Schools etc. and Adult Social Services - £166 million.
- Telford & Wrekin Council Tax is approximately £120 less than any other Shropshire local authority.

5.2 **Issues Faced**

- Pressures on vulnerable children and adults.
- Recession in financial markets/ currently high inflation.
- Housing market decline.
- Demands on Council services.

5.3 **Council Priorities**

- Long term economic prosperity and growth.

- Housing.
- Education.
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.
- Regeneration – borough towns and deprived communities.
- Crime, anti-social behaviour and alcohol misuse.

5.4 The Council now has a 3 year Investment Programme it will be maintaining:

- Concessionary Travel Service has not been extended due to possible costs and the deregulation rules. The issue is still being investigated and solutions sought.
- The Council will have to seek £400 million saving, including the £1 million for education for 2009/2010. This will probably increase for the future.
- Savings for the future are being investigated by the Council and reviews of all Council services will be undertaken.
- Government funding for local authorities is unsure for the future budget of 2011/2012.
- Final budget and Council Tax decisions will be made in March.

5.5 Issues Raised by the Forum

- Loss of Social Services funding over the years to social care voluntary organisations, leaving them with a shortfall.
- How the Council Tax is set – both by Government control and local political decisions, now limited by Government capping.
- What level of reserves the Council has for contingency in the future.
- Three storey housing property – costs for future adaptation could be costly. Are developers contributing to these costs?

Mick Lloyd thanked Paul Clifford for his time in coming to the Forum.

6. SHROPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE BUDGET PROPOSALS (Alan Taylor, Chief Fire Officer)

Alan outlined the budget proposed for Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority, covering the following:

- The Audit Commission has recognised the authority as one of the best performers in the county.
- Service costs for Telford & Wrekin is £78.39 as part of the Council Tax. The Fire Service costs 5% of the Council Tax in Shropshire.

- As with the Council, the budget for 2010/2011 will be difficult after the Government 3 year settlement.
- The authority will keep increases to 3.9% or below.
- Efficiencies of £150,000 per year will need to be found.
- Contingency plans will be continuously updated.

Alan was thanked for his presentation.

7. **THE LINK – TELFORD & WREKIN (Linda Cern)**

Link (Local Involvement Networks) was set up to provide support to local people and groups to comment on local health and social care services. They have been bringing a group together to look at the health services and providers.

7.1 **Powers of LINK**

- Ask questions and seek information from any health service provider – who then has a duty to respond.
- Go into any premises where health and social care services are provided.
- Opportunity to feed into the Annual Health Check Report – the Health Trust has to include these local voices/concerns in the plan.

Anyone who wants to get involved can contact the LINK to find out more.

Linda can be contacted by:

Telephone: 01952 614180

Fax: 01952 616983

Email: telfordandwrekinlink@staff.ac.uk

Web Address: telfordandwrekinlink.org.uk

8. **INFORMATION SHARE**

8.1 **Volunteer Centre – Beverly Introduced:**

- Annette Cooper – the new member of staff looking after volunteer interviews.
- Gave information on the Train to Gain NVQs.

- **Governance Support Network**

The Telford Infrastructure Consortium has received funding to set up a Governance Support Network for trustees, committee members etc. to get support on governance issues. Beverly will be carrying out consultation to find out what the sector needs. For more information contact her on **01952 2291350**.

8.2 West Mercia Police Authority – Community Policing Board Fund

Sue outlined the background to the fund and what can be funded. The fund has been set up to support community initiatives that might improve community safety and reduce crime. Grants can be up to £2,000 per annum.

For more information or an application form contact Sue on **01952 291350** or download from the website: www.tandwcvts.org.uk

8.3 Shropdoc

Following the visit of Shropdoc to the Forum last year, Elaine Edwards had written to the Forum to inform us of the improvements made after the consultation:

People wanted to know:

- to whom they are speaking;
- how long it will be before they are called back by a triage doctor or nurse;
- how the calls are prioritised.

Elaine also thanked the Forum for participating in the consultation.

9. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 20th May

Thursday 17th September

Tuesday 10th November

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT 10 A.M. AT MEETING POINT HOUSE, TELFORD TOWN CENTRE

SH/JH
30/01/09