

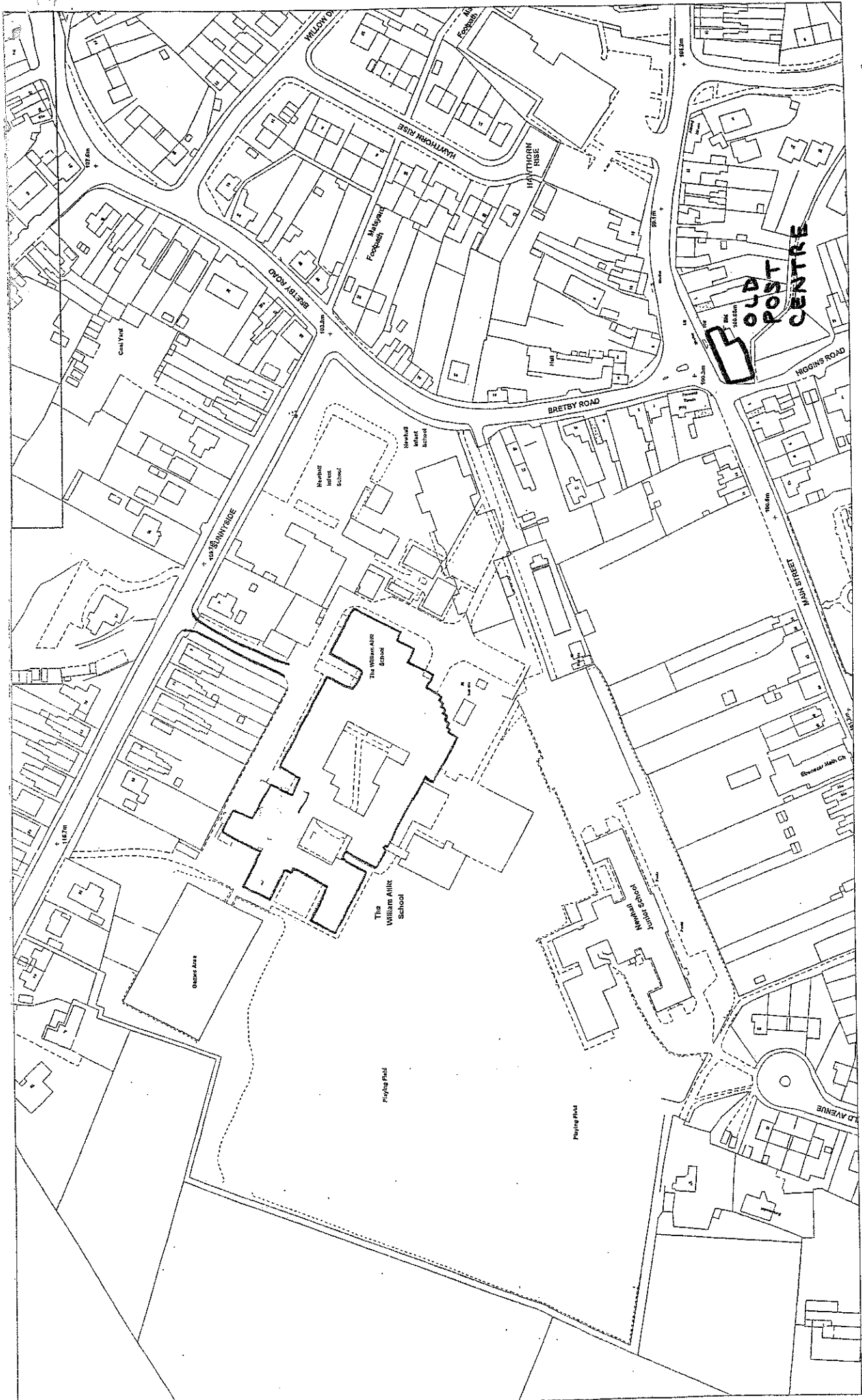
NEWHALL AREA MEETING

**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS**

TUESDAY, 12TH AUGUST 2003

**OLD POST CENTRE
HIGH STREET
NEWHALL**

7.00 p.m.



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SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

(Covering Midway, Newhall and Stanton)

**Meeting to be held at the
Old Post Centre
High Street
Newhall
on Tuesday, 12th August 2003
at 7.00 p.m.**

(Light Refreshments will be available at 6.30 p.m.)

Members:

District Councillors: Councillor Mrs. Mead (Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mulgrew, Richards and Wilkins.

County Councillor: Councillor Routledge.



BUSINESS

Ordinary Business

1. To note the appointment of Councillor Mrs. Mead as Chair at the Annual Council Meeting.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair.

4. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th February 2003 (copy herewith) and any matters arising.
5. Chair's Announcements (if any).
6. Public Question Time and suggestions for future local discussion items.
7. Date of next Meeting – to be advised.

Community Items

8. Budget Consultation.
9. Overview and Scrutiny.
10. Crime and Disorder Partnership Update.
11. Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

5th February 2003

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Mead (Chair), Councillor Richards (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Routledge and Wilkins.

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler (Repton Ward).

I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), K. Stackhouse (Finance Services Manager), N. Betteridge (Democratic Services Officer) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor Routledge.

Derbyshire Constabulary

P.C. Holmes.

Members of the Public

P. Bambrick, A. Blyth, M. Coulson, N. Cumming, G. Harrison, R. Holden, J. Holland, R. House, R. Hughes, C. Maddock, B. Marsden, G. Myatt, K. Parker, M. Richards, M. Rose, E. Tagg, V. Thornley, J. Venning, M. Vorley, C. White and B. Woods.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Dunn and G. Hall.

NA/14. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 6th November 2002 were noted.

NA/15. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair invited the Deputy Chief Executive to address the Meeting in connection with the disabled car parking spaces at the Civic Offices. Mr. Reid advised that following complaints from people with disabilities about the disabled car parking spaces outside the Civic Offices, the problem had been discussed with Councillor Harrington, who was Chair of the local Access Group. It had been agreed to erect a sign by these parking spaces to indicate clearly their purpose. It was also planned to take action against car owners who misused these spaces. Action would range from attaching very sticky notices on windscreens to consideration of clamping for frequent offenders. It was hoped that local residents would help this initiative by not misusing these parking spaces and supporting the action against those who did.

Mr. Reid advised that it was also intended to introduce improved controls on the short stay car parking spaces outside the Civic Offices for residents visiting the offices for a short period. A resident advised that car parking spaces were usually also available at the Council's Depot on Darklands Road, which was adjacent to the Civic Offices.

NA/16. **BUDGET CONSULTATION**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Kevin Stackhouse, Finance Services Manager at the District Council. He explained the aims of this consultation exercise and gave an overview of the topics covered in the presentation. Feedback from previous consultations had identified residents' key priorities and the other aims that the Council should pursue. The total cost of General Fund Revenue Services was some £9.61million and a series of charts showed the cost of Environmental Services, Community Services and Finance and Management Services. A further chart showed the respective proportions of Council Tax income that funded services provided by the District Council, the Police Authority and the County Council.

Mr. Stackhouse explained how the Council managed its finances through close monitoring of its expenditure, a more open budget process and by improving efficiency. The Council's current financial position was stable with improving levels of reserves. However, there was a need for caution as the Council was spending slightly more than it received in income at present. Mr. Stackhouse explained the financial constraints that the Council faced and how this affected the level of Council Tax increase. The Revenue Budget proposals were reported and these sought to maintain existing services and provide additional resources for service improvements. There was the potential for a low Council Tax increase for the second successive year.

Details were then provided of current capital spending, the constraints in place and capital spending proposals. Feedback from the Area Meetings would be submitted to inform the Council when it set its budget and Council Tax on 27th February 2003.

A resident expressed concern at a possible 7.5% increase in Council Tax and considered that many taxpayers may encounter difficulties in meeting this increase. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the Local Government Finance System was determined by Central Government and therefore this was an issue that should be pursued with the local Member of Parliament.

This presentation had been provided to all Area Meetings in the current cycle but at the Repton Area Meeting, the item was considered late in the agenda due to other issues and several residents at that Meeting felt that they had not had a sufficient opportunity to raise their views fully. Accordingly, any residents from that Meeting still wishing to contribute had been invited to attend this Meeting and a resident of Ladyfields, Midway took the opportunity to ask several questions relating to any increase at all in Council Tax, the consultation procedure undertaken by the Authority, Best Value, savings within the previous year, the number of Officers employed by the District Council, proposals for expenditure on IT systems, the cost to the Council of implementing legislation and recent press reports relating to an increased level of grass cutting and street cleansing. Where possible, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Finance Services Manager responded and residents were reminded that full Meetings of the District Council provided an opportunity for residents to attend and ask questions with appropriate notice in order that suitable responses may be prepared.

Residents expressed their gratitude to Mr. Stackhouse for an informative presentation.

NA/17. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES PROGRESSED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Committee reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made.

NA/18. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

District Councillor Richards referred to the recent announcement regarding redundancies at the United Biscuits factory at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Many residents of the district were employed by the company and he encouraged the involvement of the District Council in any negotiations.

A resident referred to the lack of progress on the erection of barriers at the bottom of Oversetts Road, Newhall by Fairmeadows Primary School and this would be pursued accordingly. A resident enquired as to the Council's stance on the proposed second runway at East Midlands Airport. This had been recently considered by the Council and the relevant reports and Minutes would be forwarded to the resident concerned if his details were left at the Help Desk.

A resident considered that the HGV restriction signs on the A444 were unclear and County Councillor Routledge agreed to pursue this matter further to improve clarity. He advised that he would also pursue the previous issue raised relating to the location details of further signage following discussions with landowners. A resident expressed her gratitude at the provision of the traffic lights at the junction of Park Road and the A444 which had improved the traffic situation considerably. A further resident enquired whether there were any proposals for traffic lights at the junction of Wood Lane, Newhall and the A511 and County Councillor Routledge confirmed that he had submitted a scheme to the County Highways Authority for future consideration.

A resident reported that an increased number of people were now visiting Swadlincote and expressed concern at the possible lack of parking provision in due course. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that this issue should be addressed by the proposed Morrisons development to the rear of the High Street, although a planning application had not yet been submitted. District Councillor Wilkins referred to the associated effect on the road network, which indicated that the town centre was busy and prosperous.

A resident enquired whether all road humps in the area complied with legislative requirements. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the County Council was the Highways Authority and he suggested that the resident should discuss any locations causing concern with County Councillor Routledge, who agreed to pursue any issues in this regard. It was noted that on previous occasions where such locations were reported, the County Highways Authority had undertaken works to alter road humps, where necessary.

A resident enquired as to the District Council's planning policy on developments on flood plains. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the policy was not to permit development within a flood plain that would place properties at risk or exacerbate any problems at other flooding areas in the

vicinity. He referred to the current flood study being undertaken by the Environment Agency relating to the site of the former Willington Power Station, advising that part of the site was in the flood plain and part was outside. Discussions were ongoing on this issue.

Following a query by a resident regarding local rumours concerning the possible development at the Methodist Church on High Street, Newhall, Officers and local Members advised that they were unaware of any application submitted.

A resident enquired as to the regularity of inspections undertaken by Council on the condition of Council properties. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that these were currently undertaken on an ad hoc basis and in response to complaints. However, the District Council planned to adopt a system of more regular inspections.

A resident referred to the lack of street lights on the footpath at Matts Yard, High Street, Newhall and County Councillor Routledge advised that he would submit a scheme for street lights in this vicinity at the next opportunity. District Councillor Bambrick advised that he would also pursue the provision of street lights through the Newhall and Midway Local Crime Reduction Group, which had recently been established.

A resident queried whether a list of rogue traders was available and the Deputy Chief Executive advised that the County Council's Trading Standards Department may be able to assist in this matter. In particular, the resident was interested in reputable building companies and he was encouraged to pursue any building works required with a member of the appropriate Federation.

The Chair invited residents to raise any issues concerning the police following the arrival of P.C. Holmes. A resident expressed concern at the danger created by vehicles parking on the bend at Robinsons Road, Newhall outside the business premises which had recently located at this position. P.C. Holmes agreed to monitor this location. A resident of Parliament Street, Newhall reported that two heavy goods vehicles were parked regularly in the vicinity of her property, creating difficulties in manoeuvring her vehicle from her driveway due to a lack of visibility. P.C. Holmes requested the resident to discuss the matter with him further following the Meeting. A resident expressed concern at the road layout at the traffic island at the Old Post, Newhall which he considered was causing a visibility problem when approaching Main Street from High Street. P.C. Holmes agreed to monitor this issue. District Councillor Richards referred to the recent resurfacing of Coronation Street, Swadlincote and advised that vehicles were now reaching excessive speeds in the vicinity of the Pingle School on this road. P.C. Holmes agreed to monitor this situation.

NA/19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised that due to District and Parish Council elections, the date of the next Area Meeting would be delayed. Details would be confirmed in due course.

NA/20. **CLOSURE OF NEWHALL TIP**

Mr. Woods referred to the time extension for Newhall Tip until March 2004 and expressed concern at the level of rubbish being stacked on the site, leading to unpleasant smells. He also enquired whether there had been any provision made for the future appearance of the site following the closure of the tip.

It was confirmed that the licence for the site expired in August 2004 but it was anticipated that it would have closed prior to this date. It was intended that following the closure of the tip, refuse would be taken to the Albion site but this was not yet ready and the cost of transporting refuse to the waste disposal site at Raynesway, Derby would cost an additional £300,000 per annum. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that he was not conversant with final landscaping arrangements and suggested that a representative of the Waste Recycling Group be invited to a future Meeting to hear residents' views on restoration proposals.

County Councillor Routledge encouraged residents to report any unpleasant smells to the District Council's Environmental Health Manager and he also advised residents that no extension had been permitted in relation to the area of the tip. District Councillor Richards reiterated to residents that originally, the Company had not anticipated the life of the tip continuing for the period now envisaged.

NA/21. **PROPOSALS FOR NADINS SITE**

Mr. Woods reported that earlier, District Councillor Bambrick had provided him with a plan from UK Coal indicating a footpath around the perimeter of the site and his concerns had now been alleviated.

MRS. J. MEAD

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.

