

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM MEETING

SWADLINCOTE – AREA 4

Meeting Minutes – October 15th 2025 Oakland Village

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillor Mick Mulgrew (Chair), Councillor Angela Archer, Councillor Malcolm Gee, Councillor Alan Haynes, Councillor Vonnie Redfern, Councillor Ben Stuart, Dr Justin Ives, Karen Haywood, and Paige Robinson

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Martin Bromley, Councillor Charlotte Hill, and Councillor Joseph Turrell.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

Kim Coe, Alex James, and Louise Scott.

Members of the Public

Frank McArdle, M Shepherd, R Thomas, M Shepherd, Judy Wilkins, and Richard Wilkins.

S/A 7. Open Meeting

a) Introductions and Housekeeping

b) Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Neil Tilley and Councillor Gordon Rhind.

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 arising from the last minutes.

S/A 8. 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, for Swadlincote the priorities are enhanced road safety and dealing with Acquisitive crime (Theft of motor vehicles). 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

Frank McArdle thanked Police for their service and raised a concern of people parking by the bridge on Woodland Road as it is too close to the entrance which causes a hazard. Police offered to look into the issue.

Councillor Stephen Taylor asked to what extent is it a problem if people are taking photos of vehicles before they break into them. Police updated that it is a serious issue and to report it. A lot of crime prevention work has been done regarding vehicle theft and people have been urged to remove valuable items from their car. When vehicle theft is reported, police will search the area before going to the address to try and catch them before they try to leave the county. Steering locks are advised on vehicles.

Kim Coe raised an issue that took place on Goseley Estate since there was a case of vandalism where the wooden fence was taken down and asked if there was an update as no feedback was received. Police informed that the area would continue to be patrolled for visibility but if any crimes do happen again, to keep reporting them.

Councillor Alan Haynes raised an issue of ongoing concerns with HGVs being in areas they shouldn't be even though signs are visible. A resident also raised an issue with HGVs on Coppice Side. Police informed that HGVs are allowed access if they need to get to businesses on Coppice Side, but any extra road signage would be an issue for DCC to handle.

The school crossing on Belmont Street was raised as having an issue with vehicles. Police informed that police do go by there when there is chance and talks have been done at the school, but patrols can't always be done outside of schools at school time. The issue could be discussed with DCC's Civil Enforcement officers.

Councillor Alan Haynes requested for DCC to review the site on Castleton Park as it has been an ongoing issue. DCC councillors offered to look into the issue.

ACTION: Derbyshire County Council to look into the situation on Castleton Park and provide an update.

S/A 9. 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.

Swadlincote Youth Collective Hub	A4.01	Collective Hub	£ 2,500.00	£ 6,500.00	£ 2,500.00
Gresley Rovers Football Club - White Ribbon	A4.02	Gresley Rovers Football Club	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ 500.00
CCTV at Woodville Junior Plav Area	A4:03	Woodville PC	£ 2,500.00	£ 4,670.00	£ 2,500.00

S/A 10. Local Community and Voluntary Sector Projects/ Update

The CVS update has been attached with the minutes.

S/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 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

Councillor Alan Haynes asked if an update could be provided regarding the Swadlincote Tree Issue. Dr Justin Ives updated that grant funding has been received that is planned to go to the High Street, but nothing has been heard from Derbyshire County Council, so SDDC officers have been asked to raise it with their DCC counterparts.

ACTION: SDDC to provide an update regarding the tree issue in Swadlincote.

Councillor Angela Archer updated that the Collective Hub in Swadlincote will be closed by the end of October.

S/A 12. Summary of Agreed Actions

ACTIONS

1. **ACTION: Derbyshire County Council to look into the situation on Castleton Park and provide an update.**



2. **ACTION: SDDC to provide an update regarding the tree issue in Swadlincote.**

S/A 13. Close and Date of Next Meeting

January/February 2026.

Councillor Mick Mulgrew
CHAIR

The meeting closed at 19:22 pm

