

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

28th January 2014 at John Port School

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillors Mrs. Brown (Chairman) and Councillors Roberts; Bale; Lemmon and Mrs Patten

R Ledger (Director of Housing and Environmental Services) & C Smith (Safer Communities Manager).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Patten.

P Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

R Brooks (Hilton Parish Council); Steve Cooper (Hilton Parish Council); Ian Bennett; Tim Day; N Ireland and D Muller (Etwall Parish Council); M Pateman and G S Nichols (Dalbury Lees Parish Council); M Nesbitt and S Nesbitt (Egginton Parish Council)

Members of the Public

B Morley; B Myring; G Wale and C Pidgeon; A Billings; C Bore

EA/18 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Ford and Mrs Plenderleith; T Beresford; B Payton

EA/19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

EA/20 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Draft Local Plan comments have been collated and currently being considered. Pre-Submission Plan to be consulted on in March through into April. The pre-submission consultation will go to a venue in each of the Area Forum areas for an afternoon/evening drop in session. The Local Plan will be submitted in June with a public examination likely to be in the autumn this year.

Housing Stock Survey - The field work is complete, the report is being compiled and should be ready by March. This report, once agreed, will then be used to help formulate our various strategies in relation to our housing stock.

The chairman confirmed the damaged swing was replaced and paid for by SDDC. The cost of replacing the swing was £102.

The location of meetings will be added onto future minutes.

Cllr Brown read from a Derby Evening Telegraph article on the Railhead development.

The Pig farm application is still being assessed by Environment Agency on the waste elements.

EA/21 **MINUTES**

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

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

Digital Derbyshire – The Forum Liaison Officer has met up with the Broadband Project Manager, following the request made at the last meeting for a specialist officer to attend to talk about the broadband programme. Following some discussion, it was agreed that she could attend a future meeting of the forum to field questions on the project.

It should be stressed that the Manager is making an exception for the Etwall Area Forum, given the high level of interest the forum has shown in broadband, over a period of time. Unfortunately she was unable to attend tonight's meeting; Tuesday in particular is a day where she will struggle to attend an evening meeting.

The Forum Liaison Officer asked the district to put forward a number of possible dates for the next meeting so that he can discuss them with the Broadband Project Manager and hopefully ensure her attendance at the next forum.

Gold Card renewal application forms are no longer on the Council Website; you would now need to contact the Civic Offices.

Tetra pack recycling – The Chairman advised that South Derbyshire District Council would hope at some time in the future to widen the range of materials that could be recycled within the doorstep scheme and this may include tetrapaks.

There are currently a number of bring sites where tetrapaks can be recycled. . These centres are located at Linton – Main St, Rink Drive – Swadlincote,

Willington – Twyford Road, Hatton – Station Road, Melbourne – High St – Car park and Overseal – Woodville Road

A company called “Requesto” collect the waste. They are based in Kirkby in Ashfield. The material then goes to Recycling UK in Nantwich and finally ends up in Sweden where it is made into plasterboard.

EA/23 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was raised that the amount of space in recycling bins is not adequate. The Chairman gave a response that had been given by SDDC officers; cardboard can be placed at the side of the relevant bin or jammed between the outside wheel and the body of the bin. This acts as an “anchor”.

The Director of Housing and Environmental services stated that the Council are new to recycling and they may not have the perfect answer yet but are looking for the best possible solution to recycling. Complaints on the size of the bins have been low and there has to be a compromise of number of receptacles a households can have. Throughout the 8 year contract the Council will look to increase facilities. The old green bins can be used for overflow of cardboard.

A resident asked about food waste and problem of maggots in the summer, the Director of Housing and Environmental Services confirmed that residents do need to be careful in summertime and advice was given to wrap food waste in paper first.

A resident stated that at a recent meeting at John Port School a planning application had been discussed. At the end of meeting the developer said he was going to approach SDDC to unify the date of the whole matter. He asked if Councillors could support the developer’s request of having all the applications submitted at the same time. The Chairman stated that as Councillors they could not comment on existing planning applications.

A resident asked if the Hackwood farm development was an SDDC issue. Cllr Bale commented that it was only as an adjoining consultee on the current application.

A Hilton Parish Councillor appealed to SDDC planning department about maintaining small areas of open space on development sites which are owned initially by developers. The Director of Housing and Environmental Services stated that Section 106 means the responsibility for such areas now gets passed to District Council. The existing complication is from years ago when this wasn’t included as part of the planning process.

The Safer Communities Manager provided feedback on the parking issue at Chestnut Grove, Etwall on behalf of Cllr Martin Ford who couldn't attend the meeting. Councillor Ford had visited the location with Simon Tilley from DCC Highways to see if the parking area could be made larger as it's a safety hazard. It was established that the matter couldn't be looked at as a parking issue but could be considered as a highway safety issue.

EA/24 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer stated that the County Council needs to make £157m of cuts to its budgets by 2018 – something they are calling 'The Derbyshire Challenge'. Their Cabinet has been considering proposals on how they can make these reductions; they are looking to make cuts totalling around £36.7m in the next financial year (2014/15).

Many of the budget reductions being announced will be subject to public consultations. You can visit the 'Derbyshire Challenge' page of their website to find out more and take part in our consultations launching throughout the year – www.derbyshire.gov.uk/challenge.

The Forum liaison officer highlighted two of the consultations currently open. Firstly, are changes to the Mobile Library Service; several options are being considered to make savings to this service which currently costs in the region of £720,000 per year to run. Four options have been put forward. One is to scrap the service completely (which will obviously make a saving of £720,000 per year). A further two options have been put forward which will involve various reductions in the fleet in order to make savings – they currently have a fleet of 10 vehicles; 2 MCV's (maximum capacity vehicles) and 8 standard mobile libraries. A fourth option is to transfer the service over to community based organisations. The consultation started on 13 January and ends 1 March 2014.

Members of the public can visit the 'challenge' webpage to find out more information and complete the online survey. For those without internet access, you can contact Call Derbyshire – 01629 533190 – to find out more.

DCC are also proposing a number of changes to the Adult Care services. The consultation launches today and will run for 12 weeks. Again, more information will be made available via the 'challenge' webpage.

The Chairman stated that the mobile libraries provide a community hub for many people, a 'social service'. The forum agreed that the possible loss of this service is deeply concerning.

A resident commented that there are many more people living in urban areas – who live close to a library – compared to the number of people living in rural areas. For those in urban areas the loss of the mobile library service would not affect them; they may say we should get rid of the service and this could far outweigh the number of responses from rural residents wishing to keep it.

A resident asked if the consultation includes details of where the service is provided – i.e. which villages in the do the mobile libraries currently serve. It would be helpful for residents to have this information so that they know what they are potentially losing.

Action: Paul to let meeting know where the library van goes and when

A concern was raised that the consultation is on-line and broadband is poor in the area.

EA/25 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Housing and Environmental services gave an update on the District Council **Budget** setting Process:

Nationally, there has been a reduction in government funding for local councils since 2010 and this is currently set to continue until 2018. For SDDC this has been approximately £1.25m to date or 20% from where we were in 2010/11 (*net after New Homes Bonus and Business Rates Retention*)

SDDC has been delivering budget savings since 2010 and has had 3 main phases, culminating this year with savings of £320k. Next financial year 2014/15 is ok but need another round to find further savings of up to £300k before this time next year ahead of 2015/16.

No major reductions in mainstream service provision so far – reductions in management and support services, together with general efficiencies have met the shortfall to-date. There has been an increase in services – recycling and capital investment in leisure facilities.

Next year's Council Tax still to be decided – Government offering some support for councils who freeze Council Tax again for a 4th year.

Possible future pressures – growth and demand for services – some will be paid for by increased funding but this is not certain.

The Chairman announced that the Council Tree Officer Martin Buckley had hoped to attend this meeting to give an update on the **Ash Dieback** situation but was unable to make it. He will attend a future meeting.

EA/26 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

MRS L BROWN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.28pm