

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

10th October 2012

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Brown (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Patten (Vice Chairman) and Councillors Bale and Mrs. Plenderleith.

M. Alfat (Director of Operations), K. Stackhouse (Head of Corporate Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and M. Guest (Policy & Communications).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Patten.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

J. Drake and M. Pateman (Dalbury Lees Parish Council), B. Cowley and M. Nesbitt (Egginton Parish Council), I. Bennett, N. Ireland, D. Muller and B. Payton (Etwall Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), R. Brooks (Hatton Parish Council) and S. Cooper (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

C. Hall, S. Jolly, J. Parkinson and G. Wale.

EA/9. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Lemmon and Roberts, S. Avery, J. Clarke and H. Hague.

EA/10. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman publicised the District Council's Annual Report and the Annual Report for the Housing Services Division. She spoke about current consultations, particularly the Local Plan, which was residents' opportunity to comment on the strategic development plans for South Derbyshire. Flyers were circulated and the next event for this area would take place at the Frank Wickham Hall on 15th October. People were able to attend any of these events and urged to complete and return questionnaires with their views.

The Chairman reported that Toyota was celebrating its 20th Anniversary and would shortly start production of a new vehicle at its Burnaston plant. She referred to the Planning Committee meeting the previous evening and the £1/2

Billion investment from Nestle that would create some 425 jobs. Residents were also informed about the Dove Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme and about the referral of a planning application for a wind turbine to the Planning Inspectorate.

EA/11. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held 25th July 2012 were noted.

EA/12. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman referred those present to the report circulated with the Agenda and a verbal update was provided. With regard to communications on road works, a parish representative praised the Elgin website which provided up-to-date information on road works. The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to send a link to this website to all parish clerks and District Councillors. On the broadband delivery plans, it was noted the planned meeting at Derbyshire County Council the previous day had been cancelled and a revised date was awaited.

EA/13. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

There was discussion about the mechanisms being used to consult on the Local Plan. It was confirmed that an individual leaflet drop to all households was not being undertaken, because of the costs involved. A resident offered to take a supply of the flyers and distribute them in his own area. Other representatives showed an interest in doing likewise and were asked to leave their details with the clerk after the meeting. Further aspects discussed were the use of social media, press releases (which were copied to parish councils), village magazines and seeking radio coverage. It was also questioned how residents in areas that did not have a parish council would be informed of this process.

A resident repeated concerns raised at the earlier Safer Neighbourhood Meeting regarding cycle races through the rural areas, as it was considered that some of the lanes were not suitable for this purpose.

EA/14. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer had circulated information about Health Watch Derbyshire. This was a new initiative established by the Government giving individuals the chance to influence and challenge health and social care services in Derbyshire. The body would provide a voice both locally and nationally, gathering views, information and concerns and then feeding these into the delivery of local health and social care services. The public were being invited to get involved to make sure Health Watch Derbyshire worked well. Residents were urged to complete the circulated questionnaire and to submit responses by 15th October 2012. A sheet containing frequently asked questions and answers was also provided.

The Forum Liaison Officer also publicised a County Council information sheet, informing residents on preparing for the winter months. It was questioned why some consultation processes had started in the late summer months, when people were taking their holidays and this point was noted.

EA/15. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

A presentation was made by the Head of Corporate Services about changes to Council Tax Benefit. Residents were reminded about the current arrangements and the move from a national to a local benefit system from next April. Overall, the funding to councils had been reduced by 10% and for South Derbyshire this equated to £1/2 million each year. There were currently six thousand people in South Derbyshire that received benefits, about half of which were pensioners. A number of options had been considered to date, on which details were provided, together with the Council's initial proposals. The presentation concluded with the timetable for this review and the new arrangements would operate from 1st April 2013. Residents were urged to read the consultation slides and the further information and then to submit their views via a questionnaire.

Questions were responded to on a number of areas, particularly empty properties, confirming that the proposals would not apply to business premises and that a charge was already levied on second homes. Further Government incentives and benefit related reviews were also raised.

EA/16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue for the next Etwall Area Forum would be confirmed in due course.

MRS. L. BROWN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.