

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

16th July 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Rhind, Tilley and Mrs. Wheeler.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant N. Pitt.

Members of the Public

M.G. Brotherhood, M.E. Barsby, R. Causer, M. Edwards, C.R. Horridge, W. Jackson, A. Lager, E. Lockwood, C. Rose, A.C. Sheriff.

SA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Taylor had been appointed Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting.

SA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Lane and Lane, M. Todd, M.P. and S. Horridge.

SA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Tilley be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Forum.

SA/4. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Nick Pitt addressed the Meeting, advising that he was the new Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant for the area, replacing Sergeant Andy Wright. He advised that crime figures for the area were currently available via the Internet, and that the level of crime for the area was reported as being average when compared to the rest of Derbyshire. A 'Safer Neighbourhood Teams' newsletter was available at the Helpdesk.

He reported that the Police had commenced the Restorative Justice Initiative on 1st April 2009. This was an initiative giving Officers more discretion on how

they dealt with lower level offences, which included asking the victims how they would like the matter dealt with. The Police would then attempt to facilitate this.

A resident asked about the ways in which crime statistics were recorded, commenting that as the methods used were changing, it was very difficult for them to be used as an effective tool against crime.

It was asked if it was possible for businesses or individuals to get addresses from number plates from the DVLA. It was also reported that supermarkets were accessing this information as they were sending out parking enforcement letters.

It was agreed that the District Council attempt to gain further information and report back to the next Meeting.

It was reported that two police vans had been parked outside Swadlincote Police Station, and it was considered that they were causing an obstruction.

Sergeant Pitt to look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

SA/5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 31st March 2009, were noted.

SA/6. **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.

With regard to Church Street, Church Gresley, it was suggested that raising the kerbs would make no difference to the tactile crossing in this area. It was suggested that pedestrian rails could be installed, with a gap for people to cross, as there were continued problems. A resident cited an example of a Securicor van, which continued to park irresponsibly and provided photographic evidence.

The Forum Liaison Officer responded that he would provide a further response to the next Meeting.

SA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was asked when the wall, outside the Leisure Centre on West Street, Swadlincote would be repaired.

It was agreed that a response be provided to the next Meeting.

It was pointed out that the trees at the bottom of Alexandra Road, also adjacent to the Leisure Centre, were trailing on the floor, causing an obstruction to pedestrians.

It was agreed that the District Council provide a response on this matter to the next Meeting.

Concern was raised by residents reporting that many cars were parked on the road on Coppice Side, and this was becoming very dangerous. It was requested that off-street parking be considered in this area. The Chairman

responded that this had been considered by Derbyshire County Council, however it was requested that the County Council review their response and visit this area again during a busier time.

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

It was reported that there was an area near the Memorial Club that always flooded in bad weather.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to request that the gullies be inspected in this area.

A discussion ensued on travellers, and whether they could be charged with fly tipping, and breaking onto land. The Chief Executive responded that although legislation existed, it was very difficult to gain a prosecution without evidence. He added that the Environment Agency also had powers to impound vehicles carrying unlicensed waste.

It was also reported that at Blackshed Island approaching Common Side from Tesco, a very large hawthorn tree was blocking motorists view.

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

Outside the Swadlincote library, there was a sign that pointed to the old Post Office, which may be confusing for visitors to Swadlincote.

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

SA/8. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer reported that Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council had jointly begun preparing new plans, which would set out where and when new minerals and waste development would take place over the next 20 years. Further information was circulated to all those present, which explained more about the plans. The County Council was carrying out further consultation, and asked if any residents had any opinions about what the minerals and/or waste plans should contain, that they express their views. In addition, they would also include any person or organisation that wished to be consulted regularly in their list of consultees. It was pointed out that residents could get involved at any stage, but it was important to register interest early in the process if they wished to influence the plans from the start.

To express a view or register, it was requested that people email: wasteminsldf@derbyshire.gov.uk or write to Andrew Hollyer, Development Plans Team, Environmental Services Department, Derbyshire County Council, Shand House, Dale Road South, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3RY.

SA/9. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES – FEEDBACK ON VISION AND PRIORITIES**

The Chief Executive advised that a booklet had been circulated entitled “Local Priorities Consultation – Summary of Key Findings”. He reported that during 2008 and early 2009, the District Council had consulted key stakeholders on priorities for the District. A wide range of consultation methods were used and

the results had informed two key documents, the Council's Corporate Plan and South Derbyshire's Sustainable Community Strategy. The booklet gave a summary of key findings following this consultation. He thanked residents for giving their views.

The Chief Executive also gave an update on achievements to date with regard to the regeneration of Swadlincote. These were listed as:-

- Feedback had been received from a public consultation exercise on West Street, The Delph and Ernest Hall Way and had been fed into design development.
- The Shop Watch Walkabout had taken place with the Safer Communities Team, emergency services and shopkeepers, to consider crime hotspots.
- The Ernest Hall Way grant scheme had commenced.
- The design of Ernest Hall Way street improvements had commenced.
- Confirmation of DDEP funding for West Street had been received.
- Detailed engineering design for West Street was progressing.
- The contractor had been chosen for the West Street construction.
- The District Council had been presented with an award for the East Midlands Region for sustained commitment to the conservation area, through a partnership scheme in a conservation area project, and for its strong community engagement and exemplary interpretation for visitors at the Sharpe's Pottery Museum.

The Chief Executive gave an update on the Hepworth site, and confirmed that work was commencing to demolish buildings. He was also working very hard to attract large businesses onto this site.

SA/10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.