

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

24th January 2012

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chairman) and Councillors Bell, Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Murray, Rhind, Southerd, Stuart and Tilley.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Mrs. Farrington and Murray.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

In attendance

Councillor Lacey.

Members of the Public

D. Bird, R. Causer, C. Dobson & P Smith (Hartshorne Parish Council), C. Horridge, S. Horridge, J. Hough, K. Hough, M. Lager, W. Jackson, J. McCarthy, G. Morris, J. Pallett, O. Pallett, M. Shepherd, J. Smith and R. Thomas.

SA/18. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Taylor had been appointed Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Forum following the introduction of the revised boundaries.

SA/19. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Tilley be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Forum for the remainder of the municipal year.

SA/20. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that dog fouling was increasing, and was at an unacceptable level. He had received assurances from the Environmental Health Manager that this was being addressed. Wardens would be focusing on this and penalties would be issued to offending owners.

SA/21. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 9th November 2011 were noted.

SA/22. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and reported the progress made in each case. With regard to weight restriction breaches, the Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that he had passed the Forum's comments to a Senior Trading Standards Officer. He added that breaches were still being reported on Moira Road, and further weight restriction reporting forms had been issued to local police officers. The Chairman requested that some forms be available to residents at the next Area Forum Meeting.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed for forms to be available at the next Meeting.

With regard to Minute No. SA/17 (Swadlincote Area Forum Minutes, 9th November 2011), Councillor Rhind reported that he hadn't received a response with regard to his query regarding the market.

The Chief Executive agreed to arrange for a response to be provided directly to Councillor Rhind.

It was reported that the road markings on George Street had worn and needed replacing.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter.

SA/23. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was asked what the current position was with regard to the crossing on Burton Road, Woodville. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that he had contacted the legal department with regard to this matter. However he had no further information to report.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to report any developments when available, to a future Meeting of the Area Forum.

With regard to remedial work on The Delph that had been highlighted at a previous Meeting, the Chief Executive reported that this had now been completed.

It was reported that a manhole cover on Coppice Road was collapsing and needed immediate attention.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter.

It was asked if there were any traffic management plans for Coppice Side.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this and report back to a future Meeting.

It was reported that, adjacent to the car park at Rink Way, a wide footpath was being mistaken for access to the car park and it was requested that this either be altered or signage improved. The Chief Executive responded that the District Council were aware of this and Councillors had previously raised the issue of safety in this area. Officers were currently considering alternative options in this area.

It was agreed to report back any developments to the next Meeting.

It was asked if the old Somerfield car park could be re-opened. The Chief Executive responded that this was private property, although the owners had been contacted. There may be further news on developments at this site shortly.

With regard to the crossing at Wilmot Road, it was pointed out that Section 106 money had been raised for a new crossing. It was not for an upgrade to the existing, and the proposed new crossing was for a different location. It was felt that Derbyshire County Council had disregarded the original intention to provide a new crossing. The Chairman added that this issue had been unresolved for too long, and requested that an Officer responsible for this matter attend the next Area Forum.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to invite an Officer responsible for this matter to attend the next Area Forum.

It was asked how many spaces the taxi company had in the car park that was at the rear of Colliers Butchers, in Swadlincote Town Centre.

The Chief Executive agreed to look into this matter and provide a response to the next Meeting.

It was reported that the Post Office used several parking spaces in the bus park car park, and it was asked why employees did not park in the Post Office yard.

The Chief Executive agreed to look into this and report back to next Meeting.

It was requested that a passage be installed on Coppice Side adjacent to the bus stop to allow for pedestrian ease of access to the new retail park. However it was understood that this was private land and the matter would need to be taken up with the developer.

It was reported that a house on George Street, Church Gresley had been boarded up, and asked what was the current situation.

It was agreed to report back on this issue at the next Meeting.

SA/24. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer reported on plans to change the way youth activities were delivered in Derbyshire. The consultation would run from 9th January to 18th March 2012. He briefly reported the proposals and advised that there was a series of consultation events arranged, to which members of the public were invited. Details of these events were provided, and residents were asked that they register in advance. The Chairman pointed out that it was very important that people attended and got involved in the consultation.

In addition, County Councillor Mrs. Farrington was undertaking scrutiny work on this subject, and if residents required further information on this, they could contact direct via Derbyshire County Council.

SA/25. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

2012/13 Budget

The Area Forum received a presentation on the Council's budget for 2012/13. Information had been circulated which showed a breakdown of the total turnover and how it was paid for. It was confirmed that council tax was currently £150.25 per year for district services at Band D, and consideration was currently being given to a council tax freeze for 2012/13 – the second year running. The Council had lost approximately £1.25m in Government grants (new homes bonus) over the last two years and had therefore been required, through efficiencies to adjust its spending accordingly. The net budget of 2012/13 was estimated at £11.3m and it was explained how this was split over the main services.

The presentation concluded that total expenditure of £5m was planned on new capital projects, with investment in local leisure and community facilities. The Council's contribution was £1.7m, the remaining amounts came from Lottery funding, and partners involved in the projects.

It was asked how the £5m would be distributed on capital projects. It was also suggested that as this was consultation on the budget, detailed figures should have been part of the report.

It was agreed to circulate a breakdown of capital investment proposals at the next Meeting of the Area Forum.

SA/26. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 24th April 2012 at Sharpe's Pottery Museum.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.