

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

25th July 2012

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Brown (Chairman) and Councillor Bale and Mrs. Patten.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and M. Holford (Environmental Services).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Patten.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

J. Drake and J. Nicholls (Dalbury Lees Parish Council), B. Cowley and S. Nesbitt (Egginton Parish Council), I. Bennett, N. Ireland and D. Muller (Etwall Parish Council) and T. Beresford and A. Holgate (Foston and Scropton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Coke-Steel, M. Lake and B. Myring.

EA/1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Lemmon and Mrs. Plenderleith and B. Payton and K. Cresswell (Etwall Parish Council).

EA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that District and County Councillor Mrs. J. Patten be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Etwall Area Forum for the ensuing year.

EA/3. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman referred to the discussion at the earlier Safer Neighbourhood Meeting about recent flooding problems in the area. She recognised the assistance of the Council's Direct Services Organisation in providing sandbags and the emergency planning arrangements put in place. Examples were given of the specific flooding problems in Egginton, Etwall, Findern, Foston, Hilton and Scropton. Investigations were ongoing as to the causes of these flooding problems. It was noted that Derbyshire County Council was now the lead flood authority and the District Council was liaising with it. The Chairman also

referred to the tracked watercourse levels for the River Dove and the Egginton, Foston, Hilton and Ticknall Brooks. At the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting, it was requested that the date of the next Flood Liaison Committee be brought forward and that the Derbyshire Constabulary be invited to contribute to that Meeting. The Area Forum signified its support to that proposal.

EA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held 10th May 2012 were noted.

EA/5. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman referred those present to the report circulated with Agenda and a verbal update was provided. With regard to the loose manhole cover on Scropton Road, Hatton a response was still awaited from Severn Trent Water. This would be pursued with a further report to the next Meeting. Questions and comments were made with regard to the report back on the communication on street works. In particular, it was considered that the County Council could provide further information and residents were referred to the website www.elgin.org.uk which provided up-to-date road work information. The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to research how this website was updated and would provide a further report back to the next Meeting.

EA/6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

The Chairman introduced Mike Lake, a Trusley resident who was one of the local broadband champions. He gave a verbal presentation about rural broadband and the difficulties experienced where there was either a poor broadband service or no service at all. He then spoke about current initiatives and targets to provide superfast broadband to 90% of the population. Funding was being provided via the Government and the County Council to secure rural broadband improvements. The County Council had undertaken a consultation process and in the Autumn of this year would appoint a contractor to deliver this scheme worth £15m. He gave examples of the technology that could be used to deliver broadband to rural areas and demonstrated the need for superfast broadband to deliver internet based services in the future. He explained the impact for both residents and small businesses of a poor broadband service. A map was displayed showing areas across the County where there was currently no broadband service.

The Forum Liaison Officer had circulated additional literature and confirmed that the County Council was seeking to recruit additional broadband champions. Points were raised about potential contractual difficulties. A comparison was drawn to the contract for broadband service improvements in Wales, where the process was deemed to be anti-competitive. It was noted that there was a further meeting at the County Council the following week, to which people were welcome to attend. Cross border and regional issues were also raised for those South Derbyshire residents who accessed their broadband services via Staffordshire exchanges. The Forum Liaison Officer was asked to take residents' comments back to the County Council.

EA/7. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer spoke about the County Council's consultation on the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Copies of the consultation document had been circulated and details were provided on how residents could obtain further copies and submit their views by the consultation deadline of 2nd September 2012.

EA/8. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Matt Holford of the District Council's Environmental Services Department addressed the Meeting. He explained that the District Council had powers to designate Dog Control Orders for certain areas. This included the power to prohibit dogs, to require that they were kept on a lead or even to limit the number of dogs per dog walker. The Council had introduced Dog Control Orders in 2008 and had recently consulted with parish councils to review the areas requiring such orders. A wider consultation process was now underway and feedback was sought by 10th September 2012.

Enforcement aspects were discussed. The Officers undertook an enforcement /educational role and their activity was targeted on known "hot spots". Residents were encouraged to report incidents and where possible to provide contact details, so that these could be pursued. It was noted that parish councils would be able to provide useful information to the enforcement officers. A further aspect discussed was prosecutions. An Egginton representative explained how dog fouling issues had been reduced in the parish through a leaflet drop and additional signage.

The Chief Executive addressed those present, confirming from the census data that South Derbyshire was now the fourth fastest growing place outside London and the South East, having a 15.8% population growth over the last 10 years. He spoke about the advantages this brought to the area, but also the pressures on services, together with the anticipated population growth by 2023.

MRS. L. BROWN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.