

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY MEETING

REPTON – AREA 2

**(DRAFT) Meeting Minutes – October 9th, 2025 at
6:30pm**

Milton Village Hall

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillor Ian Hudson (Chair), Councillor Kerry Haines, Councillor Lakhvinder Pal Singh, Councillor David Shepherd, Heidi McDougall, Chris Smith, and Paige Robinson.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Matt Benfield.

Derbyshire Police Representatives

PCSO David Marley.

Parish Council/ Meeting Representatives

David Dickson, Tony Bates, Steve Hardwick, Steve Toone, and Helen Adcock.

Members of the Public

Brian Dodson and Lynne Clay.

R/A 7. Open Meeting

a) Introductions and Housekeeping

b) Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Martyn Ford, Councillor James Lowe, and Tammy Brown

c) Chair's Announcements

Employability Programmes

Using UK Shared Prosperity Funding, the Council has supported two new employability programmes which will provide free support for unemployed residents to get back into work. The two programmes are '**Beyond Barriers**' which will be



delivered by Groundwork Five Counties, and which provides long term one-to-one support for job seekers and '**Active Futures**' which will be run by the Councils Active Communities and Health team, which provides short-term support based on increasing activity levels.

Rosliston Forestry Centre

Rosliston Forestry Centre are getting into the Christmas spirit and are lining up their Christmas Market for the holiday period.

The market will consist of 30+ stalls, and it will run across two weekends (29th-30th November and 6th-7th December from 10am to 4pm), giving you plenty of chances to fit in some last-minute Christmas shopping!

Entry is free but don't forget to bring along some spending money!

Arts Strategy

The Council is currently working on developing its first Arts Strategy, so if you're an artist, musician or someone who enjoys creative experiences, we are keen to have your input.

Public input is vital in helping shape its direction and priorities, so an online Survey has been developed to capture local opinion to ensure that the strategy reflects the needs, aspirations, and creativity of the local community.

The survey can be accessed via the Councils Website, a QR code taking you direct to the survey is also on the leaflets available tonight.

Information on this and the employability programmes can be found on leaflets at the Signing in table.

d) To Receive the Minutes of the Last Meeting

All received as a true and accurate record.

e) Matters Arising from the Last Minutes

No matters raised.

R/A 8. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Report and Police Q&A

PCSO Marley updated that, since that last meeting, priorities have been set in each area. Tackling Speeding and Anti-social vehicles and acquisitive crime are the priorities for Area 2. Patrols have been carried out in each area, both high vis and plain



clothes at both day and night, with police carrying out stop searches during these patrols.

Crime prevention events have also been held within the community to raise awareness on how to prevent crimes such as vehicle theft. Safer Homes referrals were also made for those impacted by vehicle crime.

CVS has partnered with a dementia group based in Repton which allows families who are worried about relatives with dementia to make a profile, so it is easier to identify them if they go missing (Herbert Protocol).

The school bus services in Milton have been rerouted after meeting with Derbyshire County Council's Transport team, making it safer for the school children.

New powers given to police now mean that E-bikes/E-scooters can be seized and destroyed so that has been done when reports of the electronic vehicles are received.

Q&A

A question was raised regarding rural crime and if Smisby in particular is targeted. PCSO Marley updated that Smisby is no more targeted than other areas for rural crime but when high value items are stolen from rural areas, the crime is referred to the Rural Crime Team so they can take the lead on it.

Another attendee raised an issue with Smisby having missing signs with no further action being taken on the issue despite being reported to DCC. Councillor Benfield offered to take the case number to try and get a response as the waiting time for a response can be slow.

ACTION: Councillor Benfield to provide an update on the situation regarding missing signs in Smisby.

R/A 9. South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership/ Safer Neighbourhood

Grants Update

Community Safety Partnership update

Since the last meeting, our new Community Safety Officer, Karen Haywood, has been out across South Derbyshire to work with the community. Work done in the community includes working local pubs via the Pubwatch scheme to promote 'Ask Angela' as well as providing the pubs involved with free anti-spiking devices in order to tackle violence against women and girls, with the Domestic Abuse Hotline also being promoted in each area across South Derbyshire. Details for contact regarding community issues can be found in the 'useful contacts' section of the circulated agenda pack.

Safer Neighbourhoods Funding



The following application has been received for Safer Neighbourhood Funding this financial year, so funding is still available for community projects for the 2024/2025 financial year. Anyone with any projects should contact Chris or Paige. Leaflets are available containing more information about the funding.

Bretbv Speedwatch	A2.01	Bretby Parish Council	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
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R/A 10. Local Community and Voluntary Sector Projects/ Update

The 2025 CVS update has been attached with the minutes.

R/A 11. Local Authority Update and Public Q&A

1. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update – September 2025

At the end of 2024, the Government asked councils across Derbyshire to submit ideas for how local councils could be reorganised to better serve residents. The deadline for final proposals is Friday 28 November 2025.

South Derbyshire District Council has been working closely with the other District and Borough Councils in Derbyshire, as well as Derby City Council, to develop a joint plan. This group effort is called “**One Derbyshire, Two Councils**” and suggests creating two new councils—one for the north and one for the south of the county.

To help shape our final plan, we carried out a public consultation over summer 2025. Over 7,000 people took part, sharing their views through surveys and community engagement. This valuable feedback is now being reviewed, along with other evidence, to help finalise our proposal.

The final version will be considered by all involved councils before being sent to the Government by the end of November.

What Happens Next?

- The Government will look at all proposals for Derbyshire.
- A national consultation is expected to start in early 2026.
- A decision is likely by July 2026.
- If approved, elections for new councils would happen in 2027, with the new system starting in April 2028.



More information on LGR can be found on the Council's Website including the Stakeholder booklet and a frequently asked questions document. Just type in LGR on the Councils search facility.

2. Canvass & Postal Vote Reapplication

South Derbyshire District Council's Electoral Services team is currently working on two key projects:

Annual Canvass:

Reminder letters are being sent to households that haven't responded. In October, council staff will visit non-responding properties to confirm who should be on the Electoral Register. The updated Register will be published on 1 December 2025.

Postal Vote Changes:

Voters whose postal vote expires on 31 January 2026 (due to changes from the Elections Act 2022) will be contacted soon with details on how to reapply.

3. Budget Setting – 2026/27 Update

Each year, the council must set a balanced budget. This involves reviewing last year's budget and making adjustments based on future plans and expected changes to income and spending. A draft budget will be presented to Councillors in November 2025, followed by a six-week public consultation. Residents, tenants, businesses, and organisations will be invited to share their views.

Feedback from the consultation will help shape the final budget, which will be approved early next year.

Fair Funding Review 2.0

The Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0, announced in June 2025, aims to reform how councils are funded from 2026/27. It will consider local needs, rural costs, and the ability to raise Council Tax, while resetting business rates income. A consultation on the proposed changes closed in August.

We expect more detail in late October/early November, which will help inform our draft budget. The Autumn Budget is scheduled for 26 November, and the provisional Local Government Financial Settlement will follow in December.

Early analysis suggests the changes may reduce the council's retained business rates and affect our share from the Derbyshire Business Rates Pool. While our forecasts broadly align with Government plans, there is still uncertainty.

Our Budget Principles for 2026/27:

1. Maintain a stable budget aligned with our Medium-Term Financial Plan



2. Use procurement to deliver savings
3. Invest in assets to support services and reduce costs
4. Maximise income opportunities
5. Assess the impact of national changes on local government

We'll keep residents updated and encourage everyone to take part in the upcoming budget consultation.

Q&A

A question was raised in regard to why South Derbyshire District Council isn't working with Derbyshire District Council for their reorganisation consultation. Heidi McDougall updated that DCC were invited to the Derbyshire Working Group but decided to submit their own proposal. Four different boundary split proposals have been submitted to central Government by One Derbyshire Two Councils all suggesting two new unitary councils (south and north Derbyshire).

Another question was raised regarding trouble with bin collections and asked if the information about bin collections is on the SDDC website and if the workers have an information system about which bins they have emptied. Heidi McDougall informed that the information is on the website when the bins are not able to be emptied and as well as putting the information on SDDC's social media. Ward members can also be included in the information of bin collection delays going forward.

ACTION: Heidi McDougall to put in a request for ward members to be copied in when there is a local bin collection delay.

An attendee raised concerns over speeding in Twyford Road, Willington, and asked how it can be assessed to ensure that it is an appropriate crossing point. Heidi McDougall informed that any issues regarding roads would be a request for DCC. Councillor Benfield offered to take the situation to DCC and provide an update at the next meeting.

ACTION: Councillor Benfield to provide an update at the next meeting regarding the crossing on Twyford Road, Willington.

A question was raised asking if SDDC feels like there is adequate enough feedback from the community regarding the schemes and projects that go to public consultation. Heidi McDougall updated that it varies depending on the topic, there is usually more of response if people feel as though the topic is relevant and local. When the results are analysed, they are also weighted to try and give equal representation. On average, village schemes receive a higher response rate than county-wide issues.

R/A 12. Summary of Agreed Actions

Actions



1. **Councillor Benfield to provide an update on the situation regarding missing signs in Smisby.**
2. **Heidi McDougall to put in a request for ward members to be copied in when there is a local bin collection delay.**
3. **Councillor Benfield to provide an update at the next meeting regarding the crossing on Twyford Road, Willington.**

R/A 13. Close and Date of Next Meeting

January/February 2026.

Councillor Ian Hudson
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7:50pm

