

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

3rd November 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman), Councillor Jones (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Frost and Mrs. Hall.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

County Councillors Jones and Lacey.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary Representative

PCSO J. Magee.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

S. Jackson, J. & O. Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), A. Lees (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), G. Palmer and J. Powell (Linton Parish Council), L. Sullivan (Rosliston Parish Council) and T. Elson (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bird, K. Fletcher, R. Smyth, D. Taylor and V. Taylor.

LA/9. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from H. Wheeler M.P., Mrs. Horne, S. Jones, C. Knight and C. Marbrow.

LA/10. **POLICE ISSUES**

PCSO Magee gave an update on crime statistics for the area. Overall there had been a slight reduction when compared to the same period for the previous year and detailed reports were given for a number of specific crime areas. The Safer Neighbourhood priority for the area was to address anti-social behaviour in Overseal and he explained the extra initiatives put in place. He reported on a recent arrest and the seizure of drugs, together with the prosecution of an individual caught damaging vehicles.

Responses were provided to various questions submitted. It was confirmed that there would be an additional police presence to respond to problems caused by people using fireworks. It was reported that Police Community

Support Officer McMillan had been awarded the PCSO of the Year for Derbyshire and he was attending an award ceremony in London this evening. A resident reported that fireworks were being thrown by youths in Linton and he was urged to report such incidents to the Constabulary, when they occurred.

LA/11. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that following the recent consultation exercise, the Council had agreed revised area forum boundaries. These would provide that each ward was situated in only one area. The boundaries would also apply to the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, enabling both Meetings to be held on the same date and the same venue, with the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting first, to deal with any police issues. This would avoid duplications and achieve savings in cost and Officer time, as well as avoiding the need for residents to attend two Meetings.

The Chief Executive reminded residents of the background and purpose of the Area Forums and the reasons for the recent review process. The Chairman sought proposals for future discussion items and it was suggested that a presentation be provided by the Drakelow Park developer.

LA/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Linton Area Forum held on 5th July 2011 were noted.

LA/13. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the Agenda. The Chief Executive referred to the golf course off William Nadins Way in Swadlincote, confirming the offer for an Appleby Glade resident and representative of Castle Gresley Parish Council to attend a visit to the site the following week. A resident reported that mud from the site was being deposited on William Nadins Way, that there were no wheel-washing facilities on the site and that the roadsweeper was not effective.

It was agreed that both the District and County Councils pursue this matter.

LA/14. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

An update was given on developments in the Town Centre with the imminent opening of the new cinema and restaurant, which would increase the nighttime economy of the area. There were also plans for aerial photographs to be exhibited at the cinema showing the regeneration that had taken place.

An update was given on the footway at Coton Park, Linton, leading to the recreation ground. A capital funding bid had been submitted previously to improve this footway, but unfortunately it was unsuccessful. The bid would be resubmitted to the County Council's Cabinet to request funding for the following financial year.

A resident referred to the recent consultation on winter gritting and asked when the new schedules would be available. It was confirmed that this had been approved by the County Council's Cabinet and information was available via the County Council's website.

It was agreed to provide an email link to parish councils in order that they could access this information.

There were concerns about the siting of a large recycling bank for clothing near to the front of Linton Village Hall, at which youths were congregating, there was anti-social behaviour and some vandalism of the recycling bank. It was questioned whether this could be relocated. The Chairman suggested that it could be placed on the nearby District Council recycling site and a resident suggested otherwise that it be moved to the rear of the Village Hall, where there was a large car park.

It was agreed to pursue this matter and to provide a report back to the next Meeting.

Problems were reported with paper and waste being deposited on the A444, coming from commercial vehicles that were not covered adequately. This had been referred to the Clean Team periodically, but residents had been asked not to do this, as it was on a routine maintenance schedule.

It was agreed to refer this matter to the Police for enforcement action and that the District Council pursue this matter also.

Concerns were reported about people parking vehicles for sale on verges adjacent to the A444. A resident reported the related road safety issue when people parked on the road to inspect these vehicles. The Chairman provided information on legal aspects regarding enforcement and the Council was seeking support from Derbyshire County Council for the introduction of a by-law, which could then be enforced. Further views were submitted and it was clarified that the District Council did not have the ability to pursue this matter without the County Council's co-operation. Another solution was for the County Council to designate this land as public open space, which the District Council could then maintain and manage under planning law. It was also suggested that Customs and Excise be involved as this agency had the power to require information on vehicle purchasers. It was perceived that many of the vehicles in question were purchased at a local car auction before being placed on the verge for sale.

It was agreed to pursue the suggestions identified above and to submit a progress report to a future Meeting.

A resident reported problems with dog fouling on the recreation ground at Badger's Hollow, Coton Park. **It was agreed that this be referred to the appropriate officer.**

LA/15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.55 p.m.