

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

Wednesday, January 23rd, 2019 at Milton Village Hall

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) representatives

Councillor Andy MacPherson (Chair), Councillor MartynFord,
Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Michael Stanton.

Allison Thomas (Strategic Director (Service Delivery))
Chris Smith (Communities Manager)
Mandy Bennett (Clerk)

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) representatives

Councillor Martyn Ford.

Derbyshire Police representatives

PCSO Harriet Dunn
PC Paul Russell
Sergeant Mat Haslam

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Steve Toone, Bretby Parish Council, Mary Goodall, Findern Parish Council, David Dickson, Repton Parish Council Christina Oppenheimer, Ticknall Parish Council, Frank Hill, Newton Solney Parish Council, Cliff Warner, Willington Parish Council, Heather Hall, Findern Footpaths.

Members of the public

Mrs Griffiths, Katie Bullen, John Clay, Simon William, Steve Toone, I.W, Thedra, Linda Brailsford

RA/15 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Councillor Manjit Chahal, Councillor Peter Smith, Cathy Myles;
CVS.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Councillor Andy MacPherson updated the meeting:

Tom Sloan, who administered the Area Forum meetings for the last three years has now left the authority to join Staffordshire Police. Councillor MacPherson placed on record thanks to Tom for all his hard work. A replacement is to be appointed in due course.

A regular organised weekly 'Health Walk' takes place in Willington every Thursday from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. The group meet at the Canal picnic area car park at 1.15pm, before setting off at 1.30pm. The walk is free of charge and is led by trained volunteer walk leaders who can adjust the distance and pace to suit the walkers.

There is no need to book in order to join, and no pressure to attend every week.

For more information, please call Tor Adams on 07977439309.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the previous meeting.

RA/16 **Matters Arising**

Chris Smith reported on a request from the last meeting to look at graffiti under the A50 bridge in Findern. He and a colleague visited the site of the graffiti mural which now has graffiti on top of it. A local resident stated the area has been made worse with swastika graffiti and asked if it could be removed. The original mural was put up by Findern Arts Group in 2005. Councillor McPherson stated that Safer and Stronger Communities Funding could be used to support a long term project to repaint the mural.

Action: Priority to get rid of racist graffiti from under A50 Bridge first.

Allison Thomas reported that:

At the previous meeting a local resident raised an issue with the Chief Executive regarding development of the former Calder Aluminium site in Repton Road, Willington, a response has been made to the resident.

Action: Councillor MacPherson will ensure the resident receives the response as he was not at the meeting.

Dog fouling has been raised as an issue in the District. The District Council has signed up to a Keep Britain Tidy initiative, which is being launched in few weeks' time. This will involve putting up new signs around the District and using a more positive slogan. The focus will be on parks and open spaces. Any feedback on areas to target can be sent to Matt Holford in the Environmental Health team.

A consultation took place in October 2018 on green spaces. It ended with 49 detailed responses and the plan is to take these to the Environmental and Development Services Committee on 24 January, encouraging comments between 5 February – 19 March 2019.

In response to the issue raised by Councillor Stanton in relation to trees on a site at the Mount Pleasant Public House in Repton. The trees are Poplars and have a life span of 50 years. They are believed to be around 35 years old and there is no danger of collapse. The SDDC Tree Officer recommends there is a need for them to be pruned and colleagues within Environmental Health Team have written to the land owner to take responsibility.

RA/17 **Safer Neighbourhood report**

PCSO Harriet Dunn introduced PC Paul Russell and Sergeant Matt Haslam who are new to the team.

PCSO Harriet Dunn reported that since the previous meeting:

- Two uninsured vehicles have been taken off the road;
- Vehicle stopped A38 Findern, found to be containing stolen goods;
- Stolen vehicle in Bretby found in Swadlincote;
- Derbyshire Alert, community messaging system for the whole of Derbyshire, has been re-launched. Registering with this site is completely free, and allows you to feed-back information to your local policing teams to help them better police your neighbourhood. <https://www.derbyshirealert.co.uk>;
- Recovered stolen van at St Michaels Close, Willington;
- Burglaries in Stenson, arrests have been made;

- Van security event was held today. Alarms and advice given to 40 van drivers;
- Van driver caught using mobile phone in Willington;
- Disqualified driver caught in Findern, under the influence of alcohol and no insurance was given a 12 week prison sentence and three years disqualification.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Cuppa with a Coppa event has been held;
- Findern safety event;
- Van security event;
- Speed checks have taken place in Willington, Stenson and Milton;
- Talk at Repton Rainbows;
- Visited Repton Primary School, building a good rapport with the school;
- Stenson School visit.

A resident asked if a speed check could be done in Milton at 8am. PCSO Harriett Dunn said she will look into this and report back.

Action: PCSO Dunn to look to undertake speed checks in Milton at 8am

Councillor Stanton and Ticknall Parish Council requested the speed sign in Ticknall to remain in use as its use slows down vehicles considerably and does work. CREST had already visited and was reportedly due to undertake a census.

Action PCSO Dunn will chase up with CREST and see what its decision is.

A resident enquired about a road sign on Sinfin Lane that indicates vehicles should not turn right out of the new Waste Treatment Centre and asked whether it was a fixed penalty notice offence.

Allison Thomas gave an update on the matter as she had looked into it already and spoken with County Council. There is a voluntary agreement for all site vehicles to turn left. The contractor who operates the facility has assured the County Council that the vast majority of traffic is abiding by the voluntary code turning left. As the sign is inside the plant it is not enforceable by police. SDDC refuse vehicles do turn left out of the site.

Resident of Milton and Willington raised issues in relation to poor condition of the road surface in relation to the many pot holes.

Councillor Ford said potholes can be reported to the County Council via their website.

RA/18 **Communities update**

Chris Smith reported that:

Get Safe Online launch the '**Safe Online Dating**' Campaign on 1st February. The campaign provides various messages to ensure daters are aware of possible scams and remain safe when using online dating sites. For more information visit: <https://getsafeonline.org/datesafe/>

Safer Internet Day is on 5th February. The aim of Safer Internet Day is to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

Online education packages have been sent to both Primary and Secondary schools in South Derbyshire. William Allitt is holding a 'drop down' day for Year 8 and Year 9 students around Safer Internet Day and has invited the Cyber PCSO to visit the school to talk to students.

4 Year CBO on Male, from Willington - Received for sending harassing and abuse emails to Council staff and causing harassment, alarm and distress to neighbours.

Safer and Stronger Funding Stream:

Repton Parish Council has submitted an application approved for £1,400 towards lighting a public right of way (footpath 27), which is now being used as a cut through from the new Longlands development. Derbyshire County Council will install and maintain and the Parish Council will pay the annual electricity running costs.

There is still £2,600 in the pot, so attendees were encouraged to contact Chris Smith at SDDC 01283 595924 if they had any project ideas.

Councillor MacPherson suggested that it might be the view of the group to use funds available for the graffiti issue. The Parish Council can submit a request and it can be considered.

In Cathy Myles' absence, Chris Smith gave an update from South Derbyshire CVS.

RA/19 **Local authority issues & public questions**

Allison Thomas presented the Council's financial position on behalf of Strategic Director - Corporate Resources.

Local Authority finances are in good shape. Current reserves are at a healthy level and projected to make a budget surplus in the current financial year 2018/19 due to more income from business rates.

The Council will be setting a balanced budget for 2019/20. Continue to generate income from growth (council tax and new homes bonus). Proposed budget for 2019/20 is based on current service provision continuing and no service cuts proposed. Fees and charges have been increased but only to the cost of inflation. No decision taken on council tax increase for 2019/20, this will be considered by members at committee on 14 February.

Properties that remain empty for two years will now pay double council tax from next year. Investment is continuing in new build council housing. The final budget and council tax increase for 2019/20 will be considered by the Council on 27 February.

Resident raised a question as to why Milton pays a precept to Repton Parish Council and what services should they expect. Councillor MacPherson offered an explanation with regards the Parish structure. It was also stated that if the residents wanted to know what their money went towards they could attend a Repton Parish Council meeting.

Resident asked why tree cutting works on the A50 was being undertaken at through the night. Councillor MacPherson explained it was done for safety reasons.

A resident raised the issue of her ongoing efforts trying to get overgrown brambles cut down on the footpath at Doles Lane and other areas across the district.

Allison Thomas said she was out with the Deputy Leader in Hilton last week and it is a District wide issue. She has already committed to write to the County Council to ask if they can factor in a programme. The Clean Team was out last week to clear up litter.

Frank Hill of Newton Solney Parish Council reported that the amount of roadside litter across main roads within A38 and certain other locations is atrocious and asked if there was anything SDDC could do to help with this.

Allison replied to say several tonnes of rubbish was collected at night last year. The Council spends £500k on clearing litter each year. DDC has written to the Highways Agency in relation to this problem on trunk roads. A letter has gone out to 1400 business across the District to ask for help in the Council's efforts to reduce littering. There is also a campaign called Litter Heroes across District encouraging litter picks take place. The Clean Team is out across the district picking litter and did a great job last week in the area, however within two days litter was reported as an issue again. A report is going to Environmental and Development Services Committee on 24 January

for an additional Town Centre Warden so the existing three wardens can focus on enforcement, education and prosecutions for those who are illegally dumping waste across the District.

Cllr Shepherd raised a resident's concern who had a problem with a tree. Problem was with birds occupying the tree and she couldn't put her washing out. Took 30 emails to get it resolved and many phone calls with District Council as the Tree Officer does not have a budget to get this type of work done.

Allison Thomas confirmed that a report was currently in the process of being prepared to address tree management issues across the District for consideration by Members.

Cllr Shepherd raised County Council queries:

There is an issue in relation to a new development on Stenson Road. He said it is a dangerous area with no road markings. The developer says it is a County Council issue but it is not yet adopted. It is not easy to see who is supposed to give way.

Highways and footpath around Stenson school are unpleasant in wet weather. Cllr Shepherd contacted County Council but no response received.

Resident of 10 Ledbury Chase, Stenson have an issue with mobility car when it comes off the drive, it drags on the road due to the road being sunk. This needs looking at but County Council has not responded to either the resident or Cllr Shepherd.

Resident mentioned that there is a tree problem on Repton High Street, Matthews Jitty. A tree is obscuring the road sign. The tree is on private land but hanging over the highway.

A resident commented on how pleased she is with the street light response which has improved no end.

Action: Chris Smith to report the above to Derbyshire County Council.

RA/19 **Update from Community Partnership Grants**

Chris Smith gave an update in relation to recent grants:

Ian Hey attended a meeting last year to inform the Forum that there was £250,000 available for community capital grants. Within this area, just under £62,000 has been awarded to four different projects.

Findern Parish Council has been awarded £10,000 for a BMX track on King George V Playing Fields, total cost of project is £20k.

Newton Solney Pre-school has been awarded £25,000 towards a project costing £155,000 for a new building to allow continued existence of preschool on its current site.

Repton Village Hall has been awarded £25,000 towards costs of developing a new village Hall

Ticknall Village Hall has been awarded just under £2,000 for updating the kitchen at the village hall.

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

- Remove the racist graffiti from under the bridge on the A50.
- Police will chase CREST to do the census in Ticknall
- Speeding at Milton Road, Repton – chase County Council
- CS to report issues raised by Cllr Shepherd to County Council

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

June 2019 – date to be confirmed.

Councillor Andy MacPherson
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8.05pm.