

REPTON AREA MEETING

9th November 2005

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chair), Councillor Bladen (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bell, Ford, Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Wheeler.

Mr. M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), Mr. N. Betteridge (Democratic Services Officer) and Mr. B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

County Councillor A. Jones.

G. Moyes (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Inspector S. Fairbrother.

Parish Council Representatives

D. Buchanan (Newton Solney), R. Paulson and J. Shortt (Repton), P. Ricketts (Willington) and R Statham (Woodville).

Members of the Public

H. Banton, H. Blackhall, D. Cope, J. Cownie, M. Coxon, A. Gillespie, G. Holmes, G. Johnson, A. Kimber, P. Laughlin, A. Mayger, J. Orme, T. Orton, P. Rainey, M. Ross, G. Savage, B. Sharratt, G. Varty, K. Vincent, C. Warner, A. Webster, A. Worley and P. Worley.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Isham, D. Adams, A. Gifford, J. Stamford, P. Yates and Mr. D. Tysoe (County Secretary).

RA/10. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th August 2005 were received and noted.

RA/11. **PRESENTATION BY THE PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

Nina Ennis, Chief Executive of the Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust (PCT), addressed residents on the development of Primary Care Services in the Hilton, Willington, Etwall and Repton areas. Action was necessary due to the growing population, a plan to increase services available locally and insufficient space in existing facilities. She advised that patient numbers had increased by 500 during the previous six months. The current provision was outlined. Repton Health Centre provided an office base for approximately 60 staff together with some direct services. The GP practice at Willington was very cramped and was less than 50% of the minimum space suggested by the Department of Health for a practice of this size. Wellbrook

Medical Centre was a newly built GP surgery with limited space for development.

It was proposed to replace both the GP surgery and Repton Health Centre with a new primary care centre in Willington. It was intended to work with community transport providers to facilitate access to health care, wherever possible. A range of services would be developed in the new centre but at the present time, there was no definitive timetable.

Key issues on the proposals related to the additional services which would be of benefit in the community and whether all new services should be based in the new centre at Willington, or whether some should be provided from Hilton and Willington. This would be the last consultation exercise to be undertaken and a full report would be submitted to the Public Board Meeting on 23rd November 2005.

A resident expressed disappointment that so few people were aware of the proposals. The Chief Executive of the PCT advised that attempts had been made to provide information and a previous meeting had been advertised in the local press. It was queried whether the area of land at the Castleway, Willington was the only site which had been considered and the Chief Executive advised that several comments had been made relating to the suitability of the site and these would be reported to the Board. District Councillor Mrs. Wheeler referred to the 60 quality jobs which would be relocated from the Repton site and requested consideration to be given to a site in Willington rather than in Hilton. The Chief Executive advised that some posts may be moved to the Swadlincote site but expressed a wish that people should be based locally. District Councillor Ford considered that the Castleway site would not be suitable for everyone but felt that wherever the facility was sited, dental provision was paramount. Further factors expressed by residents in any final decision related to the availability of transport and adequate car parking provision. The Chief Executive confirmed that these matters would be covered in any planning application submitted.

It was reported that at a meeting of Willington Parish Council on 8th November 2005, the need to consider other sites was raised and it was felt that a more central facility would be welcomed. In response to a query relating to other sites, the Chief Executive advised that other sites had been considered and economic factors had been taken into account. A resident referred to transport matters and a report from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on sustainable communities. He considered that with the current proposals, there would be problems relating to jobs, schools and health. In addition, a bus facility needed to be available.

The representative of Repton Parish Council expressed concern at the continued erosion of facilities in the village and the Chief Executive reiterated that a substantial amount of time had been devoted to consideration of alternative sites for clinical services. There was a clinical risk in the local environment and the current site was of insufficient size. District Councillor Ford felt that transportation links were vital and the facility needed to be appropriate for the majority of people in the area. The Chief Executive agreed with this view and expressed a wish for joined-up working with other agencies.

RA/12. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

With regard to wheeled bins being left on the pavement between collections, the Director of Community Services advised that if any refuse bins left on the street were causing an issue regarding an obstruction of the highway, the Council would approach the householder or pass the information on to the Highways Department of the County Council. The Council had no byelaws and was unaware of authorities in the surrounding area that had implemented these. Refuse operatives were instructed to return the bins from where they were presented for collection. Any residents who experienced problems with this matter were encouraged to report their concerns directly to Paul Evans, the Council's Direct Services Manager.

With regard to the removal of the post box from a wall at Butt Farm, Woodville, the Chair read the contents of a letter from the Royal Mail to residents. It was noted that the post box had been donated to the Sharpe's Pottery and Visitor Centre at Swadlincote.

It was noted that the travellers at Meadow Lane, Willington had now vacated the site. With regard to the differing number plates on traffic travelling from Toyota to NYK Associates, a resident advised that he had only witnessed one similar instance since the last meeting. In respect of the issue relating to parked cars on Station Road, Woodville, Inspector Fairbrother advised that this matter was under consideration together with HGV vehicles. Arising from this matter, District Councillor Mrs. Wheeler referred to the legality of foreign vehicles parking in lay-bys. Inspector Fairbrother advised that similar issues had been raised in respect of vehicles parking at the Mickleover Court Hotel and in other areas and this was currently under investigation.

Arising from the matter relating to traffic travelling from Toyota, a resident referred to the possibility of the provision of traffic lights at peak times on the A50/A38 Toyota island. In this regard, it was understood that a recent study had been undertaken and this would be investigated accordingly.

Details of issues raised at the last meeting pursued by the County Council were also circulated to residents. With regard to the construction of a route from Ashby Road to Moira Road and its continuation into Swadlincote, the Chair requested that this should be referred back to the County Council for further consideration as the responsible Highways Authority.

With regard to the 20mph safety zone outside Woodville Infants and Junior School, it was reported that a puffin crossing and adequately highlighted school signs had already been provided. The County Highways Authority felt that a school safety zone with 20mph signs were unlikely to prove viable due to congested and slow speeds in any event. The Chair considered that this was partly true but expressed significant concern at the nearby development in progress. This would remove the existing parking provision with the resultant effect likely to promote free flowing traffic. In the circumstances, he felt it was essential that parking conditions were reviewed in the area in the interests of the safety of school children.

RA/13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

A resident referred to recent media reports on speed cameras and enquired whether the sites within the district would now be reviewed. Inspector Fairbrother advised that locations for mobile cameras were chosen mainly on the basis of complaints regarding speeding supported by the relevant injury accident statistics. Queries had been raised relating to several locations and questions could be logged through the website www.slowitdown.com. Inspector Fairbrother reiterated that he still wished to pursue a community speedwatch scheme involving members of the public. Councillor Ford advised residents that the location of forthcoming mobile speed cameras were also printed in the local press.

The representative of Repton Parish Council expressed concern at vehicles parking outside the post office in Repton, causing a major obstruction on this narrow section of the highway. Inspector Fairbrother confirmed that he would issue an instruction to enforce any illegal parking in this vicinity. However, he advised residents that blue badge holders were entitled to park on yellow lines.

The representative of Newton Solney Parish Council enquired whether speed monitoring was possible in the vicinity of Newton Solney. Inspector Fairbrother understood that surveys had recently been undertaken in this location and he would ascertain details of any survey and results. He reported that certain requirements were necessary for speed survey locations.

The representative of Woodville Parish Council expressed concern at the lack of presence of a Beat Officer which he had raised on previous occasions. In particular, he advised of problems on the recreation ground which required attention. The Chair expressed his support of the work and achievements of the Beat Officer in Woodville during the previous 12 months. There were difficulties with a perceived lack of presence and visibility and the Chair acknowledged the many pressures on his time. Inspector Fairbrother also considered the particular Beat Officer to be a success and emphasised that more Police Community Safety Officers would be in evidence shortly, with appropriate powers. These would be organised into neighbourhood teams and hopefully, there would be direct liaison between Parish Councillors and Beat Officers. Inspector Fairbrother reported that South Derbyshire had been classed as the second safest area in the county.

A resident referred to access for the disabled at Willington Station and advised that funding of £370 million was available on a nationwide basis from Central Government towards disabled access provision. It was agreed to pursue the possible availability of funding with the relevant operator.

A resident referred to the efforts of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to acquire the gravel pits at Willington and convert them into a nature reserve. The Chair advised that he would be attending a meeting with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in the future and would report further at a future meeting.

It was reported that at the next Area Meeting, a presentation would be made on the Council's budget proposals.

RA/14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the next Area Meeting would be held during January/February 2006 and residents would be advised of the date in due course.

RA/15. **CORPORATE PLAN**

The Director of Community Services introduced this item and explained the importance of the Corporate Plan and the consultation exercise being undertaken. This was residents' opportunity to shape where District Council funds were spent. He explained that the District Council's Members and Officers had devised six themes, each with two priorities. Residents' feedback was sought to shape these priorities and hopefully to condense them into three or four key priorities. Council spending in some areas might be reduced or even withdrawn, whilst for other areas, levels of resources would be increased. A questionnaire had been circulated and the Council sought a thoughtful response from residents to ascertain priorities. Following the consultation, a further report would be provided to the next round of Area Meetings.

The Director of Community Services confirmed the importance of the Corporate Plan, which set out the ambitions for South Derbyshire, the plans and priorities for delivering improved services and a framework for partnership working. The new style document had better links with the Community Strategy, a new Vision for South Derbyshire, with six cross cutting themes and a clear indication of the challenges to be faced, priorities and action areas.

The presentation then looked at the detail of each of the six themes. They comprised You at the Centre, Safe and Strong Communities, Prosperity for All, High Quality Services, Rural South Derbyshire and Strong in the Region. The presentation concluded by looking at the next steps, following the community consultation. The Council would develop detailed proposals, consult, short list and then agree the final Plan, linked to the budget. The Director of Community Services added that this new Corporate Plan was different to its predecessors and was the most inclusive that the Council had produced. The consultation being undertaken was real and the document would provide the way forward in delivering Council services over the next three years.

The Chair encouraged residents to complete the questionnaire and thus have an input into the future priorities of the Council.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8.45 p.m.