

Summary of actions agreed at Market Drayton and Rural Parishes Community Covenant Meeting

25th June 2025, Festival Drayton Centre

Attendees

Charlotte Hollins – General Manager, Fordhall Community Land Initiative / We're Right Here Campaign.
Melanie France - Public Health Principal Integration & Inequalities Health, Wellbeing and Prevention Directorate, Shropshire Council
Hannah Thomas – Community and Wellbeing Team Manager, Shropshire Council, community outreach.
Catherine Westwood, Manager, Market Drayton Library
David Beckwith – Treasurer, Market Drayton community sports club.
Judith James – Parish Councillor, Moreton Say.
Andy Brown – The Civic Society (Museum) and Walking for Wellbeing group.
Tim Manton – Mayor of Market Drayton Council and Market Drayton Town Councillor.
Garry Hoggarth – Manager, Festival Drayton Centre
Grant Robertson – Chair Market Drayton Sports Association
Richard Kolbe - Deputy Chair, Parent Governors Grove School and Communities Lead
Carolyn Lawrence – Project Lead, Market Drayton Baby Bank
Marie Gibson – Deputy Manager, Fordhall Community Land Initiative

Apologies

Iana Jacobson - Ukrainian Hub
Alan Cartwright – Market Drayton Community Enterprise
Kerry Williams – Shropshire Youth Association
Catherine McBride - Market Drayton St. Mary's Church
Ken Bailey - Sargeant, 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment
Capt Johnathan Cowan – Unit Welfare Officer, 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment
Jenny Horner, Chair, Market Drayton Patient Group
Kate Higgins – Programme Director, Power to Change
Mark Lawrence - Pastor, Freedom Church, Market Drayton.

Charlotte Provided a national update on the legislation

- It is not likely that a Community Right to Shop Public Services will be included within the forthcoming Devolution Bill
- However, there is a strong chance that Community Covenants, or at least the principle of Community Covenants will be.
- The work of this pilot and our learning is directly feeding into these conversations with Civil Servants at Westminster.
- The English Devolution Bill is expected to be released for its first reading to Ministers in July, with its second reading following the summer recess.
- **Action:** Charlotte will update the group when this happens so we can encourage our MPs (and any MPs we know) to make the right comments about this Bill in parliament.
- Heather Kidd, new Leader of Shropshire Council is aware of the pilot and is fully supportive of our work.

Following a presentation from Shropshire Council, the group learnt where Community and Family Hubs sit within Shropshire Council's obligations.

Our key takeaways:

- Community and Family Hubs are a framework of 'good practice', they are not a statutory obligation
- Whilst neighbours, such as Telford and Wrekin, have focussed their Hubs on children and families only, Shropshire has decided that they want theirs to be inclusive of everyone and all ages within the community.
- Areas such as Telford have been awarded funding to support their Family Hubs. Shropshire was not successful in gaining any funding, but are pushing forward with the concept as they believe it is the right thing to do, to help build a more resilient and healthier community.
- There are no set rules for how and where Community and Family Hubs should be delivered
- Shropshire Council has no spare funds to put into new structures or services; indeed, it is working hard to cut costs wherever it can.
- Working with the charitable/community sector may open doors to funding that might otherwise be inaccessible.
- If services move out of Raven House, then it is unlikely there will be any spare funds that move with them
- It was noted that Shropshire ranks 13th out of 80+ national public health departments, regarding the level of funding we receive from central government towards our health and social care services. (13th being the lower end of the scale)
- The Hub could exist in a separate location and still signpost people to the current services within Raven House.

Where are suitable locations for our Community and Family Hub?

We looked at a number of locations, reviewed their pro's and con's (including opportunities and concerns) and used this to narrow the options into the following categories:

Possible locations for a main hub

- Pop-ups in Rural Parishes / Village Halls and Shops
- Raven House
- Festival Drayton Centre
- Library

Possible locations for satellite hubs

- The Zone
- Fordhall Organic Farm
- The sports centres in town
- New Clubhouse at Greenfields
- Churches

Not suitable at this time

- Empty Buildings
- Pheonix Centre / Beacon Community / Other Community Centres in Market Drayton

Are we being inclusive? Is this decision rooted in community?

We looked back at our commitments made in the covenant Charter (see power point presentation) and agreed that now was the right time for us to take this conversation back out to our community.

Action:

A survey sheet was drafted and each individual member committed to speaking to members of their group/society to gather feedback for the next session on suitable locations. These questionnaires can be completed by Covenant members or by members of the community, but it is expected that this will be as part of a personal and trusted conversation between the two.

Covenant members to add additional data to the questionnaire after completion that includes key stats. This might be a 'persona' that the interviewee relates to, or if could be simple criteria such as: 30's, single mum, child with ADHD and autism, trying to hold down a part time job.

We agreed, that this would be the first step to involving the voice of those who cannot be in the room and especially those who are most likely to need the services of the hub.

At the next meeting we will review how to take this consultation further based on the information we have gathered so far.

Persona's

Shropshire Council helpfully created some DRAFT persona's that might be useful in deciding who to speak to for the consultation.

It was agreed that these personas did reflect some of those in need within our community. We also agreed that they were useful in helping the group to think about the journey people might go on before or when asking for help.

Action: We agreed to keep these under review. We may amend or add to them at the next meeting according to feedback received.

Next meeting:

Wednesday 23rd July 2025, 1-3pm at Raven House

Draft Agenda:

- Review feedback from questionnaires
- Review Personas
- Review Community Engagement and Voice within decision making. Reflect our practices and decide next steps.
- Review options for Hub locations
- Agree next steps