

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS**

MONDAY, 20th NOVEMBER 2006

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
CIVIC WAY
SWADLINCOTE**

7.00 p.m.

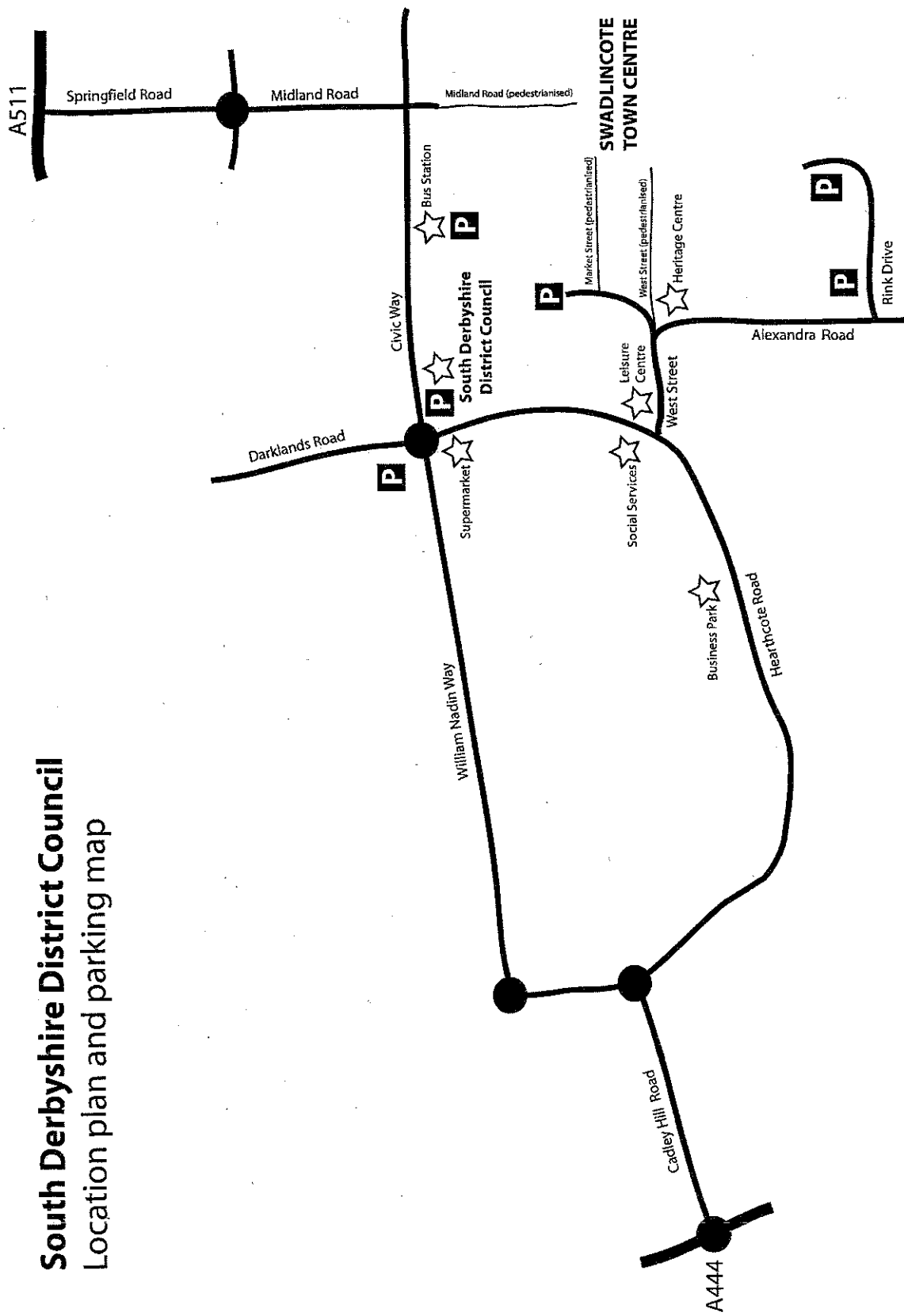
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL:

Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 16 th November 2006
Development Control	Tuesday, 21 st November 2006
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 23 rd November 2006
Finance and Management	Thursday, 30 th November 2006
Community Scrutiny	Monday, 4 th December 2006 – 4.00 p.m.
Corporate Scrutiny	Monday, 11 th December 2006 – 4.30 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 12 th December 2006
Overview	Monday, 18 th December 2006 – 4.00 p.m.
Environmental and Development Services (Special – Budget)	Tuesday, 9 th January 2007
Housing and Community Services (Special – Budget)	Thursday, 11 th January 2007
Etwell Leisure Centre (at John Port School, Etwell)	Monday, 15 th January 2007 – 5.00 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 16 th January 2007
Finance and Management (Special – Budget)	Thursday, 18 th January 2007
COUNCIL	Thursday, 25 th January 2007
Corporate Scrutiny (Special – Budget)	Monday, 29 th January 2007 – 4.30 p.m.
Finance and Management (Special – NNDR)	Monday, 29 th January 2007
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 1 st February 2007
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 8 th February 2007
Corporate Scrutiny	Monday, 12 th February 2007 – 4.30 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 13 th February 2007
Community Scrutiny	Monday, 19 th February 2007 – 4.00 p.m.
Finance and Management	Tuesday, 20 th February 2007
Overview	Monday, 26 th February 2007 – 4.00 p.m.
COUNCIL	Thursday, 1 st March 2007

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the Council's Civic Offices and will start at 6.00 p.m.

South Derbyshire District Council

Location plan and parking map



Civic Offices, Civic Way,
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 0AH

Please ask for Deb Townsend
Tel: (01283) 221000 Ext. 5848
DDI (01283) 595848
Fax (01283) 228711
Minicom: (01283) 228149
DX 23912 Swadlincote
E.mail: debra.townsend@south-derbys.gov.uk

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

(Covering Church Gresley and Swadlincote)

Meeting to be held at
Council Chamber,
Civic Offices,
Civic Way,
Swadlincote
on Monday 20th November 2006
at 7.00 p.m.

(Light Refreshments will be available at 6.30 p.m.)

Members:

District Councillors: Councillor Harrington (Chair) and Councillors Mrs. Lane, Lane, Southerd, Taylor, Tilley and Venning.

County Councillors: Councillor Mrs. Lauro and Councillor Southerd (Vice Chair).



BUSINESS

1. Apologies.
2. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th August 2006 (copy herewith).
3. To note any declarations of interest arising from any items on the Agenda.
4. Chair's Announcements (if any).
5. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
6. Public Question Time and suggestions for future local discussion items.
7. Feedback – "Getting your ideas into action".
8. Community Scrutiny Needs You.
9. Date of next Meeting – 6th February 2007 at 7.00 p.m. at St. George and St. Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Street, Castle Gresley.



SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

10th August 2006

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrington (Chair), Councillors Southerd and Tilley.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), G. Hague (Head of Planning), F. Powell (Democratic Services Officer) and B.Jones [Help Desk].

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Southerd and K. McIntyre (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Acting Sergeant Proudler.

Members of the Public

M. E. Barsby, M. Lunn, Mr. and Mrs. Causer, J Williamson, D. Simpkins, T. Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Key, J. Eaton, G. Farrington, [Swadlincote and District 50+ Forum], E. Hill, B. Wright, S. P. Robinet, D. Baines, A. D. Pitcher, S. M. Pitcher, D. Pitcher, J. Tomlinson, M. Hudson, C. Horridge, S. Horridge, M. Palmer, J. Jackson, B. Dolman and J. Lummis.

SA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was noted that Councillor Harrington had been appointed Chair of the Swadlincote Area Meeting for the Municipal Year 2006/07 at the Annual Council Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Lane, R. Lane, County Councillor Mrs.K. Lauro, Mr. D. Tysoe (County Secretary Derbyshire County Council), T. Harvey and D. Staley.

SA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was agreed that Councillor Southerd be appointed as Vice Chair of the Swadlincote Area Meeting for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2006/07.

SA/3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 8th May 2006 were noted, subject to an amendment to page 3, in respect of a correction to the spelling of Maurice Lea Park.

SA/4. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Councillor Southerd gave a verbal report to the Meeting in respect of the Zebra Crossing at Church Gresley, he advised that as there was no history of

pedestrian or traffic accidents at the site, it was not feasible to upgrade the Crossing. Councillor Southerd referred to the Crossing in Linton Road, he confirmed that Derbyshire County Council did intend to upgrade this to a Pedestrian or Puffin Crossing when resources were available to do so.

The Meeting agreed to note the information provided by Councillor Southerd in respect of the Zebra Crossing at Church Gresley and the Crossing at Linton Road.

Councillor Southerd gave a verbal report to the Meeting on concerns relating to obstructions caused by parking outside Tesco Express, Church Street, Church Gresley. It was confirmed that there were now sufficient bollards in place to prevent vehicles from mounting the kerb or parking directly outside the store or on the footway immediately adjacent to it. Derbyshire County Council had authorised a Bus Stop Clearway for the bus stop opposite the store, which would prohibit any vehicle, other than a bus from parking or waiting at the site. It was confirmed that no further measures were proposed at this time.

The Area Meeting agreed to note the information provided by Councillor Southerd in respect of concerns relating to parking outside Tesco Express, Church Street, Church Gresley.

The Meeting considered a report and received a verbal update on the concerns relating to a visual obstruction caused by an over-grown bush at the Common Side Roundabout. An Officer from the County Council advised that the bush had been cut back and was not now causing a visual obstruction.

Mr. Causer advised that he considered that the bush still prevented an adequate view through the visibility splay and requested that it be removed. **The Area Meeting agreed to request that Officers from the County Council and the District Council investigate the ownership of the site so that action could be taken to remove the bush at the Common Side Roundabout.**

The Meeting considered a report and received a verbal update on the condition of the surface way at Bank Passage, Swadlincote and the condition of the fencing of properties immediately adjacent to the site. Following the health and safety concerns expressed at the last Meeting, repair work to the most severe ruts/depressions on the surface way at Bank Passage had been undertaken.

Responding to a question from Mrs. Farrington, the Chief Executive advised that the legal responsibility for the site rested with Derbyshire County Council, repairs would be undertaken over the next ten days. Repairs to the fences to the private properties adjacent to the site would be considered as part of the proposals for the redevelopment of the area.

The Meeting agreed to note the information provided in respect of the repair work to the surface way of Bank Passage, Swadlincote and that repairs to the fences of the private properties adjacent to the site would be considered as part of the proposals for the redevelopment of the area.

The Meeting received a report on the provision of, "Dogs on Lead" and "Don't let your dog foul" signs in Maurice Lea Park, Church Gresley. It was confirmed that the signs had not yet been displayed in Maurice Lea Park. A resident requested that the above signs also be provided in the Eureka Park.

It was agreed that District Council Officers be requested to report back to the next Area Meeting to advise when the Dogs on Lead/Dog Fouling signs would be displayed at the Maurice Lea Park, Church Gresley and whether similar signs could be provided in the Eureka Park, Swadlincote.

SA/5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A number of residents at the Meeting expressed concern about the parking of vehicles by the occupant of 228 Hearhcote Road, Swadlincote and the obstruction this caused. Councillor Southerd outlined the background to the matter and the work already undertaken by Derbyshire County Council. It was confirmed that the vehicles were parked on County Council owned land. Acting Sergeant Proudler advised the Meeting of the role of the Police in such cases.

It was agreed that Officers from the County Council and the Police be requested to investigate jointly the obstruction caused by the parking of vehicles on County Council owned land adjacent to 228 Hearhcote Road, Swadlincote to establish what action could be taken and that a report on this matter be submitted to the next Area Meeting.

A resident requested that in future the start time for District Council Meetings be included in the details circulated with Area Meeting papers.

It was agreed that in future the information included on Area Meeting Agendas on the dates for District Council Meetings include the start time for each meeting.

A resident expressed concern regarding the condition of a piece of rough ground adjacent to the Tesco store, Hearhcote Road, he advised that the site had knott weed and could attract vermin.

The Area Meeting agreed that Officers from the District Council be requested to investigate the condition of the rough ground adjacent to the Tesco store site, Hearhcote Road, Swadlincote and that a report on this matter be submitted to the next Area Meeting.

Mrs. Eaton of 5 Park Road, Castle Gresley requested that action be taken to remove the 5 Poplar trees in front of her house on Gresley Common.

It was agreed that Officers from the District Council investigate the concerns expressed by Mrs. Eaton in respect of the 5 Poplar trees in front of her property on Gresley Common and that a report on the matter be submitted to the next Area Meeting.

Responding to a question from a resident, the Chief Executive advised that the Council did have powers to require landowners to remove litter and rubbish from their land. It was confirmed that proposals were under consideration to enable private finance to be used to improve the condition of jitties in the area.

There then followed a series of questions on environmental issues:

- Are fast food outlets charged for the litter generated by their premises?
- Is it an offence to urinate in a public place?
- What was a Green Machine?

- Concern about the effectiveness of the Councils work to remove weeds using a spray gun system.

Following discussions, the Area Meeting agreed:

- **That officers from the District Council be requested to investigate the arrangements for the removal of weeds by a spraying method and that Mr. Williams be advised accordingly.**
- **That it be noted that the District Council would request local food retailers to display notices asking people not to drop litter.**

Responding to a question from a resident, it was confirmed that consideration would be given to locking the main gates at Maurice Lea Park, Church Gresley if vandalism at the Park increased.

Mr. Robinet reiterated the concerns he expressed at the last Area Meeting. Responding to the statement about parking problems outside the Tesco Express site, Acting Sergeant Proudler requested that the registration numbers of vehicles parked regularly in the no parking area be forwarded to the Police so that action could be taken.

A resident expressed concern at the time taken by the Police to reply to non-emergency calls on their help line.

The Area Meeting noted that Acting Sergeant Proudler had agreed to discuss in detail the concerns expressed relating to the time taken by the Police to respond to non-emergency calls with the resident who had raised the matter at the end of the Meeting.

(At this point, Councillor Southerd left the meeting at 8.25 p.m. The Meeting became inquorate and accordingly proceeded on an informal and informative basis only).

SA/6. **HOW WE DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS - PRESENTATION BY HEAD OF PLANNING**

A copy of the Head of Planning's presentation was circulated to all Members of the public present at the Meeting.

The Area Meeting was advised that once a planning application was submitted and validated the time period started for the Government's target period for determining applications, eight weeks for most applications and thirteen weeks for major ones.

The presentation provided detailed information on the procedure for planning applications, particularly:

- The Consultation Process
- Determination of applications either by an Officer under a delegated power or by the Development Control Committee.
- Planning legislation and reasonableness in the decision making process for applications.

A number of residents made comments about the layout of car parking if a development similar to Tesco Express was proposed in future. Concern was

expressed by a number of residents regarding the increased volume of traffic on Hearthcote Road and the opportunity missed to link through to William Nadin Way.

The Area Meeting noted the presentation on the procedures followed by the District Council when determining planning applications.

SA/7. **CONSULTATION- GETTING YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION**

The Meeting received a brief presentation from the Chief Executive on the District Council's proposals for the public consultation arrangements for the next Corporate Plan.

The Chief Executive said that the purpose of the consultation leaflet was to seek ideas for improvements to the Council's services from the local community. Everyone present at the meeting was requested to complete the form and return it to the Council so that residents' comments could be fed into the Council's corporate and budget planning process.

The Area Meeting agreed to note the presentation on Getting your ideas into action.

SA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Democratic Services Officer advised that the next Area Meeting would be held in November 2006 on a date to be discussed and agreed with the Chair.

K. HARRINGTON

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.45 p.m.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

(Covering Church Gresley and Swadlincote)

20th November 2006

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the last meeting held on 10th August 2006 at St. George & St. Mary's Parish Rooms, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made:-

ISSUES	PROGRESS	ACTIONED BY
1. Obstruction by over-grown bush on Common Side Roundabout.	South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council have investigated this issue, and it has been reported that this is private land.	Steve Sheppard South Derbys District Council. (01283) 595793
2. Signage within Maurice Lea Park, and Eureka Park.	'Dogs on Lead' and "No Dog Fouling" signs are now displayed in Maurice Lea Park, Newhall Park and Eureka Park.	Chris Mason Leisure Services Manager South Derbys District Council (01283) 595794
3. Parking at Hearthcote Road Swadlincote.	Further to the last Meeting it is understood that this problem has now abated due to action being taken by both the police and Derbyshire County Council. There have been no further complaints. This situation will continue to be monitored.	Evert P. de Vries. Surveyor South Derbys District Council. (01283) 228701
4. Ground adjacent to Tesco, Hearthcote Rd, Swadlincote.	This area of land has now been dealt with, and action has been taken.	Rafe Shirley Senior Enforcement Officer South Derbys District Council (01283) 595750
5. Poplar Trees, Park Rd, Castle Gresley	Work to the poplar trees will be undertaken during the winter months of 06/07.	South Derbys District Council. Grounds and Facilities. (01283) 221000.

<p>6. Litter notices.</p>	<p>Approximately 12 months ago the Waste Management Team promoted the "Food on the Go" initiative backed by ENCAMS (Keep Britain Tidy Group). This initiative hoped to make food retailers more responsible for the litter dropped, as a result of the goods they sell. It was a voluntary Code of Practice for Local Partnerships to encourage businesses and Local Authorities to work together to reduce litter.</p> <p>All food selling retailers in Swadlincote Town Centre were targeted, i.e. fast food outlets and sweet shops. Retailers were asked to sign up to the initiative and to take part in it by either putting up anti-littering posters, doing some litter picking in the town centre or by reducing packaging that they give out. The exhibition vehicle was also parked in the Town Centre one Saturday to promote anti-littering with residents.</p> <p>The Town Centre was monitored before and after the initiative and found a 12% reduction in food related litter.</p> <p>In addition, as part of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005, local retailers are being forced to keep their shop frontages clean. If dropped, litter can be traced back to a particular retailer, Fixed Penalty Notices can be given to the retailer concerned. It is hoped that this will be dealt with by the Environmental Wardens.</p> <p>Litter Control areas have already been set up in Swadlincote Town Centre for the private passageways, which will be enforceable if they are not kept clear of litter. There are still some of the original posters up in shops in the Town Centre.</p>	<p>Karen Ashley Waste Management Officer South Derbys District Council (01283 595930)</p>
<p>7. Removal of weeds by a spraying method.</p>	<p>Weed spraying in South Derbyshire is carried out by our own staff and external contractors who specialise in this type of work.</p> <p>Chemical use in both instances is undertaken in accordance with the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986.</p>	<p>Malcolm Chell Finance & Performance Manager South Derbys District Council (01283) 595769</p>

South Derbyshire District Council
Ideas into Action
Report to Area Meetings

AGENDA ITEM: 7

What are we trying to do?

During consultation on our Corporate Plan, a number of responses indicated that, as well as commenting on issues put forward by the Council, they wanted an opportunity to put forward their own ideas. The Council responded with "Ideas into Action", a campaign that asked for ideas from individuals, Parish Councils, community groups – anybody! We wanted to make sure that we were responding to the views of communities about the issues that concerned them, whether they were big or small.

How did we go about it?

We launched the campaign at the Parish Forum meeting and it featured at all the Area Meetings in the summer. Ideas were submitted on short simple forms, our website or handwritten notes. The closing date for submission was 4 October but this deadline was extended for Parish Councils to fit in with their meeting schedule.

We received 64 ideas, which included:-

- Specific complaints about issues such as untidy land
- Requests for improved services to the whole district, such as collecting plastics for recycling
- Ideas for local initiatives that require funding or other support to get the idea launched.
- Suggestions where the Council has little influence, such as dismantling electricity pylons and laying the cables underground

What have we done with the suggestions?

All suggestions have been acknowledged by letter and will receive a detailed response when we have decided the best course of action.

Where we can take action on a complaint straight away we are doing so and will inform the individual of what we are doing, when it will happen and a contact name of who is responsible.

Ideas for improving services across the district or developing local initiatives that will cost more money will be considered for the Budget later this year. Where there is no cost, we will review whether we can implement the suggestion sooner than that. In both cases, we will inform individuals of the outcome.

Where we are not responsible for the service, we have passed the suggestion on to the relevant body or partner. We try to ensure that the individual receives a satisfactory response to their idea.

What else are the suggestions telling us?

We have also analysed the suggestions to see whether there are common themes – and you will not be surprised to find that there are! We also want to

make sure that once we have responded to your concerns, we stay on top of things and the problem is not repeated. Top issues include

- Litter / Cleanliness
- Graffiti
- Better recycling facilities / collections
- Untidy Sites
- More trees, flowers and spring bulbs
- Highway maintenance and improvements
- Support for Neighbourhood Watch
- Better facilities for children and young people

We will now put these issues at the top of our list to make further improvements to South Derbyshire and the services we deliver.

So what will we do now?

We will respond to all individual ideas and suggestions and ensure that everybody who contacted us knows what action we will take.

We will use the list of "top issues" to tweak further improvements to our services and we'll let you know what we will do and when.

Thanks

Residents of South Derbyshire are always very positive and helpful in our consultation exercises and this helps us deliver what you want to see. Thanks for all your views and ideas in this exercise and all the other consultation work we do. We hope it makes South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit. If it doesn't – tell us!

Ian Reid
Deputy Chief Executive
25 October 2006

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REPORT TO: SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING **AGENDA ITEM:** 8

DATE OF MEETING: 20TH NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT FROM: CLLR RON LANE

Chair Of South Derbyshire District
Council's Community Scrutiny
Committee

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SCRUTINY NEEDS YOU!

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to tell you about the work of the District Council's Community Scrutiny Committee and to invite you to contribute or take part in any of our projects.

About the Committee

The Council has two Scrutiny Committees and an Overview Committee, which aim to improve the Council's performance by monitoring, questioning and making recommendations in the way that services are provided and decisions are taken.

A short guide to the work of all three committees will be circulated at the meeting. This also contains information about committee membership, dates of meetings and contact details.

The Community Scrutiny Committee focuses on community and environmental services, culture, leisure and the arts as well as housing, economic development and land use.

Progress in 2006

So far this year, the Committee has completed four important projects relating to:

- Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service
- Homelessness Service
- Waste Management Service
- Planning Application Service

The thrust of these reviews was to help your Council deliver better, more efficient and more effective Services to you the residents and to ensure continued best value for money spent on your behalf.

Future Projects

Over the period until May 2007, we will be working on the following projects:

- The future of our Post Offices
- How Health Services will be delivered by the new Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust
- Street Scene Review
- Cleaner Neighbourhoods

Post Offices

Post Offices seem to be at risk and face a variety of pressures including:

- Too few customers are using them
- Rises in running costs and loss of income from changes in the way benefits are paid, for example
- Retirements and resignations from sub post masters

The Committee is interested in what concerns you and what your views are.

You can have your say at any of the following three public forums being held:-

Melbourne Village Hall	13 November (3 pm to 6 pm)
Overseal Village Hall, Overseal	14 November (4.30 pm – 6 pm)
Hatton Centre	15 November (3 pm to 7 pm)

You can attend at any time on any of the days.

Alternatively, you can write to us using the reply paid forms/envelopes that are available at your meeting.

Health Services

Health Services are experiencing dramatic change, we are keen to establish contact with the new Primary Care Trust to find out how they will deliver services in South Derbyshire and what sort of services will be available.

If you have some points to make regarding what is needed or improvements in Health Services in your area, please let us know.

We will be working closely with our colleagues from Derbyshire County Council on these issues.

Street Scene

We are also working with county colleagues on a review of the 'street scene'.

This means a lot of things, but what is important to you in your street?

- ❖ Is it street lights?
- ❖ Clean and litter free streets?
- ❖ Provision of litter bins?
- ❖ Smooth and flat carriageways?
- ❖ Well-maintained pavements?
- ❖ Dropped curbs for prams and mobility vehicles?
- ❖ Trees or grassed areas on roadsides?

Or is there anything else that is important to you?

Why not tell us what your top three are.

How would you prefer to report problems, to the District Council or the County Council?

Should there be just one telephone number?

Cleaner Neighbourhoods

Your Council is considering its response to the new 2005 Act giving us greater powers, which came into force in April 2006.

What is important to you?

- ❖ Shutting nuisance alleys?
- ❖ Selling cars on roadside?
- ❖ Removing vehicles with no tax disc?
- ❖ Removing abandoned vehicles?
- ❖ Litter control?
- ❖ Prevention of fly posting and leaflets.?
- ❖ Stopping and searching vehicles suspected of fly tipping?
- ❖ Removal of fly tipped waste by landowner?
- ❖ Dog control orders?
- ❖ Dog fouling provisions?
- ❖ Audible intruder alarm nuisance?
- ❖ Night time noise problems?
- ❖ Abandoned shopping trolleys?

Getting involved

If you would like to contribute or take part in any of our projects, then we will be pleased to include you where we can.

You can contact:

- Members of the Community Scrutiny Committee via the web site [www.south-derbys.gov.uk/community scrutiny](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/community_scrutiny)

or you can contact:

- Neil Betteridge (Democratic Services Manager)
Phone: 01283 595895
Email neil.betteridge@south-derbys.gov.uk
- Sally Knight (Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration)
Phone: 01283 595728
Email sally.knight@south-derbys.gov.uk