

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

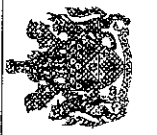
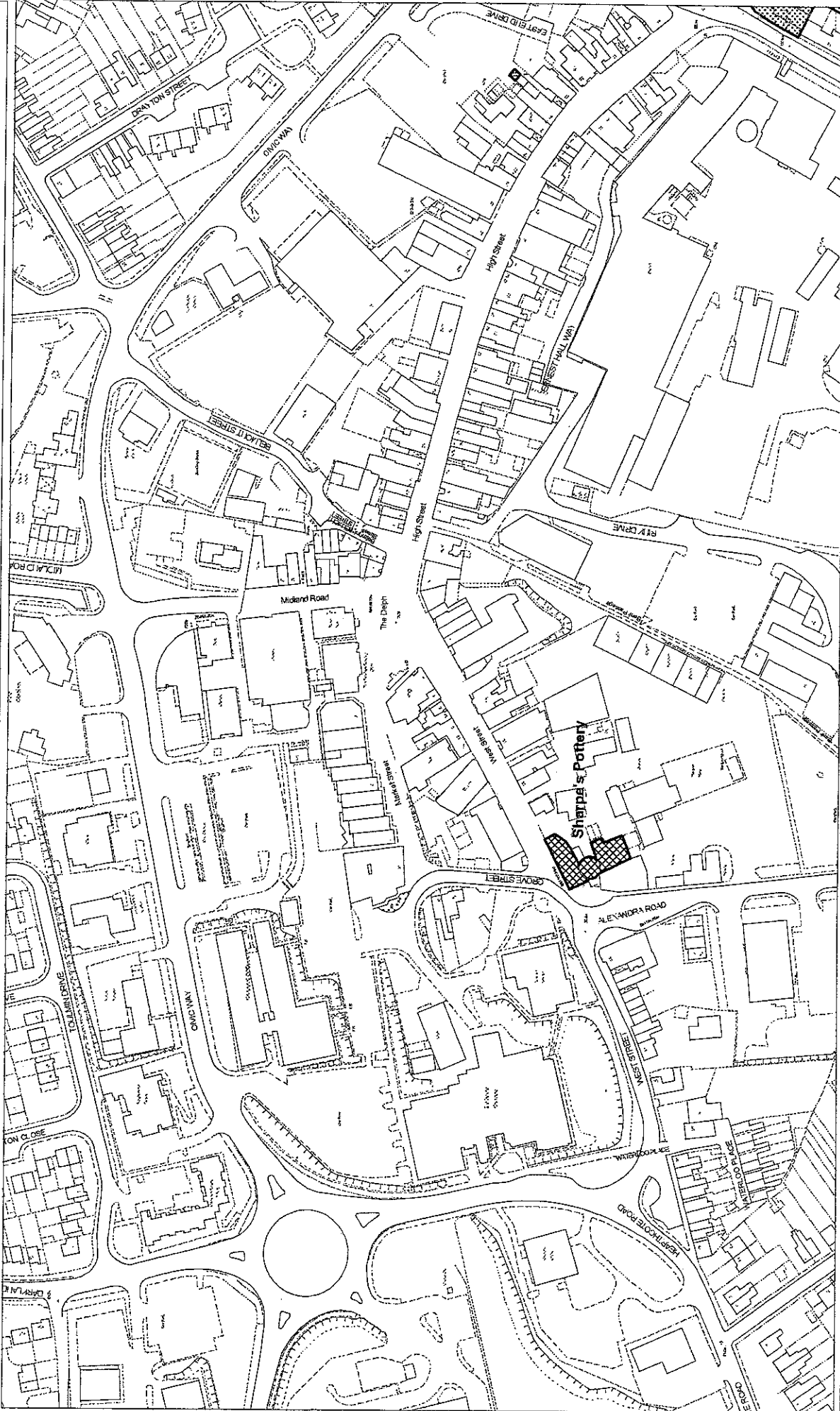
**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS**

WEDNESDAY, 4TH AUGUST 2004

**SHARPES POTTERY CENTRE
WEST STREET
SWADLINCOTE**

7.00 p.m.

Swadlincote Area Meeting Sharpe's Pottery West Street Swadlincote



South Derbyshire District Council

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Policy Unit

Date Plotted 2/2/2004

Scale 1:2500





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SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

(Covering Church Gresley and Swadlincote)

Meeting to be held at
Sharpes Pottery Centre
West Street
Swadlincote
on Wednesday, 4th August 2004
at 7.00 p.m.

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

Members:

District Councillors: Councillor Stone (Chair) and Councillors Harrington, Isham,
Lane, Murphy, Southerd and Taylor.

County Councillor: Councillor Southerd.



BUSINESS

Ordinary Business

1. To note the appointment of Councillor Stone 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 27th April 2004.
5. Chair's Announcements (if any).
6. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
7. Public Question Time and suggestions for future local discussion items.
8. Date of Next Meeting.

Community Items

9. Crime and Disorder update.
10. Recycling News.

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

27th April 2004

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Southerd (Chair) and Councillors Harrington, Isham, Lane, Murphy and Taylor.

T. Neaves (Chief Finance Officer), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Southerd.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Inspector S. Fairbrother, WPC Slack and WPC Wakefield.

South Derbyshire CVS

R. House.

Members of the Public

M. Brotherhood, M. Causer, R. Causer, M. Forbes, T. Harvey, K. Hough, T. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. E. Key, A. Sherriff M. Spalding, G. Tomlinson, J. Williamson and R. Yeomans.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Stone (Vice-Chair), B. Harvey and M. Lunn.

SA/28. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 21st January 2004 were noted.

SA/29. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair announced the recent early retirement of the Reverend Jim Muston. He paid tribute to his achievements and felt that the Vicar would be sadly missed. The Chair publicised a recycling initiative to provide a free spring clean for the two villages or areas that recycled the most waste. Information had been circulated prior to the Meeting, explaining proposals for the 2004 Liberation Day. Residents were urged to pass on this information and to encourage participation in the event.

SA/30. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and gave an update. With regard to litter around the Sainsbury's recycling centre, it was confirmed that this area was cleared each Monday and Friday as part of a contract. The complaints about the poor condition of roads due to development had also been researched. Derbyshire County Council was

trying to enforce regular road cleaning by the respective developers. At best this had been of limited effect, due to site conditions, particularly during the Winter months. Parking problems were still being experienced adjacent to the Tesco Store, at the entrance to the Thorpe Downs Estate in Church Gresley. This matter had been reconsidered by Derbyshire County Council, but it did not feel that the installation of traffic islands or barriers were appropriate. It was considered that the solution was effective police enforcement, securing a successful prosecution and linked to publicity, to give an effective deterrent.

SA/31. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Chair introduced Inspector Steve Fairbrother who had recently taken over from Inspector Hargreaves at the Swadlincote Police Station. Inspector Fairbrother gave some background to his Police career, confirmed that he was born locally and had served at the Swadlincote Station previously as a Sergeant. His plans included to provide extra Beat Officers and there was now a dedicated Beat Officer for the Swadlincote area. He also hoped to recruit Special Constables. He was mindful of local issues and spoke about plans to seize motorcycles that were causing a nuisance. He referred to recent problems and would endeavour to secure the use of the Police helicopter to catch offenders using motorcycles illegally. He sought help from the public to provide information on offences and would welcome their feedback. He publicised his direct telephone line: 01332 613383, so that residents could contact him. Another key issue was nuisance caused by youths. Work was being undertaken through the Crime and Disorder Partnership. He spoke of the role of parents and the need for youngsters to take responsibility for their actions. He also discussed anti-social behaviour generally. There would be times when the Police could not always deliver the service expected, dependent on the number of calls for service and the resources available at that time.

The Officer responded to a question from Mr. Harvey and explained the legal requirements to first issue a caution before motorcycles could be seized. A Woodville resident spoke of the problems caused by cyclists riding on pavements. It was confirmed that a fixed penalty notice could be issued in certain circumstances, but where the offenders were juveniles, no such penalty could be issued. Complaints were made about the use of "go-peds". The Inspector commented on the legal requirements for such vehicles and the Chair provided further clarification. Complaints were also made about derestricted mopeds and it was felt that enforcement action should take place. The same resident complained about problems near to the Londis shop and a nearby bus shelter, where young people congregated and there was an accumulation of rubbish. He suggested that a police presence be provided periodically.

Several residents commented on the improvements made since Tesco had taken over the former "One Stop Shop". Deliveries were now made to the rear of the store and there was regular litter picking of this area by company employees. Some resurfacing works had taken place. It was felt that full-height kerbs should have been installed at the same time to deter customers from parking in front of the store. Mr. Forbes lived adjacent to the store. Whilst he echoed the improvements made, the store was proving even more popular and his driveway was obstructed regularly. The Chair agreed to

pursue these issues, but reminded that there were no waiting restrictions in force. He sought the assistance of the Constabulary to enforce these restrictions.

Mr. Jones, a High Street retailer commented that there was no full-time traffic warden for the Town Centre. Inspector Fairbrother had met with the Traffic Warden Manager and he confirmed that a presence was provided in Swadlincote at least once each week. There were few traffic wardens for the whole Derby Division and he had asked Beat Constables to collate all parking complaints. The Constabulary would police this issue where possible, subject to other calls for service. Another resident complained about the lack of available car parking spaces within Swadlincote and felt that these were taken up by staff at the Council. Councillor Lane asked for statistics on the number of tickets issued by traffic wardens, as he felt that this would give a measure of their effectiveness. A resident complimented the Constabulary and particularly WPC Slack for assistance provided recently. This seemed to have resolved the problems raised previously, where young people were congregating near to certain properties.

The Chair responded to a resident's complaint about the condition of an area of land at Hearthcote Road, Swadlincote, near to the junction with Gresleywood Road. A new footpath had been provided and the Chair accepted that the area had been left in an untidy condition. He offered to pursue this matter with Derbyshire County Council.

There was a discussion about the poor visibility of some street lining within the Swadlincote and Church Gresley areas. Residents commented particularly about the "double yellow" lines outside the Tesco Store in Church Gresley and safety concerns where lines at road junctions were not visible. The Chair offered to raise this issue with Derbyshire County Council.

Complaints were made about litter problems in the vicinity of the McDonalds Restaurant in Swadlincote. A local resident explained his efforts to discuss this issue with the Company and the local franchisee. Insufficient litter-picking was taking place locally. The resident hoped that the item later on the agenda about a voluntary code of practice for the fast food industry, might offer a solution. Councillor Lane spoke about the voluntary code of practice. He recalled that following the complaints made to the Company some months ago, there had been a marked improvement, including an extension to the area from which litter was collected. Other residents discussed the responsibilities that should be placed on major companies like McDonalds and society's attitude towards litter generally.

A resident pursued the report back item regarding mud on roads near development sites. He commented that many councils required, as a planning condition, that vehicle wheel washing be provided on site and he felt that this did help to alleviate the problem. The Chair also responded to a comment about recent press speculation over the future use of the Drakelow Power Station site.

SA/32. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed provisionally that the next Swadlincote Area Meeting be held on 4th August 2004 at the Sharpes Pottery Centre, Swadlincote. Details would be confirmed in due course.

SA/33. **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CVS - VOLUNTEERING**

The Chair introduced Richard House of the South Derbyshire CVS who gave a brief presentation on volunteering. He clarified the name and role of this organisation and spoke about his role as a volunteer co-ordinator. He was attending all of the Council's Area Meetings to raise awareness of the CVS and hoped that residents would pass the information available from a display, to any person interested. He gave examples of the services which volunteers helped to deliver. Recently, enquiries had been received from individuals about becoming a Special Constable. Other examples given were people who worked in charity shops or volunteer partnerships. He advised that organisations often approached the CVS, asking for assistance when volunteers were needed. He advised that the CVS was based in Grove Street in Swadlincote and was staffed mainly by volunteers. He then referred to the befriending scheme that was operated by the CVS and aimed to put volunteer befrienders in touch with lonely people in society. He referred to the social car scheme, which involved drivers taking individuals to places such as local hospitals. This service was unique in that the driver would stay with the person for the duration of their visit and a small charge would be levied to use the scheme. He advised that the CVS operated a Christmas dinner scheme whereby individuals would make an extra Christmas meal and take it to a person living alone. He referred to the CVS shopping scheme and other areas of referral work. He then spoke of the benefits of volunteering, striking a balance and getting the right people to help with projects which were of interest to them. Some people had used volunteering as a means to gaining employment, or building their own confidence.

The Chair praised the invaluable service provided by the South Derbyshire CVS and spoke about the significant amount of information and literature available. He felt that this organisation offered excellent advice to South Derbyshire residents.

SA/34. **VEHICLE DISPOSAL SCHEME**

Councillor Lane advised that a number of items had recently been considered by the Council, which he thought would be of interest to local residents. The Vehicle Disposal Scheme aimed to tackle the anti-social problem where unwanted vehicles were abandoned or "burnt-out" within South Derbyshire. Approximately 500 vehicles were reported each year to the Police, the Fire Service or the District Council. He spoke of the costs of dealing with such vehicles and the potential for anti-social behaviour arising from vehicles being abandoned.

Under the new scheme, residents could contact the Council to have a vehicle removed. He explained the requirements of the scheme, confirmed that it would cost less than the present arrangements and hoped that it would remove the problem. It was noted that the value of scrap vehicles had recently increased and this should also help to reduce the number of vehicles that were abandoned.

The Chair confirmed that the scheme would provide a means for responsible disposal of unwanted vehicles. Councillor Murphy questioned whether the financial aspects of the scheme could be re-examined given the rise in scrap value. The Chief Finance Officer commented about the available funding and the success of the scheme would be dependent upon the number of requests

for service. He felt that if residents could receive money for their old vehicles, they were more likely to take them to a scrap yard.

Councillor Isham explained that a “burnt-out” vehicle would require attendance by the Police and Fire Services, removing them from other duties. A Police Officer questioned the publicity arrangements for the new scheme. The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the scheme was already operational and the publicity material should be issued shortly. A resident questioned whether there were other disposal options to maximise the potential income from unwanted vehicles. The Chair requested that residents publicise the scheme wherever possible.

SA/35. **SWADLINCOTE TOWN CENTRE STUDY**

Councillor Lane advised that as a result of the proposed Morrisons development, a planning agreement was being prepared. This would include funding for a Town Centre Study. The Study would examine the impact for the Town from the Morrisons development and identify key issues. Approximately £100,000 of monies would be provided for Town Centre infrastructure. Groups were being established to look at how the resources should be spent and public involvement was sought. Any resident wishing to participate in a group was asked to contact the Clerk after the Meeting. Councillor Murphy had previously requested the Council’s Design and Conservation Officer to include the Swadlincote Ward Councillors within consultation forums. He had still not received feedback personally and wished to be involved from the outset, to enable shaping of the survey. The Chair offered to pursue this with the Officer.

Councillor Lane confirmed that there was no Chamber of Commerce within Swadlincote and therefore consultation would need to take place with individual retailers and market traders. Richard House asked about the involvement of the CVS and spoke particularly about their participation appraisal scheme. The Chair suggested that Marilyn Hallard or another planning officer be invited to attend the next Area Meeting, to give an update on the Swadlincote Town Centre Study. Mr. Harvey asked whether shopkeepers would be kept informed of the proposals and this was confirmed. The long term affect of Morrisons on the Town was questioned. It was noted that some major retailers had a detrimental impact on remaining Town Centre outlets. Councillor Lane confirmed that statistically, of the major companies that might potentially have come to this site, Morrisons was anticipated to have the least impact, as it tended to concentrate on grocery. The Chair confirmed that this Company was also providing a lot in return for the local area.

SA/36. **CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STREET CLEANSING**

Councillor Lane advised that the Government was consulting on a draft Code of Practice. Its main aim was to reduce fast food litter in the local environment. Requirements would be placed on all types of fast food outlet and on Councils to work together with the fast food operators, to ensure that resources were targeted effectively. At this stage it was intended that the Code of Practice would be voluntary. However, the Government was clear that the effectiveness of the Code of Practice would be measured and if it failed to improve the situation, consideration would be given to a compulsory

Code. The Government intended to produce an Implementation Plan for the Code of Practice this Spring.

Councillor Lane explained that the Council was seeking assistance from the public to monitor known litter problem areas and to report these to the District Council. He also sought residents' views on whether a voluntary or compulsory scheme should be introduced. Councillor Murphy referred to changes through the Local Government Act 2003. If the District Council received a "fair" rating following its Comprehensive Performance Assessment, it would be able to negotiate service level agreements with other bodies. For example, an agreement could be made with Town Centre retailers that the Town Centre would be swept for litter twice each day. Additional service requests could then become chargeable. The Chief Finance Officer confirmed the powers available and the voluntary Code might provide a mechanism for such service level agreements. He spoke of the other options available including improvement areas. The key issue would be to get retailers to agree to such a service level agreement.

A resident reminded of the litter problems in the vicinity of McDonalds. Whilst the Company's policies were excellent, there was a problem in enforcement. It was felt that the voluntary Code would be of limited effect and the Council should reinforce the requirements for litter collection. The resident suggested that a dedicated employee be made responsible for litter collection duties and that a "tick box" approach be adopted, to ensure frequent collections. He concluded that policy implementation was the issue.

The Chair referred to other outlets within the Town where members of the public purchased goods and then dropped litter. He felt it might be that a compulsory scheme was required. Mr. Harvey commented that no other local retailers were required to make a contribution to the collection of litter from the Town Centre. A view was expressed that it was members of the public and not the shopkeepers that dropped the litter. Other issues raised were the production of "Keep Swadlincote Tidy" posters and the merits of requiring certain outlets to provide additional litter bins was discussed.

T. SOUTHERD

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

(Covering Church Gresley and Swadlincote)

4th August 2004

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the last Swadlincote Area Meeting held on 27th April 2004 at the St. George and St. Mary Parish Rooms, the following issues were raised. The issue is listed below, together with progress made to date:-

ISSUES	PROGRESS	ACTIONED BY
1. Highway issues.	County Councillor Southerd will provide an update at the Meeting.	County Councillor Southerd
2. Swadlincote Town Centre	An update will be provided at the Meeting.	Planning Services Manager (M. Hallard)

RECYCLING NEWS

Great news !!!

South Derbyshire's residents have beaten the Council's recycling target for the Financial Year 2003/04.

During the year 40,000 tonnes of waste were collected in the district out of which 6,500 tonnes were recycled (17%). The Council's target for the year was 14% so we are well on our way of meeting the statutory target set by Government – 21% in 2005/06.

The 6,500 tonnes recycled are made up as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Tonnes</u>
Compost	3,111
Recycling Centres	1,575
Kerbside Paper	1,533
Kerbside multi-materials (12,000 households for two months only)	300
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>6,519</u>

The main recycling developments during last year were as follows:

Compost

The Composting Scheme was extended to a further 6,000 households in the District taking the number of households on the scheme to over 20,000. The plan is to extend the scheme to the whole of the district over the next three years.

Kerbside Paper

Kerbside collection of paper is carried out in about 90% of the district and, up until September last year, about half the collections were carried out on a fortnightly basis with the other half being collected on a monthly basis. However, as from last September, after much discussion with the Council's contractor, all paper collections are made fortnightly thus providing a more regular and effective service for residents. Currently we are trying to make inroads into the 10% of the district where there are no kerbside paper collections.

Kerbside Multi-materials

A new scheme was launched in January this year for the kerbside collection of bottles, cans, foil and textiles as well as paper from 12,000 households in the district. The scheme is proving hugely popular with residents and is recycling about 30 tonnes of waste each week – 20% more than we forecast. We are earnestly seeking funding to expand the scheme into other parts of the district.

We ran a competition in May with the prize of a Village / Ward Clean Up by the Council's Street Cleansing team for the areas that recycled the most. Hartshorne and Woodville won the Kerbside Paper prize and Etwall and Egginton won the Compost and Multi-Materials prize.

The main purpose of the competition was to raise awareness of the importance and the value to be gained from recycling. We welcome ideas from residents about how we may keep the message alive.

South Derbyshire is still sending 34,000 tonnes of rubbish to be dumped in Landfill Sites each year so we can still improve on our worthy efforts so far.