

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

20th July 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Bladen (Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Hood and Taylor.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Ford.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant M. Sisman.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Buchanan and A. Topliss (Newton Solney Parish Council), R. Paulson and J. Shortt (Repton Parish Council), P. Rickett (Willington Parish Council) and R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

J. Cownie, S. Cownie, A. Gillespie, A. Jones, C. Manifold, J. Orme, P. Pearson, G. Varty, D. Ward, C. Warren and G. Wass.

RA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Bladen had been appointed Chairman of the Repton Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting.

RA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mark Todd M.P., District Councillor Mrs. Wheeler, A. Gifford (Willington Parish Council), N. Cumming (Repton Parish Council) and A. Mayger.

RA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that District and County Councillor M. Ford be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Repton Area Forum for the ensuing year.

RA/4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ford declared a personal interest in the County Council's consultation on Minerals and Waste Planning, as Chairman of that Authority's Development Control Committee.

RA/5. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sisman advised that he had recently become the seconded police officer working with the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership. He gave an update on the police staffing for this part of the District and a report on progress with the issues raised at the previous meeting. It was planned to produce a leaflet over the coming weeks with police contact details and this would be circulated via the Area Forums and Safer Neighbourhood Meetings. An explanation was given of how the Constabulary tackled anti-social behaviour and, related to this, the County Council's action on dealing with minor offences was also discussed. The Sergeant then spoke about activities for young people and feedback was provided on the car vandalism problems in Church Gresley.

Questions were invited and the first concerned problems associated with youth activities on the Mitre Field at Repton. A particular individual was thought to be causing problems and attendance by a PCSO was requested. This issue had been raised previously. **Sergeant Sisman agreed to pursue this request.**

Concerns were raised about the vandalism of waiting room seats and those on the platform at Willington Station. There were safety concerns that objects could be thrown onto the rail lines. A further issue, raised at a previous meeting concerned a broken window and an unsightly temporary repair which needed to be fixed properly. **Sergeant Sisman agreed to pursue these matters with Transport Police and it was agreed that the Clerk write to Network Rail to pursue the necessary repair works.**

A further problem in Willington concerned vehicles parking on pavements in Trent Avenue and Twyford Road. This was causing an obstruction to footway users. **Sergeant Sisman agreed to investigate this matter and residents were asked to contact PC Chris Fearn when such incidents occurred.** PC Fearn could be contacted at the Swadlincote Police Station on (0345) 123 3333. The Sergeant concluded his presentation by giving an update on crime statistics.

RA/6. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Forum held on 20th April 2009 were noted.

RA/7. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Information had been circulated with the agenda to provide an update on the issues raised at the last meeting. The Forum Liaison Officer gave supplementary information on those issues referred to Derbyshire County Council and in particular, the highway problems in Woodville. This was discussed by Woodville representatives, who were concerned about the condition of the road traffic island adjacent to the Clock Garage. The proposed feasibility study to investigate ways of giving protection to the central island was noted, but there was a need for urgent repair works, due to the poor condition of the traffic island presently. The County Council's report also made reference to the Swadlincote Regeneration Route, as a longer-term means of alleviating congestion. It was questioned when this would be completed, but given the substantial external funding that would be required, there was no definitive date for the completion of this route. A local Councillor added that the problems of congestion in High Street, Woodville were amongst some of the worst in South Derbyshire, which in turn was the sixth fastest growing area in the Country. He felt there should surely be some way to secure funding for the required regeneration route.

A further highway safety issue concerned on-street parking in Newton Solney and there was a need for parking restrictions, particularly in the vicinity of the Village Hall.

The Forum Liaison Officer noted all the comments submitted and would refer these back to colleagues at the County Council.

An update was also provided on those issues referred to the District Council at the previous meeting. Further feedback was awaited on the untidy condition of the Willington Station site, regarding how the Primary Care Trust utilised funding from Section 106 Agreements and the risks associated with airborne dust. These issues would be pursued again and reported back to the next Area Forum Meeting.

RA/8. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Notice had been given by Mr. Orme of Willington of a question about Area Forum boundaries. Mr. Orme gave a summary of his question, which sought a review of boundaries to make the area covered by this Forum similar to that for the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting. The Chairman responded by thanking Mr. Orme for the suggestion, which was noted and could be taken into consideration in the future, as and when a district-wide review of forum boundaries took place.

In Newton Solney there were plans for a vehicle speed activated warning sign and local representatives sought an update on when this would be installed. The Forum Liaison Officer gave an update on the difficulties in identifying a

suitable power source and a scheme brief had been requested. School Safety Zone signs had also been requested and these were still to be activated.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to research these items and to provide a report back to the next Area Forum.

There was concern about the abuse of weight limits in villages between the A38/A50 at Toyota and Swadlincote. It was requested that Trading Standards take a pro-active approach to this problem. The local County Member gave an update and this issue had been referred to the relevant officer at Derbyshire County Council. A Trading Standards Monitoring Form was available for residents to take details of vehicles considered to be breaching weight limits. This was acknowledged, but it was difficult for residents to be aware of those companies with rights of access to nearby business premises.

A point was made about the costs associated with providing public toilets. A comparison was drawn to the overall costs, which were reducing over the coming years and the increased charge levied to Willington Parish Council for the toilets within that Village. A response was provided to the points raised. There was also discussion about anticipated cuts in public service expenditure following the next Parliamentary Election. This point was acknowledged and the Chief Executive referred to a presentation later in the meeting, which would give a summary of key findings from a local priorities consultation. There was a difficult balance between delivering the services that people wanted without increasing levels of Council Tax unnecessarily.

In the Woodville area, there was a planning gain agreement for the provision of a new pedestrian crossing near to the junction of the A511 with Lincoln Way. An update was sought on when the crossing would be provided, as there were safety concerns for the numerous children crossing the A511 at this location to access the Granville School. Additionally, in Moira Road, Woodville, works were due to be undertaken associated with the Woodville Woodlands Scheme. An update was sought on both items.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to research these items and to provide a report back to the next Repton Area Forum.

RA/9. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer reported that Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council had jointly begun preparing new plans, which would set out where and when new minerals and waste development would take place over the next 20 years. Information was circulated to those present, which explained more about the plans. The County Council was carrying out further consultation and asked, if any residents had opinions about what the minerals and/or waste plans should contain, that they express their views. In addition, they would include any person or organisation that wished to be consulted regularly in their list of consultees. It was pointed out that residents could get involved at any

stage, but it was important to register interest early in the process, if they wished to influence the plans from the start.

To express a view or to register, it was requested that people email: wasteminsldf@derbyshire.gov.uk or write to Andrew Hollyer, Development Plans Team, Environmental Services Department, Derbyshire County Council, Shand House, Dale Road South, Matlock, DE4 3RY.

A question was submitted about how specific the proposals resulting from this consultation exercise would be. The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to undertake additional research on this aspect and would report back to a future Area Forum. To provide a context, it was noted that these consultation processes would run until 2012 and 2013 respectively. Another resident questioned whether these consultation processes would take over two years to complete. Following a meeting at Derbyshire County Council earlier in the day, it was noted that feedback would be provided to parish councils on this subject in the coming weeks. It was also noted that Derbyshire was in the top three counties nationally in terms of mineral extraction. The Planning Team would consult extensively on these issues and it was vital that local people had an input, particularly on mitigation measures. A further point was raised on the likely location of mineral extractions within South Derbyshire.

RA/10. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES: FEEDBACK ON VISION AND PRIORITIES**

Frank McArdle, Chief Executive of the District Council advised that a booklet had been circulated entitled “Local Priorities Consultation – Summary of Key Findings”. He reported that during 2008 and early 2009, the District Council had consulted key stakeholders on priorities for the District. A wide range of consultation methods were used and the results had informed two key documents, being the Council’s Corporate Plan and South Derbyshire’s Sustainable Community Strategy. The booklet gave a summary of the key findings following this consultation. Residents were thanked for giving their views. A resident commented on transport issues and particularly public services for the area.

RA/11. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was reported that the next Repton Area Forum would be held in November 2009. Details of the venue and exact date would be confirmed by letter. Future Area Forum Meeting dates were confirmed as 27th January 2010 at the Woodville Infants School and 7th April at the Goseley Community Centre.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.