

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING BETWEEN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT
COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCILS/MEETINGS

1st August 2007

PRESENT:

Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council

Councillors Mrs. Wheeler (Chairman), Atkin, Bale, Ford, Harrison and Lemmon.

Officers

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), I. Hey (Community Partnership Officer) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services).

Representative of D.A.L.C.

B. Wood.

Representatives of Derbyshire Constabulary

Inspector Rick Cuttall and Sergeant Clough.

Parish Council Representatives

L. Kolkman (Hilton Parish Council), R. Buxton and L. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council), K. Bradford (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), S. Jackson and K. Fairbrother (Castle Gresley Parish Council), T. Beresford and C. Woodward (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), P. Woolrich (Egginton Parish Council), H. Timms (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council), S. Dunncliffe and J. Bell (Findern Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), D. Buchanan (Newton Solney Parish Council), D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), G. Taylor and C. Barker (Barrow upon Trent Parish Council), T. Statham and N. Hill (Melbourne Parish Council), S. Green (Ticknall Parish Council), C. Bunston (Repton Parish Council and Ticknall Parish Council), S. Crocker and K. Overton (Willington Parish Council), A. Camwell (Burnaston Parish Council), B. Payton and I. Smith (Etwall Parish Council) and D. Statham (Woodville Parish Council).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Bladen and Mrs. Brown, S. Graham and J. Storer.

PC/1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th April 2007 were received.

Councillor Wheeler opened the Meeting by introducing the new Team of Policy Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen. She advised the Meeting that partnership working with the Parishes was very important to the recently elected Conservative Controlling Group.

PC/2. **POLICE ISSUES**

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler introduced and welcomed Inspector Rick Cuttell and Sergeant Clough to the Meeting.

Inspector Cuttell advised the Meeting that he was very pleased with the current crime detection rate within South Derbyshire. He added that Sergeant Clough, working alongside the Safer Neighbourhood Teams had played a major part in this success. Last year, the detection rate was 18.3%, and at the current time it had increased to 29.6% which equated to an 11% increase in detected crime. This was a fantastic achievement.

Personnel within the Neighbourhood Teams had changed. Offenders were being scrutinised in far greater detail, and it had been established that it was generally a small number of people committing the majority of crimes in the area. This information was based on intelligence that had been gathered, and it had been possible to establish a priority list of offenders to be targeted. Using this system, many offenders had been arrested, sent to court and imprisoned. In addition, crime patterns had been established across the area and tackled, increasing detections from the District's most prolific offenders.

A question was asked about the general trend of crime within the District to which Inspector Cuttell responded that South Derbyshire was experiencing an increase in crime, although this increase was not as large as the increase in population. Therefore, crimes per head of population were amongst the lowest in Derbyshire. Inspector Cuttell then detailed the way in which crimes were monitored. He added that for the past 4 years, Derbyshire had hit all targets set.

L. Kolkman asked a question on to travellers, with particular reference to a site at Hilton and queried the time limit within which they could return to a site. The Chief Executive advised of a minimum period of 3 months for the same people to return to a site, although it was obviously difficult to establish whether it was the same people returning time after time. Inspector Cuttell responded that the Police had started to use hand held cameras to film vans and people on a site. This evidence was then kept to ensure that travellers were not returning to the site within a 3 months period.

Councillor Ford asked a question with regard to young people purchasing alcohol from shops. Sergeant Clough responded that an Operation was planned to target nuisance children and antisocial behaviour. Certain areas were being targeted based on intelligence that had been gathered. He added that this had been funded by South Derbyshire District Council's Partnership Fund.

R. Buxton asked if the Pub Watch scheme in Hatton could be reinstated. Inspector Cuttell responded that due to sickness absence, this project had lost momentum for which he apologised. However, he was very keen to re-establish this scheme.

Councillor Harrison felt that generally the District was happy with the added presence of the PCSO's. However, there were concerns that they had no mobility or any method of communication. Inspector Cuttell advised that all

PCSO's were entitled to a bike and in addition, they had access to all public transport free of charge. Although PCSO's were not allowed to drive a police vehicle, they could ask to be dropped off in a particular area, as required. All PCSO's also had a police radio with integrated mobile connection. It was requested that if any Parishes experienced further difficulties, they should contact Sergeant Clough. Inspector Cuttall encouraged Parish Councils to make contact with their PCSO and request visits from the mobile police station.

PC/3. **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME**

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler introduced Ian Hey, the District Council's Community Partnership Officer. Mr. Hey confirmed that he administered the grants scheme on behalf of the District Council. This was a Capital Grant Scheme, which could be accessed by non-profit making groups including Parish Councils. The minimum grant allowed was £1,000 and the maximum was £25,000. Grants could be offered up to 25% of the total cost, and in addition Mr. Hey could help organisations source the rest of the money. He would also visit any group that made an enquiry and follow this through to delivery of the project.

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler confirmed that the District Council wanted to help community projects to progress and urged groups to contact Mr. Hey as soon as a project was identified.

Mr. Hey confirmed that it was important that groups planned ahead, ideally 4-6 months before the project was required. He confirmed that he also worked in partnership with the CVS, which offered complimentary services. Ian Hey's contact details were confirmed as: telephone (01283) 228741, fax (01283) 595720 and email ian.hey@south-derbys.gov.uk

PC/4. **QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler advised the Meeting that the District Council wished to work closely with all Parish Councils to improve services to South Derbyshire residents. She also thanked the Parish Councils for all their work during the recent floods. She congratulated Melbourne and Ticknall Parish Councils for achieving Quality Parish Council Status.

G. Taylor raised issues concerning the revised Members' Code of Conduct and further training from the District Council. The Chief Executive advised that a DVD training aid was currently awaited from the Standards Board for England. B. Wood added that within the revised Code, a Member was entitled to the same rights as a member of public and therefore the Parish Council agendas may need amending. He confirmed that further guidance would be provided in due course.

F. Mitchell asked that Mr. C. Payne (Technical Services at South Derbyshire District Council) be congratulated following his actions during the recent floods. C. Barker reiterated that Mr. Payne had been very supportive during the floods and asked that he be thanked for his work during this time. She also asked if the Joint Meeting with Parish Councils/Meetings would be continuing on a quarterly basis. Councillor Mrs. Wheeler responded that it was very important that the District Council and Parish Councils worked together on a practical level, and that Meetings would continue.

In response to a question, Councillor Mrs. Wheeler advised the Meeting that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was currently opening discussions with the new operator relating to Willington Station, adding that this was a very important resource in the District. In addition, the Committee was also considering public transport issues within the District.

S. Jackson asked if the responsibility for grass cutting could be taken by the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs. Wheeler advised that this could be explored further if all parties were agreeable.

B. Wood advised the Meeting that the new Community Emergency Plan would be launched in September at Matlock. Councillor Mrs. Wheeler responded that emergency planning and flooding had now been reinstated in the Corporate Plan. Mr. Timms, on behalf of Walton on Trent Parish Council thanked the District Council for work which had taken place during the flooding. However, he reported that there was general belief that the new bridge and road adjacent to Walton-on-Trent was being constructed on a flood plain and if built, would act as a dam and cause further damage. The Chief Executive confirmed that he agreed to attend the next Parish Council Meeting.

It was agreed that a progress report on the Local Development Framework be provided at the next Meeting.

In addition, feedback would be given on the progress made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regards to public transport issues.

B. Wood confirmed that a new circular would be distributed shortly from DALC, outlining forth-coming training.

PC/5. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

MRS. H.K. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.