

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

October 13, 2015 at Milton Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor M Stanton (Chair), Councillor N Atkin, Councillor D Shepherd, Councillor A MacPherson, Councillor P Smith.

F McArdle (Chief Executive), T Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs L Chilton, P Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

P Colleyshaw (Ticknall Parish Council), M Goodall (Findern Parish Council), F Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council), T Skeith (Repton Parish Council), S Toone (Bretby Parish Council).

Members of the Public

A Evans, H Hall, R Mumford, J Orme.

RA/10 **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Chahal, Councillor Ford, Councillor Davison, R Lisewski.

RA/11 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

RA/12 **Chairman's Announcements**

None.

RA/13 **To note the minutes of the meeting held on July 21, 2015**

The minutes were noted as a true and accurate record by Councillor Stanton.

RA/14 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

Paul Jameson, Derbyshire County Council Area Forum Liaison Officer (AFLO), reported back on issues raised at last meeting as follows:

- **The Green, Willington: Withdrawal of School Crossing Patrol**

A resident had argued for the retention of a School Crossing Patrol (SCP) at a zebra crossing at the Green, in Willington, due to the complexity of traffic flow and street furniture at the B5008/A5132 junction, with its two mini islands. The SCP was removed in July by Derbyshire County Council, with the decision informed by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

AFLO stated there would need to be a clearly identifiable concern, in terms of road safety, with regard to the existing arrangements to justify the expenditure of substantial funds to upgrade one or all of the crossings to light-controlled operation. There have been 2 pedestrian-related injury collisions in the vicinity of The Green in the last 3 years (this being the standard test period for assessment). Both occurred under unusual circumstances and there is nothing within the Police reports to suggest that there was an issue with the existing crossing facilities, or that light-controlled facilities would have prevented either collision from occurring. The resident replied by saying statistics used in the decision related to a traffic flow of 600 vehicles per hour whereas, he claims, the junction sees a figure of 770.

- **Newton Road, Newton Solney: Overgrown Footway**

A resident reported on overgrown hedgerows that were obstructing the footway from opposite Bladon House School back towards Newton Solney.

AFLO reported that the obstruction has since been removed.

- **Frizam's Lane junction with Heath Lane, Findern: Overgrown Vegetation**

A resident raised a concern that vegetation was obstructing visibility. Councillor Ford advised that he had already reported the issue at the location on the bridge at Hells Brook.

AFLO reported that the vegetation has been cut back.

- **Heath Lane junction with Main Street, Findern: Request for Chevrons**

It had been asked whether chevron boards could be erected at the bend in the road. The boundary wall of the property on the bend has been struck on more than one occasion and it was felt that the chevron boards would highlight the

bend in the road better.

AFLO is still awaiting a response on the issue.

- **Bretby Lane, Bretby: Drainage Issues**

Cllr Chilton previously raised the ongoing issue of drainage problems on Bretby Lane and requested an update.

AFLO reported that a drainage remedial scheme had been draw up and the first element – consisting of works to reconstruct the outfall and headwall – were completed late last year. The larger, on-street element, would require significantly more funds (estimated around £28,000), which would need to come from the Area Maintenance Manager's budget. AFLO had been awaiting confirmation as to whether they could fund the works or not. He had spoken with the Maintenance Manager who advised that they were in negotiations with Severn Trent Water with a view to one of two outcomes; either STW disconnect their asset from the highway system, or they adopt the highway system (and carry out the necessary upgrades). AFLO had stressed to the Maintenance Manager that negotiations with STW 2-3 years ago had come to nothing, however, the Manager is of the opinion that STW may now be more willing to accommodate our request; he has been speaking with the Derby rep for STW but is now in the process of making contact with the Staffs rep (as their asset is across the county boundary).

A member of the public stated he felt the issue was going round and round in circles with Derbyshire County Council and Severn Trent Water. He asked if someone with "more clout" could get involved and press Severn Trent Water. AFLO said all he could do was refer the matter onto the relevant officers. Councillor Smith reported his frustration with the long-running issue, while Councillor Chilton stated the county council could afford the works and should get them done.

Councillor Smith and Councillor Mrs Chilton agreed to press Severn Trent Water together.

- **Canal Bridge, Willington: Signal Damage**

A resident had reported that one of the signal poles was struck and was leaning slightly, with the signal itself still working.

AFLO told the meeting that the matter had been reported to Traffic Signals officers who were already aware of the damage. The pole has since been repaired.

- **Footpath by Trent Avenue, Willington: part-time lighting at night**

A resident had asked if anything further had been done about lighting at this location. AFLO reported that the matter had been reviewed but the street lighting team at Derbyshire County Council believe the footpath is not used enough to keep the lights on all night.

A resident reported that there was a street light on Beech Avenue (outside the shops) which was burning throughout the day.

AFLO took a number of the remaining faulty light (80230) for repair.

- **Stretch of road on eastern side facing Stenson Road**

Area of temporary fencing has been erected by a consortium of housebuilders after SDDC Chief Executive Frank McArdle intervened on behalf of residents. Councillor Shepherd thanked Mr McArdle for his work in getting the job done.

RA/15 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

Speeding in Stenson Road

Councillor Shepherd raised the need for a pedestrian crossing in Stenson Road giving easier access for the new developments to the pub, hairdressers, newsagent, church and café on Pilgrim Way. A light controlled crossing he requested was turned down. He reported that a similar problem in the Kirkland Way / Glenmore Drive area was solved with a pedestrian refuge when an application for a crossing was rejected. Councillor Shepherd cited a report in the Derby Telegraph which drew attention to the issue of safe crossing of the road, with one resident wondering who would be “wiped out first, herself or her child”. There are 500 homes planned for the development, with 300 of them now built and occupied. Councillor Shepherd wants Derbyshire County Council to take action and get a crossing installed.

Junction of Repton Road and Nether Hall Road, Midway

Councillor Atkin reported that a pothole had been repaired at the junction, but further work was needed after the repair failed. He reported that a few near misses on the road had occurred as drivers tried to avoid the hole and asked for the repair team to revisit the site.

Bridge over the River Trent in Willington Road

Councillor MacPherson reported that there is no kerb between the carriageway and pavement across the bridge, with motorists encroaching on the area used by pedestrians. AFLO responded that the bridge is a listed structure and introducing

kerbing could be an issue. Councillor MacPherson also stated that the bridge has a 40mph limit and could that be reduced? AFLO advised that the speed limit has to be consistent with DfT criteria which would dictate that 40mph is appropriate for the environment. PJ further stressed that the speed limit is a maximum a route can be travelled and speed should be moderated appropriately when drivers are faced with hazards (such as bends in the road or a narrowing of the carriageway). Councillor Smith asked if a narrowing sign would be appropriate while a resident said that regrading the road would not be possible as a raised pavement area would make the bridge parapet too low. AFLO pointed to issues with Heritage England to change the bridge. Frank McArdle suggested that paint could be used to demarcate the pavement and alleviate the issue.

Village Street, Stenson

A member of the public reported a damaged wall in Village Street, Stenson, saying it has been in a state of disrepair for two years. Councillor Shepherd said the responsibility lies with Derby City Council.

Speed limit, Milton Road, Repton

Councillor Smith reported that a new development on the edge of Repton falls on the border of a 30mph limit and a section of national speed limit (NSL). He asked if the 30mph zone could be extended and the NSL sign moved to take account of the new housing. AFLO said a speed limit extension had been proposed and would shortly be going through a 3-week Public Notice period – with notices displayed on site and in the press – as part of the legal process involved.

Himalayan Balsam

Councillor MacPherson asked what Derbyshire County Council's view was on Himalayan Balsam. Councillor Stanton replied that it was a growing problem in the area. AFLO said he would check the policy. A member of the public reported it was bad on the Trent and Mersey Canal in a section from Hicklin's Bridge.

RA/16 **County Council issues**

No issues.

RA/17 **District Council issues**

Frank McArdle reported that SDDC is preparing to present its medium-term financial plan, which covers the next four years. He believes it will be well-received in the current financial climate, a time in which the council has taken steps to counteract cuts in its central government funding by reducing costs of services without affecting their delivery.

Mr McArdle also reported on a new corporate plan which will be completed after consultation with members and the public.

The chief executive also recorded some successes for the council of late:

- International Food Fair – it was a rip-roaring success with everything from ostrich burgers to penguin pie. Charles Hanson from the Antiques Roadshow attended. Mr McArdle would like to take the idea around the district to places like Hilton and Melbourne.
- Unemployment. The rate in South Derbyshire is now only 0.6 per cent of a working population of more than 40,000 people. There are 432 people claiming unemployment benefit, the second best figure in Derbyshire after the rural Derbyshire Dales district. The figures, however, are a double-edged sword as there is not a large pool of unemployed labour to tempt companies into the area. It presents a case for upskilling the workforce to attract hi-tech companies. Burton and South Derbyshire College does a superb job of getting young people ready for work. The South Derbyshire economy is also diverse, with most companies employing fewer than 10 people.

Mr McArdle vowed to continue fighting inequality in the area, citing the example that people in Newhall are expected to live 10 years less than people in Newton Solney. He is also targeting the unemployed who are aged 18 to 24. South Derbyshire is below the national average for youth unemployment.

Councillor MacPherson asked about the new climbing wall in Swadlincote. Mr McArdle said the new facility looks highly impressive and will be a niche offering for the whole district, with badminton facilities on a par with the best on offer in any Olympic hall.

RA/18 **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at Stenson Fields Primary School.

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.25pm.