

## PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

Wednesday, 9th March, 2016

<b>Present:-</b>	Councillor Bert Proctor – in the Chair
Councillors	Rout and Williams.
Parish Councillors	Davies, Harrison, Kelly, Pimlott, Vallings and Webb
Parish Clerks	Mrs Hassall, Mrs Kinson, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Sudlow, Mrs Watkins and Mrs Withington

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Welsh.

### 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest stated.

### 3. **JOINT LOCAL PLAN ISSUES CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

A presentation was given by the Council's Planning Policy Manager regarding the Joint Local Plan. The purpose of the presentation was to make Parish Council's aware of the current consultation process and to encourage them to engage in the process which ends on 29 March, 2016.

The Chair expressed that it was incumbent on Parish Councillors to get involved in their own areas. Each Parish Council should take time out to complete the online document to ensure that their views are heard.

The Planning Policy Manager directed Members to the Web page and to eight topics contained within the document. Members were advised to read the key messages and key challenges and to look at the evidence in the technical papers.

The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation.

**Resolved:** That the information be received and the comments noted.

### 4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Neighbourhood Planning – Support for Parishes.

Members were advised that a report on this item would be going to the Cabinet on 16 March, 2016 and therefore officers were awaiting the Cabinet's decision. In addition, there was also the possibility that the item could be called-in and open to Scrutiny.

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If Parish Councils wished to raise any issues, they should approach their Borough Council representative who have the opportunity to raise any issues as a question to the Cabinet.

**Resolved:** That the information be received and the comments noted.

Planning Enforcement

The Council's Head of Planning Services asked Members for more direction on the issues that they would like to discuss.

Parish Councillor Jim Vallings stated that, at the previous meeting the issue had been raised about a proposed new Enforcement Officer post in the Planning Department. Parish Councillor Vallings said that he had hoped that someone would have been in place by now. A request was made that this item be put onto the next agenda.

**Resolved:** That the information be received and the comments noted.

Premise Licence Applications

This issue had been raised following the Whitmore Festival. Members were advised that any issues relating to this should be directed to the Licensing Committee.

**Resolved:** That the information be received.

Preventing Counter-Terrorism

A statutory duty of care came into force last year, known as 'CONTEST'. In Staffordshire there is a multi-agency prevention board which Newcastle is coordinating. The Partnerships Manager stated that she would be happy to come back to a future meeting to explain this in more detail. Some RAP sessions would be rolling out and this would be a multi-agency training session.

The Chair asked if the Partnerships Manager could circulate information to the Clerks of the Parish Councils'.

**Resolved:** That the information be received and the comments noted.

Joint Parish and Town Council Safeguarding Policy.

The Council's Partnerships Manager advised Members that she would be happy to help with this in any way that she could and had a Safeguarding document which could be forwarded to Members.

The Partnerships Manager stated that her team would be unable to provide training to Parish Councillors and Clerks on this subject and advised that they approach the National Association of Local Councils.

The Clerk to Madeley Parish Council advised Members that they had gone through this a year ago and agreed to forward information to the Clerks of the Parish Councils.

**Resolved:** That the information be received and the comments noted.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Partnerships Manager updated Members on the Community Chest.

In previous years, a meeting had been held with locally based bodies. This year it was hoped that the information be given over the telephone or via email.

Members referred to an application that had been submitted which included parts of two Parishes which was turned down on the basis that it was for two and not a singular Parish. It was felt that the guidelines required more clarity.

Members were advised that where an application is across Parishes, a grant would be allocated proportionally, alternatively the Small Grants procedure could be used.

The Chair of the Grants Assessment Panel, Councillor Amelia Rout stated that she would like to gain further information on the problems with cross-Parish issues.

**Resolved:** That the information be received and the comments noted.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

The Chair stated that in addition to Planning enforcement, rural policing be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**Resolved:** That the information be received.

**COUNCILLOR BERT PROCTOR**  
Chair