

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
LINTON

30th March 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman), Councillor Jones (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Grant and Timms.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), P. White (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Bambrick and Mrs. Lauro.

P. Jameson (Local Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Parish Councillor/Meeting Representatives

S. Jackson, J. Pallett, O. Pallett and C. Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council), K. Bradford and W. Wadsworth (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), J. Powell (Linton Parish Council), A. Wing (Netherseal Parish Council), M. Horne and V. Taylor (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

K. Catherines, L. Ramsay (South Derbyshire CVS) and W. Taylor.

LA/28. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Wright addressed the Meeting, giving an update on police issues. He advised that figures for reported crime had recently reduced by 7.5% and there had also been a reduction in assault crimes with injuries by 27%. However, burglaries had increased by 30% across the County.

Details were provided of a new police policy entitled "Restorative Justice" which would take effect from 1st April 2009. The policy related to minor criminal/public order situations where discretion was given to allow the Police to deal with such incidents in consultation with other agencies, alleviating the need for court appearances.

An update was provided on 'Speedwatch' which would be continuing throughout the next year and was currently in operation in Scropton. Derbyshire Constabulary had also recently signed up to the new "Policing Pledge", advertised on the local radio station, which gave details of police aims and the level of the service members of the public could expect, together with details of how representations could be made, via the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings for example. Leaflets advertising the "Policing Pledge" were available on the Helpdesk.

A number of queries were raised regarding the recent appointment of Parking Wardens operating in Swadlincote. The Forum Liaison Officer advised that this was now a County Council function and that over 3,000 tickets had been issued Countywide, 80 of which were within South Derbyshire. It was noted that vehicles parking on disabled parking areas without badges in Midland Road, Swadlincote was an ongoing issue. County Council and Police Officers were congratulated on their combined efforts to alleviate the parking problems outside Linton School. Both the Headteacher and Crossing Warden had expressed their appreciation for the prompt action taken. It was however, queried whether the waiting restriction could be moved a short distance to allow parking outside properties opposite Linton School.

It was agreed to request the Parking Wardens to investigate the parking issues in Midland Road, Swadlincote and to forward the comments regarding the prompt action undertaken and request to move the waiting restriction outside Linton School to the appropriate officers.

Concern was raised regarding the ongoing issue of break-ins to churches within South Derbyshire. It was noted that the Crime Prevention Officer was currently working with churches where problems had been experienced.

At the last Meeting, an incident had been reported involving the parking of a particular company's vehicles and other vans on Hillside Road, Linton. The matter had also been raised with the Parish Council and investigated by the Planning Enforcement Officer. It now transpired that the Company was relocating to Swadlincote, which would alleviate the issues in Hillside Road, Linton.

LA/29. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Linton Area Forum held on 24th February 2009 were noted.

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

A report had been circulated with the agenda, which provided an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting.

With regard to fly tipping on the development site at Castle Gresley, following investigation by the District Council's Planning Enforcement Officer, remedial works appeared to have been undertaken by the developer to tidy the site.

LA/31. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A query was raised about the waiting restriction road markings outside the Children's Centre in Castle Gresley, which had originally been provided whilst the building was used as a school. It was questioned whether the waiting restrictions would still be required for children's safety and whether any legal order prohibited the removal of the restrictions.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.

Concern was raised regarding the curtailing of conditions of pass holders using public transport. However the District Council had received no notification of any changes to the Gold Card Scheme.

It was agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.

A resident advised that County Highways signage remained in the Little Liverpool area near to Linton. The works had been completed sometime earlier.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

It was reported that the lids to the dog bins adjacent to the recreation grounds in Coton-in-the-Elms had been removed. It was advised that the Parish Council was responsible for such maintenance.

LA/32. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUE – DERBYSHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2009-2014 – CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

Further to Minute No. LA/16, the Forum Liaison Officer had circulated details of the feedback received from the earlier consultation with Area Forums, to ascertain the priorities for each local area. The top five priorities for the Linton Area, the South Derbyshire District and the whole County were outlined. It was noted that all information would be fed into the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Discussion was undertaken about the priorities for the Linton Area. In relation to activities for children and young people, the lack of activities for teenagers was of most concern. Lack of public transport in the villages during the evenings was considered to be a contributory factor. Reference was made to the “Friday Night Project” held at Granville School, Woodville and it was suggested that consideration be given to the promotion of a similar activity nearer to the Linton Area. Another evening event was a rock school being held at Pingle School, Swadlincote on four evenings per week. The use of Community Transport to access such events was suggested, to be co-ordinated through either the District Council or Parish Council.

It was agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.

LA/33. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES – UPDATE ON VISION AND PRIORITIES 2009/14**

The Director of Community Services gave an update on the Corporate Plan for 2009/14. He advised that the new Plan had been developed following a large consultation exercise and the Council had a new vision “making South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit”. The Corporate Plan had four new themes:-

- Sustainable growth and opportunity.
- Safe and Secure.
- Lifestyle Choices.
- Value for Money.

A brief overview was provided on each of the new themes, followed by the values of the District Council, which included:-

- Put customers first.
- Set clear targets.
- Act decisively.
- Need for success.
- Actively listen and resolve problems.
- Develop our people.
- Maintain value for money via continuous improvement.
- Treat people fairly.

In receiving this report, a number of issues were raised in relation to the classification of affordable decent housing and the provision of public transport links in relation to major new residential developments.

A County Council Member reminded those present of the welfare rights campaign “Quids In” reported at the previous Meeting. He advised that he held a number of explanatory leaflets giving further information on the campaign which could be distributed to any interested members of the public.

LA/34. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.