

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

Tuesday, June 19th, 2018 at Repton Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council representatives

Councillor Peter Smith (Chair), Councillor Martyn Ford, Councillor David Shepherd.

Frank McArdle (Chief Executive).
Allison Thomas (Strategic Director – Service Delivery).
Ian Hey (Community Partnership Officer).
Tom Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Martyn Ford.

Derbyshire Police representatives

PC Joe Pilgrim, PCSO Harriet Dunn.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

David Dickson (Repton Parish Council), Mary Goodall (Findern Parish Council), Amanda Hibbert (Findern Parish Council), James Hibbert (Findern Parish Council), Barbara McArdle (Repton Parish Council), Christina Oppenheimer (Ticknall Parish Council), Trevor Skeith (Repton Parish Council), Iwan Thomas (Repton Parish Council).

Members of the public

Tony Bates, John Bell, Frances Berry, Sue Bowers, Sue Carter, Carol Checketts, Andrew Churchill, Kerry Churchill, Phil Cowley, Ragnild Dahl-Cunningham, Brian Dobson, Kyran Farrell, Michael Groom, G Harvey, Pat Harvey, Carol Hickebottom, Kate Hickebottom, Ian Hudson, Mark Hunt (CVS), AJ Lomas, Jan Marshall, David Melen, Janet Melen, John Orme, Pat Pearson, Gwen Sanders, Grace Varty, Cliff Warner, Pam Wood (CVS), Carol Wynn (Findern Neighbourhood Watch).

RA/1 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Manjit Chahal, Charles Fellows, Fred Hill, Mrs Griffiths, Steve Hewitt, Richard Lisewski, Councillor Andy MacPherson, Phil Smith, Councillor Michael Stanton, Steve Toone.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Councillor Peter Smith said he hoped the attendance showed a very positive response to combining two meetings into one. Frank McArdle added that he was pleased to see more people than there were seats at the table. He asked for feedback from those in attendance.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were moved as a true and correct record of the meeting by Councillor David Shepherd and seconded by Councillor Martyn Ford.

RA/2 **Safer Neighbourhood report**

PC Joe Pilgrim introduced himself to the meeting as the new Safer Neighbourhoods Officer for the Repton area. He was also covering Hilton and Melbourne. His background was in proactive and plain clothes policing.

PCSO Harriet Dunn reported that:

- Letters had been sent to the owners of vehicles spotted and suspected of being involved in anti-social behaviour at Hillside Park, Findern.
- The situation with parking at Foremark Reservoir seemed to be improving but single white lines were not enforceable. Dangerous parking was something police could tackle.
- Drink-drive arrests had been made in Arleston Lane, Stenson Fields, and Repton.
- Two drug-driving arrests had been made in Willington.
- A cannabis grow had been unearthed in Repton.
- A new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator had been appointed in Stenson Fields.
- A bike had been stolen in Stenson which was later recovered.

A resident reported several near-misses in Milton at the triangular junction between Main Street and Mount Pleasant Road. She blamed the fact that drivers were going the wrong way into what she believed to be a one-way junction.

A resident asked what Police had done regarding underage drinking at Hillside Park, Findern. PC Pilgrim replied that he had been to the park on two occasions but there were no children present on either occasion. PCSO Dunn added that she had visited and some youngsters had made good their escape before she could speak to them. Councillor Smith asked if such visits could be kept off social media to ensure they were a surprise. PCSO Dunn agreed that they could. Another resident said they had found a till receipt for alcohol associated with the underage drinkers and felt it could have helped catch them. PCSO Dunn replied that nothing could be done with the receipt as it was not specific evidence.

A Willington resident said they were impressed with the amount of officers at the recent raft race in the village. PC Pilgrim replied that it was every single officer from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) with rest days cancelled.

A Findern resident said they had reported needles in the village park to the Police but had been told the clean-up was a SDDC responsibility. Councillor Smith confirmed that was correct.

A resident raised the issue of vans being broken into and felt that more needed making of it by Police. They understood that three vans in Willington had been targeted in one night. More information needed publishing by Police. PC Pilgrim replied that there were divisional level operations going on with van breaks. PCSO Dunn added that she could provide updates, ideally through Neighbourhood Watch.

Councillor David Shepherd reported suspicious activity on a pathway in Stenson Fields involving a suspected drug dealer. Details had been passed to Police. What action could Police take? PC Pilgrim replied that officers in Swadlincote would not attend such an incident unless they were in the area. It would be more likely that officers from Derby would get the call as Swadlincote was 25 minutes away.

Councillor Shepherd reported damage to a property caused by vandals. He asked for a Police presence in the area at around 7.30pm where the incident occurred. He also raised burglaries at two properties either side of a footway in Stenson Fields. Cars at the addresses had been vandalised as well. Could a CCTV camera be put at the location? PC Pilgrim replied that he would speak to the Inspector about installing a wildlife camera in the affected areas.

Councillor Shepherd also raised the following:

- Cars being broken into during the night.
- Speeding on Wragley Way / Grampian Way.
- Unlicensed riders of motorbikes.
- Mini-Motos being used on an open space at Fox Close.

PC Pilgrim said that bikes could be seized but a warning had to be issued first. The ticket went to the vehicle and not the rider – it was a frustrating situation for officers.

A resident said that as a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator they used to receive regular crime updates from the Police and Crime Commissioner. Now all they received were missives from Hardyal Dhindsa. PC Pilgrim replied that staffing levels on the SNT had diminished since such detailed updates were produced.

A resident said that parking in Brook End, Repton, was a major problem. They had been asked for photos by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to show the problem. PC Pilgrim said he had limited powers of enforcement but Councillor Smith added that DCC enforcement officers had the powers.

A resident asked what confidence they could have that information in a 101 call was passed to officers at Swadlincote. PC Pilgrim replied that information was always filtered.

RA/3 **Communities update**

Ian Hey reported that:

- The Community Partnership Scheme, a new £250,000 fund for capital projects in South Derbyshire, had been launched. Projects seeking funding needed to show how they would impact on SDDC's Corporate Plan and Community Strategy. He was available to help with advice for projects and potential applications.
- Safer and Stronger Neighbourhood Grants were still available, with all six areas in South Derbyshire receiving £4,000 per year. Projects which had an impact on community safety were encouraged, but a broad view was taken on what was eligible. All the money allocated to the Repton area was still available and if it went unused would potentially be spent elsewhere in South Derbyshire.
- SDDC's Adult Activities Brochure, outlining leisure activities available to adults in the District, had been published.

Pam Wood (CVS) laid out the role taken by the CVS and explained:

- How the CVS could help with a range of issues facing the development of a community group.
- That the CVS could help a group to win grants from other organisations.

Mark Hunt (CVS) explained what the Safer Homes Scheme was and how it allowed the over-60s and vulnerable members of society free security upgrades to their properties.

RA/4 **Local authority issues & public questions**

Mr McArdle said that villages like Repton felt the strain with planning applications coming in and attempts were made to balance the situation. Section 106 money was spent to provide improved services.

Allison Thomas reported that she was 11 weeks into post as the new Strategic Director (Service Delivery) at SDDC. Services were improving and additional resources had been allocated for refuse and street care. New standards had been adopted for public spaces and communal areas while new vehicles had been bought and additional staff hired.

Mr McArdle raised a balancing pond at Kingfisher Lane, Willington, which had been reported at the previous meeting as a potential danger to children. Investigations were under way. He was also persuading the Government to bring in regulations to help districts like South Derbyshire stay safe as populations increased. Mrs Thomas added that she was working with DCC to develop policies to make such facilities safe in conjunction with developers.

A resident said they hoped DCC could widen the pavement on Willington Road (between Repton and Willington) to make walking along it safer.

A Findern resident raised grass cutting in the village and asked if it was possible to cut more often. Mrs Thomas replied that South Derbyshire District Council grass cutting standards set out the number of cuts within villages. Between villages, a project was under way with DCC to review how often cuts needed to be made. It was early days in the project.

A resident complained that signage in a lot of the villages was poor, with signs even missing from some locations.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report complaint to Derbyshire County Council

A resident complained about potholes on Milton Road, near to a bend halfway between Repton and Milton. A previous repair had failed. The

whole village of Repton was a nightmare of potholes. Councillor Smith added that Councillor Ford had been involved in attempts to improve the quality of work from patching teams. Mrs Thomas said that DCC had invested £23m over the last three years to tackle potholes but with more than 5,000km of roads in the County it remained a challenge.

A resident complained that a response from DCC on signage for Repton School seemed to miss the point. Was the response from someone sat in an office looking at guidelines? Or had they gone out and looked at the situation?

ACTION: Tom Sloan to ask Derbyshire County Council for a further response

A resident reported trees overhanging the road at Mount Pleasant Road, Repton.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to request Derbyshire County Council visit the area to review trees

A resident asked if Section 106 money would be available to repair the Broomhills Lane pavilion. Mr McArdle replied that such monies were only for the expansion of community facilities, not for improving buildings in a poor state of repair.

Mr McArdle asked for it to be recorded that the recent boundary change at Stenson Fields (where land moved from the Parish of Barrow to that of Stenson Fields) meant an area of land had moved from Melbourne Area Forum to Repton Area Forum.

Councillor Shepherd complained that issues he had raised at the previous Repton Area Forum had not been answered by DCC. He asked for them to be resubmitted.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to resubmit Councillor Shepherd's requests for information

A resident asked what was happening with the Dales, Askew Grove, Repton. Mr McArdle replied that he would like the site to be developed. Tree Protection Orders were in place so the environment was safe.

A resident raised Japanese Knotweed in Willington Road, Repton. It was encroaching onto the highway. Councillor Smith said the problem had been reported and was being treated but it took several seasons to get the weed under control.

A resident asked if Repton Area Forum was empowered to make a statement critical of policing. Mr McArdle replied that it would have been

better to address frustrations during the Police section of the meeting, but the resident's criticism would be noted.

A Findern resident complained of Japanese Knotweed in Doles Lane, near to the 30mph sign.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report Japanese Knotweed to Derbyshire County Council

RA/5 **Presentation on local community initiative**

Mr Hey introduced a presentation on the Neighbourhood Development Plan which was going to Full Council in June. If it was ratified, it would then go to a referendum. The Plan would give Repton an opportunity to shape development in the village – not stop it entirely. The Plan would in effect become an annexe to SDDC's Local Plan.

Iwan Thomas from Repton Parish Council explained the interesting and lengthy process which had been undertaken.

Mr Thomas also explained how Repton Village Hall itself was the subject of a planning application to bring the building down and start again from the ground up. More than £90,000 had been raised through local events and £83,000 from Repton Parish Council. There was a total of £340,000 raised with Section 106 monies added. The sum needed was £750,000 and 77% of the village supported an extra £20 precept to fund the hall.

RA/6 **Summary of any agreed priorities / actions**

- Tom Sloan to report complaint regarding poor signage to DCC.
- Tom Sloan to ask DCC for a further response on signage at Repton Primary School.
- Tom Sloan to request DCC visit Mount Pleasant Road, Repton, to review overhanging trees.
- Tom Sloan to resubmit Councillor Shepherd's requests for information to DCC
- Tom Sloan to report Japanese Knotweed in Doles Lane, Findern, to DCC.

RA/7 **Close and date of next meeting**

Thursday, October 18th, 2018.

Councillor Peter Smith
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8.15pm.