

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

28th July 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Jones (Chairman) and Councillors Bell, Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Rhind, Southerd, Stuart and Taylor.

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

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Jones (Chairman) and Mrs. Farrington.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

PCSO North.

Members of the Public

M. Barry, M.G. Brotherhood, R. Causer, K. Dicken, F. Hallam, C.R. Horridge, S. Horridge, M. Lunn Snr., M. Lunn, J. McCarthy, J. Pallett, O. Pallett, M. Shepherd and R. Thomas.

SA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Jones had been appointed Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting for the ensuing year.

SA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Tilley, Mr. & Mrs. Key and M. Sargent.

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

It was agreed that Councillor Taylor be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Forum for the ensuing year.

SA/4. **POLICE ISSUES**

PCSO North reported on current crime figures within the Swadlincote area. She reported that most crime had decreased over the last quarter including anti-social behaviour, which had reduced by 24%.

She confirmed that priorities for the area had been set as tackling speeding on Gresleywood Road and anti-social behaviour at Alleyne Close, Woodlands Park, Maurice Lea Park and Gresley Old Hall.

With regard to speeding on Gresleywood Road, it was requested that a permanent speed sign be fixed in this area. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that Derbyshire County Council were aware of concerns and a petition had been received. He added that a speed survey would be completed as soon as possible, the results of which would be fed back to the Area Forum.

It was also pointed out that anti-social behaviour was particularly bad at the Sand Hills, and requested that the Police consider this as a priority site for action.

It was suggested that cycling was still an issue in Swadlincote town centre, and asked what action the Police were taking. PCSO North responded that she wasn't aware of any outstanding reports but that the issue was being dealt with when observed by Officers.

A resident reported that there were regularly 14/15 cars parked on the footpath adjacent to St Edward's School (Westfield Road/Newhall Road), which caused an obstruction. This had been reported to the Police and Derbyshire County Council. A sign had been erected but was considered to be inadequate. PCSO North responded that the Police could only enforce parking if there was a physical obstruction of the footpath. The Forum Liaison Officer also agreed to make further investigation including contacting the School and passing on the concerns.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to report any update back to the next Meeting.

It was requested if, as the heavy traffic had now diminished near the new retail park, weight limits be reviewed on Coppice Side. PCSO North responded that she would contact the resident directly as she was aware that the Police were being proactive in this area. The Forum Liaison Officer also agreed to ask Trading Standards to liaise with the Police on this issue.

It was also reported that the road sweeper at this site was causing an obstruction.

The Chief Executive agreed to look into this issue.

It was reported that traffic on Coppice Side was still causing a problem, and a traffic management scheme should be considered. It was hoped that this would be looked at in the future.

Councillor Taylor asked if cuts in the Police budget were having an impact on the availability of police in the area, as it appeared that they were not as visible as previously. PCSO North agreed to respond directly to Councillor Taylor.

SA/5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chief Executive gave an overview of planning events across the District,

where residents were able to talk about planning in the local area. South Derbyshire District Council was working jointly with Amber Valley Borough and Derby City Councils, and was seeking views on how much housing would be needed over the whole area over the next 15 years and what the strategy should be for locating it. Views were being sought on how much housing growth should be planned for, and the extent to which growth should be concentrated around the edges of Derby or dispersed to other towns, villages and locations throughout the Derby Housing Market Area. Details of drop-in events were provided to all present.

SA/6. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 1st February 2011, were noted

SA/7. **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.

The Forum Liaison Officer provided an update on Blackshed Island and confirmed that the visibility splay at the roundabout was an adopted highway, which was cut back by Derbyshire County Council as and when required. In addition, the Senior Enforcement Officer had reviewed the adjacent site and considered that the land was all green, possibly with some overgrown weeds. However, it was not thought to be suitable for any further action at present.

The Forum Liaison Officer provided an update on the crossing at Wilmot Road and confirmed that it was hoped it would be upgraded to a Puffin Crossing. Councillor Southerd understood that Section 106 money was available for a new crossing at Wilmot Road, not the refurbishment of the existing one. He expressed concern that a new crossing was not going to be put into place.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to forward the concerns to the relevant officer at Derbyshire County Council and report back to the next Meeting.

The Forum Liaison Officer reported that further to reports of surface water on Coppice Side, remedial work had been carried out in this area.

In addition, with regard to the footpath on Harebell Close, it was reported that two petitions had been received and a report was to be considered by Derbyshire County Council, which recommended that the footpath remained open.

SA/8. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was asked if there was a maintenance contract on the new surface at The Delph, as the granite edges were becoming damaged and were spalling. The Chief Executive responded that this area was being monitored.

It was asked if the District Council was withdrawing their pest control service. The Chief Executive responded that service areas were being reviewed. However no decision had currently been taken.

A resident asked various questions with regard to Coppice Side and access to the new retail park. The Chief Executive agreed to arrange for the relevant officers within the District Council to respond directly to the resident.

It was asked what the current situation was with regard the use of outside tables and chairs in The Delph. The Chief Executive responded that both himself and the Enforcement Officer were aware of the situation in this area and it was a priority to keep standards high, as this was a premier site in Swadlincote.

It was asked why a meat lorry was allowed to stand on The Delph on market days. The Chief Executive responded that due to its size it was the most appropriate place, and he wanted to encourage other market traders come onto this area.

It was pointed that there were many fly-posters around the town. The Chief Executive responded that this should be discouraged and he considered that a review of this situation might be appropriate.

It was asked if there could be some seating around the bandstand at Maurice Lea Park.

It was agreed to respond to this request at the next Meeting.

It was reported that the public footpath at Highfields Street had become very overgrown and needed cutting back.

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

Councillor Taylor asked what was the current position with regard to a pedestrian crossing, which should have been installed on Burton Road, Midway following a Section 106 agreement. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that currently the developer did not have the funding for this, however a legal officer at Derbyshire County Council was pursuing other avenues of funding.

Concern was expressed that there were proposals from the County Council regarding a reduction in gritting in the winter months. The Chairman responded that a report had been forwarded to Cabinet, indicating that the County Council did not intend to get rid of any vehicles, although schedules may be amended.

It was pointed out that a sign on Herbert Wragg Way was very misleading.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this.

It was reported that a County Council owned tree was touching a house, which was causing concern to a resident. It was asked if the District Council could deal with this issue. The Chief Executive agreed to request a tree officer look into this matter, and liaise directly with the resident.

SA/9. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chairman reported that there was due to be a consultation on the review

of Area Forum boundaries. Following the recent electoral review of the Ward boundaries in South Derbyshire by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the Council was now proposing amendments to the Area Forum boundaries. The Council was consulting on these proposals, which provided that each Ward was situated in one area only, rather than the current arrangements where some Wards were spread across up to three areas. The County Council Electoral Divisions were still divided across different areas, but this could not be avoided, as they were not coterminous with the District boundaries.

The proposed arrangements for the un-parished urban core were also confirmed. The main change to these areas was the transfer of the Woodville Ward to the Swadlincote Area (Woodville Ward was currently in the Repton Area).

It was proposed that these new boundaries would also apply to the existing Safer Neighbourhood Meetings. Therefore these meetings and the Area Forums could be held on the same evening at the same venue. It was felt that this arrangement would avoid duplication and achieve savings, as well as avoid the need for residents to attend 2 meetings on separate evenings.

The proposed revised boundaries were the subject of a consultation process and any comments were requested by 12th September 2011. A report would then be considered by Council on 29th September 2011, with a view to implementing any new arrangements shortly after. Full details could be found on the Council's website along with an email link for any comments.

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

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

C. JONES

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.