

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the
Community Governance Review Sub-Committee
held on Thursday, 22nd September, 2011 at Committee Suite 1, 2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor D Marren (Chairman)
Councillor P Groves (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors G Baxendale, R Cartlidge, B Murphy and P Whiteley

Officers

Lindsey Parton, Registration Services and Business Manager
Natalie Bown, Policy Officer, Performance and Partnerships
Paul Mountford, Democratic Services Officer
Dawn Clark, Crewe LAP Manager
Lesley Seal, Communications
Jamie Oliver, Media Relations Officer

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Roy Cartlidge declared a personal interest as Mayor of Crewe.

13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th August 2011 be approved as a correct record.

14 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

15 PROJECT PLAN AND TIMETABLE

A revised project plan and timetable was circulated at the meeting.

The timetable had been put back to allow for additional public engagement to be arranged in October and November 2011.

RESOLVED

That the revised project plan and timetable be noted and approved.

16 OUTCOME OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

It was reported that the first public consultation meeting, held in the evening on Thursday, 15th September, had been poorly attended, with only two people present. The second meeting, held in the afternoon on Friday, 16th September had attracted 16 people and a wide range of questions had been asked. A record of both meetings would be included in the feedback on the Stage 1 consultation.

Members considered whether additional public meetings should be held or whether an alternative approach was needed.

Dawn Clark informed Members that a series of community events in Crewe would take place between 24th October and 6th November and could be used as a means of raising awareness and seeking further feedback on the community governance review.

Members asked if a road show could also be arranged in Crewe Town Centre on a Friday and Saturday. The Officers confirmed that a static road show could be arranged, manned by Officers trained in public engagement.

RESOLVED

That no further public consultation meetings be held but the alternative proposal of using the planned community events in Crewe as a means of publicising the community governance review, and the holding of a road show in Crewe Town Centre on a Friday and Saturday, be pursued.

17 PUBLIC INFORMATION LEAFLET

The Policy Officer, with assistance from the Communications Team, had produced a revised draft information leaflet which had taken on board comments on a previous version.

Members discussed whether the leaflet needed to go to all households or whether it should instead be circulated to representative community groups.

Members felt that the leaflet in its current format would be too lengthy for many people and that a short, punchy single-sided leaflet would be more likely to engage people's attention. This could then be supplemented with a more detailed document containing further background information for those who wished to know more.

RESOLVED

That the Officers develop a brief, punchy information leaflet on a single sheet of paper, and a back-up document containing more detailed

background information, and circulate both to Members of the Sub-Committee for comments.

18 EXISTING COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS IN CREWE

Members received a paper on the existing community governance arrangements in Crewe. The current arrangements included the Crewe Local Area Partnership, which brought together a wide range of people from the statutory, private, voluntary, faith and community sectors across Crewe with a view to delivering improved outcomes for local people, ensuring that people influenced decision-making and actively engaging and empowering communities. There were also a wide range of voluntary and community groups within the Crewe area.

RESOLVED

That the paper be noted.

The meeting commenced at 4.20 pm and concluded at 5.20 pm

Councillor D Marren (Chairman)