

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

AREA 1 – ETWALL

Tuesday, January 29th, 2019 at Foston and Scropton Hill Village Hall

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) representatives

Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown (Chair), Councillor Andy Billings, Councillor Martyn Ford, Councillor Andrew Roberts, Councillor Julie Patten, Councillor David Muller.

Kevin Stackhouse – Strategic Director (Corporate Resources).
Chris Smith – Communities Manager.
Natalie Brooks – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) representatives

Councillor Martyn Ford, Councillor Mrs Julie Patten.

Derbyshire Police representatives

PC Joe Pilgrim, PCSO Kerry Wallington-Waite.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Gordon Thornhill (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), Jane Osborne (Hatton Parish Council), Sophie Fryer (Etwall Parish Council),

Members of the public

Eddie Bisknell (press) Jason Whittingham (Scropton resident) Pam Wood (South Derbyshire CVS), Nigel Bird (Hatton resident), Roger Hyland (Egginton NHW), Robert Griffiths (Scropton resident), Diana Pointon Griffiths (Scropton NHW), Helen Baker and Theresa Croft (Youth of Hatton), Tim Smart and Jane Smart (Hilton residents)

EA/8 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from David Neal and Norman Ireland (both Etwall Parish Council), Steve Cooper

b. Declarations of interest

None.

Chairman's Announcements

- a. Tom Sloan who has administered these meetings for the last 3 years has now left the authority to join Staffordshire Police. The Chair asked to place on record thanks to Tom for all his hard work. A replacement for Tom will be appointed in due course.
- b. Sgt Graham Summers has also now left his post as SNT sergeant after 5 years to be replaced by Sgt Matt Haslam. The Chair asked to place on record thanks to Graham for his help and support and for attending the meetings over the years.
- c. Weekly 'Health Walks' now takes place in Hilton every Monday from 10.30 to 11.30am .The group meet at the Hilton Brook pub at 10.15 before setting off at 10.30am. The walk is free of charge and is led by trained volunteer walk leaders who can adjust the distance and pace to suit the walkers. Leaflets with more detail are at the back of the room by the signing in sheet.

EA/9 **Safer Neighbourhood report**

PCSO Kerry Wallington-Waite and PC Pilgrim reported that:

- Speed checks have taken place in Etwall and a community speed watch group has been set up in Repton.
- Dogs on Sutton Lane were found with no microchips so they have been sent to be re-homed.
- Two new Officers will be appointed to combat crime in rural areas on the back of this coming year's Council Tax precept increase.
- Number plate recognition operation took place in Hilton where eight vehicles were found with no insurance, 11 with no MOT, two people on mobile phones and one with no seat belt.
- Person in Egginton arrested for drink driving and taking a car without the owner's permission, he has been disqualified from driving.
- A lorry in Mickleover was stolen and a male was arrested. A car was stolen in Hilton in September and three males were arrested.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner is due to visit Marson-on-Dove on the 1st February.
- Derbyshire Alert is back and PC Pilgrim encouraged people to sign up. Residents will receive crime updates from their local area.

Councillor Mrs Brown asked for an update on the rural crime issues in Egginton. PCSO Waite reported that there had been an increase in rural crime in Egginton leading up to the Christmas period however arrests had been made and since then there had been fewer incidents. PC Russell is leading on dealing with rural crime in the area and has a number of initiatives in mind to help reduce and prevent rural crime in the area.

Councillor Mrs Brown asked what happens to uninsured vehicles that have been taken off of the road. PCSO Wallington-Waite replied that they are recovered and the offender must pay a fee to get them back, if the fee isn't paid then they are destroyed.

A resident asked if the Police building at the Mease was being used or if they could utilise it more. PC Pilgrim said that it is used on occasions and there may be plans for it which he can update on at a future meeting.

Councillor Mrs Patten stated that she recently drove past John Port School after dark and a number of pupils were riding bikes on the road with no lights or reflective gear. Chris Smith stated he could contact the School and offer them some high visibility items to give out to pupils who ride to schools

Action – Chris Smith to contact John Port School regarding high vis items for school children on bikes

Councillor Roberts asked for updates on the black Audi that had been taking charity bags from various locations throughout the District. Mr Smith said he would chase this up with PCSO Karen Caldicott in Newhall as she was looking into this.

Action – Chris Smith to provide update on the Black Audi that was taking Charity bags.

Councillor Roberts asked what could be done about people parking their cars on the corner of junctions. PCSO Wallington-Waite said that they have leaflets that they can put onto vehicles when they are informed of issues.

A member of the public showed concern about small packets being found on Old Marston Lane, the Co-operative car park and near bungalows in which elderly residents reside. An elderly person had written a letter of concern to the Police which had been handed to PC Pilgrim. PC Pilgrim stated that these incidents need to be reported so that they can be looked into.

The member of public also stated that local residents were reluctant to report issues about drugs and so told her rather than report things direct.

PC Pilgrim replied that if things are not reported the police won't know and therefore cannot react.

Cllr Billings suggested that the Council and police should look at promoting ways to report to the police via a campaign

A member of the public asked what could be done about a HGV vehicle which was causing a parking issue in Scropton as it's on a blind bend, photos have been taken. PC Pilgrim requested the photos and said he would discuss with the Traffic Officers.

EA/10 **Communities update**

Mr Smith discussed:

- Get Safe Online is to launch the 'Safe Online Dating' Campaign on the 1st February. The campaign provides various messages to ensure daters are aware of possible scams and remain safe when using online dating sites. For more information visit: <https://www.getsafeonline.org/datesafe/>
- Safer Internet Day is on 5th February. The aim of Safer Internet Day is to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Online schools packages have been sent to both Primary and Secondary schools in South Derbyshire. William Allit are holding a 'drop down' day for Year 8 and Year 9 students around Safer Internet Day and have the Cyber PCSO visiting the school to talk to students.

Safer and Stronger Funding Stream

One application has been received since the last meeting and has now been approved. This is the only project received this year. The application was for an upgrade to the Mease Pavilion CCTV. £1000 was requested towards project costs of £2472.

The current CCTV cameras have served their purpose and led to at least one prosecution - but there are gaps and blind spots. The new cameras will give full external coverage + internal coverage in the entrance hall and in the refreshment area they use as a bar for events.

There is still some money in the pot so if you have any ideas for projects please contact Chris Smith at SDDC 01283 595 924

EA/11 **Local authority issues & public questions**

Kevin Stackhouse updated the meeting on the Council's budgeting and financial position for this upcoming year.

The budget has been proposed for 2019/2020 and will be presented to the full council on the 27th February for approval. South Derbyshire District Council has healthy reserves, with surplus income being re-invested in services and also being set-aside for future investment. No cuts are planned to services next year. .

There is a proposal to increase Council Tax, recommended at 1.95% for next year. Also there will be a proposal to double the Council Tax on those properties which have been lying empty for two years. SDDC are investing in new social housing for residents, and are one of the fastest growing authorities for new housing outside London.

Councillor Mrs Brown asked how many properties were currently empty in the District. Mr Stackhouse replied to say 110 – 120 properties are empty at the moment. Cllr Muller asked if those properties included retail units, Mr Stackhouse replied to say no it did not.

A resident mentioned a dog fouling issue in Hatton in which our Council's Wardens came out quickly to clear up some mess, the issue is persistent however and occurs constantly. Chris Smith mentioned an upcoming scheme called "We're watching you" which will see a number of new signs erected in hotspot which will target these offenders. Chris also mentioned a new Neighbourhood Warden which will be recruited to Swadlincote Town Centre which will free up more time for the other Wardens to patrol rural areas.

A Scropton Parish Councillor raised that the dog bin outside the Scropton Village hall was overflowing and needed emptying.

Action – Chris Smith to task Clean Team to empty Scropton and Foston Village Hall Dog waste bin.

EA/12 **Presentation on local community initiative**

No presentation was given.

EA/13 **Summary of any agreed priorities / actions**

Chris Smith to get an update with regard the he black Audi that was allegedly taking Charity bags

Chris Smith to ask the Clean Team to empty Scropton and Foston Village Hall Dog waste bin.

Chris Smith to contact John Port School regarding high vis items for school children on bikes

EA/14 **Close and date of next meeting**

The next meeting date was yet to be confirmed.

**Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 7.38pm.