

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

13th February 2012

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Brown (Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Lemmon, Mrs. Patten, Mrs. Plenderleith and Roberts.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations) and P. Spencer (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Mrs. Patten.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

In attendance

Heather Wheeler M.P. and Councillor R. Wheeler (Leader of South Derbyshire District Council).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

M. Holland (Burnaston Parish Council), M. & S. Nesbitt (Egginton Parish Council, I. Bennett, K. Cresswell, N. Ireland, D. Muller and B Payton (Etwall Parish Council) and T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

K. Baston, J. Keery, L. Kolkman, B. Myring, G. Wale, D. & J. Woolliscroft,

EA/18. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Mrs. Brown had been appointed Chairman of the Etwall Area Forum, following the introduction of revised boundaries.

EA/19. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Stewart.

EA/20. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Patten be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Etwall Area Forum for the remainder of the municipal year.

EA/21. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised of the death of Ivor Smith over the Christmas/New Year period and she paid tribute to the former District and Parish Councillor. Those present observed a minute's silence in his memory.

EA/22. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held 2nd November 2011 were noted.

EA/23. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman referred those present to the report circulated with the Agenda. She reminded of the issues raised at the last Meeting and the progress made to date. An update was sought with regard to the issue of documents for the Area Forum via email, which was duly provided. In future, any resident wishing to receive an electronic, rather than a paper copy of the documents was asked to provide their email details via the attendance sheet.

EA/24. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

There was considerable discussion about a railhead development on land at Egginton Common. Whilst there was no live planning application for this matter at the present time, it was noted that due to its national and regional significance, this matter would be determined by a division of the Planning Inspectorate known as the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

The Chairman provided an update, referring to a recent briefing for elected Members about the site plans. She gave a summary of the anticipated site uses and the jobs that could be created. There would be a need for road links and there was a discussion about the environmental implications of this development, together with how local residents could contribute to this process. Public consultation would take place, probably at two separate stages and this process would take about 13 months to determine. The District Council would make its representations, as part of the process.

It was questioned whether current flood defence schemes for the area would be joined up with the Egginton Common development. This was the subject of a live district council planning application and so could not be discussed at the Area Forum. Another issue raised was drainage from the Egginton Common into Willington Brook, which would need to be taken into consideration. Further aspects raised were the Council's in-house expertise and its ability to seek bespoke advice for such major projects, together with a degree of influence that the District Council would have to the IPC. Public involvement was urged in this process, to contribute at the right times and focussing on planning matters.

Related to the job growth, there was discussion about housing development requirements, which would need to be considered through the Local Development Framework. It was noted that previous planning consent from a conjoined planning inquiry had identified sites on the southern fringe of Derby. Finally, the need for specialist advice in relation to highway matters was noted.

In response to a question, an update was provided on the Council's plans to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Information had already been placed on the Council's website with regard to street parties and initial details were given of plans for events at Rosliston Forestry Centre, themed roundabout planting, the availability of small grants and beacons. Further announcements would be made shortly.

EA/25. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

It was reported that Derbyshire County Council was undertaking a consultation to propose changes to the Youth Service. A briefing note had been circulated, which gave details on what the proposals meant, how residents could get involved in the consultation and details of the consultation events.

A resident commented on a recent consultation event, which had been well attended and a several concerns had been raised. She then referred to the circulated information and it appeared that a decision had already been reached, ahead of this consultation, not to provide frontline activities and to discontinue the mobile service. She spoke of the value of the mobile service to the rural areas and urged residents to respond to the consultation, seeking its retention. **The Forum Liaison Officer was asked to take these views back to Derbyshire County Council.**

EA/26. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Operations made a presentation on the Council's financial plans. Information had been circulated to those present, with charts showing the Council's turnover and how it was paid for. It was noted that Council Tax for a 'Band D' property for District Council services equated to £2.90 per week. Consideration was currently being given to a Council Tax freeze for 2012/13, which would be the second year running. Another element reported on, was the Government grant, before looking at the net budget for 2012/13 and a further chart showed how this was split across services. Finally, the Director spoke about new capital projects. Additional information had been circulated and the Council's funding of £1.7m had been supplemented by others, resulting in investment of £5m in local leisure and community facilities.

The Chairman of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee addressed those present. She explained the Committee's role and a planned session in late March to look at the annual work programme. Input was being sought from parish councils and residents on the areas that the Scrutiny Committee should look at in 2012/13. A letter would be sent to parish councils later this week and she urged their feedback. The Chairman spoke about the Committee's work on broadband services and a further example given was the current review of Grounds Maintenance.

EA/27. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next Etwall Area Forum would be held on 10th May 2012 at the Hatton Centre.

MRS. L. BROWN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:20 p.m.