

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

2nd November 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Brown (Chairman) and Councillors Bale and Mrs. Plenderleith.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant S. Todd.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

B. Cowley, M. Nesbitt, S. Nesbitt and P. Riley (Egginton Parish Council), N. Ireland (Etwall Parish Council), L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), R. Brooks and C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council), J. Bates and S. Carter (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

K. Baston, C. Bennett, J. Bilbie, C. Gerrard, J. Griffiths, A. Hill, K. Holbrook, D. Hughes, J. Hyland, R. Hyland, S. Jolly, M. Jones, M.L. Jones, B. Kinse, C. Mapley, C. Massey, A. Mitchell, M. Oakton, J. Parkinson, J. Riley, M. Stephenson, G. Wale, R. Wherly, T. Wherly, M. Wilson.

EA/12. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District and County Councillors Ford and Mrs. Patten, District Councillors Mrs. Hood, Lemmon and Roberts, S. Avery, Mrs. J. Clarke, H. Hague, R. Mathews, D. Muller, B. Payton and V. Stewart.

EA/13. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Todd gave an update on crime statistics for the area for the period April to October 2011. Overall, there had been a 5.8% increase when compared to the same period for the previous year and detailed reports were given for a number of specific crime areas. He reported on particular problem areas such as burglary and theft from vehicles, referring to recent arrests

made. Anti-social behaviour was also reported, together with a police operation to deter scrap yards from receiving stolen metals. Sergeant Todd publicised the new national non-emergency telephone number for the police and in future, residents could simply dial 101, to report non-emergency incidents. He also spoke about the community messaging service, known previously as “ringmaster”. This telephone-based system was now available via email and those wishing to be involved were asked to complete a consent form.

The problems associated with fireworks were reported and the Officer responded that advice was available via the police’s website. General advice was provided, together with examples of the types of offences that could occur. Residents experiencing problems were asked to contact their local Police Community Support Officer.

With regard to the collection of scrap metal, it was questioned whether residents could ask to see the operator’s licence. There were also concerns about the collection of bulky items such as fridges, given the potential for the release of harmful gasses into the atmosphere, if these were not disposed of correctly. Sergeant Todd advised on the requirement for such operators to have a licence from the Environment Agency for waste transfer and he confirmed that Officers had been tasked with stopping vehicles operating this trade.

EA/14. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that following the recent consultation exercise, the Council had agreed revised Area Forum boundaries. These would provide that each ward was situated in only one area and details were given of the areas that would be included in the Etwall Area Forum from next year. These boundaries would also apply to the existing Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, enabling both meetings to be held on the same date at the same venue, with the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting first, to deal with any police issues. This would avoid duplication and achieve savings in cost and officer time, as well as avoiding the need for residents to attend two meetings.

A report was provided about a potential railhead development at Egginton Common. Whilst no planning application had yet been submitted, it was understood that the landowner was exploring development options. District Council Members expected to hear more about this at a briefing session the following week. Given the scale of such a development, it was unlikely to be determined by the District Council, but by a body known as the Infrastructure Planning Commission, which was part of the Planning Inspectorate. Such applications tended to be lengthy in their determination, with two stages of public consultation. The Chairman also explained how such major developments were considered within the strategic planning process. An undertaking was given to keep residents informed on this matter as further information became available.

A number of questions were submitted, to which responses were provided by the Chairman and Director of Operations. For many of the points raised it was difficult to respond at this stage, as no formal planning application had yet

been submitted. Issues raised included access to the site, whether the District Council would benefit financially from such development, a question about the routing of a gas pipeline and the role of the District Council as a consultee. This was compared to the Council's role previously in a Public Inquiry for a similar development on another site. It was questioned whether the landowner would undertake consultation. Once a planning application was submitted, a consultation process would be required. It was also questioned whether there would be a Public Inquiry and the likely weight that residents' views would be given if the District Council was only a consultee.

EA/15. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held on 26th July 2011 were noted.

EA/16. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and the Chairman reminded those present of the issue raised and the action taken to date.

EA/17. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

The Chairman reported that two questions had been submitted in advance of the Meeting, concerning winter gritting and broadband services. On the first matter, the Forum Liaison Officer gave an update on the recent County Council consultation on winter gritting arrangements. He confirmed the proportions of primary and secondary routes that were gritted and the other initiatives that the County Council had introduced. It was noted that secondary routes were only gritted during daylight hours and the main reason for the changes was to control budgets. Residents' concerns were appreciated and a de-brief was planned for Spring 2012 on how the new arrangements had worked. Concerns were raised particularly about Ash Lane and these would be reported to the County Council, although the consultation process had now been completed. The Officer then publicised the Snow Warden scheme, explaining how this worked and several local parish councils were participating.

A verbal report was provided on the ongoing work by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the District Council, which was seeking to improve broadband services in South Derbyshire. This included improvements to the Etwall exchange and the benefits this had realised. The availability of funding to county councils was also reported and Derbyshire had secured just over £7million for improvements to broadband services in rural areas. The Council was working with British Telecom and others to seek improved broadband services. Residents interested in attending the scrutiny meetings were asked to contact the Clerk after the Meeting.

Related to this, it was suggested that Area Forum agendas be sent electronically in future, rather than on paper. From asking those present, it was evident that the majority would accept an email copy rather paper distribution. Officers publicised the Council's computer database where residents could find details of all Council meetings, including back copies of agendas and minutes.

It was agreed that this issue would be referred back to the District Council, to see how it could be implemented, whilst not excluding those without access to the internet.

A question was submitted regarding the recycling bank for plastics in Findern and whether there were any types of plastic that could not be placed in this container. The Director of Operations responded, also giving an outline of planned changes to recycling services by 2013 at latest. A question was responded to about the recycling of envelopes. It was felt that a detailed leaflet should be provided to residents on the arrangements for recycling in South Derbyshire. Other issues raised were the recycling of light bulbs and batteries. **It was agreed to look at the labelling provided on recycling banks.**

MRS. L. BROWN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:15 p.m.