

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM MEETING

LINTON – AREA 6

Meeting Minutes – November 18th, 2025
Overseal Village Hall at 6.30pm

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillor Dan Pegg (Chair), Councillor Alistair Tilley, Councillor Graham Wood, Dr Justin Ives, Ardip Sandhu, Chris Smith, and Paige Robinson.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Amy Wheelton.

Police Representatives

PCSO Andrea Thompson.

Police Representatives

Anne Hughes, Rachel O'Brien, Carole Knight, Stephanie Marbrow, Paul Marbrow, Graham Wood, Steve Sharpe, K Tizzard, S Hilton, C Cooper, and Karen Bradford.

Members of the Public

Annette Gary, G Bennion, M Roding, D Carter, and K Wood.

L/A 8. Open Meeting

a) Introductions and Housekeeping

b) Apologies

No apologies received.

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.

L/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, the priorities for area 6 are enforcement of drug offences and to address ASB cases. Patrols have been carried out in each area in both high vis and plain



clothes, 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

Amy Wheelton asked police if there is a staffing issue which leads to limitation of police being able to be in certain places. Police informed that across all of Derbyshire, there are a limited number of PCSOs so certain things have to be prioritised.

ASB in Drakelow was raised by residents. Police informed that in Drakelow, there is only one park in the area for the children to use but there is another park being built and police are doing talks at the schools to try and deal with the ASB issues in the area.

Anne Hughes raised an issue with vandalism and crime in Overseal and asked if police were able to patrol the areas. Police informed that patrols are done in the area, but they may not always be seen.

A resident asked if footage of vehicles speeding can be sent to police as evidence. Police informed that issues with road traffic such as speeding can only be dealt with if it is seen on the road by officers.

L/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 2025/2026



financial year. Anyone with any projects should contact Chris or Paige. Leaflets are available containing more information about the funding

Overseal SID Lullington Road	A6:01	Overseal PC	£ 1,680.00	£ 3,361.00	£ 1,680.00
---------------------------------	-------	-------------	------------	------------	------------

L/A 11. Local Community and Voluntary Sector Projects/ Update

Please find the South Derbyshire CVS update attached with the minutes.

L/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

Q&A

A resident asked what the response of the 7,000 people who were asked about the Loal Government Reorganisation was. Dr Justin Ives informed that there was no clear indicator, with around 62% of people saying they didn't want it to go ahead.

Another resident asked how the councillors will be appointed if the unitary councils go ahead. Dr Justin Ives informed that elections will still take place to appoint members. Elections for a shadow council will happen in 2027 ready for the new authority in 2028.

A question was raised regarding when Local Government Reorganisation takes place, will assets such as play areas be transferred to parishes instead of going to a unitary council which covers more areas. Dr Justin Ives updated that it is something that can be considered if parish council are interested but it will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Residents brought forward concerns of a traveller site located in Overseal, causing issues such as obstructing the public right of way and burying rubbish. Ardip Sandhu informed that a stopping order was issued, however, it was ignored. A King's Council was commissioned to give advice. Their advice has been forthcoming, and actions have been taken in accordance with their advice. The advice given cannot be shared publicly as it is covered by Legal Privilege. The process to deal with the situation may span over multiple months. Derbyshire County Council is dealing with Civil Law and Right of Way issues, but no further information can currently be provided at this time. Any issues regarding driving without tax or insurance or threatening behaviour should be reported to the police for them to deal with. Environmental Health have visited the site to document any visible environmental health issues.

L/A 13. Summary of Agreed Actions

Action	Person responsible
--------	--------------------



--	--

L/A 14. Close and Date of Next Meeting

TBC.

Councillor Dan Pegg
CHAIR
The meeting terminated at 19:45hours

