

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM MEETING

SWADLINCOTE – AREA 4

Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2023

Emmanuel Church

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillor Mick Mulgrew (Chair), Councillor Gordon Rhind, Councillor Ben Stuart, Councillor Alistair Tilley, Councillor Alan Haynes, Councillor Angela Archer, Councillor Malcolm Gee, Councillor Stephen Taylor

Tracey Bingham – Strategic Director, Paige Robinson – Service Assistant, Chris Smith – Communities Team Manager, Max Boyce – Environmental Services

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Alan Haynes

Derbyshire Police Representatives

Inspector Mike Sisman, PCSO Tarjinderjit Nizzer

Parish Council/ Meeting Representatives

Liz Gumbley – CVS

Members of the Public

Rebecca Robinson, Richard Homas, Margaret Shepherd, Paul Miller, Helen Miller, Peter Harrison, Carol Harrison, Samantha Nibell, Judy Wilkins, Richard Wilkins, Carl Barratt

S/A 1. Open Meeting

a) Introductions and Housekeeping

b) Apologies

Councillor Peter Smith, Councillor Neil Tilley, Councillor Vonnie Redfern, Ian Boam, Jenny Burley from Goseley Centre

c) Chair's Announcements

Free Tree Scheme (Parks and Green Spaces)



The details for the Councils Free Tree Scheme are currently being finalised. Anyone interested will be able to apply online for up to two trees in their garden, whilst organisations can apply for up to ten. The choice of tree species will be confirmed at the start of October, at which point you will be able to make an application online via the Councils Website. The closing date is the end of October.

Council Information

There are a variety of other information leaflets at the back of the room by the signing in sheet so please have a look on your way out.

New Chairs Charity

The new Chair of the Council Sean Bambrick has chosen Miles for Smiles as his chosen charity for this year. The Charity's mission is to relieve the needs of people with life limiting or life changing health conditions or who are disabled living in south Derbyshire, North-West Leicestershire, or East Staffordshire by providing grants and memorable experiences, through days out or mini breaks to individuals in need to enhance their quality of life.

Swadlincote Christmas lights switch on

The Council is pleased to announce that the annual Swadlincote Christmas lights switch on will be on Saturday 25th November, between 4pm – 7pm.

Building on last year's successful family event, there will be illuminated street performers, live festive music, street food and the Christmas light switch on at 6:30pm.

There will be lots to see and do including late night shopping in the town with artisan and craft stalls and local businesses opening until late.

d) To Receive the Minutes of the Last Meeting

All received as a true and accurate record.

e) Matters Arising from the Last Minutes

No matters arising from the last minutes.

S/A 2. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Report and Police Q&A

Derbyshire police now have a fully staffed Safer Neighbourhood Team with all PCSO vacancies filled. Two of the PCSOs are training until October. The Priorities for South Derbyshire are burglary, robbery, and domestic abuse. Whilst robbery and burglary are low within the area, domestic abuse is still quite high which is why it is the top priority. The police have been patrolling at Eureka Park and around the Highstreet which are anti-social behaviour hotspots. There is a WhatsApp group for shops on the



Highstreet so if there is a case of shoplifting then they can contact each other. Test purchase ops are being carried out with Trading standards to make sure shop aren't selling knives or vapes to minors. There has been a number of cannabis grows found within Swadlincote area, if people are aware of any drug dealers or suspect grows, then they should be reported so the police or via crime stoppers.

One of the most prolific shoplifters within Swadlincote was arrested recently. If there are any issues within the town centre, specifically around shoplifting, then they need to be reported. The police cannot do anything about a problem if it isn't formally reported. There is also work being done within Swadlincote to tackle nuisance and illegal mopeds and e-scooter use, especially in Eureka Park.

Q&A

1. An issue was raised regarding Resthaven, where there are children climbing up into trees and breaking branches off into the road and playing football on the grassed area. Complaints have been made but nothing has been done about the issue and the council won't put up 'no ball games' signs, The council asked them to fill in incident forms, the residents had a petition with signatures, but the council said there's still nothing they can do about it as they don't think the issues the children are causing are anti-social.

Cllr Mulgrew said that if this is a reoccurring problem then it needs to be reported to Councillors. He suggested fencing the area if the problem continues. Chris Smith informed that the Council cannot stop kids from playing football if they aren't causing any damage and the police said they will take the number and go have a look at the area.

2. Another issued raised was regarding HGVs that were causing traffic on Sandcliffe Road that it is getting worse. It was asked if it was possible for the police to be made more aware of the issue and if officers can pull over HGVs to deal with them.

The police updated that they are aware of the HGV issue across areas within South Derbyshire and they are doing a lot of work around the issue.

3. A resident had issues with vehicles on Church Street due to speeding, noise of exhausts and HGVs. People cannot have their windows open due to the noise of the exhausts constantly happening. Questioned if the police are able to do anything about the situation.

The police inform that if anti-social behaviour is reported or exhausts deliberately being used to disturb residents then it will be logged by them and can be dealt with.

4. A member of the public asked about who is responsible regarding the policing of double yellow lines as he saw seven cars parked on double yellow lines down Moira Road, with one of the cars being there for over a week. This issue is worrying since there are more houses being built so there is concern over where even more traffic will go, especially during 8-9am.



Chris informed that it is the job of the county council as their Civil Parking wardens do enforcement for parking on double-yellow lines but, SDDC can report it on his behalf.

5. An issue surrounding drug dealing around Woodville Recreation was raised which was upsetting residents, so they wanted to make the police aware.

If the location has been reported to the police, then the police will look into the situation and patrol the area, if issues continue then the public are urged to keep reporting it.

6. Chris Smith read out an email a resident had sent in regarding several issues to be raised in his absence:

- a) The old derelict shop on the corner of Hastings Road and Church Avenue, has been attracting people of all ages to walk around the back to the outbuildings. he would like to know what can be done about the building. The last update he received was that the local authority had received planning permission to turn the building into flats.
- b) The speed of vehicles coming off the new bypass over the brow of the hill by the skate park (Neville Lumbs old building) on common lane. Sometimes vehicles are also on the wrong side of the road. The pavement is becoming narrower too, as the verge is spreading over the pavement, and it needs someone with a shovel to cut it back.
- c) On the same stretch of road there are large accumulations of rubbish in the verge, and towards the old Neville limb premises builder rubble. They would consider litter picking this area if provided with the equipment.
- d) Speeding vehicles from Wilmot Road onto Church Avenue make attempting to get out of Trinity Grove challenging and seems to be worse after 6pm. There is also have issues with cars that are adapted to make the exhaust noisy.

Police informed that speeding is an issue across the district and is usually done by people who live locally, in order for them to be caught, it needs to be reported to the police so they can go out and monitor the area or they can catch those who speed themselves if they choose to join the local community Speed Watch.

- e) The last question queried why the toilets at Swadlincote Woodlands have not been open for most of the summer. The resident asked if they will be open again soon.

Another local resident of Trinity Grove raised concerns over speeding on scooters, particularly teenagers, within the local area that are putting people at risk.

ACTION: CS to get responses for the resident regarding issues raised.



S/A 3. South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership/ Safer Neighbourhood Grants Update

South Derbyshire CSP Update

South Derbyshire CVS have produced a new leaflet for the Safer Homes service, a supply of these can be found on the signing in table at the back.

The service can improve the security of people's homes through a free crime prevention survey and the fitting of free security items. Victims of crime, vulnerable people and the over 60s can access the scheme. Self-referrals are accepted. Contact details and how to refer are included on the leaflets which are available at the signing in table.

281 properties were secured in South Derbyshire in 2022/23 and 90 referrals were received in Q1 of this year.

In June the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was re-introduced, this gives police and Council Enforcement officers additional powers to deal with ASB. The order includes prohibitions on street drinking and any person misbehaving can be removed from the area for a 24-hour period. There is also a new prohibition to prevent nuisance cycling and scooter use.

We are currently consulting on introducing another Public Space Protection Order at Eureka Park. The park has had persistent ASB over the last few years and the prohibitions will be exactly the same as in Swadlincote Town Centre PSPO.

We are again supporting knife crime education sessions in South Derbyshire Support Centre in Newhall. An organisation called Street whyze visit the school and provide both 1-2-1 work and group sessions. The service is being extended to be delivered at Pingle, William Allitt and Granville Schools during the coming year.

Safe and Sound continue to visit Swadlincote and Newhall to do valuable outreach work. The charity which focuses primarily on Child Exploitation are making weekly visits to our urban parks to talk to young people. Valuable information is passed onto us and also to the Parks team about any issues or requests to improve the parks.

Safer Neighbourhoods Funding

There is still Funding available for projects for the current financial year. Anyone with any projects should contact Chris or Paige.

Area 4 = £5690

1. £690 was approved towards 4 new CCTV Cameras at Gosely Community Centre
2. £2500 was approved to install new CCTV Cameras at Woodville Rec to cover equipment which is prone to being damaged.



3. £2500 has already been approved by Cllr Mulgrew and Cllr Pearson (Chair of CSP) to provide £2500 towards the new Community Hub in Swadlincote. The hub will offer daytime provision for infants and toddlers and will also offer an evening youth provision from the old cinema building on West Street.

S/A 4. Local Community and Voluntary Sector Projects/ Update

Liz Gumbley from CVS provided an update, this is provided as an attachment.

S/A 5. Local Authority Update and Public Q&A

Housing

The **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 1** is now approaching completion, providing improved insulation, doors, and windows to 89 properties in Swadlincote, Melbourne, Hartshorne and Netherseal.

Wave 2 will provide similar improvements to around 103 properties in: Hilton, Church Broughton, Scropton, Smisby, Hartshorne, Netherseal and Lullington.

The tenants of the properties that may be included are being written to informing them of the scheme and will be consulted with before any works commence.

Legal and democratic services

The **Annual Canvass for 2023** has started - this is the process where the Council contacts every household to check we've got the right information on the Electoral Register. The process also gives anyone who isn't registered to vote yet, the chance to do so.

The Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and therefore we will be using on-line methods of contact where possible. Online contact will also reduce costs by reducing postage, paper, and processing time.

You will receive an email or letter asking if your household's details on the Electoral Register are correct. All you need to do is follow the instructions, and you'll be ready to have your say in upcoming elections. You can reply online, by phone, text, or by returning the paper form.

If you can reply online, we encourage you to do this.

If you have to respond and do not respond, we will try to contact you by telephone or make a property visit.

Cultural and Community services

The new **South Derbyshire Community Grant Fund** is now open for applications (*leaflets with details are available on the table by the signing in sheet.*)



This scheme, administered by South Derbyshire District Council, is financed by part of South Derbyshire's allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) monies.

The Fund has a total of £350,000 available over the next two years until March 2025.

Capital grants of between £2,000 and £25,000 are available (up to 80% of total project costs) with a minimum project cost of £2,500. Match funding of 20% is required.

Applicants must demonstrate that their project meets one or more of the Shared Prosperity Fund outcomes and further information including a Guide to the Criteria, Application Process and Conditions of Funding is available on the Community Grants section of the Council's website, when you search "Community Grants"

It is an open rolling application process until the 31 December 2024 (to allow for completion of projects) or until all funding has been allocated.

Customer Services

South Derbyshire District Council is currently developing its **Customer Access Strategy**. The aim of the strategy is to shape how the Council will serve its customers, and to define the projects and initiatives it needs to deliver in order to achieve its ambitions.

We want local people to feel valued by their Council, trust us and have excellent customer experiences in their dealings with us, whatever channel they choose.

The Customer Access Strategy will set out how we will improve access to our services for our customers. We want to make dealing with the Council as quick and easy as possible, making the best use of technology whilst working in a cost-effective way.

The document can be found on the Councils Website, or if you speak to us after the meeting, we can take your details and email you a copy of the document.

Q&A

1. A member of the public asked if there was a deadline regarding the Annual Canvass for 2023. Tracey Bingham informed that the council is currently doing a promotion of it but there are no time scales to hand as it needs committee approval.
2. A member of the Magic Attic asked about if two tram poles within South Derbyshire can be preserved and not destroyed since they have cultural history. Chris will look into the situation since the District Council does have funding for cultural heritage, however, Tracey raised that there may be an issue as to who owns the poles/area of land since it might not be the district council.
3. Another Member of the public had a grievance about the new island on Derby Road. They felt as though it had not helped Swadlincote but only Woodville. People cannot turn right due to the island which has made the traffic to Coppice Side worse. They requested for the county council to change the island, so the traffic



doesn't go to Coppice Side. There was also another grievance raised regarding the local waste ground at the bottom of Coppice Side; it was promised to be kept at 2ft high so you could see around it, but you cannot due to shrubbery growth as it is also pushing the fence over. They have had to pay for pest control due to issues with rats there.

ACTION: SDDC to contact DDC regarding the issues

S/A 6. Summary of Agreed Actions

ACTIONS

1. Cllr Mulgrew to liaise with Police and SDDC regarding Rest Haven and the issues with kids climbing the trees and playing football on the grassed area
2. Police to check Church Street regarding speeding and HGV issues.
3. Chris Smith to report the double yellow lines parking on Moira Road to DDC.
4. Police to patrol and investigate drug issues around the Woodville Recreation.
5. CS to respond to resident who raised several incidents but couldn't attend the meeting.
6. Report to DCC the issue of lorries on Kiln Way not being able to turn right, resulting traffic issues.
7. Chris Smith to contact the Heritage Officer at SDDC regarding the tram poles.
8. SDDC to find out the owners of the waste ground by Coppice Side.

S/A 7. Close and Date of Next Meeting

TBC.

Councillor Mick Mulgrew
CHAIR

The meeting closed at 19:30 pm

