

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Wednesday, October 24th, 2018 at Goseley Community Centre

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe (Chair), Councillor Robert Coe, Councillor Gordon Rhind, Councillor Trevor Southerd, Councillor Stuart Swann, Councillor Steve Taylor, Councillor Neil Tilley, Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt.

Kevin Stackhouse – Strategic Director (Corporate Services).
Ian Hey – Community Partnership Officer.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Gary Musson, Councillor Stuart Swann.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Eric Parker, Don Redfern (Woodville Parish Council).

Police representatives

PC Stuart Kelly, PCSO Claire Robbins, PCSO Lee Walker.

Members of the public

Kate Allies, A Batchelor, Carl Barratt, C Bowley, Bridget Buchanan, Jenny Burley, R Causer, A Chower, Colin Dobson, C Eaton, G Fox, Ruth Frudd, Michael Hine, Mark Hunt (CVS), Helen Kreft (Burton Mail), Mick Lunn, J McEwan, Cathy Miles (CVS), Angie Musson, Maureen Mycock, T Rose, Dave Sharpe, Dot Shuttleworth, Lyndsay Taylor (SDDC Housing), Nigel Thorneloe, G Tubey, E Williams, K Wood.

SA/8 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Chris Horridge, Shirley Horridge, Ron Lane.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe reported on:

- Christmas bin collection plans.
- SDDC's Free Tree scheme.
- A Halloween event at Swadlincote Woodlands.
- Swadlincote's Christmas lights switch-on.
- SDDC's Local Green Spaces initiative.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

SA/9 **Safer Neighbourhood report**

PC Stuart Kelly updated on an action from the previous meeting and reported that he had investigated reports of unsuitable drone usage on the Castleton Park estate and there had been no further reports.

PC Kelly reported that PCSO Dean Badham-Spalding had visited Ward's in Woodville to discuss the traffic issues resulting from the business. Attempts were being made to vary the waste delivery times. A resident replied that there was still an issue there every day. It was worse in the morning. Another resident added that vehicles from R Swain often arrived at the same time, making the problem much worse. The resident added that the site was no longer suitable for its use as a waste and recycling centre and should be moved.

PC Kelly gave an update on police activity in the area since the previous meeting. Shoplifting was still one of the main issues. It was linked to drug problems. Issues had died down with the main offenders locked up but a few were due for release so he expected the problems to recur. He asked for people to keep reporting thefts.

PC Kelly reported that numerous small cannabis grows had been unearthed in the Swadlincote area and it was an issue being combatted. There were not enough officers to carry out warrants on every cannabis grow, so officers would knock on doors when they smelt the drug. The problem with Mamba and Spice, which had proven a strain on Police and Ambulance resources, had lessened.

Councillor Robert Coe said that often calls for service went unanswered. PC Kelly apologised and guessed it had occurred when officers were busy with higher priority incidents. Councillor Coe claimed that some of the shops in Swadlincote High Street – including Greggs – would not report incidents because officers never responded. PC Kelly replied that he would visit Greggs and talk to the manager.

PCSO Claire Robbins reported that police were visiting Swadlincote Market and offering crime prevention advice. The next two markets being targeted were November 23rd and December 21st. There were ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues in the town centre. It had subsided but had reared its ugly head once more. PCSO Robbins encouraged any incidents to be reported via the non-emergency 101 hotline. PCSO Walker added that a senior officer from Police HQ would visit the Christmas market.

PCSO Walker reported that since the previous meeting a total of 17 vehicles had been taken off the roads for a range of offences, with the majority having no insurance. Two disqualified drivers had since been sent to prison and two drink-drivers dealt with. Work had been undertaken with the pubs to identify people driving while over the limit. An automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) operation was due to take place in William Nadin Way.

Local residents and Councillor Sandra Wyatt reported that residents of Brook Street, Swadlincote, were struggling to pull out onto Hearthcote Road because of parked cars. PCSO Walker replied that Police were looking at a new strategy to deal with problem parking. He would see if the location could be added to that. Councillor Wyatt added that parking was also a problem outside Woodville Surgery. PC Kelly said there was nothing on the road to indicate a driver could not park there.

A resident of Stanhope Road complained about their next-door neighbour parking a flatbed lorry in front of her house, reducing visibility as she attempted to get out of her drive. She had asked the neighbour not to park there but he responded by telling her he could park where he liked as long as he was not obstructing a dropped kerb. The resident had also recently had her car vandalised. PCSO Walker said he would investigate.

A Woodville resident complained that issues previously experienced in Eureka Park had now moved to Woodville Park. Residents of Bishops Gate had been affected by issues including door knocking, drug usage, threats and an assault. The resident asked where the Police response was? PC Kelly replied that the information would be used to inform a patrol strategy in the area.

Ian Hey reported that:

- A brief information leaflet had been produced by the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership around town centre ASB. It highlighted work which had been done and informed about how to report incidents to the authorities.
- ‘Prison Me? No Way!’ sessions were being put on once more in secondary schools across South Derbyshire, giving teenagers insight into life in jail.
- A campaign around child sexual exploitation entitled Say Something if You See Something was being supported by the partnership.
- A national helpline to combat online fraud – Action Fraud – had been set up.
- There had been two successful applications for funding from the Safer Neighbourhoods grant pot. The RSPCA shop in High Street, Swadlincote, had been given funds towards security gates and Gresley Old Hall money for CCTV.

Cathy Miles explained about the work the CVS undertook and reported that:

- The CVS had a grant pot for £2,000 for local organisations.
- The South Derbyshire Community Awards were taking place on November 22nd.

Mark Hunt explained the Safer Homes Scheme which was available to elderly and vulnerable residents. He would visit their home and carry out a free security check and carry out any improvements he saw fit to make a home more secure. Included were items like spy holes, door chains and window locks. Councillor Mrs Wyatt confirmed that Mr Hunt had visited her home and carried out a range of improvements which had made her feel much safer in her own home.

SA/11 **Local authority issues & public questions**

A resident asked when construction of the Woodville Regeneration Route would start. Kevin Stackhouse replied that a planning application was yet to go to committee.

A member of the public reported that High Street, Woodville, was closed at 10am on October 15th and traffic was diverted along Moira Road, which he felt was unsuitable. Kate Allies agreed that the situation was less than ideal. A resident said they believed it was an emergency closure by Severn Trent otherwise eight weeks’ closure notice would have been needed.

A resident of South Street, Woodville, had a long-running adoption issue with the road outside his house and vehicles turning in the street because of a set of bollards he felt were in the incorrect place. During the summer

hot weather, the dust created had been horrendous. Was there anything that Derbyshire County Council (DCC) could do for him? Councillor Gary Musson replied that he had undertaken numerous enquiries on the resident's behalf but had met with little success. There was little that DCC could do with regard to the unadopted status of the road. He was due to have a meeting with an officer to discuss the placement of the bollards and discover why they were in their current location.

A resident complained about the smell of sewage in Hearthcote Road, Swadlincote, around No 52. The smell was also bad in the High Street in the vicinity of the Birds bakery.

ACTION: Kevin Stackhouse to report issue to Phil Lenton and Environmental Health

A resident complained about footballs being kicked into gardens from Woodville Park because a net to keep them out was too short. Another Woodville resident said that it did not matter how far the netting went as balls went over the top. The first resident said they would write to Woodville Parish Council to pursue the matter.

A member of the public said that at the previous meeting of Swadlincote Area Forum, SDDC Chief Executive Frank McArdle had discussed the condition of the paving in the Delph. Furthermore, he said that he would bring the contractors to the table to find a solution. Had there been any progress? Mr Stackhouse replied that Mr McArdle was now taking more formal action with the contractors and an answer was awaited. The resident said whoever had signed the contract with the contractor was responsible. Why had they not been held to account in the past eight years? Why had they not been sued for breach of contract? The surface was dangerous with trip hazards and it could result in a serious problem. How much had been spent to make the surface safe in the previous eight years? Could a risk assessment be published showing what had been done? Another resident added that when the Swadlincote Christmas lights were switched on there would be hundreds if not thousands of people on the Delph with the surface in the condition it was. Mr Stackhouse said that at the previous meeting Mr McArdle had said the works should have been done sooner. Efforts were being made to sort the issue out. Councillor Steve Taylor backed what the original speaker regarding the Delph had said in terms of requesting specific information from the forum and hoped that he received it. Councillor Taylor said that the issue had been repeatedly raised and not addressed and that money was being spent in other parts of the district in line with the priorities of the current ruling group.

Councillor Robert Coe said he had reported the state of Rink Drive – the only public highway owned by SDDC – six months previously, but the surface remained potholed. Councillor Southerd replied that Mr McArdle

knew about the problem. He said that the current administration could find money for Melbourne and other villages, but this problem was in Swadlincote. Regarding the Delph, Councillor Southerd said the issue was the use of sandstone when Scottish granite would have made a better surface. Inferior slabs were used and they were unsuitable. Councillor Taylor said a significantly different scheme had been proposed for the Delph but it had changed when the new administration took over.

Councillor Musson said he would get a report on the Broomy Farm development for the next meeting of Woodville Parish Council.

SA/12 **Presentation on local community initiative**

Postponed due to meeting overrunning.

SA/13 **Summary of any agreed priorities / actions**

Police priorities:

- Revised patrol strategy.
- Speeding in Hearthcote Road.
- Anti-social parking.

SA/14 **Close and date of next meeting**

Wednesday, February 6th (St George and St Mary Church Hall).

**Councillor Kim Coe
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.05pm