

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM MEETING

NEWHALL – AREA 5

Meeting Minutes – October 21st, 2025

St John's Church

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillor Sarah Harrison (Chair), Councillor Sean Bambrick, Councillor Jones, Councillor Robert Pearson, Councillor Kalila Storey, Dr Justin Ives, Claire Rawlins, and Paige Robinson.

Police Representatives

PCSO Jo Saddington.

Members of the Public

Bridget Buchanan, Ian Buchanan, Carol Baggaley, A Millier, Jill Goodall, Ian Goodall, David James, Richard House, Ron Hughes, Jim Seaton, and Glenys Tagg.

N/A 8. Open Meeting

a) Introductions and Housekeeping

b) Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Martin Bromley.

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

Councillor Kalila Storey updated that she had met with the head of the school in relation to the travel plan that should be in place and they currently do not have one but there was concern over the children walking near busy traffic on the road as it is a narrow path. Councillor Amy Wheelton is arranging a meeting with the school as she is aware of the issue.

N/A 9. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Report and Police Q&A

Derbyshire Police updated that, since that last meeting, priorities have been set in each area, such as enhancing road safety. Patrols have been carried out in each area in both high vis and plain clothes at both day and night, with police carrying out stop searches during these patrols.



ASB is being combatted through visible policing to stop youths causing issues and police are currently looking into taking a group of children causing issues in the Town Centre to court.

PCSOs also now have powers to seize any e-scooters so when reports come in, officers will take the scooter, and it will be sent to be crushed.

Crime prevention events have also been held within the community to raise awareness on how to prevent crimes such as vehicle theft.

Q&A

An issue was raised with e-bikes by Sainsburys and asked police if they are seized if caught. Police informed that it will be an ongoing problem but where possible, police will try to tackle the issue since police now have the powers to seize the e-bikes and e-scooters.

Another issue was raised with e-scooters being on the A44 and gaining access through the shooting range. Police informed that the bollards are back in place to try and prevent them from getting through but if the situation continues to occur, keep reporting it to police.

Sand Cliffe Road was raised due to having issues with people on bukes being inconsiderate and peddling into people and there are no PCSOs in that area. Police informed that bikes on pavements are not something that can be enforced by police, that is enforced by DCC. However, police can deal with anti-social biking if reported.

N/A 10. South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership/ Safer Neighbourhood Grants 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.

New gates at The Old Post Centre	A5:01	Old Post	£ 2,500.00	£ 6,591.60	£ 2,500.00
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N/A 11. Local Community and Voluntary Sector Projects/ Update

The CVS report will be attached alongside the minutes.

N/A 12. 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 Councils 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 by a resident regarding how the new council offices and leisure centre will fit into the budget, and what will happen to the area. Dr Justin Ives updated that the current buildings are outdated so a new site needs to be built. The current buildings will be demolished, and a hub will remain in the town centre for residents to use. If in 2028, when unitary councils come into place, that the new council doesn't want to use those offices, they can be leasable.

A resident asked what the latest update is regarding Walton Bridge. Councillors informed that Derbyshire has agreed to allow access from their side but there is a now a wait until Staffordshire agree to access on their side.

N/A 13. Summary of Agreed Actions

No actions raised.

N/A 14. Close and Date of Next Meeting

January/February 2026.

Councillor Sarah Harrison
CHAIR
The meeting terminated at 19:16pm

