

**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM**

**REPTON**

**October 4, 2016 at Ticknall Village Hall**

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council representatives**

Councillor Peter Smith (Chair), Councillor David Shepherd.

Kevin Stackhouse (Director of Finance and Corporate Services), Tom Sloan (Clerk).

**Derbyshire County Council representatives**

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Rob Davison.

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

**Parish Council / Meeting representatives**

Charles Fellows (Stenson Fields Parish Council), Fred Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council), Richard Lisewski (Stenson Fields Parish Council), Peter Rainey (Repton Parish Council), Steve Toone (Bretby Parish Council).

**Members of the public**

Anne Evans (Findern Footpaths Group), Heather Hall (Findern Footpaths Group), John Orme, Sam Waters.

RA/10 **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Manjit Chahal, Councillor Martyn Ford, Brian Goodall, Councillor Andrew MacPherson, Councillor Michael Stanton.

RA/11 **Declarations of interest**

None.

RA/12 **Chairman's announcements**

Councillor Peter Smith had no announcements to make.

RA/13 **The minutes of the meeting held on July 5, 2016**

The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

RA/14 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

**Derbyshire County Council issues:**

**Askew Grove, Repton – carriageway condition**

Paul Jameson reported that there is currently no funding available to carry out carriageway patching works to improve the condition of Askew Grove in this financial year. The condition of the carriageway will continue to be monitored and any actionable defects will be made safe.

**Overgrown hedgerows / verges**

Councillor Rob Davison said there didn't seem to be a system to get hedges cut back and he had personally been forced to report locations each year. He felt that DCC needed to show more resolve when dealing with landowners. He had suggested sending a text to every landowner telling them to cut vegetation back before the nesting season started. If DCC couldn't keep a footpath at the side of the road clear, then the electorate extrapolated that DCC couldn't run other services well. Another problem was vegetation growing over signs.

A resident reported that grass was growing across the pathway along the road between Repton and Willington.

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton reported some bracken growing by the parapets on the south side of Swarkestone Causeway. There was also some debris from what little kerb stones there were littering the causeway.

**Trent Barton 'V3 Villager' service**

Mr Jameson stated that if a resident wanted to see a change in a bus service, they were better off going straight to the operator rather than to the local authorities.

**Stenson Road, Stenson Fields – request for 30mph limit**

Councillor David Shepherd reiterated that he would keep pushing for the speed limit to be reduced from 40mph despite the road not meeting criteria for the lower limit.

**National Speed Limit – Stenson Fields, Stenson**

A resident had asked why a section of carriageway in Stenson, between a 30mph and a 40mph zone, had remained under the National Speed Limit. They cited the example of the B587 between Stanton-by-Bridge and Ticknall. Mr Jameson said the change in speed limit on the B587 dated back to 2007 and was part of a more wide-ranging scheme to reduce speed limits around Melbourne. Department for Transport criteria were met and supported by DCC's cabinet member. The road cited in Stenson had no surrounding properties and no injury collisions had been reported. The National Speed Limit was considered appropriate. Councillor Mrs Chilton asked what the rationale was behind a reduction in the speed limit at Barrow Lane, Swarkestone. Mr Jameson replied that he wasn't sure.

**Bretby Lane, Bretby – drainage issues (from October 2015 meeting)**

A resident asked for an update on the issues experienced in Bretby Lane, where DCC and Severn Trent had been negotiating to get drains upgraded. Mr Jameson had heard nothing from Severn Trent regarding the location. Councillor Davison said it was a subject likely to come up at a scrutiny meeting at DCC. Councillor Smith asked for Mr Jameson to once again chase the matter up and provide a report back.

**ACTION: Paul Jameson to seek an update to the flooding issues on Bretby Lane**

**South Derbyshire District Council issues:**

**Flood Liaison minutes**

A resident reported that the Flood Liaison minutes had not been published on SDDC's website. He asked if they could be issued as a draft. Councillor Smith replied that minutes would be published on the council's website and that there was another meeting being held in November.

**Electrical substation in Stenson Fields**

Councillor Shepherd said residents weren't convinced that nothing could be done to prevent ball games around the electrical substation, but the reasons had been well set out by Zoe Sewter in her report back.

RA/15 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident again raised the issue of the V3 Villager bus service, stating that it had been founded in 1923 as a service for a rural area. Mr Jameson replied that the feedback provided had come from DCC's public transport unit and they had recommended the public approach the operator directly. Residents who wanted a change to the route would have more weight in numbers by contacting Trent Barton directly. Councillor Davison said any request to

change a bus service would have more weight with a survey behind it. The resident asked if DCC and SDDC had a forum in which they spoke with transport operators. Mr Jameson replied that he didn't know.

**ACTION: Councillor Peter Smith to ask Councillor Martyn Ford to speak to the resident**

A member of the public reported that two serious collisions had occurred at Knights Lane, Bretby, with an air ambulance required on both occasions. They asked if road markings could be improved and verges trimmed to avoid another such incidence. They felt the road was narrow and with no speed restrictions or road markings. Mr Jameson replied that Bretby Parish Council had written to DCC's traffic team over the issue. It was now with a senior technician who dealt with the area. Mr Jameson believed that SLOW carriageway markings were in place on the approach to the Mount Road junction.

**ACTION: Paul Jameson to get a copy of DCC's responses for the forum**

Councillor Shepherd asked how Grampian Way, Stenson Fields, could be added the list for a Vehicle Activated Sign. Mr Jameson replied that collision data was taken from the police. The problem was the difficulty with gathering data for damage only collisions where there wasn't an injury. DCC couldn't justify spending public money on an area where there weren't any injury collisions. Councillor Mrs Chilton added that Shardlow had been given help by DCC to get such a sign. Mr Jameson said that the village either met the criteria or got one before the new criteria were adopted in 2012. Councillor Davison said he would meet the cost out of his Community Leadership Scheme. Mr Jameson replied that there would still be issues regarding the location not meeting the conditions of DCC's current policy.

A resident reported that cats eyes had still not been put back into Stenson Road after surface dressing between Wragley Way and Grampian Way.

**ACTION: Paul Jameson to provide a report back regarding the cats eyes**

Councillor Smith reported that HGVs were using nearby narrow lanes to get around the weight restriction on Swarkestone Causeway. Was there anything which could be done to extend the limit into Ingleby Lane and Milton Lane? Councillor Mrs Chilton added that the area was rural and it was a very, very difficult situation. Often, foreign truckers would realise their error and turn in the road, causing chaos. Mr Jameson replied that DCC was aware of the problem.

Councillor Smith asked why 30mph signs had not been moved in Milton Road, Repton following a housing development. Mr Jameson replied that the

work had been issued to DCC contractors, who would have three months to complete it.

RA/16 **County Council issues**

Councillor Davison said a safe route across the road was needed for the 500 homes being built in Stenson Road. He had conducted an informal survey and the area was a long way off the criteria for getting a crossing installed and he felt it would be some time before the threshold was reached.

Councillor Mrs Chilton reported that lighting at Bladon House School would come up again as another petition was being compiled.

RA/17 **District Council issues**

Kevin Stackhouse updated the meeting on changes to legislation which brought parish councils in line with district and county authorities when it came to capping rises in Council Tax. Should a parish with an annual precept of £500,000 and a Band D Council Tax of £75 set a rise of more than 2% then it would automatically trigger a local referendum. The new rule was unlikely to affect South Derbyshire parishes in the short-term but may be a matter which could need further consideration in some parishes in future years.

A resident said he had noticed that SDDC had turned down a request for a parish council to be formed at Newhall and Stanton. Why was it fair that some areas of the district were parished and others not, with the parished areas having to pay a precept to their parish council? Councillor Shepherd answered that work was undertaken in parished areas that did not take place in the unparished parts of the urban core.

A member of the public asked whose responsibility it was to deal with Japanese Knotweed growing on private land and then impinging on the public highway at Burton Road, Findern. Mr Jameson replied that it was the landowner's issue and if it was growing across the highway, DCC could instruct them to clear it.

RA/18 **Date of next meeting**

To be announced in due course.

**Councillor Peter Smith**  
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8.30pm.