

LINTON AREA MEETING

3rd February 2004

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Southern (Chair) and Councillors Mrs. Hall, Lauro and Shaw.

Mr. F. B. McArdle (Chief Executive), Mr. K. Stackhouse (Finance Services Manager), Mrs. D. Cook (Democratic Services Officer) and Mr. B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor Mrs. K. Lauro (Vice-Chair).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

R. Palmer (Linton Parish Council), S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), P. Cherry (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), J. Blythe (Linton Parish Council), D. Eaton (Cauldwell Parish Meeting), G. Edwards (Overseal Parish Council).

Members of the Public

G. Palmer, B. Ford, R. Ford, R. Wasley, J. Wasley, H. Kinson, T. Sloan (Burton Mail), S. Boddice, T. Morris.

Council for Voluntary Services

R. House.

Police Representative

Sgnt. A. Wright.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mr. B. Matkin, P. Ellis (Linton Parish Council), Mr T. Fisher and Mr. Dolman (Drakelow).

LA/18. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st October 2003 were received.

LA/19. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Democratic Services Officer advised that arising from concerns that had been expressed at the previous Meeting by Drakelow residents who were not aware of the Linton Area Meeting, the District Council had sent a letter to every household in the Parish of Drakelow advising of the Meeting and inviting people to attend.

With regard to the speed of traffic and heavy goods vehicles using Rosliston Road South, Drakelow, County Councillor Mrs. Lauro advised that she and officers of the County Council had met with Mr. Dolman (a representative of Drakelow residents). Speed traps had been set accordingly and the results were being analysed by the police. With regard to the problem of HGV traffic

using this road, County Councillor Mrs. Lauro was looking to engage officers of Trading Standards to enforce this matter.

With regard to the issue of a missing 7.5 tonne weight limit sign on Rosliston Road South and poor lighting on the Drakelow Bridge, County Councillor Mrs. Lauro advised that the issue of the lighting was to be raised with the Community Safety Officer. County Councillor Mrs. Lauro had been advised that the weight limit sign had been replaced but residents reported that this was not the case. Accordingly, Councillor Mrs. Lauro agreed to pursue the matter again.

Councillor Southern reported the problem of mud on the roads possibly spread by vehicles travelling from the Bullivant site. A resident advised that there was still no signage at Gate No. 2 at Bullivant's to warn of slow heavy wagons crossing the road and accordingly County Councillor Mrs. Lauro agreed to pursue the matter. A resident queried whether there was a case for a speed limit on Rosliston Road South but the general feeling of the Meeting was that the current speed limit was not being adhered to anyway. Councillor M. Lauro advised that he felt that a campaign to stop speeding (by the use of mobile/static cameras) was required to stop the speeding on Rosliston Road South and accordingly Sgnt. A. Wright agreed to investigate whether this road could be deemed a 'hot-spot'.

With regard to the issue of underage drinking at Linton and Castle Gresley, Sgnt. Wright advised that the situation had been monitored by PC Ford who had not perceived it as being an excessive problem. A resident of Linton advised that underage drinkers were still using the rear of the Village Hall and referred to particular problems over the Christmas period where residents had experienced the backlash from such underage drinking including smashed glass on their properties. It was reported that Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays were a particular problem in the Village. General concern was expressed that residents telephoning from the Parish of Linton were experiencing problems with the Central Control staff at the Police Headquarters who did not know where Linton was. Sgnt. Wright advised that Debbie Charlton was a new WPC designated to cover the Linton area and suggested that residents would see a notable improvement. The Chair asked that Inspector Fairbrother be asked to attend the next Area Meeting and it was agreed to write to the Inspector accordingly.

S. Jackson of Castle Gresley, advised that the situation in Castle Gresley (reported at the previous Meeting) had improved greatly due to the efforts of PC Ford and the fact that "trouble-makers" had been barred from 'The Crown' public house.

A resident queried when on-the-spot fines would be introduced in the County for anti-social behaviour. Sgnt. Wright advised that the Chief Constable was keen to use such powers and was currently looking at the success rates of such on-the-spot fines experienced in the Borough of East Staffordshire.

P. Cherry of Coton-in-the-Elms reported that the Parish Council had some time ago campaigned regarding speed problems experienced at all four entrances to the Village of Coton-in-the Elms. Monitoring of the situation had taken place but at only two out of the four locations that were cause for concern. Parish Councillors had now been advised that the remaining two entrances to Coton-in-the-Elms needed to put back on the waiting list to be monitored. Residents felt aggrieved by this as problems at all four entrances

to the Village had been reported in the first instance. Sgnt. Wright agreed to pursue this matter with Inspector Skinner at Ripley Headquarters.

LA/20. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Wasley of Drakelow expressed concern regarding the noise emitted from the Bullivant site and in particular that the site had consent to operate 24 hours seven days a week. The Chair advised that an Environmental Health Officer had deemed the noise level to be acceptable but he had a meeting with the Director of Community Services on this matter planned. The Chair referred to a petition which Mr. Wasley had generated on this matter and asked that this be sent to him.

S. Jackson asked where Wilson Homes were taking the waste from the Castle Gresley site as she stated that the operators were not cleaning the wheels of the vehicles and problems with mud on the road in Castle Gresley were being experienced. It was agreed to pursue this matter and report back to Mrs. Jackson accordingly.

Mr. Wasley referred to there being two radio aerials in Drakelow for which he had never seen any planning application made. He asked whether such aerials had received planning permission and accordingly it was agreed to pursue this matter and respond directly to Mr. Wasley.

LA/21. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the next Linton Area Meeting would be held on Thursday, 6th May 2004 at Overseal Village Hall.

LA/22. **CVS VOLUNTEERING**

Mr. Richard House of the CVS was in attendance and gave a brief presentation on volunteering. He advised that the CVS were tasked with “getting out” into the community. In his role as Volunteer Co-ordinator, he endeavoured to find out what it was people could do on a voluntary basis and reported that current trends showed that people were giving less and less of their own time for such purposes. He advised that organisations often approached the CVS asking for assistance when volunteers were needed. He advised that the CVS was based at Grove Street in Swadlincote and was staffed by 5/6 in-house volunteers. He referred to a Befriending Scheme which was operated by the CVS which aimed to put volunteer befrienders in touch with lonely people in society. He also referred to the Social Car Scheme which involved drivers taking individuals to places such as Burton/Derby Hospitals. This service was unique in that the driver would stay with the person for the duration of the visit and a small charge was levied to use such a scheme. He also advised that the CVS operated a Christmas Dinner Scheme whereby individuals would make an extra Christmas dinner and take it to a person living alone and in need of such a meal. He stated that the CVS also dealt with referrals and supplied volunteers to work in charity shops, furniture recycling projects, Leonard Cheshire and Ryder Cheshire Homes for example. Mr. House outlined the benefits of volunteering and stated that some volunteers gave 30 to 40 hours per week of their time and some volunteers gave 2 hours per month, all of which was essential and appreciated.

Mr. Wasley of Drakelow queried the insurance risks associated with volunteering and was advised by Mr. House that any volunteer would be fully insured for the task to which they were undertaking.

The Chief Executive thanked Mr. House and the CVS generally for the excellent work which they undertook within the community of South Derbyshire and reported the benefits of the Council working in partnership with the CVS and making excellent use of Council funding in that regard.

LA/23. **CONSULTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET**

The Meeting received a presentation from Kevin Stackhouse, Finance Services Manager at the District Council. He explained the aims of this consultation exercise and gave an overview of the topics covered in the presentation. Feedback from previous consultations had identified residents' four key priorities and the other aims that the Council should pursue. The total cost of services was some £8.7 million and a series of charts showed the costs of Environmental Services, Community Services and Finance and Management Services. Details were given of the services provided by Derbyshire County Council and the Police Authority, together with a chart showing the respective proportions of Council Tax income that funded these services.

Mr. Stackhouse explained how the Council managed its finances, focusing on a three-year medium term. The Council's current financial position was stable with improving levels of reserves. However, there was a need for caution as the Council was spending more than it received in income at present. This was again demonstrated by graphs. Mr. Stackhouse then explained the financial constraints that the Council faced, levels of Government grant and how this affected the level of Council Tax increase. The budget proposals were reported and these sought to maintain existing services, to provide additional resources for service improvements and additional investment in Council buildings and major projects. The Council sought to provide better services for a growing population and to improve local facilities. A summary was provided and it was noted that feedback from the Area Meetings would inform the Council when setting its budget and Council Tax on 26th February 2004.

Arising from the presentation a resident of Linton Road, Linton referred to poor work and the length of time taken to fill in pot holes on Linton Road recently by contractor. As this was a County Council contractor the comments were noted by County Councillor Mrs. Lauro.

A resident questioned how the Council invested its reserves and was advised that this was in a variety of ways but generally with the Council's own bank and other low risk investments. In response to a query regarding pensions administration, Mr. Stackhouse outlined that this was a function of Derbyshire County Council and the Pension Fund was invested in types of investments giving the best return on the Fund.

A general discussion took place regarding the excellent use of the Community Partnerships Scheme finance and it was reported that the Council received a ten to one gearing on Community Partnership investment, drawing in money from other agencies.

There being no other questions the Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

R.W. SOUTHERN

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.