

Minutes of a Meeting of the Verification Committee held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 14.00. in The Eckford Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street Wem

Present:- Cllr C Granger (Chairman), Cllr P Glover, Cllr J Murray, Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

**1 To elect a Chairman.**

**RESOLVED:- to elect Cllr Granger as chairman**

**2 Apologies - To receive any apologies for absence**

**RESOLVED:-to receive the following apology for absence  
Cllr Dee**

**3 Declaration of pecuniary interests**

**4 Exclusion of press and public**

To resolve: That in accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following items to be considered involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

**RESOLVED:-to exclude the press and public.**

a) To consider evidence of local connection to Wem Town provided by applicants wishing to be allocated a Connexus owned property in the Town. The Clerk reported that the applicants for properties in the Vaughan Place development (former Westlands site) had not been required to submit evidence to support their local connection claim to the Town Council. This change was made following a meeting with the Town Clerk and representatives of Meres and Mosses Housing Association where it was agreed that due to the age and vulnerability of the applicants for this type of housing it may be difficult for them to provide evidence. Therefore, Meres and Mosses staff had agreed to verify each applicant's local connection evidence as part of the application process.

In addition to this the Local Connection Condition of the planning permission for the site did not specify that Meres and Mosses Housing Association had to adhere to Shropshire Council's Local Connection Policy when considering applications..

**RESOLVED:- to note.**

b) On the basis of the evidence provided verify local connections of applicants  
The application forms passed to the Town Council for verification were considered and it was

**RESOLVED:- to verify that the following applicants met Shropshire Council's local connection criteria.**

**Applicant Number**

**67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81**

c) To consider recommending the adoption of a local lettings agreement for the former Westlands site.

A discussion took place on the need for a local letting policy and Councillors felt that it was a sensible way forward. However, they did not see the need to create a new set of local connection criteria. Concerns were also raised about a lack of timescales relating to when the cascade process would start.

**RESOLVED**:- to recommend that the Town Council support the establishment of a Local Lettings Policy for properties in Vaughan Place subject to the following amendments to the draft.

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**If there are either no or insufficient applicants who can satisfy two of the above then a cascade will be applied by MMHA. This will initially be to applicants who can demonstrate at least one of Shropshire Council's SPD criteria.**

**If there is still insufficient demand then further cascades will be made to applications who can demonstrate a local connection to North Shropshire and then Shropshire.**

**Cascade**

**A clear timescale should be agreed for each cascade period rather than an immediate cascade.**

Meeting ended at 14.45

Chairman.....