

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
NEWHALL

26th March 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chairman in the Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Richards and Wilkins.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Bambrick and Jones.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

In Attendance

Councillors Mrs. Gillespie and Mrs. Wheeler.

Members of the Public

L. Carter, P. Bambrick, M. Biddle, T. Biddle, M. Brooks, R. Holden, G. Maddock, G. Myatt, J. Pallett, O. Pallett, K. Parker, K.J. Parker, M. Perry, M. Richards, B. Woods and B. Wright.

NA/21. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Chairman), Councillor Dunn, Mr. Budworth, Mr. House and Mr. Lacey.

NA/22. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Wright gave an update on issues affecting Derbyshire Constabulary. He advised that figures for reported crime had recently reduced and there had also been a big reduction in assault crimes. However, burglaries had increased across the county.

He also gave an update on Speedwatch and advised that this would be continuing throughout the next year, and was currently in Scropton.

Derbyshire Constabulary had also recently signed up to the new "Policing Pledge", which gave details of Police aims and the levels of service Members of the Public could expect. He added that there was also currently an initiative giving Officers more discretion on how they dealt with lower level offences, which would include asking the victim how they would like the

matter dealt with. The Police would then attempt to facilitate this. He added that the feedback from the pilot area had been very positive.

A question was asked regarding the Traffic Enforcement Officers, to which the Forum Liaison Officer responded that this was now a County function, and that over 3,000 tickets had been issued. He added that if there was a major problem with parking, residents should ring “Call Derbyshire”, as the Enforcement Officers were responsive and would attempt to incorporate any “hotspot” areas.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to pass the request for Enforcement Officers to patrol around the Bretby Road area.

NA/23. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Forum held on 25th February 2009, were noted.

NA/24. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and reported the progress made in each case.

In relation to the footpath adjacent to the former Horse and Jockey Public House, Councillor Richards advised that this was being dealt with, and that he was regularly following this matter up with Derbyshire County Council.

With regard to litter at Sunnyside, it was pointed out that the footpath from Sunnyside to Chesterfield Avenue was very badly littered. In addition, young people were going to an area known locally as “the Klondike” where dens and fires were being made and the ditch was also blocked with rubbish.

It was agreed that the District Council look into this matter, and report back to the next Meeting. In addition, Sergeant Wright agreed to raise this with the local beat officer, particularly in regard to young people taking alcohol to this area.

It was also reported that a similar problem existed down Gypsy Lane which was near Manor Road. It was requested that when these issues arose, residents report them directly to the Police, who could then deal with them as necessary.

In respect to the update given on the bus stop on Bretby Road, it was pointed out that this was still causing major problems, as cars were parking all the way along this road, and had been exacerbated by moving the bus stop.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter again and report back to the next meeting.

A further update was also given on the footpath adjacent to the Stanhope Public House. The Forum Liaison Officer advised that it was understood that this was a private track, so nothing further could be done. However, if residents wished to meet the Footpaths Officer on site, they could contact him via the District Council.

With regard to the grass verge on Bretby Road, Councillor Richards advised that the District Council’s Head of Environmental Services had requested a list of sites where people were parking inappropriately and incorrectly. This

area of land had been put forward, and would be considered for further action if appropriate.

With regard to the footpath adjacent to Rosetree Lane, the Forum Liaison Officer advised that the Footpaths Officer would make contact with the landowner and pursue this matter further.

NA/25. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was pointed out that at Regent Street, Church Gresley, the chicanes had been removed, and it was requested if those on South Drive could also be removed.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

It was asked if anything could be done about the shops adjacent to the Old Post Centre, which were considered to be in a poor state of repair. In addition, it was alleged that these properties were being entered illegally by young people. The Chief Executive responded that empty premises only became an enforcement issue if they presented a risk to the public, and they must be more than a visual eyesore. Sergeant Wright also responded that if young people were entering the premises, this should be reported to the Police who might be able to pursue further action with the owner to make the premises secure.

It was reported that there were problems with speeding scooters, which had recently resulted in an accident at the top of Plummer Road.

Sergeant Wright agreed to advise the local Beat Officer for this area.

A resident pointed out that an advice leaflet had been issued, which went into various issues of motorbike ownership. However it did not mention noise levels which were still a cause of concern. Sergeant Wright responded that this was a 'Partnership' leaflet, and that the Police could only check noise levels with a Road Traffic Officer present. The Chief Executive also added that the District Council could not monitor noise levels of vehicles, as the noise enforcement issues dealt with by the District Council were of a different nature, and required different equipment.

It was asked if there was any further news on the development of the Nadins site. The Chief Executive responded that developers were interested in this site, and he was working hard to attract private investment to this area.

It was asked why South Derbyshire District Council had recently given a grant of £15,000 to Stapenhill Football Club. The Chief Executive responded that this football club was within the District of South Derbyshire, and the District Council was proud of the support they gave to local community groups.

NA/26. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES - UPDATE ON VISION AND PRIORITIES 2009/14**

The Chief Executive gave an update on the Corporate Plan 2009/14. He advised that the new plan had been developed following a large consultation exercise and had provided a new vision "making South Derbyshire a better

place to live, work and visit”. It also introduced four new themes. The new themes were:

- Sustainable Growth and Opportunity.
- Safe and Secure.
- Lifestyle Choices.
- Value for Money.

He gave a brief overview of each of the new themes and ended with the values of the District Council, which included:

- Put customers first.
- Set clear targets.
- Act decisively.
- Lead for success.
- Actively listen and resolve problems.
- Develop our people.
- Maintain value for money via continuous improvement.
- Treat people fairly.

NA/27. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed.

J. MEAD

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.