

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

21 July 2015 2015 at Findern Methodist Church

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Stanton (Chair); Councillor Shepherd; Councillor MacPherson;
Councillor Ford

Mike Haines (Director of Housing & Environmental Services); M McKeon
(Clerk)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs L Chilton; Forum Liaison Officer

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

H Hall (Findern Footpaths Group); M Goodall (Findern Parish Council); T
Skeith (Repton Parish Council); F Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council); P
Bonnell (Stenson Fields Parish Council);

Members of the Public

J Orme; G Varty; H Foster; A Evans; P Pearson; F Hollway; L Nash

RA/01 **Apologies**

Councillor Chahal; Councillor Davison; Councillor Smith; Parish Councillor
Lisewski; Parish Councillor Fellows.

RA/02 **Declarations of Interest.**

None.

RA/03 **Chairman's Announcements**

South Derbyshire Sport, Recreation, Community facility Strategy

A strategy for the future provision of built community facilities, including formal
open space and play is being developed. The Strategy will aim to provide a
plan for the provision of community infrastructure for the growing population,
building on the significant progress made in recent years. Parish Councils and

Community groups will be consulted and a workshop will be held in September to allow more in depth discussion with stakeholders.

Derbyshire Cycle Plan

The County, City, Districts and a number of other bodies are producing a Plan for Cycling which aims to raise the participation of cycling in the County significantly over the next decade. The consultation process will be promoted from next week via the Derbyshire Sport website and the District Council will host a briefing session for interested parties. A South Derbyshire Action Plan will be developed from that briefing session and will feed into infrastructure development and cycle participation and events.

Members and Parish Council Briefings

Following on from the sessions that were delivered in previous years, a new series of briefing sessions are planned for the coming year starting with Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy and Development on 16th September. The full programme of dates will be sent out to parish councils in July.

The Chair read out an 'Introduction to the Chairman's office' from Councillor Neil Atkin who is the Chairmain for South Derbyshire District Council. The theme for this Civic Year is called 'Unsung Heroes in the Community'. Details can be found on the website.

RA/04 To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 February 2015

The minutes were noted as a true and accurate record (by Councillor Shepherd and seconded by Councillor Ford).

RA/05 Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting

Area Forum Liaison Officer (AFLO) reported back on issues raised at last meeting as follows:

Hall Lane, Willington: Visibility Concerns at Junction

The signage 'STOP' and the line have been checked and are in good condition. It may have been refurbished since the last meeting. AFLO said he has been to the area a couple of times recently and both the sign and the line are visible as is the warning sign and the slow markings on Repton Road approaching the Hall Lane junction.

Repton Road, Willington: Zebra Crossing Improvements

Reference was made to the zebra crossing outside the Co-op at Willington. Recent improvements have been made to the facility which included the

replacement of the belisha beacons with LED zebrite halos, with cowlings to restrict light pollution.

The pole on the east side of the crossing (opposite the Co-op) is sited close to the carriageway edge and the cowling has been struck by a high-sided vehicle.

It was the understanding of the Local Member and Parish Council that the proposed improvements included the relocation of the pole to the back edge of the footway and for downlights to be added (Similar to the lighting on the crossing near the doctor's surgery).

AFLO advised that the Project Engineer, who arranged the work, had transferred to another department and was currently on leave. The replacement Engineer is seeking clarification as to what was promised in regard to improvement work for the zebra.

Stenson Road, Stenson Fields: Request for Crossing

A request was made at the last forum for DCC to give consideration to a pedestrian refuge near to the junction with Pilgrim's Way. Residents from the new development have a need to cross here to access the various facilities on Pilgrims Way and it was felt that this would be an alternative to the request for a light-controlled crossing which had been refused.

AFLO advised that the carriageway is of insufficient width at this location to accommodate a pedestrian refuge. A refuge would ideally need to have a width of 2m (to safely accommodate pushchairs, mobility scooters, etc.) whilst maintaining running lanes of 3.5m either side, although this could be reduced to 3m. Effectively, this means that the carriageway width would need to be in the region of 8m for a pedestrian refuge to be a viable option.

The carriageway width at the existing tactile dropped crossing at the junction of Pilgrims Way is roughly 6m, well below the required width.

Councillor Shepherd asked if DCC could reassess the issue and use the wide strip of grass verge to extend the highway, if needed. The problem being that the development is for 500 houses, mainly family homes, and all the facilities i.e. school, public house, shops etc. are located on the eastern side of Stenson Road.

AFLO reiterated that DCC had not categorically rejected the possibility of a light-controlled crossing. Monitoring by officers throughout the construction phase, and early occupation of the new homes, indicated that pedestrian activity falls well below the criteria required to justify a crossing. It remains the intention of DCC to assess pedestrian activity again, on completion of the local developments, so that it can establish whether pedestrian activity has increased sufficiently to justify putting forward a proposal for a light-controlled facility.

Councillor Shepherd referred to page 3, item 27 of the minutes and asked whether there has been a response from Chief Executive to his question regarding the stretch of road on the eastern side, facing on to Stenson Road with no barrier between the road and the grass area. Director of Housing & Environmental Services said he had nothing to report on this but would raise it with the Chief Executive and report back.

Action: Director of Housing & Environmental Services to speak with Chief Executive report back.

RA/06 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

The Green, Willington: Withdrawal of School Crossing Patrol

A resident made reference to DCC's proposals to remove all School Crossing Patrol Wardens where they currently operate on a zebra or light-controlled crossing facility, as is the case for The Green, Willington.

The resident quoted the recent Cabinet member report of 7 July 2015:

A full and comprehensive assessment of all Derbyshire's current sites was undertaken during 2014. These assessments were conducted in line with the recently updated School Crossing Patrol Guidelines, issued by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), on the SCP service and were used to inform the Council's work in preparing the proposals put forward to Cabinet on 20 January 2015.

The proposed changes to the SCP service, approved by Cabinet to consult on, were as follows:

- 1. That any individual SCP site served by a light-controlled or zebra crossing facility be withdrawn, with effect from the end of the summer term, July 2015.*

However, the resident contested that the RoSPA criteria indicates that far from supporting the withdrawal of the lollipop lady in Willington, the complexity of the traffic flow and street furniture at the B5008/A5132 junction, with its mini islands, the case exists that the crossing point should be controlled by traffic lights.

Newton Road, Newton Solney: Overgrown Footway

A resident reported on overgrown hedgerows that were obstructing the footway, from opposite Bladon House School, back towards Newton Solney.

Frizam's Lane junction Heath Lane, Findern: Overgrown Vegetation

A resident raised concerns that vegetation here is obstructing visibility. Councillor Ford advised that he had already reported the issue at the location on the bridge at Hells Brook.

Heath Lane Jct. Main Street, Findern: Request for Chevrons

It was asked whether chevron boards could be erected at the bend in the road. The boundary wall of the property on the bend has been struck on more than one occasion and it was felt that the chevron boards would highlight the bend in the road better.

AFLO said he met with Councillor Ford on site and said he would look at arranging some speed surveys at either end of the village. There are already measures in place with a bend warning sign in place. There is a criterion that needs to be met on the severity of the bend for chevron boards but DCC will look into this.

Bretby Lane Bretby: Drainage Issues

Cllr Chilton raised the ongoing issue of drainage problems on Bretby Lane and requested an update.

AFLO advised that a scheme has previously been drawn up to alleviate the flooding problems. The first element of the scheme – to reconstruct the outfall and headwall – was completed late last year.

The on-road element of the scheme will need to be funded through the Area Maintenance Care manager's local budget. AFLO has been seeking confirmation from the Care Manager as to whether he will approve funding of the scheme this financial year; the response has been that they are currently considering options. Both AFLO and the officer who designed the scheme have impressed on the Care Manager that the matter has been on-going for several years and a resolution is required.

Action: AFLO will continue to press ahead with the matter to get a response from the Care Manager

Canal Bridge, Willington: Signal Damage

A resident reported that one of the signal poles has been struck and is leaning slightly. The resident confirmed that the signal itself is still working

Footpath by Trent Avenue – part-time lighting at night

A resident asked if anything further has been done about the lighting at this location. Councillor Ford said the Parish Council needs to understand what

the issues are and then to report back to County Council but since AFLO is there, he could take the issue back.

Action: AFLO to report back on this matter

RA/07 **County Council issues.**

No issues.

RA/08 **District Council issues.**

No issues.

RA/09 **Date of Next Meeting.**

To be confirmed in due course.

COUNCILLOR M STANTON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.10 pm