

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

5th February 2013

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

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 Dunn (South Derbyshire District Council).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

C. Dobson and A. Jones (Hartshorne Parish Council) and S. Orme (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

M.E. Barsby, S. Bourne, R. Causer, C. Cook, H. Craft (Burton Mail), G. Weinman, C.R. Horridge, S.E. Horridge, A. Jasper, P. Leach, L. Sargent, M. Shepherd, J. Straw, R. Thomas, A. Wood, B. Wood.

SA/17. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that many Gold Cards would expire in 2013, and that a renewal application should be made before the old one expired. Further information was provided on the Gold Card scheme, and how residents could apply.

Information was provided on the 2020Vision exhibition. This was a photography exhibition road show which was taking place between the 18th March and 7th April 2013 in The Delph, Market Square, Swadlincote. There would be a street gallery of more than 100 images on display, taken by a team of top UK nature photographers.

SA/18. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Forum held on 16th October 2012, were noted, subject to Councillor Dunn being included as present.

SA/19. **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.

In relation to Coppice Side and access to the Pipeworks Retail Park, the Chief Executive reported that he had been on site with the developer, and it was planned to install an illuminated totem pole which would signpost people into the Pipeworks, and solve access issues.

With Regard to the decluttering scheme in Swadlincote Town Centre, the Forum Liaison Officer reported that there was capital monies set aside for this project, however it was still with the design team. An update would be reported when available.

With regard to the problem of dog fouling in Woodville Park, it was reported that this area still needed further action.

A resident asked for an update in regard to the use of the Market Hall Car Park outside office hours. The Chief Executive responded that this was very well used during office hours and usage outside these hours had been offered to the Chamber of Trade. Negotiations were ongoing.

SA/20. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was asked if the new Police Commissioner could be invited to a future meeting. The Chief Executive responded that he had already called a series of meetings and intended to have a presence within the district. However, this might be more appropriate for a Safer Neighbourhood Meeting.

It was reported that the speed humps on Darklands Road had been exposed as holes had appeared alongside them. The Forum Liaison Officer reported that remedial work was planned in this area.

It was reported that the Darklands Road/Coronation Street junction was in a very bad state.

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

It was reported that in general, roads throughout the District were in a poor state, and it was asked if Highway Inspectors still identified those in need of repair. Councillor Mrs. Farrington responded that Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Highways had sent out Inspectors into local areas, but still urged residents to report any problems that were noticed. The Forum Liaison Officer added that due to the recent weather conditions some roads had deteriorated. However Highway Inspectors were still observing and winter damage plans were in place.

It was asked what was the time scale for response teams to complete works to potholes. The Forum Liaison Officer explained that there had been recent policy changes, and they were now risk assessed. A repair could take

between 32 hours and 5 days. However, due to these changes, it was hoped that all work would be more permanent.

It was reported that the road had deteriorated each side of the speed humps on Springfield Road.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this and report back to the next meeting.

It was reported that many people who had recently visited the Pipeworks to visit the cinema, had received a parking ticket, as the maximum parking time was 3 hours. The Chief Executive responded that he had already contacted the developer who was most concerned and had agreed to extend free of charge parking everyday for up to 6 hours.

A resident of Hawthorne Road, opposite the Oaklands Village reported that there had been many problems since the commencement of the development of Oaklands Village. Parking was currently a problem as many vehicles were now being left outside residents properties. Written details were also provided to the Chairman.

Councillor Mrs Farrington agreed to look into this, and respond directly to the resident concerned.

It was reported that there were many problems with dog fouling on the Goseley Estate and it was requested that an Enforcement Officer visit this area, and provide new signage.

The Chief Executive agreed to request that an Enforcement Officers be requested to visit this area and assess the signage.

It was asked how often traffic was reviewed at the Clock Island, as it was felt that this was becoming worse. Councillor Mrs Farrington responded that this was completed approximately 18 months ago. The Forum Liaison Officer added that this was a very difficult area, due to a lack of space to provide any other solution.

It was asked if flooding was being resolved on the highway outside the Civic Offices. The Chief Executive responded that this was currently being investigated.

A resident reported that lorries were still entering Coppice Side, as satellite navigation systems directed them to this area, depending on the postcode given by local businesses. The Chief Executive responded that he was dealing with this issue, and awareness was being raised with local businesses.

SA/21. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chief Executive reported on the budget proposals for 2013/14. It was reported that future Government funding would depend on growth within the District, and the New Homes Bonus would be of benefit. In addition, the Authority could now retain a greater proportion of its local business rates. However, the estimated reduction in Government resources was £1m over the next 5 years.

It was reported that the current financial position was healthy, but the reduction in funding would weaken this position. The District Council needed to take corrective action now and £300,000 of savings would be required over the period 2013/14.

An update was provided on the new council tax support scheme, and it was confirmed that pensioners and disabled residents would be protected, However working age claimants could pay up to 10% more.

It was pointed out that it may be beneficial to the District Council to consider an increase in council tax, as a 1% increase would raise £50,000, but would only increase a household bill by 3 to 4 pence per week.

Members would consider a report in March 2013, with proposals for savings of £300,000 required for the year 2013/14.

SA/22. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

N. Tilley

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.