

MADELEY PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee of Madeley Parish Council held on Monday, October 9th 2006 at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley, commencing at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: D Davies, J Rowland, E Swift, DP Taylor
Deputy Parish Clerk,
C Hallam, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust – Volunteering
Eight members of the public

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Councillor DP Taylor presided

E06/13. Apologies

Councillor R Evans	-	Work commitments	-	Approved
Councillor G Green	-	Work commitments	-	Approved
Councillor C Muddiman	-	Family commitment	-	Approved
Councillor M Swift	-	SGCT Meeting	-	Approved

E06/14. Declaration of Interest

Councillor E Swift declared an interest in matters relating to Wrekin Housing Trust

E06/15. Remarks from the Chair

The Chair welcomed local residents and explained the terms of public discourse at Parish Council meetings and minor local authority responsibilities arising

E06/16. Public Discussion

A number a residents from Station Road, Madeley, attended the meeting in order to bring to attention local problems relating to disturbance, supervision, and management at the Telford Christian Council housing project at Clews Wood Court, Station Road, Madeley.

Residents explained that they have suffered over a prolonged period from late night disturbance and noise, and are concerned at the possibility of alleged criminal behaviour and a breach of planning conditions that stated that the premises should “be used for the accommodation of single mothers and their babies and for no other purpose” in the interests of the amenity of the area. West Mercia Police has been called out on numerous occasions to deal with problems at this address.

Councillors agreed to facilitate a meeting involving both parties and other support agencies to resolve issues. It was proposed that a meeting be convened at Jubilee House commencing at 6.30pm on a suitable date.

E06/17. Severn Gorge Countryside Trust – Volunteering

Presentation by Carrie Hallam, SGCT Volunteer Co-ordinator

The Severn Gorge Countryside Trust Volunteering project has been developed with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund, Esmee Fairburn Foundation, Madeley Parish Council, and Broseley Town Council to involve local people in its management and conservation of local woodland and countryside.

Since the start of the scheme (July 2006) infrastructure works (9), guided walks (5), management and conservation (7) projects have been completed and 31 volunteers registered (50% from the local area) – one of whom is taking a course in Environment Conservation NVQ Level 2. The 3-month summer Volunteering programme is followed by a published 6-month Autumn/Winter programme which has been distributed to local outlets – Community Volunteer Service, community centres, libraries, community groups – and posted to website. All events are promoted through Press articles, posters, displays, and e-mail group.

Several footpath improvement projects have been identified with STROWP, both on SGCT sites and neighbouring areas, to upgrade access links. BTCV Telford Green Gym is delivering two practical activities per month.

The Volunteering project is working with Woodside Green Spaces Group to plan a project on hedge restoration, and with Woodside Family Groups to organise family activities.

Severn Gorge Countryside Trust Volunteering project is funded for an initial 3-year term and, through its remit, provides opportunities for improvement, access, and promotion for an invaluable local resource.

E06/18. Minutes

to confirm and approve

Councillor D Davies presented the draft minutes of the July 2006 meeting of the Environment Committee

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on July 4th 2006 be confirmed and approved

E06/19. Finance

19.1 Financial Comparison Report

to note actual monies received and spent compared to 2006/07 budget

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Financial Comparison Report for the period to September 2006.

Noted

19.2 Vire Report

to consider revision of budgets

The Responsible Finance Officer reported that the budget for Green Day had been increased to allow for a degree of expansion as it secures its position as an annual, community event organised by Madeley Parish Council.

The late withdrawal of a community based activity group had necessitated contracting- in alternative demonstration/display to fill the void. This had increased projected expenditure.

Councillors noted the increased attendance at this year's event but requested that organisers be informed for the Feedback meeting and noted that budget for 2007/08 should be subject to limiting control

Recommended:

that the Green Day budget should be increased by vire of £1,330 from the Spring Clean and Madeley Community Orchard budgets

E06/20.

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

- **Street Lighting**

Meeting with Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Street Lighting Officer, scheduled for 10.10.06 to discuss capital programme for schemes at Park Street, Madeley and on Sutton Hill.

- **Bus Shelters**

Councillor D Davies, Madeley Parish Council representative on Telford Bus Users Group, requested a copy of the survey report

- **Environmental Maintenance**

It was noted that Borough of Telford & Wrekin had re-organised the Environmental Maintenance Client Officer base – officer will have responsibility for the civic parishes of Madeley and Ironbridge

- **Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Environment & Regeneration**

Details of the scoping document for review of "Council policy on street lighting including highway, footway and amenity lighting" had been obtained and circulated to Councillors for information

20.1 Madeley District Centre

to consider long term regeneration priorities

Councillors considered a report of meeting between Officers and senior members and officers from Borough of Telford & Wrekin as part of the review of Regeneration of Local and District Centres. The review will form a basis for future plans and investment.

It was noted that:

- a fulsome list of s106 Planning Obligation requirements had been submitted in response to development proposals for Madeley Centre
- the public transport demands for South Telford require an appropriate Bus Terminus in Madeley
- public, in-store toilet facilities have been assured
- the linked and extended street lighting scheme should be developed and advocated

20.2 Strategy – Boundary signage for Civic Parish

to draft proposals for design, locations, installation and partnership

Strategy Review had indicated that Madeley suffered a problem of identity; District Centre review supported the need to reinforce identity. Councillors accepted that local disparity created separate entities.

Resolved:

that officers be tasked with presenting costed report on the design, location (principal and non-principal roads), permissions, and installation of boundary signage for the civic parish

20.3 Strategy – Path Sweeping

to consider preparation of a partnership proposal

Strategy Review had identified an Environmental Maintenance service requirement that could be addressed through partnership with Borough of Telford & Wrekin.

Councillors considered a report on footway cleansing (Appendix A)

The current area service frequency is an allocation of 4wks per year delivered on an ad hoc basis. Strategy Review identified this service as insufficient to meet customer demand and Environmental Officer reports record deteriorating standards

Resolved:

that officers be tasked to examine proposal for partnership agreement to lease path sweeping vehicle and operator over 5-year term to deploy within Madeley civic parish on a programme and schedule developed to account for local need

20.4 Accessibility

to assist enquiry into improvement of condition of permissive footpath

Enquiry by local resident has questioned condition and status of local pedestrian route that links St Michael's Road and Church Street (and District Centre). The footpath is accessed by steps leading from St Michael's Road – these are in poor condition and difficult to surmount by wheelchairs and/or pushchairs.

Borough of Telford & Wrekin has advised that this route is not a public footpath and is privately owned.

Officers have established land ownership and permission was sought to approach landowner to seek remedial works and improvement of access. Whilst it was noted that such action may result in increased awareness of public liability and produce adverse result, Councillors considered it reasonable to contact property owner on behalf of residents.

20.5 Recycling

to consider proposal for Schools recycling competition

Councillors considered an outline proposal for adoption of a Re-Cycling through Education scheme.

It was noted that Madeley Projects Officer was already closely involved with primary and secondary schools in delivering the annual 'Spring Clean' campaign.

The proposal for an annual competition for schools re-cycling and local environmental cleansing was meritorious. Schools would register and data on 'non-recyclable' volumes could be recorded, and periodic litter surveys, could be assessed against re-cycled quantities and balanced according to school numbers. A Local Authority partnership with external sponsorship could promote, manage and fund the scheme.

Councillors questioned that the scheme could be incorporated within existing campaigns and were aware that Officer capacity to organise the scheme was limited due to workload. A feasibility report would be required.

20.6 Telecommunications Masts

to note Scrutiny 2 report to Borough of Telford & Wrekin Cabinet and response

Councillors received the report of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission (2) review of Policy on the siting of Mobile Telecommunications Masts, and the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Cabinet, response to 44 recommendations.

Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Planning & Environment Service had submitted a consultation draft of Planning Policy and Procedure for Telecommunications Development. Subject to approval, this will provide the basis for determining planning applications for telecommunications masts until the new Local Development Framework is adopted.
Noted.

E06/21. 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.

- **Madeley Community Orchard**
Big Lottery Fund, Reaching Communities, application due for submission by October 24th 2006
- **Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order (Meadow Pit Mound)**
Planning Inspector has advised that Inquiry will not be taking place as there is sufficient information to enable a decision to be reached. A copy of the decision will be forwarded
- **Madeley Court Local Nature Reserve**
Borough of Telford & Wrekin has advised that there are three sites under consideration for declaration as a Local Nature Reserve. Granville and Lodge Field will be progressed first as mine survey requirements and discussions with Telford Trust continue for the Madeley Court site. Submission of declaration to Natural England is expected in 2007.

21.1 Vehicle

to confirm vehicle management and lease agreement

Councillors considered a report presented on the acquisition of a replacement vehicle based on the resolution of Council in July 2006 (Appendix B)

Councillor E Swift declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest and received dispensation to take part and vote in the meeting

Councillors noted the need for a change in original specification of the vehicle and officers report on suitability. Discussion centred on the Engine variants and load capacity.

Liquid Petroleum Gas produces much lower emissions and is cheaper but the additional tank reduces load capacity

Resolved:

that the Responsible Finance Officer be given delegated authority to conclude and complete Vehicle Hire Agreement for provision of Ford Transit Connect LWB Petrol/LPG Bi-fuel Van with Wrekin Housing Trust subject to availability.

21.2 STROWP

to consider Borough of Telford & Wrekin response to joint-working proposal

Verbal report of STROWP meeting held on October 4th 2006

Dawley Hamlets PC representatives had failed to attend to present proposal for joint-working with Borough of Telford & Wrekin to secure future sustainability of the project. Partners discussed aims and objectives, duties and responsibilities and financial concerns with Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Highway Network Manager and Rights of Way Officer.

A further meeting is to be arranged to receive response.

21.3 Shropshire Wildlife Trust – Madeley Green Spaces Project

to receive final report

Shropshire Wildlife Trust had forwarded a copy of the Madeley Green Spaces Project final report submitted to Heritage Lottery on achievement of aims.

Noted

21.4 O2 Community Fund

to consider project ideas for application

Telecommunications network company O2 has launched a new community fund with criteria suitable for parish council application.

Details were supplied and Councillors were asked to submit suitable project ideas for consideration:

- Woodside Green Spaces Group – hedgerow restoration
- STROWP – footpath improvements
- Bulb planting of native species – bluebells, primroses – at suitable sites
- Madeley Community Orchard – equipment

It was considered that this funding opportunity for community groups, open until July 2007, should be promoted through the Newsletter.

E06/22.

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.

- Madeley Centre re-development application W2006/0938
Principal Planning Officer - Major Projects has left the Planning Authority. Case Officer responsibility transferred to Area Planning Officer.

22.1 Planning Sub-Committee

to receive reports submitted under delegated powers

Representations made in the period July to September 2006 were presented in written report.

Noted

22.2 Planning Enforcement

to consider of Breaches of Condition in Conservation Area

(a) Premier Stores, High Street, Madeley

Breach of condition notice issued 16.06.2006 – unauthorised signage to shop front

(b) Pizza Palace, High Street, Madeley

Environmental Health Officer in discussion with new owner to reduce height of extraction flue installed without planning permission

(c) Dreams (Hairdresser), High Street, Madeley

Change of Use classification and installation of satellite dish on roof to rear of premises

(d) The Old School House, 17 Church Street, Madeley

Breach of condition no.6 to planning permission W2005/0823 + W2005/0880 – hard and soft landscaping proposals

Noted.

22.3 Planning Applications

to make representations on planning applications received

*Councillor E Swift declared a prejudicial interest and was unable to take part in the meeting
The meeting was declared inquorate*

22.3.1 W2006/1153

Land off Park Lane, Woodside

Erection of a 47no. unit sheltered care scheme with communal facilities for Wrekin Housing Trust

Planning application for the replacement of the former Wilton Court and Wenlock Court with a single block sheltered care scheme was referred for consideration under delegated powers.

*Councillor E Swift rejoined the meeting
The meeting was declared quorate*

22.3.2 W2006/0130

Timsbury House, Wrekin View, Madeley
Erection of two no. 2 bed semi-detached and two no. 3 bed detached houses with construction of new vehicular access
Appeal against decision to refuse planning permission
Noted

E06/23.

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.

- **Buildings of Local Interest**

It was suggested that GIS references be noted against register entry

23.1 IBG World Heritage Site Strategy Group

to receive minutes of IBG WHS Strategy Group meeting July 2006

Minutes of the Ironbridge Gorge WHS Strategy Group meeting held on July 26th 2006 had been circulated to Councillors for information.
Noted.

23.2 Madeley Park to Lee Dingle Project

to note letters of support

Letters of support for the Project had been received from:

David Wright MP

Borough of Telford & Wrekin, World Heritage Site Co-ordinator

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Noted.

E06/24.

Correspondence

24.1 Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Consumer Services

Emergency Service – Environmental Health

Response to representation

Noted

24.2 Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council

Briefing note on the South Telford Heritage Trail Project

Noted

24.3 Dawley Hamlets Parish Council

Mobile Telephone Masts – Policy Review

Noted – no further action

24.4 Borough of Telephone & Wrekin, Environment & Regeneration

Local Development Framework – Core Strategy and Waste Policies & Proposals public exhibition – Jubilee House, Madeley, October 11th 2006

Noted

E06/25. Information

- 25.1** Jacobs Babbie
 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Long Lane Drive, Madeley
 Signs application
- 25.2** Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Legal Services
 Tree Preservation Order – 27 Hermitage Way, Madeley
- 25.3** Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Legal Services
 Tree Preservation Order – land to south of 67 Lees Farm Drive, Madeley
- 25.4** Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Environment
 Local Development Framework – Waste Policies & Proposals DPD
 Local Development Framework – Core Strategy DPD
- 25.5** Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Environment
 Local Development Framework – Local Development Scheme
 Local Development Framework – Statement of Community Involvement
- 25.6** Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Environment
 Local Development Framework – Minerals Development Plan
 consultation report
- 25.7** Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Legal Services
 Tree preservation Order – open space at Mayfield, Madeley

E06/26. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environment Committee of Madeley Parish Council is scheduled for Monday, December 4th 2006 at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley, commencing at 6.30pm.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed:

Dated:

(Chair)

FOOTWAY CLEANSING

(discussion with Wellington TC Clerk – 14.07.06)

Purpose

Investigation emanated from discussions over Environment work programme for 2006/07 and how to take advantage of BT&W 2for1 scheme.

Monitoring of cleanliness standards has established deterioration of levels especially on Sutton Hill/Hills Lane

The provision of an enhanced service would be a highly visible and direct investment into these areas

Wellington

Wellington town centre is subject to BT&W Zone 1 standard for cleansing of footways

Basic service standard:

Town Centre and Car Parks = daily (2hrs)

Outlying areas = weekly rota

Originally Wellington TC directly employed part-time manual labour to maintain a high standard of litter and cleanliness within the Civic Parish. This service was limited and demand exceeded capacity.

A Pavement Sweeper was purchased to mechanise and increase the efficiency of the service but this proved to be too costly (running costs, servicing/repairs, parts, etc)

In 1999, Wellington TC entered into a partnership agreement with BT&W/TWS to lease a Pavement Sweeper (including qualified driver services, vehicle management, storage, and disposal of arisings) at an annual fixed cost of £14,000.

This provides a 37-hr week service (Mon-Thurs 6am-1.45pm; Fri 6am-2.45pm).

All permissions, Health & Safety regulation, and Risk Assessment are responsibility of contractor

The vehicle bears Wellington TC livery

Cleaning zones are by geographic area established by local council and contractor.

All footpaths receive cleansing service 8 times per year (exceptions if hot-spots arise, work direction subject to notifiable change)

By 2005 contract value was £21,000pa based on 5-year fixed term agreement.

This service has been enhanced by BT&W under 2for1 scheme (WTC @ £14,000/BT&W £7,000) which also gives added value of Pressure Washer service for 12wks per annum (subject to shared demand)

Proposal

Similar partnership agreement but taking into account local (more compact) geography of Madeley Civic Parish.

Establish current service levels – Note: Path sweeping not a routine component of TWS contract – on identified location need only basis

Costing for enhanced service – Note: Contribution from Woodside Regeneration

This service will meet a particular need on the Estates of Sutton Hill/Hills Lane and Woodside

Possibility of partnership funding – Woodside Regeneration

Possibility of co-operation with Stirchley & Brookside PC (similar needs)

JMM

14.08.2006

VEHICLE SPECIFICATION

Madeley Parish Council has agreed in principle to a partnership agreement with Wrekin Housing Trust for the lease of a vehicle over a 4-year term.

Prior to enactment of standard Vehicle Hire Agreement, copy attached, a demonstrator was provided to ensure that specification was suitable for requirements. For capacity, loading height, and conformity to Euro4 emissions standard, a Ford Transit 300 SWB, 2.0 Tdi, low roof version with fitted interior was provided. The dimensions of this vehicle proved to be incompatible with the current garage facility – posing a Health & Safety problem. Subsequently, a Ford Transit Connect Van, LWB, High roof was provided for comparison purposes.

Officers were given the opportunity to inspect both vehicles. Both were deemed appropriate to carry out the functions required.

For information, the Ford Connect Van is available in a 1796cc Petrol/LPG Bi-fuel version (although this does reduce payload to 632kg from diesel version at 900kg)

It is considered that the Ford Connect Van is >95% suitable for requirements – accessories would increase fitness and exceptional requirements could be met through agreed vehicle loan from WHT.

Recommendation

That the Responsible Finance Officer be given delegated authority to conclude and complete Vehicle Hire Agreement for provision of Ford Connect LWB Van with Wrekin Housing Trust.

JMM
06.10.06