

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS**

TUESDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY 2002

**ST. GEORGE & ST. MARY'S PARISH ROOMS
CHURCH STREET, CHURCH GRESLEY**

7.00 p.m.

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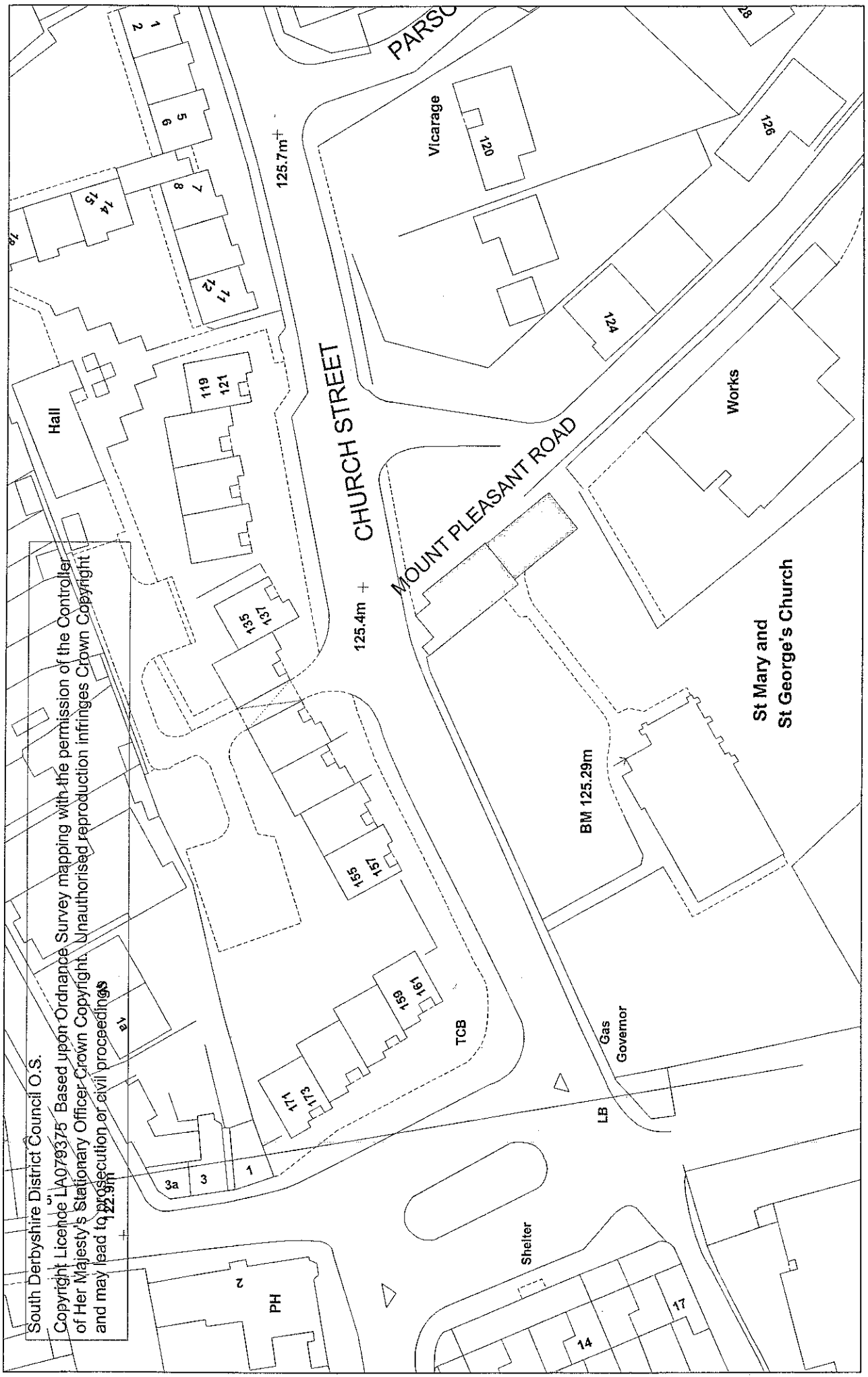
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SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

(Covering Church Gresley and Swadlincote)

**Meeting to be held at
St. George & St. Mary's Parish Rooms
Church Street, Church Gresley
on Tuesday, 5th February 2002
at 7.00 p.m.**

(Light Refreshments will be available at 6.30 p.m.)

Members:

District Councillors: District Councillors: Councillor Mrs Rose (Chair), Councillor Harrington (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Ford, Rose, Southerd and Stone.

County Councillor: Councillor Southerd.



BUSINESS

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 2001 (copy herewith)
3. Chair's Announcements (if any).
4. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
5. Public Question Time and suggestions for future local discussion items.
6. Date of Next Meeting – The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8th May 2002 at the Town Hall, Swadlincote.

Community Items

7. Budget Consultation

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

28th November 2001

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Rose (Chair), and Councillors Ford, Rose, Southerd and Stone.

I. Reid, (Deputy Chief Executive), J. Birkett (Planning Services), A. Twells (Environmental Health), P. Spencer (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Southerd.

Derbyshire Constabulary Representative

P.C. Sherry.

Members of the Public

M. Barsby, E. Bird, W. Dolman, W. Hardwick, M. Lunn, A. Sherriff, D. Sutton and G. Sutton.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Harrington, Mr. Bates, T. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Newman and Mrs. D. Staley.

SA/14. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th August 2001 were noted.

SA/15. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and explained the progress made in each case. A letter had been received from Derbyshire County Council responding to various highway issues raised at the last meeting. The Chair read extracts of the letter and stressed the need for parents to park responsibly when undertaking the "school run". Mr. Barsby questioned whether the County Council's proposals for traffic calming addressed the original concerns regarding congestion in Coronation Street and County Councillor Southerd agreed to pursue this issue further.

SA/16. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Councillor Stone explained the problems caused through individuals discharging fireworks. P.C. Sherry explained the work the Constabulary had undertaken with Trading Standards to identify those traders selling fireworks to persons under 18 years of age. There had been limited success to date although the initiative was ongoing. It was illegal to discharge a firework within 50 metres of the highway, but the Police required evidence to secure a prosecution and the assistance of the public was sought in gathering the necessary evidence. Councillor Rose advised of further problems and explained the difficulties in contacting the Police to report

incidents. This was acknowledged by P.C. Sherry who explained that a new telephone system should be operational by February 2002. He reminded those present of the limited resources available to the Constabulary and the need to prioritise incidents. Details were also available of the "Crime Stoppers" initiative from the Helpdesk.

During public question time at the last Meeting a complaint was submitted about the condition of the Church Gresley War Memorial. Mr. Barsby requested an update and Councillor Rose explained the liaison that had taken place with the Royal British Legion. The District Council was responsible for maintenance of the War Memorial and feedback was sought on particular problems. Mr. Barsby felt that the names inscribed on the 1914-18 Memorial were difficult to read and it needed cleaning. Councillor Rose agreed to pursue the problem reported.

Mr. Sherriff sought an update on maintenance works to the Charles Street entrance to the Church Gresley Cemetery. He reminded those present that the pillars supporting the gates at this entrance had become damaged and some of the capping stones were loose. Approximately six weeks ago barriers were erected blocking this entrance. Councillor Southerd provided further information but was concerned that the access had been obstructed. Mr. Sherriff submitted a further complaint about leaves on footways in the Wood Street and Charles Street area of Church Gresley. Footway sweepers were in operation in the adjacent Cemetery and he requested that this matter be addressed. Reference was made to the recently agreed proposal to establish a cleansing 'Hit Squad' to provide a responsive service to such problems and Ian Reid, Deputy Chief Executive of the District Council, agreed to pursue the problems reported.

Mr. Dolman was concerned about the speed of traffic along Hearthcote Road, reporting on specific accidents within the last year. He felt that the 7.5 tonne weight limit in this area was not being observed with heavy commercial vehicles still using Hearthcote Road. He questioned why those businesses situated between Hearthcote Road and William Nadin Way had not been required to form accesses onto the new road. P.C. Sherry explained that a traffic monitoring survey of the numbers and speed of vehicles in this area did not highlight a specific problem. The police officer agreed to speak with the resident following the Meeting and explained the liaison undertaken with the Highways Authority to identify problem areas.

A resident of Belmont Street, Swadlincote reported further traffic concerns about the misuse of this "access only" road. A traffic survey had been undertaken prior to the recent McDonalds development and the resident felt that there was increased misuse of the road since the restaurant had opened. He felt that the positioning of the "access only" signs were inappropriate, sought additional signage and explained that one of the signs in place at present was blank. The resident also sought enforcement action by the Police.

Ian Reid explained that the provision of signs was a matter for the County Council's Traffic Engineers and the matter would be reported. County Councillor Southerd reminded residents of a previous proposal to install bollards, part way along Belmont Street, converting it into two cul-de-sacs. He questioned how residents would feel about such a proposal and general support was voiced. Residents of Belmont Street also experienced difficulties in parking in the vicinity of their properties and a further

suggestion was the introduction of a parking permit scheme. County Councillor Southerd agreed to pursue the issues reported.

SA/17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Swadlincote Area Meeting would be held on 5th February 2002 at the St. George and St. Mary's Parish Rooms in Church Street, Church Gresley.

SA/18. **PRESENTATION ON THE PLANNING PROCESS**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from John Birkett, Planning Services Manager at the District Council. The roles of the District and County Councils as planning authorities were explained. The term "development" was defined and categories of permitted development were identified. An explanation was given on the process involved in making and dealing with planning applications and the publicity undertaken. Reference was made to a number of policy influences on planning decisions in South Derbyshire, stemming from European Law, National Planning Policy, Regional Guidance, development plans and supplementary planning guidance. There were a number of new themes in the Structure Plan including sustainability. Material planning considerations were also explained and these were contained in various Planning Policy Guidance Notes. The procedure for dealing with objections and the conditions attached to planning permissions were also explained.

Questions were invited and Councillor Stone requested a definition of "curtilage" with regard to a development site. Information was sought about the development of caravan sites and how education provision was dealt with as part of large scale developments. Mr. Birkett was thanked for the informative presentation.

SA/19. **ROAD SURFACE, PARK ROAD, CHURCH GRESLEY**

It was reported that concern was expressed at the last Meeting about the condition of Park Road, Church Gresley. A report was submitted by the Council's Technical Services Manager which explained that Park Road was one of a number of unadopted streets within South Derbyshire. These streets were the responsibility of residents to maintain as "frontagers" who also had the duty to ensure the road was open for public access. At present the Council had no budgetary provision for maintenance works to any unadopted street. However, in recognition of the issues raised previously, officers were to submit a Revenue Service Development Proposal as part of the budget preparations for 2002/03. This would seek money to repair the road after Council run events had been held. The proposal would need be considered as part of the overall budget process and would be in competition with a number of other proposals for very limited finance. The report was noted. A further request for maintenance works was submitted to repair potholes in the vicinity of the Church Gresley War Memorial. It was explained that Derbyshire County Council had powers to undertake emergency repairs in some instances.

SA/20. **OCCUPATION OF LAND BY TRAVELLERS**

During Public Question Time at the last Meeting, there was a general discussion on the problems caused by travellers occupying land. An item

had been included on the agenda to enable residents to ask questions and to raise specific problems. Mr. Barsby referred to a bylaw of the former Swadlincote Urban District Council. He questioned whether this bylaw was still in force and if it could assist in enforcing the removal of travellers from Common Land. Mr. Twells, Environmental Protection Manager at the District Council, explained that these powers were still in force but required a more lengthy legal process than that used at present. He advised of the implications of the recent Human Rights legislation which placed welfare duties on local authorities before travellers could be moved on.

Complaints were made about the re-occupation of land and travellers moving only a small distance to occupy adjacent land. Mr. Twells explained that the legal notices were served on specific persons and should others occupy the same site, separate legal action had to be undertaken. He also explained the action taken with one recent occupation where a court order was secured to prohibit that family of travellers from occupying any part of the Common Land in Church Gresley for a period of three months. There was a discussion on the effectiveness of the Toleration Policy and an outline was given of the process and timescale for dealing with the occupation of land. Residents concerns were mainly due to the mess caused by travellers and there was a consensus that they should be charged for the cost of clearing a site. The provision of sites for travellers was also considered.

SA/21. **PRESENTATION ON CRIME AND DISORDER INITIATIVES**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Ian Reid, Deputy Chief Executive at the District Council. The second Crime and Disorder Audit had recently been completed and an outline was given of the Audit to Strategy process and the crime statistics with Ward profiles. The Government had established a number of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships which were “families” grouped together by such factors as demographics and crime rates. Comparative information was given on the profile for South Derbyshire and that of a neighbouring authority. Details were also provided of the suggested priorities for the Crime and Disorder Partnership and feedback was sought.

In receiving the presentation, comments were submitted about crime rates for the area, the levels of reported crime and whether statistics were skewed because other crimes were not reported. With regard to nuisance from youths, it was suggested that penalties should be increased to provide a deterrent. P.C. Sherry explained the procedure adopted for such cases whereby youths were warned, reprimanded and then subject to court action. A number of specific problems were reported. The difficulty in identifying offenders was recognised and the Police needed the community’s feedback and evidence in order to pursue the problems reported.

SA/22. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Following a request submitted, the Chair gave an update on the provision of a BMX cycling facility. At present endeavours were taking place to identify a suitable site, partnership funding was being sought and discussions were ongoing. Councillor Mrs. Rose offered to report any further progress once information was available.

MRS. M. ROSE

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.45 p.m.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

(Covering Church Gresley and Swadlincote)

5th February 2002

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the last Swadlincote Area Meeting held on 28th November 2001 at the Swadlincote Town Hall, the following issues were raised. The issues are listed below, together with progress made to date:-

ISSUES	PROGRESS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
1. War Memorial – Church Gresley.	The complaint raised about the condition of 1914-18 War Memorial, has been reported.	Technical Services Manager/Councillor Rose
2. Church Gresley Cemetery.	1. Investigated concerns about obstruction to Charles Street entrance to the Cemetery and maintenance work to entrance pillars. 2. The need to remove leaves from Wood Street/Charles Street area has been reported.	Technical Services Manager/Councillor Southerd
3. Belmont Street, Swadlincote – Traffic Problems.	Wrote to Derbyshire County Council concerning need for improved “access only” signage.	Legal & Members' Services Manager (P. Spencer) to liaise with Derbyshire County Council



BUDGET CONSULTATION

This meeting includes a presentation by the Council's Finance Services Manager on the Council Budget Plan for 2002/3. Clearly, like most over Council's South Derbyshire needs to work within tight spending constraints. It is therefore essential that the Council looks at how it makes the best use of the limited resources available to it.

In the case of South Derbyshire, the Financial Crisis of only 2 years ago raised further the awareness of local people of Council Finances and the need to ensure that they are managed soundly.

The presentation will update the area meeting on the considerable work undertaken to date to stabilise the Council's financial position and how this will affect future spending plans.

It also aims to provide an insight into the constraints that affect future spending plans and how the Council tries to balance the demands for new spending against the resources that it has available.

This is very much the first public consultation on Council budget proposals. It is hoped that as the year progresses there will be more opportunities for those attending area meetings to put forward their priorities for future Council Spending. Indeed initial consultation on the next year's budget (2003/4) is scheduled for the summer of 2002.

The results of this current consultation exercise will be reported to the Council's Scrutiny Committee that has been set up to examine in detail council spending proposals before final proposals are drawn up by the Council's Finance & Management Committee.

Terry Neaves
Chief Finance Officer
January 2002

