

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at Swadlincote Town Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe (Chair), Councillor Robert Coe, Councillor Stuart Swann, Councillor Ray Tipping.

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Gary Musson, Councillor Stuart Swann.

Parish Council / Meeting Representatives

None.

Members of the Public

C Bowley, Ron Causer, Colin Dobson, G Fox, Alan Jones, Helen Kreft (Burton Mail), Sheila Mayer, Maureen Mycock, Dave Sharpe.

SA/11 **Apologies**

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Chris Horridge, Shirley Horridge, Ron Lane, Councillor Gordon Rhind, Councillor Trevor Southerd, Councillor Steve Taylor, Councillor Neil Tilley, Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt.

SA/12 **Declarations of interest**

None.

SA/13 **Chairman's announcements**

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe mentioned that Swadlincote's Safer Neighbourhood Police Team had been named Derbyshire SNT of the Year.

Councillor Ray Tipping was introduced to the meeting as the new representative for Woodville.

A resident stated how disappointed they were at the lack of councillors present at the meeting. Councillor Mrs Coe replied that Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton was unwell and Councillor Steve Taylor was on holiday.

SA/14 **The minutes of the meeting held on June 13, 2017**

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

SA/15 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

HGV signage in Coppice Side

Frank McArdle reported that he had asked for a trial for all delivery drivers on site to resend directions to all delivery drivers in an effort to get them to use the correct route into the shopping centre. The trial ended on October 21 and then the affected residents would then be asked if they'd noticed an improvement. A resident said they had not noticed a difference – there were no delivery signs at all. Mr McArdle said he would investigate the possibility of installing better signage. Councillor Stuart Swann asked if it was worth speaking to companies at a high level. Mr McArdle agreed that it could be an approach.

Bollards in High Street, Swadlincote

A resident reported that a secure van had come the wrong way up High Street the previous week. The bollard had not been lifted. Mr McArdle said he would find out who was responsible for it.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to report back on bollard responsibility

SA/16 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

Regarding an issue at a previous meeting, a resident stated that they had a photo of a defunct footpath sign in Coppice Side which needed removing. Mr McArdle asked to see them after the meeting.

A resident of South Street, Woodville, said they felt abandoned by SDDC and DCC over a piece of highway outside their property which was unadopted. Thorn Street residents used the piece of highway every day to access car parking but it wasn't surfaced and cut up as well as producing dust. The resident has asked those using the road for £50 towards some

tarmac to surface it but they didn't respond. Mr McArdle replied that the resident had not been abandoned but SDDC had no rights or liabilities related to the piece of highway. He sympathised with the resident, but was powerless to do anything about the situation. Councillor Gary Musson added that he was getting up to speed with the issue and would explore any possible avenues with DCC. A resident said a solution would be to move some bollards and prevent access. Councillor Musson replied that moving them would cost in the region of £3,000 and a new Traffic Order would be needed.

A resident raised the issue of a bund outside the former Snooty Fox pub, in Hartshorne. A year earlier they had suggested something more permanent to protect the site was needed. Mr McArdle replied that a planning application for the site was imminent.

A member of the public asked what the situation was regarding the unfinished Diana Memorial Garden in Swadlincote. They also asked why the works were being carried out by a company from Melton Mowbray and not a local firm. Mr McArdle replied that there was a delay in supply of granite for the works and that best value dictated selection of contractor, regardless of their location. A resident added that it was a strange development at a time of cutbacks in the county.

A resident asked if any plans were in place to install charging points for electric cars since the Government was banning the sale of conventional cars from 2040. Mr McArdle replied that he didn't think Government had yet made detailed plans regarding the edict.

Councillor Musson said that parking was an ongoing problem that was going to get worse over time. Mr McArdle suggested he speak to Mike Roylance in SDDC's Economic Development department.

A member of the public asked what the situation was regarding the Woodville Regeneration Route. Mr McArdle replied that a meeting was taking place the next day regarding the initiative.

SA/17 **County council issues**

None.

SA/18 **District council issues**

Mr McArdle reported that SDDC was looking forward to the International Food Market in Swadlincote at the weekend. It was a brilliant event for the town. Small businesses continued to grow in the area and there was a lot going on in Swadlincote. SDDC's Economic Development team continued to look at new ideas and the Makers' Market came out of the food market.

Councillor Mrs Coe updated that the first South Derbyshire Community Awards would take place on October 13. A lot of businesses in South Derbyshire, including Toyota, had provided sponsorship.

A resident thanked SDDC for keeping parking free in South Derbyshire.

Councillor Mrs Coe said that more interesting shops were coming into Swadlincote. Mr McArdle added that the Economic Development team should be congratulated.

A member of the public raised the issue of the paving degrading on the Delph. Mr McArdle replied that there was spare York Stone to carry out repairs.

A resident asked if there was any movement on Gresley FC relocating to a new ground. Mr McArdle replied that the club was a private company. The local authority had done everything possible to provide options for the club.

SA/19 **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course.

**Councillor Kim Coe
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.12pm.