

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Wednesday, February 6th, 2019 at St George's and St Mary's Church Hall

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe (Chair), Councillor Gordon Rhind, Councillor Trevor Southerd, Councillor Steve Taylor, Councillor Neil Tilley, Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt.

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive Officer, SDDC
Ian Hey – Community Partnership Officer
Kate Beer – Clerk

Derbyshire County Council representatives

None

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Alan Jones (Hartshorne Parish Council), Maureen Mycock (Hartshorne Parish Council)

Police representatives

PC Stuart Kelly, PCSO Claire Robbins, PCSO Dean Badham-Spalding

Members of the public

C Bowley, R Causer, Rebecca Cox, M Dawson, M Firbank, G Fox, Lewis Frisby, Aden Hallam, Paul Major, M Mulgrew, , D Sharpe, Ben Stuart, G Tubey, Jayne Worthington,

SA/15 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from: Councillor Robert Coe, Colin Dobson, Ron Lane, Councillor Gary Musson Councillor, Stuart Swann

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Cllr Coe informed the meeting that Tom Sloan, who was formerly the clerk to these meetings, has left the council. A permanent replacement will be appointed in due course. Sgt Graham Summers, who has previously supported the area as SNT sergeant, has also moved on to another role and has been replaced by Sgt Matt Haslam. Meeting attendees wished to extend their thanks to both individuals for their hard work and support over the years.

Cllr Coe also informed the meeting about a free health walk that takes place at Oaklands Village at 2pm each week on Fridays; further details of this and other walks can be found on the recently published Get Active leaflet.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record. Cllr Southerd requested an update on the Rink Drive surfacing work. Frank McArdle stated that survey and costing work had been completed and the work would shortly be going out to tender.

SA/16 **Safer Neighbourhood report**

Speeding and parking continue to be a priority area for the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Residents are encouraged to report concerns to CREST (Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team) via their website www.crestderbyshire.org; reports from members of the public enable this central team to build up a picture of where the main issues are across the county. Parking issues are handled by a mixture of local authority (Civil Enforcement Officers) and police powers. Issues are addressed when reported/sighted, however the presence of a marked car or uniformed officer has an immediate short term impact, but the behaviour returns once the officers have left.

Anti-social behaviour and shoplifting in Swadlincote town centre has been reduced since the last meeting, with Community Protection Notices Warnings and Community Protection Notices being effectively used against several individuals. ASB and shoplifting will remain a policing priority going forward. A number of drugs warrants have also been executed and court hearings are pending.

Cllr Southerd and Rev Firbank reported ongoing issues with speeding along Hearthcote Road and Cappy Hill / Castle Road / Church Street area; PC Kelly encouraged residents to report these concerns to CREST and

report any near misses. A successful Community Speed Watch group operate on the Castleton Park estate and may be able to advise on setting up other groups.

Residents are encouraged to sign up to the recently relaunched Derbyshire Alert community messaging system at www.derbyshirealert.co.uk to receive updates on incidents in the area. The SNT also have a new Facebook page for information sharing, but this page should not be used to report incidents.

A number of 'street meets' are planned for the coming months, where officers will give out crime prevention advice and materials and sign people up to Derbyshire Alert. Sessions take place on Swadlincote High Street on the last Friday of each month from 10am - 1pm: 22nd February, 29th March, 26th April and 31st May.

SA/17 **Communities update**

Ian Hey reported that:

- The Communities team have been working with businesses in Swadlincote to offer advice and information about security after a spate of break-ins.
- 'Safer and Stronger' grants are available to support projects that seek to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Recent grants include contributions towards the cost of CCTV and security gates at locations around the district. Applications for the remaining funding are encouraged; groups with suitable projects should contact Chris Smith before the end of March 2019.

SA/18 **Local authority issues & public questions**

Frank McArdle gave the following update:

The budget has been proposed for 2019/2020 and will be presented to the full council on the 27th February for approval. South Derbyshire District Council has healthy reserves, with surplus income being re-invested in services and also being set-aside for future investment. No cuts are planned to services next year. .

There is a proposal to increase Council Tax, recommended at 1.95% for next year. Also there will be a proposal to double the Council Tax on those properties which have been lying empty for two years. SDDC are investing in new social housing for residents, and are one of the fastest growing authorities for new housing outside London.

A resident raised the issue of litter build up on William Nadin Way and enforcement of penalties against motorists. It was agreed that the Clean Team would be notified, but that residents should be encouraged to report litter when they see it to ensure it can be cleared; SDDC also will use enforcement powers where appropriate. The council also work with local businesses to encourage ownership of areas outside premises.

A member of the public requested an update on the work to improve the surface of the Delph area in Swadlincote town centre. Frank McArdle informed the group that temporary work had been undertaken to make good the surface of the Delph. Work was ongoing regarding a permanent solution but could not be discussed at present for contractual reasons.

A resident of South Street, Woodville, had a long-running adoption issue with the road outside his house and vehicles using it as a cut through. Any damage that occurs to property should be reported to the police.

A member of the public wished to offer some positive feedback on recent work in Swadlincote town centre to improve shop fronts and install information panels. Frank McArdle informed the group that a schedule of work was in place for further improvements to Swadlincote town centre.

Cllr Tilley raised an issue regarding street lighting and replacement LED lamps producing a dimmer light and a potential public safety issue. Another resident raised the ongoing issues of HGVs in Woodville using streets that are too narrow, parking inappropriately and operating out of hours. These issues are for Derbyshire County Council to address. Unfortunately no representatives were available from DCC owing to an over running meeting at Matlock. It was agreed that efforts would be made to schedule future meetings on different days to County meetings.

SA/19 **Presentation on local community initiative**

Ian Hey reported that the Community Partnership grant scheme had awarded two substantial grants in the area: £25,000 towards a new play area in Woodville and £19,000 towards upgrade work at Gresley Old Hall. This funding stream is now exhausted; however Ian can continue to support community groups with identifying funds and grants that may be available to them. Meeting attendees wished to extend their thanks to Ian for his ongoing support on grant applications.

SA/20 **Summary of any agreed priorities / actions**

Police priorities:

- Continuing to target anti-social behaviour and shoplifting in Swadlincote town centre

SDDC Priorities:

- Tender process for the re-surfacing of Rink Drive
- Continuing to maintain the surface of the Delph
- Report litter on William Nadin Way to Clean Team
- Inform DCC of concerns around dim lights and HGV's in Woodville.

SA/21 **Close and date of next meeting**

Date and venue to be confirmed.

**Councillor Kim Coe
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 7.30pm