

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

9th February 2012

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Ford (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Hood, Shepherd and Smith.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillors Ford and Murray.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

F. Hill and G. Tilley (Newton Solney Parish Council), K. Overton (Willington Parish Council).

**Members of the Public**

L. Fancourt, J.S. Haines, F. Hood, P. Pearson, S. Varty,

RA/18. **APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Ford had been appointed Chairman of the Repton Area Forum following the introduction of the revised boundaries.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Chahal and Stanton, A. Gifford, J. Stamford and L. Nash.

RA/19. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Smith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Repton Area Forum for the remainder of the municipal year.

RA/20. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that J. Parker, a local resident, had sadly passed away. Mr. Parker had done a huge amount of work for the area, particularly in respect of the riverside footpath at Willington. He added that he would be sadly missed.

The Chief Executive requested that respects be paid to Andy Parker, also a local resident, who had contributed significantly to the local area. He had also recently passed away, and would be sadly missed.

RA/21. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Forum held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were noted.

RA/22. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Forum Liaison Officer gave an update with regard to flooding on High Street. He reported that a Highways Inspector had again met with the local resident and that this particular issue had been resolved.

RA/23. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

The canal bridge at Deepdale Lane, Stenson Fields was due to have improvement works completed, and it was requested that this be considered as an urgent matter. It was reported that the approach road was also in need of repair.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to pursue this matter with the Highways Department at the County Council.**

It was reported that Derbyshire County Council was currently undertaking consultation with regard to broadband in the area. The Forum Liaison Officer added that £7m had been allocated from the Government's BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK) Scheme, for a broadband scheme in the County. However, Derbyshire County Council must provide match funding to access this amount. The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to report any further information to a future Meeting.

The Chairman announced that Derbyshire County Council was also undertaking a consultation exercise, which considered the way in which youth activities were delivered in Derbyshire. The consultation ran from 9th January to 18th March 2012, and there was an event on 10th February 2012 at Pingle School. In addition, there were online questionnaires available for residents to complete.

The District Council was thanked for the introduction of the revised boundaries for the Area Forums.

It was pointed out that the District Council's Flood Liaison Committee had not met for 12 months. It was requested if, as this was a closed Meeting, members of the public could not attend, draft minutes could be published soon after a Meeting took place so that non-attendees could be kept up to date with any issues arising. The Chief Executive responded that Minutes must be approved before being published, although he agreed to ask a future Meeting of the Flood

Liaison Committee if they would agree that draft Minutes be published in advance of them being approved.

A resident raised the issue of insurance on properties in flood risk areas, as it was a matter that concerned many local residents. The Chief Executive responded that this was a very difficult issue. However, he understood the issues involved and had sympathy for residents affected.

It was asked if a footpath on Stenson Fields, running between Nos. 31 to 36 Nevis Close could be fenced in, as anti-social behaviour was taking place in this area, and damage was being caused to the gardens of adjacent properties.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter.**

A Councillor passed on concerns raised by a resident in regard to damage to their vehicle, which was allegedly caused by a pothole opposite the Ragley Boat Stop. The resident reported that the pothole had now been repaired but damage had been caused to the vehicle. Advice was requested on whether a claim could be made.

A footway at Beaufort Road, Stenson Fields had been damaged and repair work had been planned for December 2011, This work had not been completed and an update on timescales for completion was requested.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter and respond to the next Meeting.**

It was reported that a hedgerow on Stenson Road, Stenson Fields, was obscuring the view of the highway.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.**

It was reported that the carriageway at The Green, Findern, was damaged.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this and report back to a future Meeting.**

A resident reported that the level crossing at Findern Lane needed attention.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to pass this enquiry to Network Rail.**

A resident asked about the possible re-routing of a footpath within Network Rail's proposed planning application. The Chairman responded that this could not be discussed at the Area Forum. However, it might be requested during any future consultation phase.

RA/24. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

2012/13 Budget

The Area Forum received a presentation on the Council's budget for 2012/13. Information had been circulated which showed a breakdown of the total turnover

and how it was paid for. It was confirmed that council tax was currently £150.25 per year for district services at Band D, and consideration was currently being given to a council tax freeze for 2012/13 – the second year running. The Council had lost approximately £1.25m in Government grants (new homes bonus) over the last two years and had therefore been required, through efficiencies to adjust its spending accordingly. The net budget for 2012/13 was estimated at £11.3m and it was explained how this was split over the main services.

The presentation concluded that total expenditure of £5m was planned on new capital projects with investment in local leisure and community facilities. The Council's contribution was £1.7m, the remaining amounts came from National Lottery funding, and partners involved in the projects.

**It was agreed to forward a copy of the presentation on the 2012/13 Budget to all those present.**

The Chairman responded by thanking both the District Council and the County Council who were delivering excellent projects during difficult economical times.

A resident asked what would happen to the money that was raised when rents on council properties were increased. The Chief Executive responded that the current housing system had changed and the District Council now had a requirement to borrow money. Currently rents were below average, therefore they must be increased to meet the debt repayment, although this had only been done very reluctantly. However, this new system also meant that all outstanding work would be completed in a comprehensive maintenance and improvement programme.

It was asked how might the planning process be affected by the introduction of the Localism Act. The Chief Executive responded that this was very new legislation and he had recently attended a seminar on this matter. He added that there would be a mechanism for local groups to get involved in the process. However, Officers and Members still needed to become familiar with this legislation.

RA/25. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 1st May 2012 at Repton Village Hall.

M. FORD

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.