

Annual Town Meeting for Broseley

Held at The Birchmeadow Centre, Birchmeadow Road, Broseley on Thursday 18th April 2019 at 7.00pm

1. Council APPROVED the Minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on 19th April 2018

2. Report from the Mayor, Councillor Mick Burton.

Councillor Burton welcomed Dr. Kate Howe to Broseley Town Council (BTC) in her new role as Town Clerk and thanked staff and Councillors for their time and efforts during the last year. Despite cuts to library funding BTC were planning to restructure library staffing to facilitate longer opening hours within a limited budget. Drainage works were due to commence on Birchmeadow Park on 3rd June to upgrade the football pitches. Interest had been shown from a number of adult football teams.

The Mayor thanked the Town's volunteer groups for all their hard work mentioning Broseley in Bloom, the Christmas Lights Committee, First Responders, Haycop, the Youth Club who had obtained funding for an additional evening, the Cadets and Scouts for their litter picking. In particular, Councillor Burton made mention of the Friendly Bus who had been presented with an award for their voluntary work and the Women's Institute for their efforts displaying poppy's on the statues.

Work was ongoing to forge closer links with the Gorge Parish Council and the Power Station. Broseley is a hidden heritage gem and should be opened up to the world.

Consultation on bus services opens on May 6th so please do go online and make your response. BTC will be making a submission but it is important individuals express their own concerns.

3. Report from Shropshire Councillor, Simon Harris

There is £76, 000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding available to apply for, which works like a grants system, where work is invoiced and paid for and then money retrieved in arrears. BTC will fund that. Ian is looking for grants for a new footpath with lights top to bottom at Birchmeadow Park. Looking for a project in CIL to expand the surgery. Nina is in communication with CCG to meet local needs. He is also looking at a new road scheme outside the cemetery to provide car parking outside the cemetery which is currently an issue. He is havily involved with public consultation on the Power Station with Harwick's, there have been two public meetings which he and the Mayor have attended. There is also a portal consultation looking at how it should be developed. The steering group consists of local leaders to ensure wide consultation. The Environmental Maintenance Grant (EMG) is now confirmed as over £4,500 over three years allowing town councils to deal with issues themselves e.g. fallen trees are no longer dealt with by Shropshire Council. It has been altered so the big towns can't get their hands on it.

He attended the London Grosvenor Hotel where Broseley were up for an Independent Living Award which unfortunately they didn't win.

Hitachi are working in partnership but there is a slight glitch on the project currently.

There is £55,000 available through the Ministry of *** for litter picking. The Clerk will get an email through SALC to bid.

Highways have received a £7.3 million grant to deal with pot holes and there is a re-structuring at Highways with 28 new jobs. Broseley has a new Highways lady who Simon will bring along to introduce to BTC. New LED street lights have been installed and most are now working after initial glitches. The drawings haven't been updated for a number of years.

Park View has been tarmacked and they are looking at doing the Bridgnorth Road estate soon. Simon is looking at a scheme to reduce the size of the island which is causing a problem.

SC have now developed their own housing company which is a Limited Company run by councilors and a number of directors to meet local housing needs in conjunction with Place Plans. This has been developed to work closely with the Town Councils. Star Housing is an Almo? Who will operate the housing. New housing will be some for sale handed to Almo? To run them.

Simon took over Public Transport Consultation pre-budget setting and he is getting 15 to 20 emails a day about it with very meaningful responses. He urged people to join in that consultation. It's hard for him to publicise it as it's his portfolio.

4. Progress Report on production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Broseley from Phil Revell, Chair of the Advisory Group

Since November 2017 the Group have been working under the authority of BTC to create a Neighbourhood Plan for the town. It is a statutory planning document and if approved will set planning and development for the Broseley area for the next few years. The Group have been gauging public opinion with a survey last summer and autumn, and at a public meeting in January where they put forward some options. There was lots of feedback with views on which sites were viable to meet local and national targets. He is aware there is some confusion on the number of units which are required to be built, but he can confirm it is 63 units which need to be built in the Broseley town area. They have identified over a hundred people in Broseley in need of social housing who are currently living with relatives. They are mostly young people wanting to establish an independent home. Hence it is a priority for the Advisory Group to develop areas in Broseley which are suitable for social housing. There is a meeting on May 15th at the Social Club and they will publish a strategy paper the week before on the BTC website. That will go out to public consultation over the summer with every household receiving paper questionnaires to complete. The results will be incorporated into a handover document for use by a professional consultant being commissioned to produce the Neighbourhood Plan using required planning language. It then goes to SC. If it passes their hoops and is accepted it will then go to Referendum in Broseley in the Spring of 2020 when everyone will get an opportunity to vote on it. It then fits into Place Planning identifying sites and ideally provides a strategy document allowing development to take place while protecting areas we want protected and becomes Shropshire planning policy for Broseley and is legally binding. If the Plan is rejected by the public it dies. We have to acknowledge the need

for some development and to make provision for if the targets change in years to come. Hopefully people in Broseley see the logic of it. Officially it runs to 2036, but Phil advised nothing is safe beyond the next general election although the idea has backing from all parties currently. Hence the need to future proof it. Broseley were allocated 250 units in total most of which have already been built on the Dark Lane site. Of that 63, 20 have already been approved. Broseley Wood is a concern. Coalport Road is outside the development area. The Council opposed it but because of the peculiar anomalies in Shropshire at the time they were able to argue Shropshire weren't meeting their housing targets. Hence the need for The Neighbourhood Plan which is a statutory instrument giving a higher level of protection.

5. Opportunity to raise general town matters.

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