

MADELEY PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee of Madeley Parish Council held on Monday, October 8th 2007 at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley, commencing at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: **Councillors: E Swift (Chair), M. Swift, DP Taylor**
Deputy Parish Clerk, Madeley Project Officer
Council S Law

E07/14. **Apologies**
Councillor G Green - Work commitment - Approved
Councillor S Harrington - Work commitment - Approved
Councillor A MacKenzie - Meeting commitment - Approved

E07/15. **Declaration of Interest**
There were none

E07/16. **Remarks from the Chair**
The Chair commented on the success of Madeley Green Day held on Sunday, September 30th 2007 – the attendance and participation and the positive, impromptu, feedback.
The Chair welcomed Cllr. S Law and, following expression of interest in the work of the Committee, it was:
Resolved:
that Councillor S Law be co-opted as a member of the Environment Committee for the duration of the meeting

E07/17. **Public Discussion**
There were no members of the public present.

E07/18. **Minutes**
to confirm and approve
Resolved:
that the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on June 21st 2007 be confirmed and approved

E07/19. **Finance**
to receive report of budgeted expenditure

19.1 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 September 2007.
Noted

E07/20.

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

- **Scrutiny**

Telford & Wrekin Council, Scrutiny Commission 2 (Environment & Regeneration) work programme had been revised following change of administration. In-depth review of Public Rights of Way service had been cut and replaced by study of Newport High Street Local Safety Scheme.

20.1 District Centre Regeneration

to consider proposals for District Centre Regeneration funding

Telford & Wrekin Council, District Centres Regeneration criteria for annual Grant scheme has still to be approved. It is intended that projects should aim to address local concerns (to raise residents' satisfaction levels), enhance environmental quality, improve social and community facilities, attract increased economic activity and investment.

Regeneration Partnerships are principle eligible bodies

Inaugural meeting of Madeley Regeneration Partnership held on Thursday, October 4th 2007. Membership will support a broad spectrum of local interest led by Madeley Parish Council.

Madeley Parish Council strategy meeting highlighted environmental issues

High Priority:

Path Sweeping

Planning Services

Medium Priority:

Boundary signage

Streetscene

Town Green

Business premises

Draft criteria for grants for District Centre schemes and summary of Madeley Parish Council priorities circulated for information.

20.2 Local Development Framework – Strategic Housing Land

The current Local Development Plan includes selected elements of the Wrekin Local Plan 1995-2006 saved until 2007. The assessment of availability of housing land is required to identify the capacity of Telford & Wrekin Council to accommodate new housing development over the Local Development Plan period. This presents an opportunity to be involved in the assessment and shape the appraisal.

The South Telford Area Action Plan is scheduled for consultation in early 2008 and will have an allocation of 1400 net new dwellings in the plan period to 2021.

Information from the Borough Annual Land Statement 2006 (Residential Land summary) identifies few outstanding development sites. Sites are considered suitable if they offer a location for development and would contribute to the creation of sustainable, mixed communities.

Sites identified through the consultation process will be surveyed for developability and deliverability.

Members undertook a desk-top exercise to consider sites and produce a suggestions map for circulation to full committee membership.

It was requested that enquiry be made to English Partnerships on residential land holding in the civic parish and release schedule **and** that Telford & Wrekin Council should consider reclassification of land at Halesfield.

E07/21. 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.

- **Path Sweeping**

Contract specification to be drafted and comparative quotations requested from alternative public sector contractors

- **Madeley Green Day**

Feedback meeting arranged for October 19th 2007

- **Green Spaces**

Natural England has launched 'Access to Nature' fund – programme to commence January 2008

- **Rights of Way**

Telford & Wrekin Council, Rights of Way service re-organised from October 2007
New officer appointed for South Telford area

Agreed to seek electronic publication of (Definitive Map) Register of Applications - Public Rights of Way (Register of Applications under s53(5) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)(England) Regulations 2005

- **Wildlife Sites**

Appeal against refusal of planning permission for development of Green Network site at Bridgnorth Road, Madeley (adjacent to Tweedale Woods Wildlife Site) has been dismissed.

21.1 Spring Clean 2007

to view (extract) DVD production

Madeley Project Officer presented extract from the DVD production of Spring Clean 2007.

The project was outside the scope of normal activities relating to the clean up of green spaces and school campuses within Madeley civic parish. Spring Clean fills a gap in Environmental Service provision and provides an opportunity for education of participants. This is particularly important yet demanding in Secondary schools. The performance video and subsequent school assembly discussion is a useful tool in reaching difficult age groups and a positive enduring contribution to improving the quality of the local environment. Councillors considered that further editing could make the DVD suitable for presentation to a primary school audience.

21.2 Madeley Community Orchard

to confirm agreement for support services

The Responsible Finance Officer sought advice on adoption of a Service Level Agreement between Madeley Parish Council and Madeley Community Orchard Group in order to formalise the relationship between site management and support services.

A comprehensive service level agreement is an essential requirement for the provision or receipt of any important service. It defines the parameters for the delivery of the service for the benefit of both parties

The successful funding bid to The Big Lottery Fund has drawn down revenue funding of £76,730 over a 5-year term that provides for the part-time employment of a Project Officer to deliver agreed outcomes of site development, volunteer co-ordination, community liaison and outreach, events, and education.

Madeley Parish Council will provide match funding of £24,000 over the Funding period 2008-2013. This will be contractually accounted – subject to variable cost allowance and annual review.

Agreement to be confirmed with The Big Lottery Fund.

21.3 Local Nature Reserve Declaration

to note and submit representation on proposals for LNR declaration

Telford & Wrekin Council is processing declaration of Madeley Court as a Local Nature Reserve.

Local Nature Reserves are for both people and wildlife. They are places for wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply enjoy them. LNR status indicates a reasonable degree of natural interest and high value in a local context for enjoyment of nature by the public. LNR status raises the profile of an area and could draw in additional funds for conservation and protection.

Madeley civic parish has several areas that meet the criteria and are considered capable of management. The proximity of these sites in the urban fringe adjacent to areas of social deprivation is an important consideration. Pit mound sites are located at Blists Hill/Legges Way, Hills Lane, Meadow, and Tweedale (Woodside pit mound has been lost to residential development; Tweedale pit mound is a designated Wildlife Site; all pit mounds are part of the Green Network. Natural England has confirmed that it would be possible to make a single declaration for multiple, defined sites based on outline management proposals and subject to evaluation.

Resolved:

that Madeley Parish Council supports a proposal to declare **Madeley Pit Mounds** as a collective Local Nature Reserve to cover Madeley Court, Blists Hill, Hills Lane, Meadow and Tweedale locations to be presented under a phased programme (commencing with Madeley Court)

21.4 Russell Green

to consider development proposal

Russell Green was originally conveyed into public ownership in 1969 with a covenant that restricted its purpose to a “grassed and landscaped area with footpaths and public access”

Due to its location close to the centre of Madeley, Russell Green has been a recreational amenity for the general community. In the face of development proposals in 2001, Madeley Parish Council responded to a community desire to protect the land as a recreational amenity for public benefit. Consultation with local residents provided ample evidence of recreational use and resulted in registration as a town Green in 2006.

Whilst the land has long been in public ownership and management it has remained undeveloped. It was considered that Madeley Parish Council should seek external funds in order to embark on a scheme to enhance its appearance and to properly fulfil its role as a landscaped Town Park.

The aim and long term vision is that "Every community should have access to a well designed and maintained public park with opportunities for enjoyment and recreation for all". This would reinforce its position as an intrinsic part of the town core and realise improvement within the timescale of radical commercial plans for the re-development of Madeley District Centre. Russell Green would form an important transition between the Town and its residential and secondary retail areas where commerce, cultural facilities, leisure and employment come together.

Resolved:

that quotations be sought from selected landscape design contractors for consultation and design brief, site survey and analysis, to Concept Drawing and Costing stage.

E07/22.

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.

- **Planning Enforcement**

Outstanding complaints on unauthorised development within the Conservation Area had been resolved.

- **Development Control**

Agreed that compliance be sought with landscape planting conditions attached to planning permission W2005/1090 for telecoms installation at Woodside Roundabout

22.1 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.

E07/23.

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.

E07/24. Correspondence

24.1 Telford & Wrekin Council

Local Development Framework – Telecommunication SPD Consultation
Circulated to Committee members
Noted.

24.2 Telford & Wrekin Council

Local Development Framework – Central Telford Area Action Plan Consultation
Noted.

E07/25. Information

25.1 DEFRA

Ways to Tackle Climate Change – Local Authorities

25.2 Friends of Telford Town Park

Minutes of meeting held on September 19th 2007

E07/26. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environment Committee of Madeley Parish Council is scheduled for Monday, December 10th 2007 at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley, commencing at 6.30pm.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Dated: