

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

26th January 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman) and Councillor Timms.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Lacey.

P. Jameson (Democratic Services) and L. Morris (Derbyshire Children's Centre).

Derbyshire Constabulary Representative

Sergeant J. Thompson.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

J. Pallet (Castle Gresley Parish Council), A. Lees (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), J. Powell (Linton Parish Council), P. McGibbon (Netherseal Parish Council) and M. Horne (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

M. Hall, H. Kreft, S. Lees, Y. Monchuk, S. Mills, O. Pallett.

LA/19. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Grant, T. Elson, S. Jackson, S. Jones and Mr. & Mrs. Taylor.

LA/20. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Thompson gave an update on crime statistics, referring initially to the slight increase in burglaries in the area. He reminded of the Safer Neighbourhood priorities for the area, which had recently been reviewed. A report was provided on break-ins at non-residential premises and the officer referred to recent arrests of individuals thought to be responsible for the burglaries. Statistics were also provided on motor vehicle thefts and theft from vehicles, together with anti-social behaviour, including damage to properties. The Officer then referred to operation "Safe Drive", which had taken place on the A444 on 25th January 2011. This was a multi-agency initiative, focussing

on driving enforcement and education. Statistics were provided on the types of offences identified during the five hours of this operation.

Other issues reported included rural crime and the Safer Neighbourhood team's involvement, covert operations to monitor known criminals and the police surgeries that were held.

A question was submitted on responsibility for dealing with fly tipping. This was an area that the District Council pursued and the resident was also advised of the Clean Team, which provided responsive maintenance to deal with fly tipping. A question was asked about a recent case at court involving travellers and details were sought of the outcome. The Police Officer offered to investigate this and respond to the individual. Information was also provided on the rural farm watch initiative being undertaken by PCSO McMillan. Residents were asked to report details of any suspicious vehicles in rural areas.

LA/21. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman publicised a circulated document inviting residents to attend "drop-in" events about neighbourhood planning and he gave further information on this review of the planning process. The Chairman also publicised a tree planting event at the Rosliston Forestry Centre, as part of Holocaust Memorial Day.

LA/22. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – PRESENTATION ON CHILDREN'S CENTRES**

Liz Morris (Children's Centre Co-ordinator), gave an overview of the County's Children's Centres. She advised that these had developed from a Surestart programme in 1999, and Children's Centres worked with all families. Children's Centres were also monitored in the same way as schools by receiving OFSTED inspections.

Further information was provided on the centres within South Derbyshire. Reference was made to the new Children's Centre in Coton in the Elms and details were sought of planned publicity for its formal opening. A Coton representative reported some local concerns relating to this Centre. The officer agreed to research and provide further information relating to the traffic plans and internet service to the Centre.

LA/23. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Linton Area Forum held on 10th November 2010 were noted.

LA/24. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

With reference to Minute No. LA/17, a resident reiterated the concerns about the poor condition of a footway in Coton Park, Linton, leading to the recreation ground. The narrow width of the pavement meant children had to walk in the road and the resident wished to ensure that a full width footpath was provided

by the summer. Reference was also made to a nearby nature reserve, which was likely to attract additional visitors to this area.

It was agreed that this matter be investigated and a further report be submitted to the next Area Forum Meeting.

LA/25. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

With regard to the paper recycling scheme, it was questioned how long the current blue polythene bags would be used for. A resident displayed a bag and complained about how the bags became ripped and often got very dirty. A District Councillor agreed with the views expressed and provided further information, which the Director of Community Services agreed to pursue with the contractor. The Authority was seeking to improve its recycling arrangements, including the future kerbside collection of plastic materials. A resident pointed out the lack of available plastic recycling banks within the southern parishes and it was requested that one be provided. The planned kerbside collection service should reduce the need for such recycling centres, but the suggestion would be investigated. It was also questioned whether the Council had stopped issuing larger wheeled bins for composting.

It was agreed to investigate these issues and to submit a report to the next Area Forum.

LA/26. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Area Forum received a presentation on the Council's budget for 2011/12. Information had been circulated at the Meeting showing current council tax levels and the proportion that was received by the District Council. Charts also showed how the District Council was funded, its net general fund expenditure for 2010/11 and the initial budget for 2011/12. A key issue was the financial settlement for the period 2011 – 13 and the reduction in Government grant funding levels. This had resulted in key challenges for 2011/12 and the need to identify savings and efficiencies. The Council's aims were to reduce the deficit, maintain reserves and keep council tax low, through cutting costs not services. The presentation concluded with the budget timetable and where residents could find out more information on the budget process.

Questions were invited and an update was sought about plans for a joint depot with East Staffordshire Borough Council. It was confirmed that the Council was progressing with a new depot for South Derbyshire and was looking at some joint working arrangements with the neighbouring authority.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.05 p.m.