

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE – AREA 4

Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at Oakland Village

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Gordon Rhind (Chair), Councillor Malcolm Gee, Councillor Vonnie Heath, Councillor Mick Mulgrew, Councillor Trevor Southerd, Councillor Neil Tilley

Allison Thomas – Strategic Director - Service Delivery
Chris Smith – Communities Manager
Max Boyce – Community Safety Enforcement Officer
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant (Taking notes)

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Linda Chilton, Councillor Gary Musson, Councillor Stuart Swann

Derbyshire Police representatives

Sgt Tarj Nizzer, PCSO Lee Walker

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Jenny Burley Councillor Alan Jones, Councillor Maureen Mycock, Councillor Jim Seaton (Hartshorne Parish Council), Councillor Eric Parker, Councillor Don Redfern (Woodville Parish Council)

Bex Cox (South Derbyshire CVS)
Ingrid van der Weide (Swad in Bloom/ Swad Style)

Members of the public

Carl Barratt, Cathy Bates, Michael Barsby, C. Bowley, Ron Causer, Colin Dobson, Geoff Fox, Tracey Fullagar, E. Griffiths, Michael Hine, Helen Kreft, C. Moody, Dave Sharpe, G. Tubey

SA/15 **Open meeting**

• **Introductions and apologies**

Councillor Jane Perry, Councillor Steve Taylor

- **Declarations of interest**

None.

- **Chair's announcements**

Community Partnership Grants

The Community & Environment Partnership Scheme offers the chance for community groups, charities and volunteer organisations to apply to receive funding.

This is available for a wide variety of organisations and projects, from parish councils and sporting groups to arts, heritage and environmental schemes. In the past, the scheme has helped with the cost of new buildings and supported improvements to community spaces.

Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 will be awarded as matched funding to support capital projects with a value of £4,000 and above. Those applying must demonstrate that being awarded the funding would improve the quality of life of residents in South Derbyshire.

For more information contact Ian Hey, Community Partnership Officer.

The Sunflower Scheme

Anyone with a hidden disability (or their carer) can wear a Sunflower lanyard or pin, and organisations that recognise the scheme train their staff to look out for the Sunflower sign and how to offer additional help to those who wear it.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of adopting the Sunflower scheme. As a result, the Council will be rolling out training to staff and members this spring and the lanyards will be available to pick up from the Council's reception from February 2020.

Sign Live

Sign Live is a solution that offers customers British Sign Language (BSL) translation on the go. Users of British Sign Language can use a mobile device to access a BSL interpreter who will translate what they are saying to the service provider and sign back any responses.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of trialling Sign Live with our customers to see if it is well used and easy to use, before rolling it out wider.

Job Opportunities Day

There is a Job Opportunities Day taking place in Swadlincote on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 3pm until 6pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for those seeking jobs, training and other support for their future career.

Thinking of Starting a Business

A 'Thinking of Starting a Business' session will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 5.30pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for any budding entrepreneurs!

Swadlincote Pancake Races

The 2020 Swadlincote Pancake Races will take place on Shrove Tuesday, February 25 (12-2pm) at The Delph Market Square in aid of Sport Relief. Teams of four people can enter the Pancake Relay Races for £4 per team with all proceeds going to Sport Relief. You can be from a business, organisation or just a group of friends.

Open Mic on The Delph

Up to thirty-minute slots are available on Saturday, February 29, 2020 for any musicians, singers, MCs, bands or buskers who want to showcase their talents. To book a free slot contact John Beer on 07799 666522 or visit the Swadlincote Markets Facebook page.

- **To receive the minutes of the last meeting**

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

- **Matters arising from last minutes/ comments from report back**

Councillor Gary Musson updated that the streetlights on New Road are 12 watts. An electrical engineer will be visiting in the next few days to assess whether the lighting is technically fit for purpose and to check whether the wattage is appropriate for the type of road it is.

PCSO Lee Walker updated that following the last meeting there have been increased patrols around Goseley Estate in response to the reports made regarding nuisance bikes.

SA/16 **Police Safer Neighbourhood report**

PCSO Lee Walker introduced Sergeant Tarj Nizzer, Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Sergeant and updated that there has been an increase in patrols around schools in response to concerns raised about dangerous parking and hot spot areas such as McDonalds/ Lidl due to youths causing anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Community Protection Notice Warnings (CPNW's) and Community Protection Notices (CPN's) have subsequently been issued to deal with the individuals concerned.

A member of the public asked what could be done about gangs of youths congregating around McDonalds and using foul language.

PCSO Lee Walker advised that concerns should be reported at the time so that the next available resource can be deployed to investigate and deal with the situation as it arises.

Sgt Nizzer encouraged residents to report any incidents including dates and key times so that patrols can be scheduled at opportune times to catch the individuals concerned.

A member of the public raised concerns about youths congregating at night nearby the Woodville Youth & Community Centre and at the bottom of the jitty near Brookdale Road, Woodville.

A Woodville resident asked whether the police would consider hosting a future bike marking event at Woodville Recreation Ground (WRG).

ACTION: SNT to look into planning a future bike marking event at WRG during Spring/ Summer 2020.

A member of the public extended thanks to the Police for the number of cars being seized due to having no tax and insurance and welcomed the feedback provided via the SNT Facebook page.

PCSO Lee Walker reminded residents that the Police do rely on information regarding criminals from communities and encouraged residents to continue to report. Information can also be given anonymously via CrimeStoppers.

A member of the public queried whether it is legal to ride an electric powered scooter on the pavement.

PCSO Lee Walker responded that it is not legal to ride an electric scooter on either the road or the pavement and asked people to report any incidents on 101 so that the individuals in question can be advised accordingly.

SA/17 **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership update and Safer Neighbourhood grants**

Chris Smith provided the following update: -

PSPO on Maurice Lea Park

A period of consultation has recently closed which asked for opinions on the Council implementing a Public Space Protection Order on Maurice Lea Park to combat ASB which became a regular issue during the Summer Holiday period.

Reports were received by both the Council and the Police regarding groups of youths drinking, being abusive to staff and members of the public, smashing glass, littering, and causing damage to trees and play equipment.

The PSPO prohibitions will enable Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) for anyone caught dropping litter and will give additional powers to the police and Council Officers to remove individuals from the park for 24 hours and to confiscate alcohol.

The Consultation has received 100% support from those who responded, and a report will be submitted to Committee in March to obtain approval for the order.

Digital MOT

Safer Derbyshire have launched a campaign to ask members of the public to take a quick survey to see how secure their mobile devices and laptops are. The Digital MOT is a cyber security assessment tool developed by the Community Safety Unit at Derbyshire County Council, in partnership with the Cybercrime Unit at Derbyshire Constabulary.

The assessment takes less than 5 minutes to complete and will identify how to be safer online.

To take the MOT please visit the website - www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/MOT

Criminal Behaviour Orders

SDDC have been successful in extending and varying the existing Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) on Jordan Burgess, a Town Centre shoplifter and street drinker. Due to him continuing to cause ASB in the town centre, including letting off fireworks in Swadlincote High Street during the daytime the original two-year order has now been extended until 2021 and bans him completely from entering the Town Centre.

On Tuesday, January 14, 2020 we were back in court with Andrew Hogg who is one of our main Town Centre ASB perpetrators. Mr Hogg appeared for two breaches of the Town Centre PSPO and pleaded guilty to both offences. On the back of this we also applied for a three-year CBO, which we have been successful in obtaining.

CBO prohibitions are as follows: -

1. Not to act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a nuisance (harassment, alarm or distress) to one or more persons not of your household within DERBYSHIRE.
2. Not to carry or consume alcohol in an open vessel in any public place other than a licensed premise within DERBYSHIRE.

District Judge Taff told Mr Hogg that if he breaches the CBO he will be going to prison.

Additionally, Mr Hogg was given a 2-year Conditional Discharge, £85 costs and a £21 Victim Surcharge.

Police Speeding Campaign

Over the next two weeks officers will be focusing on speeding drivers across the county as part of a national campaign.

One of the so called “Fatal Four” – collisions where speed was a factor killed 596 people, and seriously injured 2,686, across the UK in 2018.

Over the next two weeks officers from the Roads Policing Unit, the CREST team, Community Speed Watch, Specials and Local Policing Units will be undertaking speed enforcement at various locations around the county.

If you are concerned about speeding in your area, then you can report it on the CREST website (www.crestderbyshire.org/about-us/report-a-speeding-concern/)

It is also possible for residents concerned about speeding in their area to set up, or participate in already active, Community Speed Watch groups. More information about the scheme can be found at www.crestderbyshire.org/in-the-community/community-speed-watch/

Pubwatch

Chris Smith raised awareness about South Derbyshire Pubwatch which is a successful licensing intervention group that has been running for several years.

Every couple of months the group meet to discuss and share information regarding problem individuals. During the meeting, a vote is taken regarding any names put forward to be banned from all premises participating in the scheme.

Currently there are 14 individuals that are banned from pubs in the area, with a further three to be added since the last Pubwatch meeting held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020.

Safer Neighbourhoods and Community Funding

Safer Neighbourhoods Funding – Projects funded to date 2019/20: -

Project Name	Ref.	Project Lead	Organisation	Amount Applied for	Total Project Cost	Amount Granted
Anti-loitering Mosquito Alarms	A4:01	Bob Ellis	Gresley Old Hall Community Welfare Centre	£950	£1275.99	£950

There is still money available for this financial year. Any ideas contact Chris Smith or Debbie Ward.

Further money (£4000) will be available from April 2020 for community-based projects that help prevent crime and disorder/ educate around crime and disorder/ allow set-up of diversionary activities/ improve security measures on community buildings. Applications can be received at any time as there is still an underspend on 2019-20 money.

SA/18 Local authority update

Allison Thomas gave the following update: -

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign

Between March 20 and April 13 this year there will be a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign and we will be doing a lot of local work linking to this initiative, putting information on our website, and encouraging communities to join in.

Keen litter-pickers can get involved with an ever-growing list of clean-up events taking place across the District – one of these will be held at Castleton Park, Church Gresley on the Sunday, March 24, 2020.

Keep an eye on our usual communication channels for further information.

Green Spaces Plan

The Council is seeking to protect around 150 Local Green Spaces across the District through a Local Green Spaces Plan. Following the hearing in September the Council is preparing to consult on several modifications to the Plan, subject to Committee approval. After this consultation, the Inspector will write her report, which it is hoped will lead to the Plan's adoption by late spring.

Climate Emergency

Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2019, A Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan was approved by Full Council on January 16, 2020.

The aspiration of the Strategy is to strive to make all the Council's activities carbon neutral over the next 10 years. It also commits to working with others to tackle the estimated 800,000 tonnes of carbon emitted every year from all communities and businesses across South Derbyshire.

The Action Plan set out some of the early measures the Council will be taking, such as a carbon review of the Council's own housing stock, the implementation of a Staff Travel Plan and the phased reduction of plant and machinery with electric alternatives.

ISO14001

South Derbyshire District Council was awarded the prestigious ISO14001 standard for Environmental Management for the twelfth successive year in December following an extensive four-day audit.

The audit covered all the Council's five main operational centres – Civic Way offices, the depot on the Boardman Estate, Greenbank and Etwall Leisure centres and Rosliston Forestry Centre.

The auditors highlighted a handful of minor non-conformities which are being addressed as well as making over 20 additional observations to help the Council continue to improve its environmental performance.

Mention was made of the environmental, biodiversity, education and well-being programmes at Rosliston. Also, the approach of the Housing, Planning & Economic Development Services to ensure that existing and planned developments are managed with protection of the environment as one of the main pillars.

Tim Peake Space Sapling lands at Rosliston Forestry Centre

South Derbyshire District Council's Environmental Education Project at Rosliston Forestry Centre is very proud to be a recipient of one of eight young trees from the pips from Isaac Newton's apple tree that were blasted into space with British European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut Tim Peake.

Apple pips from the iconic Newton tree were taken on the Principia mission in 2015 by British astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station. The pips then spent six months floating in micro gravity as part of the 'Pips in Space' project, before returning to Earth in 2016.

Budget update

The Council's income base continues to benefit from increasing numbers of properties and business development. Any extra income generated is now being set aside to meet increased costs of services such as waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. There are no proposed cuts in services.

Overall spending is due to increase by at least inflation. Additional funding has been approved for parishes through concurrent functions to recognise growth. The coming years Council Tax increase proposed at 1.95% (adding £3.17 per year to a band D property). All proposals are still subject to Council ratification on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

There will be no capping for parishes, the government were considering this but are keeping their options open. Generally, the local authorities budget position is good, but we are not complacent and are mindful of future budget pressures including our commitment to climate change.

In the near future waste collection and recycling may also put pressure on budgets for 2021-22. The main concern for many Councils is around the uncertainty regarding government funding beyond 2021. The government is intending to review the distribution system and the amount of money divided between different types of authority and we are keeping a close eye on that. In the meantime, the Councils overall financial position remains sound with a good level of general reserves.

A resident of Hall Farm Close raised concerns over the term 'communal gardens' and asked whether it would be possible for each resident to be given responsibility for their own patch of garden. Some residents have spent a great deal of time and money on improving their own patches of garden whilst others have no regard and leave their bins and mess all over the place.

ACTION: SDDC to investigate the request made in respect to the responsibility of individual garden areas on Hall Farm Close and report back.

A member of the public reported a damaged fence along by The Cutting in Hartshorne (from Hartshorne Road to Brookdale Road). The fence is on the verge of collapse and people are tipping rubbish over it. The issue has been reported numerous times to SDDC over the last four years.

ACTION: SDDC to investigate and report back in respect to the collapsing fence along by The Cutting, Hartshorne (located between Hartshorne Road and Brookdale Road).

A Woodville resident raised concerns regarding people parking on South Street, Woodville (Footpath nine) which is being ripped up by non-residents that are using the street to park.

Councillor Rhind explained that the road is unadopted and that unfortunately there is nothing more that either SDDC or DCC can do to help.

Councillor Swann reported that the lighting on the car park by the steps leading up to the Bus Park Café was poor and that the handrail was being partially covered by ivy.

ACTION: SDDC to report back to Property Maintenance the lighting and handrail in the Bus Park Café car park.

A member of the public raised the sunken block paving on Swadlincote High Street outside of Lloyds Bank which fills up with water when the weather is wet.

ACTION: SDDC to report the sunken block paving to DCC.

Thanks, were extended to refuse collectors across the district however, there were also reports that in certain locations such as Gresley Wood Road where bins are not being put back in the correct place following emptying.

ACTION: SDDC to feedback both the praise and comments raised regarding bins not being put back in the correct place to Waste Cleansing.

Allison Thomas encouraged residents to report any future issues through the SDDC website or by contacting Customer Services on the main number.

A resident raised recycling and suggested that SDDC look at an alternative contractor when the current contract expires due to the limited materials that are currently collected, namely pizza boxes and egg cartons.

Allison Thomas explained that the current recycling contract is up for renewal in October 2021 and that Councillors have approved a fundamental review of our waste services in the lead up to that date. It was also agreed that SDDC may need to put some interim arrangements in place as the government are making wide scale changes to the way in which they incentivise producers to produce packaging that is easier to recycle.

A full-scale review will be completed prior to agreeing on a specification for the new contract. Allison Thomas assured that SDDC are committed to ensuring that our recycling performance is up there amongst the best.

A resident of Hall Farm Close raised that the walk-through by their properties is pitch dark and requires better lighting.

ACTION: SDDC/ DCC to investigate concerns raised regarding the lighting between properties in Hall Farm Close and report back.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the block paving and metal grid that is sticking up due to tree roots outside of Fast Cash on Swadlincote High Street.

ACTION: SDDC to report the raised block paving/ metal grid outside of Fast Cash to DCC.

A suggestion was made that rather than erecting an artificial Christmas Tree on Sainsburys island that it would look better to decorate the mature trees on the island that are already in situ.

ACTION: SDDC to feedback the suggestion regarding the Christmas Tree on Sainsburys Island to the Events team.

A member of the public raised the surface of The Delph and asked the following questions: -

1. Is there any feedback following a meeting that was scheduled to take place back in 2018 between Council Officers and the contractor concerned in relation to the quality of the materials that were used?
2. How much money have council taxpayers spent on repairing the surface of The Delph since it was installed in 2011?
3. Why hasn't SDDC sued the contractor concerned for breach of contract?

Allison Thomas advised that the deterioration of The Delph is very much on Chief Executive Officer, Frank McArdle's radar and that the surface is inspected on a regular basis to ensure that it continues to be safe for use by the public.

ACTION: Allison Thomas to take back the questions raised in respect to The Delph to Frank McArdle and report back.

A resident reported that the properties on Hall Farm Close's roofs were covered in moss, causing a slip hazard when it falls off in clumps onto the walkway beneath and is also clogging up the guttering.

ACTION: SDDC to refer the issue raised in relation to moss on the roofs of properties in Hall Farm Close to Housing for further investigation.

SA/19 Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update

CVS update

Bex Cox provided an update on South Derbyshire CVS's Active Travel Social Car scheme and explained that volunteers were needed to help people in need to attend doctor and hospital appointments. Assistance is available to anyone who lives in South Derbyshire and is unable to use any other form of transport. Enquiries and bookings can be made Mon- Fri mornings (9:00am - 12:00pm) and transport is available seven days a week subject to the availability of drivers. The scheme is non profit-making. However, there is a charge made to the client of £1 per journey booked, plus 45p per mile (which is paid to the driver to cover their expenses). During 2019, 51,000 miles were covered which equated to 550 GP appointments and 1000 hospital visits.

For more information on the range of services offered by CVS or to register your interest in becoming a volunteer, please visit the CVS website (www.sdcvs.org.uk) or call 01283 219761 or 01283 550163.

SwadStyle/ Swad in Bloom

Ingrid van der Weide gave a brief introduction into SwadStyle magazine which is now delivered on a monthly basis to 16,800 homes in the Swadlincote area.

Requests were welcomed from Community Groups to share any news/ requests/ performances on the Community News pages. Anyone interested in

making an insertion should contact Ingrid by around the 10th of the month in readiness for print/ distribution on the 17th.

Ingrid updated that the Swad In Bloom Community Group is now fully up and running as a not-for-profit organisation and plans to host Swadlincote's 1st Swad in Bloom Amateur Garden Show competition at this year's Festival of Leisure event. There will be nine classes of entry including Early Summer Flowering Plant Pots, Cake Competition with a Fruit or Vegetable Theme and Hand-Crafted Items for the Garden using fabric, yarn, wood, or recycled materials.

Swad in Bloom is also planning to run an Open Garden Weekend during July/ August, dates to be confirmed in due course.

In terms of projects, the group are looking at ways to enhance Swadlincote and surrounding areas with floral displays and art installations which will help to make the area a nicer place to live, work and visit.

Future ambitions include entering the annual Britain in Bloom competition. Ingrid welcomed volunteers to help achieve some of the projects that the group are keen to get going with.

For more information regarding SwadStyle or Swad in Bloom Community Group please visit their respective websites/ Facebook pages (www.swadstyle.co.uk) / @SwadStyle & Town Team / (www.swadinbloom.org) / @ Swad in Bloom or alternatively you can call Ingrid on 07727 257262.

Allison Thomas added that the Council has published a report which can be found on the SDDC website which is due to be considered by the Housing and Community Services Committee on Thursday, January 30, 2020. The report will outline the extent to which the Council can support and participate in the initiative.

SA/20 Summary of any agreed priorities/ actions

- SNT to look into planning a future bike marking event at WRG during Spring/ Summer 2020.
- SDDC to investigate the request made in respect to the responsibility of individual garden areas on Hall Farm Close and report back.
- SDDC to investigate and report back in respect to the collapsing fence along by The Cutting, Hartshorne (located between Hartshorne Road and Brookdale Road).
- SDDC to feed back to Property Maintenance the issues reported in respect to the lighting and handrail in the Bus Park Café car park.
- SDDC to report the sunken block paving on Swadlincote Hight Street to DCC.
- SDDC to feedback the comments raised to Waste Cleansing.
- SDDC/ DCC to investigate concerns raised regarding the lighting and report back.

- SDDC to report the raised block paving/ metal grid outside of Fast Cash to DCC.
- SDDC to feedback the suggestion regarding the Christmas Tree on Sainsburys Island to the Events team.
- Allison Thomas to take back the questions raised in respect to The Delph and report back.
- SDDC to take back the issues raised around moss on the roofs of properties in Hall Farm Close for further investigation.

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

TBC

Councillor Gordon Rhind
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7:43pm