

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

27th January 2010

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Bladen (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Hood, Taylor and Mrs. Wheeler.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), P. White (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

District and County Council Representatives

Councillor Ford (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Murray.

Derbyshire County Council Representative

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Sutherland.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

A. Jones (Hartshorne Parish Council) and R. Paulson (Repton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

J. Cownie, A. Gifford, A. Gillespie, J. Orme, S. Saddal (South Derbyshire CVS), K. Snellgrove, S. Snellgrove, J. Stevens, M. Thornton, C. Wagstaff (South Derbyshire CVS), A. Wood and B. Wood.

APOLOGY

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Mrs. J. Stamford.

RA/21. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sutherland addressed the Meeting, giving an update on police issues. He provided details on crime statistics to December 2009. Reference was made to anti-social behaviour in Willington and it was noted that a recent undercover operation had been undertaken in respect of this matter.

It was advised that an additional PCSO had been appointed within the Mercia region. It was noted that a number of the newsletters available on the helpdesk were now out of date. Updated lists of Safer Neighbourhood meeting dates were available for Mercia Area 2, and Woodville Area 4, relating the Repton area. The Safer Neighbourhood meetings had set priorities, notably to target anti-social behaviour in the area.

PC Fearn would be holding surgeries for the Mercia Region at Willington Marina on 8th February, 2nd March and 1st April, from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. The next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting for the region would be held at Repton Village Hall on 15th March 2010 at 6.30 p.m.

A local Ward Member requested details of crime figures for Woodville, as he was concerned that localised crime within the area was increasing and he also queried the lack of a local beat officer. Sergeant Sutherland advised that Officers from the reactive section were currently covering for any absent beat officers.

Reference was also made to an alleged unauthorised mobile “burger” bar in Willington. This matter was already being investigated by the Police and the District Council.

An issue was raised concerning anti-social behaviour in Woodville. Particular reference was made to night-time disturbances on the Goseley Estate, Hartshorne. There was concern that the PCSO who had previously dealt with this longstanding matter no longer covered the area. Sergeant Sutherland advised that a new PCSO would be appointed to the area in due course and that, where crime was witnessed, residents should call the police immediately. Calls would be logged and resources then moved to that area. There was concern regarding a general increase in the volume of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Woodville area. Residents expressed an opinion on the likely cause for this. In this regard, the vetting procedure for re-housed residents was queried. It was advised that the District Council had a scheme whereby private landlords were provided with details of residents on the waiting list for rented accommodation. It was suggested that matters of anti-social behaviour be referred to the appropriate Safer Neighbourhood Meetings and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers at the District Council. The next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting for Central Area 4, which included the Woodville area, would be held on Tuesday, 9th March at Eureka Primary School, Midway. Any matters reported to the Police would be directed from St. Mary’s Wharf, Derby Police Station to appropriate Officers in the vicinity of the incident. Residents requested that PCSOs attend during the evenings, rather than the daytime, when the majority of anti-social behaviour occurred. Sergeant Sutherland agreed to raise this item with his colleagues and it was agreed that the matter be included on the agenda for the next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting.

It was requested again that consideration be given to aligning Safer Neighbourhood areas with the Forum areas.

RA/22. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Forum held on 16th November 2009 were noted.

RA/23. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the agenda, which provided an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting.

With regard to the condition of the road traffic island adjacent to the Clock Garage, Woodville, residents advised that bricks had again been dislodged from the island. Concerns remained that larger vehicles were unable to drive around the island safely and it was suggested that the size of the island needed to be reduced. Traffic safety at the traffic lights at the Masons Arms crossroads was also a concern, as visibility was limited to one side of the road only, causing traffic queues. It was suggested that additional traffic lights be provided for the other side of the road in an attempt to alleviate this situation. There was further concern regarding the large volumes of traffic accessing the Clock traffic island, which was likely to be increased when further residential development was undertaken in the area. Reference was made to consultation being undertaken on the Local Development Framework (previously the Local Plan), which included proposals for a Swadlincote/Woodville regeneration route bypass. Members of the public were encouraged to provide their comments on these proposals. In this regard, a local Ward Member raised concern that the imminent closing date for this consultation period allowed no opportunity for any presentation at a future Area Forum. The Ward Member stressed that it was important for local residents to understand the proposals for Woodville within the Core Strategy document. Further details of the Core Strategy would be provided later in the Meeting.

With regard to Section 106 Planning Agreement works at Lincoln Way and Moira Road, Woodville, it was noted that the matter had not been progressed, and the reasons for this were reported. The local Ward Member was very disappointed that this matter, which had commenced approximately six years ago, was still to be resolved. It was requested that the appropriate County Highways Officer be advised that the situation was unacceptable and they be invited to attend a future Area Forum.

It was advised that a speed-activated warning sign would be erected at Sandcliffe Road, Midway in the next two to three weeks. The County Council was thanked for this action. It was also requested to provide filter lights at the nearby crossroads, due to poor visibility at present. Progress with regard to the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Granville School, as part of Section 106 planning agreement works, was also questioned.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate the matters further and would report back to the next Meeting.

RA/24. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Concern was raised about the diversion route, due to the road traffic works at Knights Lane/Hartshorne Road, Repton. The diverted route of Newton Lane, which was only a single-track lane, had caused an excessive build-up of traffic. There were concerns over the condition of the road, which had flooded recently. It had also been noted that barriers in the location had been moved on several occasions. It was advised that County Highways Officers checked the location of the barriers and signs on a regular basis and this would continue to be monitored.

The District Council's policy on the loss of recreational amenities for children was queried, in connection with the proposed provision of a doctors' surgery at Twyford Road, Willington, which would cause the loss of the adjacent playing field. It was advised that, as part of general planning policies, the District Council considered any proposals for development in light of their impact on the surrounding environment. The land in question appeared to be owned by the Parish Council who would undertake consultation with Derbyshire Primary Care Trust in relation to any proposals for development.

A plea was made to find an alternative site for the replacement of Repton Surgery. The majority of the suggestions already made had been turned down by the County Council and residents were now desperate to find further sites.

It was requested that further information be provided on the recycling of plastics.
It was agreed to request the District Council's Recycling Officer to contact the Repton Parish Council direct in respect of this matter.

RA/25. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES:**

(a) Your Area – Options for Future Development and Place Survey Results

The Director of Corporate Services gave a presentation on the District Council's Core Strategy, which was currently out for consultation. She advised those present that the Strategy would guide development and investment in South Derbyshire over the next 20 years. The options identified the amount of development that should take place in South Derbyshire up to 2026 and where it should be built. A summary leaflet was available for residents, which provided highlights of some of the main points within the Strategy and advised how to find further information. The consultation document was available at the Council Offices and on its website. All residents were encouraged to respond by the closing date of 31st March 2010.

Arising from this presentation, a number of queries and comments were received in relation to the specific development provision; proposals for infrastructure related to development; publicity of the consultation process and the Council's communication strategy. It was questioned whether the consultation could be publicised further by a letter drop to residents. Detailed responses were provided and it was agreed to consider further options for publicity.

The Director of Corporate Services also provided an update on the Place Survey results for 2008/09. It was reported that this was a new statutory Survey that all local authorities in England were required to undertake every two years. A total of 4,000 questionnaires had been mailed to randomly-selected addresses between October and December 2008. A response rate of 41% was achieved, which equated to 1,616 completed questionnaires. This was considered to be a good response rate. The results had been analysed by each community forum area and the key issues for Repton were included within the presentation. Results reported related to satisfaction with the local area, reasons that the area was a good place to live in, proposed improvements and perceptions of community cohesion.

(b) Presentation on the Council's Budget

The Director of Corporate Services provided a presentation on the District Council's budget for 2010/11. Information was provided on the breakdown of Council Tax for a Band 'D' property between the District and County Councils, Police, Fire Authority and parishes. Details were provided of the Council's net running costs, together with how these were financed and the funds used. The 2010/11 initial budget showed a deficit of £484,250, which would need to be funded from reserves. Challenges faced by the Council included the effects of the recession, the review of Government grants and also the uncertainty of future forecasting. The District Council had accumulated cashable efficiencies to date of £677,000. Other savings would be found from restructuring, partnering, streamlining the central purchasing and procurement, the disposal of assets, lower pay awards and general inflation.

The aims of the District Council were reported, together with the timetable for the budget proposals. A full copy of the Consolidated Budget Proposals 2010/11 and the Financial Plan to 2015 could be accessed via the Council's website at www.south-derbys.gov.uk

Any community groups that wished Officers to provide additional presentations on the District Council's budget for 2010/11 were encouraged to contact the Director of Corporate Services.

RA/26. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next Repton Area Forum would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 7th April 2010 at Goseley Community Centre.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 9.05 p.m.