

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

4th August 2004

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Stone (Chair) and Councillors Isham, Southerd and Taylor.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), S. Batchelor (Head of Leisure and Community Development), P. Spencer (Democratic Services Officer), J. Bellm (Democratic Services Officer) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

County Councillor Southerd.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Members of the Public

M. Barry, M. Brotherhood, M. Causer, R. Causer, J. Grew, M. Hudson, T. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mayo, N. Parker, A. Sheriff, Mrs. Staleywood and J. Williamson.

SA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

The Meeting noted the appointment of Councillor Stone as Chair made at the Annual Council Meeting held on 20th May 2004.

SA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Harrington, Lane and Murphy, Mr. M. Todd M.P., W. Hardwick, M. Lunn and R. Yeomans.

SA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

County Councillor Southerd was appointed Vice-Chair of the Meeting for the ensuing year.

SA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th April 2004 were received.

SA/5. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair announced that South Derbyshire Local Area Committees, organised by Derbyshire County Council, now took place during the evening, commencing at 6.00 p.m. Future meetings would be held on 20th October 2004, 5th January 2005 and 9th March 2005, venues to be confirmed. The County Council had advised that a representative of the Highways Department would be present at all meetings and would respond to concerns raised by members of the public. The Chair advised those wishing to be

included on the distribution list to contact Kay Fox at Derbyshire County Council on 01629 580000.

SA/6. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

County Councillor Southerd provided an update on highways issues raised at the last Meeting. Councillor Lucas, the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment, had visited the site of the former “One Stop Shop”. As a result of this inspection, full height kerbs would be installed, “yellow lines” would be refurbished and a mini-island would be installed, all of which should deter parking in this area. County Councillor Southerd also advised the Meeting that a pedestrian crossing was to be provided at Swadlincote Road, Woodville. R. Causer thanked him for his efforts to resolve the highways issues.

With regard to the Town Centre Study, the Director of Community Services confirmed that funding would be provided as part of the Morrisons development. Councillor Southerd reported that the Morrisons development was now ready to proceed. In response to a question by M. Barsby, the Director of Community Services offered to provide a report to the next Meeting on when the money for the Study would be made available. M. Barsby stated that he considered the Study to be important for the purpose of planning the usage of the Section 106 monies, which would be received from Morrisons. P. Spencer suggested that M. Hallard (Design and Conservation Officer) be invited to attend the next Meeting to give an update on the Study.

SA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mrs. M. Hudson commented on the number of vehicles reversing along High Street, Swadlincote at the Market Hall end, and queried what could be done to prevent this. Sergeant Wright stated that it was an offence because of the traffic orders in place. He advised that such incidents should be reported to the police for investigation. Mr. Hudson also requested that extra signage be installed in the Town Centre to advertise that there were more shops in Church Street. She commented that people walked as far as The Foresters public house and assumed that there were no shopping facilities beyond that point. It was agreed to discuss this matter with the relevant Officer and to report back to the next Meeting.

It was requested that East End Drive, off Civic Way, be added to the road verge cleaning rota. County Councillor Southerd agreed to pursue this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

Several residents complained about the amount of soil being discharged from lorries onto roads in the Darklands Road/Coronation Street area. These lorries were transporting materials to and from the development near to Pingle School. County Councillor Southerd agreed to take up this issue with the Highways Department at Derbyshire County Council.

Mrs. D. Staley sought clarification of the regulations for Town Centre parking after 4.00 p.m. Sergeant Wright advised that short-term parking was allowed, i.e. in order to collect goods, but he stressed that it was not a long-term parking area.

Mr. Williamson reported that cyclists were riding in the pedestrianised town centre, where there were 'no cycling' signs. Sergeant Wright agreed to ensure that local police officers were made aware of this issue.

Complaints were made by various residents with regard to the cemetery at Church Gresley. It was reported that for a period of two months, motorcyclists had been riding within the cemetery grounds, which was both dangerous and noisy. It was suggested that the cemetery gates be closed at dusk. However, it was felt that this would not alleviate the problem, as there were other entrances to the cemetery. It was questioned whether hedgerows bordering the cemetery were going to be cut in the near future, as they were very overgrown. A final comment was made with regard to a diseased horse chestnut tree within the cemetery grounds. It was reported that an Officer from South Derbyshire District Council had inspected the tree and confirmed that it needed to be removed. To date, this work had not been undertaken. Councillor Southerd commented that the delay might be due to the Officer awaiting the most competitive quotation for completion of the work. The Director of Community Services agreed to take up this issue with the relevant Officer.

In response to a question by M. Brotherhood, the Director of Community Services confirmed that there were no plans at this time to build a new Leisure Centre in Swadlincote.

N. Parker commented that as Swadlincote was historically a "market town", the market place should be put back into the centre of the Town. Councillor Southerd reported that after "Morrisons" had been constructed, the market stalls would be situated in the High Street leading up towards the entrance of the store. He felt that this would help traders at this end of the Town, as discussed earlier in the Meeting. There then followed a discussion with regard to the survival of the current small traders once the new supermarket had opened. It was considered that Morrisons would have less of an impact than some other major companies, as it tended to concentrate on grocery.

Councillor Taylor reported that multi-agency meetings took place in the Swadlincote area, including the District Council, Police and Crime and Disorder Partnerships. He reported that after the next multi-agency meeting, a report would be brought back to the Swadlincote Area Meeting.

Councillor Isham congratulated the Police for the success in alleviating the problems caused by offenders using motor cycles illegally, as highlighted at the last Area Meeting.

SA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next Swadlincote Area Meeting be held on Tuesday, 23rd November 2004 at the St. George and St. Mary's Parish Room, Church Street, Church Gresley.

SA/9. **CRIME AND DISORDER UPDATE**

S. Batchelor, the Head of Leisure and Community Development, gave a presentation to the Meeting. He advised that the Crime and Disorder Partnership was a local partnership between the Police, Local Authorities, Health, Probation, Voluntary Services and the Fire Services etc. The Partnerships' priorities contained within the 2002/05 Strategy were house burglary, auto crime, fear of crime, anti social behaviour, substance misuse and violent crime (domestic abuse). The Partnership was resourced by a Police Liaison Officer, an Anti Social Behaviour Officer, a Community Safety Officer, a Community Drugs Officer and a part-time Community Engagement Officer. The Officer gave an overview of projects currently being run by the Partnership which included a Safer Homes for South Derbyshire Scheme (Man in a Van), skateboard parks at Swadlincote and Hilton, a Youth Needs Survey (involving liaison with 4,000+ young people), Burglar Alarm Installation Scheme, Environmental Improvements (involving the cleaning-up at Goseley Estate, Hartshorne), a Domestic Abuse Campaign and a project to support parents of drug users. The Officer also advised the Meeting that the Partnership was undertaking new work in the areas of Anti Social Behaviour Orders, starting a mediation service, an abandoned vehicle scheme and sports and arts development opportunities. A Liberation Day had been held during May 2004 and a School Safety Day involving 300+ children including a theatre production on anti social behaviour was being organised. The Meeting was advised of the statistics relating to crime for the District and the successful work of the Partnership in that there had been no repeat victims of house burglary. It was reported that the Partnership's proposals for 2004/05 included a Domestic Abuse Drop In Centre, a Neighbourhood Watch Support Scheme, an Anti Social Behaviour Response Team, environmental improvements and new facilities and activities. The timetable for the launch of the Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2005/08 was outlined.

A resident asked Sergeant Wright whether he thought a burglar alarm was actually of any value. Sergeant Wright confirmed that an intruder alarm provided a deterrent. If an alarm sounded, the burglar would usually leave the premises. He also reported that if the police received a telephone call with regard to the sounding of a burglar alarm, they would attend the site. The Community and Leisure Development Manager also confirmed that 150 alarms had been fitted to properties which had previously been burgled and of these there had been no repeat break-ins. In certain circumstances, discounts were available for the installation of an alarm system. Councillor Southerd concluded by stating that more people should be encouraged to install alarms as statistics showed that where an alarm was present, there was less incidence of break-ins.

SA/10. **RECYCLING NEWS**

The Meeting was advised that South Derbyshire's residents had beaten the Council's recycling target for the financial year 2003/04. During the year 40,000 tonnes of waste was collected in the District out of which 6.5 tonnes were recycled (17%). The Council's target for the year was 14%, so it was well on its way of meeting the statutory target set by the Government – 21% in 2005/06. The Meeting was advised that the main recycling developments during the previous year were in the areas of the extension of the composting scheme by a further 6,000 households in the District, a fortnightly collection of the kerbside paper and the launch of a new scheme in January of this year

for the kerbside collection of glass, cans, foils and textiles as well as paper from 12,000 households in the District. The Director of Community Services thanked residents for their participation in the recycling scheme and confirmed that they were seeking to expand the kerbside multi-materials collections to a further 6,000 households within the District.

Mr. Williamson commented that there was no provision for the disposal of plastic bags at recycling centres. It was agreed to investigate this issue and report back to the next Meeting. In response to a question regarding the introduction the composting scheme in Church Gresley, it was confirmed that such a scheme would be introduced in the future. The subject of recycling of cans was then discussed. The Director of Community Services confirmed that South Derbyshire District Council recycled cans through a third party. M. Barsby was of the opinion that the Council had recycled cans itself in the past. The Director of Community Services agreed to investigate this issue.

SA/11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Following a discussion with regard to the publicity for Council Meetings, it was suggested that details of future Meetings could be included within Area Meeting agendas.

R. J. STONE

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.