

MADELEY PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee of Madeley Parish Council held on Monday, December 10th 2007 at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley, commencing at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: **Councillors: E Swift (Chair), D Davies, G Green, S Harrington, M. Swift, DP Taylor**
Deputy Parish Clerk

E07/27. **Apologies**
Councillor A MacKenzie - Illness - Approved

E07/28. **Declaration of Interest**
There were none

E07/29. **Remarks from the Chair**
There were none

E07/30. **Public Discussion**
There were no members of the public present.

E07/31. **Minutes**
to confirm and approve
Resolved:
that the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on October 8th 2007 be confirmed and approved

E07/32. **Finance**
to receive report of budgeted expenditure

32.1 Financial Comparison Report
to note actual monies received and spent compared to 2007/08 budget
The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Financial Comparison Report for the period to November 2007.
Noted

32.2 Budget 2008/09
to consider Budget requirements for 2008/09
Councillors discussed draft proposals for budgetary requirements 2008/09. Projections for the current year indicated that objectives could be met within budgeted allocation although the future of two projects for the Built Environment needed further debate prior to agreement on financial forecast for 2008/09.

E07/33.

Built Environment

to work in partnership with the Unitary Authority to monitor and improve public facilities and services. To report and play an active part in the resolution of areas of concern.

Business Plan Report

Councillors referred to the progress report on objectives for the Built Environment
Noted

- **Madeley Regeneration Partnership**

meeting held on November 29th 2007 to discuss proposals for initial bids –strategic and infrastructure

33.1 Boundary Signing

to consider funding requirement 2007/08

Although the original proposal was generated as part of a discussion on Regeneration with the Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council and Planning and Regeneration Officers, Madeley Regeneration Partnership expressed little interest. The proposal was referred back for reconsideration of funding under Telford & Wrekin Council 2for2 scheme for environmental improvements.

It was argued that the existing Boundary Signs were not adequate for purpose, did not properly indicate or define the correct geographical area of Madeley civic parish, and did not give a proper sense of identity as one community. Concern was stated that the project, despite possibility of partial external funding, would be perceived as extravagant aggrandisement, add to proliferation of signs, and undermine the status of the local centres of Sutton Hill and Woodside.

A resolution to defer consideration until completion of Madeley Centre redevelopment was defeated.

It was considered that the proposal not only had implications for all wards but also may influence consideration of the administrative area as a town rather than a parish.

Resolved:

to refer to Council with report for consideration, jointly or separately, to define the administrative area physically and/or by status

For budgetary purposes, it was noted that a sum of £5,000 had been earmarked within Reserves for Boundary Signing.

33.2 Street Cleansing

to consider options and finance for delivery of service 2008/09

The quotation received from Telford & Wrekin Services for the provision of a Footpath Sweeping Service was not financially viable without an agreed funding package.

Historically, Telford & Wrekin Council has not undertaken routine path sweeping within the Madeley civic parish and little provision is made with the core Environmental Maintenance Contract with Telford & Wrekin Services. There is no proposal to vary this element of the Contract.

The only programmed path sweeping service included is for strategic paths (Silkin Way, spinal footpaths Sutton Hill and Woodside) and zone 1 areas (District and Local Centres). This service level provides minimal offset for T&WS.

Funding under T&WC 2for1 is not practicable because of the need for a 5-year agreement.

Comparative quotations have been sought from public utility companies without response.

It was noted that current agreements for service delivery with Wellington TC and Great Dawley PC would expire in 2009.

It was considered that:

- a) cost breakdown of quotation from Telford & Wrekin Services should be obtained
- b) lobbying of Borough Council officers and members for support for enhanced service should continue

Resolved:

that the scheme lay dormant, subject to discussions with potential partners, for re-presentation prior to 2009 financial year

For budgetary purposes, it was agreed that the existing financial provision of £7,000 be allocated to Environmental Projects 2008/09

Resolved:

that the revised draft budget proposals be recommended to Finance & General Purposes Committee

E07/34.

Natural Environment

to work with partners and the local community to improve the wildlife value and public enjoyment of the natural environment in the parish.

Business Plan Report

Councillors referred to the progress report on objectives for the Natural Environment Noted.

- **Spring Clean 2008**

Councillors agreed that the campaign should have a public launch in 2008 with the active involvement of Councillors. It was considered that the profile of the campaign could be better publicised – with the possibility of inclusion of a ‘highlights’ day.

Launch date to be agreed by February 2008

Councillors suggested that an expansion of recycling opportunity could be examined.

34.1 Telford & Wrekin Council – Scrutiny Commission 2

to consider scoping document for review of Managing Biodiversity

The scoping document for ‘Managing Biodiversity’ advised a review of:

- the benefits and drawbacks of biodiversity for the local environment and local communities
- how biodiversity will feed into the Green Spaces Strategy
- the reasons for the decline of SSSIs within local authority ownership
- the management and condition of other wildlife sites

Representations to be submitted by February 11th 2007

Councillors considered invitation to members of Scrutiny Commission 2 to discuss issues – assessment, management, Biodiversity Action Plan guidance, and local action plan delivery – but decided that written submission would be more appropriate.

Response to be drafted for approval.

34.2 Green Day 2008

to consider event proposal with Madeley Community Orchard

Committee members considered a proposal to amalgamate the annual Green Day event with planned activities at Madeley Community Orchard – an initiative that would combine resource, promote the Orchard following its successful Lottery funding, and assist with achievement of targets.

Councillors noted the desire for change, event relocation, and new management but concluded that the Green Day identity had been slowly and effectively developed into a highly successful event, the location in Madeley Park allowed for continued expansion and change (acknowledged in budget provision), and could be enhanced by link with Madeley Community Orchard activities.

34.3 South Telford Environmental Partnership

to receive project proposal update

The Committee received an up-dated project description for the South Telford Environmental Partnership proposal – with aims and objectives defined to achieve ‘Access to Nature’ targets and refined following liaison meeting with Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust, and The Green Wood Centre (with whom the possibility of a joint funding bid was under discussion)

(It was noted that the capacity of STROWP to undertake the maintenance function for Rights of Way had been emasculated after the allocation to capital projects of £50,000 per annum for a 5-year term under Telford & Wrekin Council’s Local Transport Plan and the loss of ‘Gateway’ funding from Severn Gorge Countryside Trust. Whilst a survey and reporting function would inform maintenance and development programmes, investment was not possible under the current resource)

The South Telford Environmental Partnership concept had been developed by STROWP Project Officer to access external funding and expand work on interpretation and promotion, education and community, into Green Spaces (linked by the Rights of Way network).

The need for 10% cash match funding for the outline proposal of £70,000pa for 5-year term was noted. A verbal offer of support had been received from Telford & Wrekin Council, Cabinet Member for Community Services, but this could not be guaranteed. It was requested that an Environmental Projects budget of the Environment Committee be established to underwrite the bid.

34.4 Telford & Wrekin Council – Strategy for Climate Change

to consider volunteering for links with local communities

Telford & Wrekin Council (Climate Change Team) are seeking to consult on development of a Climate Change Strategy and are seeking to link with volunteer Parish/Town Councils to explore working together with local communities.

DEFRA publication for Parish/Town Councils – Ways to Tackle Climate Change – was circulated.

Councillors considered it of consequence to carry influence on an important issue providing for community involvement.

Resolved:

that Madeley Parish Council volunteers for development of community link as part of the Climate Change Strategy

E07/35.

Planning

to protect community interests and where possible, gain community benefit through an active response to planning applications and preparation of a development brief for supplementary planning guidance.

Business Plan Report

Councillors were referred to the progress report on objectives for Planning
Noted.

- **Screen Planting – Woodside Roundabout**

Permission was requested, and granted, to publicise the failure of Telford & Wrekin Council, Environmental Services, to undertake screen planting of the 0² telecoms installation at Woodside Roundabout in accord with provisions of planning permission.

35.1 Planning Applications

to receive report of submissions under delegated powers

A register of planning applications received was circulated to members weekly. A report of representations made under delegated authority was presented for information.

Noted.

- **W2007/1545**

Land adjacent to 17 Ironbridge Road, Madeley
Erection of 2no. semi detached dwellings with associated parking and alterations to existing vehicular access.

It was noted that this application was to amend planning permission W2007/0372. The design changes to the proposed dwelling brought a higher degree of conformity to the existing streetscape.

35.2 Telford & Wrekin Council – Planning & Environment

to consider invitation to Head of Development & Design for presentation

Members agreed to invite Telford & Wrekin Council, Head of Development & Design, to address the Committee on planning issues and areas of concern – consistency, enforcement, conservation area

E07/36.

Heritage

to work with partners to promote, improve and protect the heritage of Madeley Parish in general and the designated World Heritage Site in particular.

Business Plan Report

Councillors were referred to the progress report on objectives for Heritage
Noted.

36.1 WHS Management Plan Review

to comment on proposals

The Management Plan for the Ironbridge Gorge WHS is under review.

It is intended that the review focuses on sections of the existing plan:

- Description and Significance of the WHS
- Management of the WHS
- Identification and Evaluation of Key Management Issues
- Action Plan
- Implementation

Councillors noted the possibility of change to the present boundary of the WHS (to protect the significance Madeley Court and its environs from the impact of development) and the opportunity to include the Lee Dingle Project in the Action Plan as the only Parish Council lead project

E07/37. Correspondence

- 37.1 Telford & Wrekin Council**
Local Development Framework – PD Consultation
Shop Fronts and Signage Design Guidance in Conservation Areas
Circulated to Committee members
Noted.
- 37.2 Telford & Wrekin Council**
Local Development Framework – Scoping Report Consultation
Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment
Noted.

E07/38. Information

- 38.1 Severn Gorge Countryside Trust**
Review 2006/07
- 38.2 Telford & Wrekin Council**
Tree Preservation Order – Westerkirk Drive

E07/39. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environment Committee of Madeley Parish Council is scheduled for Monday, February 4th 2008 at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley, commencing at 6.30pm.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Dated: