

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

14th February 2013

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Smith (Chairman) and Councillors Ford (Vice-Chairman) and Shepherd.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Ford.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

F. Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council) and C. Gerram (Repton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

J. Orme, P. Pearson, S. Toone and G. Vardy,

RA/17. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Chahal Mrs. Hood, Murray and Stanton, L Gifford, L. Nash and P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer)

RA/18. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that many Gold Cards would expire in 2013, and that a renewal application for a new one should be made before the old one expired. Further information was provided on the Gold Card scheme, and how residents could apply.

Information was provided on the 2020Vision exhibition. This was a photography exhibition road show which was taking place between the 18th March and 7th April 2013 in The Delph, Market Square, Swadlincote. There would be a street gallery of more than 100 images on display, taken by a team of top UK nature photographers.

RA/19. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Forum held on 25th October 2012 were noted.

RA/20. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and reported the progress made in each case.

A verbal update was given on behalf of the Forum Liaison Officer, regarding the drainage issue on Bretby Lane. It was reported that a site meeting had taken place between Derbyshire County Council Maintenance Team and Severn Trent Water. Severn Trent Water proposed to connect a section of highway drain to their public sewer and would have to carry out some diversion works which would effectively reduce the flow down the highway drainage system and lessen the risk of discharge.

RA/21. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS.**

A resident asked who dealt with parking issues if an obstruction was caused. The Director of Operations responded that this would be the responsibility of the Police. It was reported that the cause of obstruction was a skip which was placed on the road opposite the Co-op in Willington.

It was agreed to forward a request to the Forum Liaison Officer that Derbyshire County Council check if a permit was required for this work.

It was reported that Beech Avenue was due to be closed for sewerage works. This road already had a number of large potholes on the west side, and it was requested that remedial work be considered at the same time as the road closure.

It was agreed to pass this request to the Forum Liaison Officer.

It was reported that there were many potholes throughout Willington and the District. An update was provided on how these were now being dealt with, and confirmed that residents should still continue to report them. However, Derbyshire County Council had teams who were also proactively tackling these.

A resident stated that the Government appeared to be passing responsibility for certain duties down to District and Parish level. It was asked, if there was no parish council to take responsibility, who would undertake these duties. He added that Burton-on-Trent was recently parished into 7 distinct areas, and was unaware that a referendum had taken place to allow this to happen. He added that it was unfair that some areas were parished when others weren't.

The Director of Operations agreed to write to the resident concerned and advise him on the process of how an area might become parished.

It was requested that an update be provided on the review of bridal paths in Findern.

It was agreed to forward this request to the Forum Liaison Officer.

It was asked when the issues surrounding the river bank footpath at Willington would be resolved.

It was agreed to forward this query to the Forum Liaison Officer.

It was reported that there had recently been 2 instances of road closures in Ticknall, between the A514 and Robinson's Hill, and on Ingleby Road. It was considered that the temporary signage was put too close to the incident, and requested that Derbyshire County Council and their contractors be requested to reconsider where their signs be installed. It was also suggested that these signs should read 'Road Closed – Access Only'.

It was agreed to forward this request to the Forum Liaison Officer.

It was reported that, on Ashby Road, when exiting Ticknall, there was a small triangle of land adjacent to a bus stop, where school buses turned around. It was asked if this could be made into a mini island and requested that a site visit be made, to include the local resident.

It was agreed to request that Derbyshire County Council contact the resident directly.

It was reported that the footpath signs were not very clear when going out of Ticknall on Ashby Road.

It was agreed to request that Derbyshire County Council contact the resident directly.

It was requested that the next Area Forum be held at Stenson Fields.

The Democratic Services Officer agreed to try to arrange this for the next Meeting.

RA/22. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Operations reported on the budget proposals for 2013/14. It was reported that future Government funding would depend on growth within the District and the New Homes Bonus would also be of benefit. In addition, the authority could now retain a greater proportion of its local business rates. However, the estimated reduction in Government resources were £1m over the next 5 years.

It was reported that the current financial position was healthy, but the reduction in funding would weaken this position. The District Council needed to take corrective action now and £300,000 of savings would be required over the period 2013/14.

An update was provided on the new council tax support scheme, and it was confirmed that pensioners and disabled residents would be protected, However working age claimants could pay up to 10% more.

In regard to Council Tax Benefit, it was suggested that there had been very few responses to the consultation, which was surprising, as the effect of the new system was that the District would lose £1/2m. It was agreed that it was very

difficult to engage residents on such issues, and the LDF consultation process was also given as an example of these difficulties.

A resident requested further details on the S106 agreement for the Calder site.
The Director of Operations agreed to forward these directly to the resident concerned.

RA/23. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

P. SMITH

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.