

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

15 July 2015 at Coton-in-the-Elms Community Centre

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Murray (Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Grant; Mrs Hall and Councillor Wheeler

S Batchelor (Director of Community and Planning); L Brewster (Service Assistant)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

P Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Lauro

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

O & J Pallett and C Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council); K Bradford & A Lees (Coton in the Elms Parish Council); J Powell (Linton Parish Council); PJ McGibbon & A Stone (Netherseal Parish Council) S Jones (Overseal Parish Council); P Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council); M Horne (Walton on Trent Parish Council)

Members of the Public

L Grosvenor (Burton Mail)

LA/01 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Heather Wheeler MP

LA/02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

LA/03 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Pat Murray introduced himself as the new Chairman of the Linton Area Forum and District Councillor for the Seales Ward.

Councillor Beth Hall was proposed as Vice Chair by Councillor Bob Wheeler and duly seconded by Councillor John Grant.

Councillor Neil Atkin introduced himself as the new Chair of South Derbyshire District Council and outlined his aims for the coming year. He named his theme for the year as Unsung Heroes in the Community.

South Derbyshire Sport, Recreation, Community Facility Strategy

A strategy for the future provision of built community facilities, including formal open space and play is being developed. The Strategy will aim to provide a plan for the provision of community infrastructure for the growing population, building on the significant progress made in recent years. Parish Councils and community groups will be consulted and a workshop will be held in September to allow more in depth discussion with stakeholders.

Derbyshire Cycle Plan

The County, City, Districts and a number of other bodies are producing a Plan for Cycling which aims to raise the participation of cycling in the County significantly over the next decade. The consultation process will be promoted from next week via the Derbyshire Sport website and the District Council will host a briefing session for interested parties. A South Derbyshire Action Plan will be developed from that briefing session and will feed into infrastructure development and cycle participation and events.

Grove Climbing Centre

A £1million development of a Climbing Centre in Swadlincote at the Green Bank Leisure Centre is progressing with a completion date of October. A further stage of the project includes the provision of a Skatepark in Newhall Park and an Outdoor Gym in Eureka Park

Members and Parish Council Briefings

Following on from the sessions that were delivered in previous years, a new series of briefing sessions are planned for the coming year starting with Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy and Development on 16 September. The full programme of dates for 2015/16 is as follows:

16 September 2015	Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy and Development - Reducing Physical Inactivity and Developing a Community Facility Infrastructure
14 October 2015	Planning and Enforcement - What is a Planning Consideration?
18 November 2015	Environmental Protection - Food, Noise and Nuisance
27 January 2016	Refuse and Recycling - Keeping the District Clean and Green

In addition, following the meeting, Safer Neighbourhood Wardens visited both Pound Stretcher and B&M stores to seek reductions in the levels of external litter. Verbal requests for action were made to the store managers at both sites and within two weeks significant improvements in the levels of external litter were observed at both sites.

LA/06 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Discussion followed regarding a County Council Scheme aiming to encourage residents to park off-road. Clearer information regarding the exact costs involved to install dropped kerbs would be helpful to residents. A suggestion was made to convert wide grass verges currently being churned up by vehicles into laybys. The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to clarify the issue next time.

ACTION – Forum Liaison Officer to report back to a future meeting

An empty house in Netherseal has been falling into a state of disrepair for many years since the owner died and his son is in prison. Apparently the property does not appear on the land registry so the District Council has advised that nothing can be done.

ACTION – Stuart Batchelor to investigate any possible action and report back to future meeting

Improved signage regarding width and weight limits is required around the Bailey Bridge in Walton on Trent. Large vehicles have nowhere to turn around resulting in chaos. Discussion followed regarding the timescales involved in building the Walton bypass bridge.

ACTION – Forum Liaison Officer to review the issue and report back to a future meeting

Concerns were expressed regarding the impact of the new housing development and the new Power Station proposed at Drakelow in terms of increased volumes of traffic. The Forum Liaison Officer replied that these issues will have been discussed with the Planning Authority and a traffic impact assessment will have been carried out.

A Planning Enforcement Committee is due to be held at 6.30pm on 14 October 2015 when the plans will be discussed.

Additional concerns were expressed regarding the shortage of school places. A study into this has revealed that it is possible to build onto existing schools.

Continuing issues regarding potholes at Linton Heath and Netherseal were raised. The Forum Liaison Officer asked that any dangerous potholes be reported to the County Council.

LA/07 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None

LA/08 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Community & Planning highlighted the forthcoming Summer Play Scheme commencing on 27 July. The Summer Activities 2015 Programme has been widely distributed to all schools in the district and feedback is invited from parishes commending the good work of staff involved.

Posters to advertise the provision in individual parishes have yet to be distributed.

ACTION – Stuart Batchelor to chase up distribution of posters

Discussion continued regarding tackling dog fouling and a request was made to look into enforcing the new anti-social behaviour tools.

ACTION – Stuart Batchelor to refer the matter to the Director of Housing & Environmental Services for advice

LA/09 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 18 November 2015, venue Walton on Trent Village Hall

P MURRAY

CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 8.25 pm