

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Tuesday 30 June 2015
at Woodville Methodist Church

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor G Rhind (Chairman); Councillors N Atkin; R Coe; Mrs Coe; P Dunn; Mrs Farrington; M Mulgrew; T Southerd; S Swann; S Taylor; N Tilley; and Mrs Wyatt.

F McArdle (Chief Executive); M McKeon (Services Assistant)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Chilton; P Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer)

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

M Gee (Woodville Parish Council); A Jones (Hartshorne Parish Council)

Members of the Public

H Bancroft; J Barnett; M Blockley; S Blockley; R Causer; Z Elliott; P Goldby; S Hyde; J Mackrill; J Moore; A Musgrove (Burton Mail); D Redfern; A Robey; J Robey; J Seaton; D Sharpe; D Smith; B Stuart; P Yates;

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by the panel.

SA/01 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

SA/02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

SA/03 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair had no announcements to make.

SA/04 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 27 January 2015 were noted.

SA/05 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Derbyshire County Council Issues:

Forum Liaison Officer reported back on issues raised at the last meeting:

Moira Road, Woodville – potholes – The kerb at the church entrance has been lowered so is now flush with the plateau which should resolve the access issue.

There has been a site meeting regarding the gradient on traffic calming plateaus. The lab have carried out tests and a report has gone to team to establish whether it needs re-profiling – awaiting to hear back further.

Belmont Street, Swadlincote – lamp post cited in footpath adjacent to Belmont Street Club – Has been reported to Street Lighting Team – feedback is awaited.

Hearthcote Road, Swadlincote – surface water flooding near Chiltern Road - The highway gully and chamber at this location has been cleaned and jetted by the maintenance team and tarmac from recent resurfacing works was removed from the gully. Enquiries with the local Highways Inspector have established that they are not aware of any flooding problems since.

Springfield Road Island – loose brickwork – The Highways Inspector for the area reported that the traffic island had been struck by a vehicle previously. Repairs have been carried out to secure the loose brickwork.

Roundabout at Midway fishponds – post holes – there are funds available and work is programmed for late August.

Councillor Trevor Southerd, Derbyshire County Councillor reported back on an issue raised at the last meeting:

Flooding issues at Woodville to be raised at County Council – from a recent meeting it was confirmed that the area is liable for flooding. Since it is on the border with Derbyshire and Leicestershire, there is an agreement that both counties will work together to alleviate the problem.

Councillor P Dunn read an email he had received that morning in respect of this issue saying that “investigations show that the existing drain that should take the water away runs under a nearby industrial unit but is damaged under the

building. Discussions with a nearby landowner are on-going about the possibility of abandoning the damaged drain and installing a new one across his land. It sounds like this may be possible but we need to weigh it up against the feasibility in repairing the existing one.”

South Derbyshire District Council Issues:

Chief Executive reported back on issues raised at the last meeting:

John Street, Swadlincote – assess grassed area and possibility of fencing off – we are currently looking at the whole site around the area as a possible improvement area.

Ward’s Recycling, Woodville – noise monitoring – being monitored and we will report back.

Roundabout at Morrisons – source sponsor – we are in discussions with a local company and are hopefully about two weeks away from reporting on some good news.

East End car park – traffic wardens to monitor car park – SDDC staff have been to the location and meeting with regular users of the car park i.e. the private hire firm who have been very busy at the moment which has caused problems with the public and car parking spaces. Will be calling a meeting with local businesses and the private hire firm to try and resolve issues.

South Street fencing – fence position to be adjusted – work has now been carried out on this issue.

Swadlincote and Newhall Area Forum boundaries – provide a detailed plan – we have commissioned plans on a large/small scale.

SA/06 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Resident raised an issue with St George’s School whose child attends a “wake up/shake up” at 8.40am at the school. The children cannot enter the school until the gates open at 8.40am so there is a long queue of children, on a narrow footpath, outside the school waiting to go in.

Cllr Coe, a school governor from St George’s School said he would be happy to take the issue to the Head Teacher and the other School Governors to see if anything can be done by opening the gates earlier so the school children can wait inside the playground.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR R COE TO DISCUSS WITH THE SCHOOL AND REPORT BACK

Resident complained that Arriva have cut bus services locally due to lack of passenger number and Church Gresley have lost the No 8 bus route through its

area; the National Forest Hopper Route from the top of Swadlincote to Moira has been cut; and also Midland Classic have diverted one of their routes away from Church Gresley. The issue is that this week is “Catch a Bus Week” and there seems to be nobody promoting users to get on public transport. Resident asked if we can look at this at next year’s event to promote the use of public transport.

Resident from South Street, Woodville had a number of concerns:

1. He is in discussions with the Planning department at SDDC over a walk way between South Street and the development at Dovedale Park to try and move the access to where it was originally planned due to fear of danger to pedestrians, cyclists;
2. Young children from Dovedale Park are using the unsurfaced area outside his property as an area to skid with their bikes and the walk way to access the new development. Their actions are breaking up the structure of the stone surface, causing stones to be scattered. Together with speeding vehicles there seems to be large amounts of dust in South Street, and he say, as a resident he is obliged to maintain this surface.
3. A fence has been put in but stops at the walkway and he believes the fence should have continued past the walk way to prevent it being used as a shortcut for deliveries.
4. Plants have been pulled up from border area by local children. Having been in contact with Chris Smith.

ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO DISCUSS AND OBTAIN AN UPDATE ON PLANNING ISSUES WITH THE PLANNING TEAM AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES WITH SAFER SOUTH DERBYSHIRE OFFICER AND REPORT BACK

A resident asked whether a meeting could be arranged between residents and the managers at Oaklands Village to discuss a large number of issues the residents are having surrounding the building with parking, anti-social behaviour, late night noise etc.

ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO DISCUSS WITH DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND REQUEST A MEETING BE CALLED

Councillor Taylor reported on issues surrounding Sky contractors and their recent activities when putting in telegraph poles in the area. Councillor Taylor’s concern was the way in which the workers were leaving gaps in trenches of between 3-4 inches deep causing a danger to the public. He has reported this to Derbyshire County Council and forwarded photographs and believes it has been passed on.

Cllr Dunn circulated a 2 page document in relation to SKY Broadband – Swadlincote Area detailing the background of installing a faster broadband; proposals in the area, compliance and current issues. Cllr Dunn said Sky Broadband presented to Derbyshire County Council an outline of their proposals and when they were asked if they were going to inform residents they said they did not have to but would notify people but residents do not recall being notified. Cllr Dunn said there are a couple of complaints DCC are looking into but there's very little generally they can do about this matter. Issues need to be raised directly with SKY or Hollybox.

Councillor Mrs L Chilton said there are lots of issues surrounding this and SKY have a statutory undertaking under government contract to undertake works within the area. She has a number of constituents who have encountered problems on various issues. There really isn't a lot we can do but people are working on this issue.

A resident said the big issue they have is the way SKY are delivering these works and under the Code of Practice it clearly states that they should use shared existing infrastructure when it is available and appropriate rather than putting up new poles adjacent to existing poles. SKY has a legal right to consult with local residents and adopt their views. There have been no communications with residents. The matter is being taken up with Heather Wheeler who is in discussions with SKY and the residents have submitted a petition to the County Council. The resident asked for support from the County Council to do all it can.

The general consensus from residents is that they are not happy with the lack of communication from SKY regarding works in their area and also the work and the way it is undertaken by the contractors. Heather Wheeler, MP for South Derbyshire has taken up the issue along with the County Council.

Councillor Mrs K Coe reported that she and Councillor Mrs Farrington have been trying to set up a public meeting with a representative from SKY to come along and talk about issues. After ignored correspondence Cllr Mrs K Coe received an email from the Programme Director to say there was no way that anyone from SKY would come out and talk at a public meeting and they will deal with every case as an individual case. The email was fairly lengthy and invited anyone to view it to see her after the meeting.

The Area Forum Liaison Officer said the only powers to intervene with these works by SKY is when there is a road safety element so very limited on what can be done. Several issues have been taken up with SKY within the area. Highways Inspector can monitor what is happening.

A resident discussed a recycling plant in Woodville with their long operating hours, seven days a week and the dust that is produced by the plant in the heart of a residential area. Can we bring them to task? The Chief Executive said we have the ability to take action where an offence has been committed.

Councillor Tilley asked whether the Chief Executive could look into sports facilities across the district. He said some of them are tired and in poor condition and now Green Bank Leisure Centre have lost the squash courts facilities. He said he feels, as a district, we are lagging behind others in terms of sporting facilities.

The Chief Executive replied to say he was just coming to that with his announcements and that the South Derbyshire's Sport, Recreation, Community facility strategy is a strategy for the future provision of built community facilities, including formal open space and play is being developed. The Strategy will aim to provide a plan for the provision of community infrastructure for the growing population, building on the significant progress made in recent years. Parish Councils and Community groups will be consulted and a workshop will be held in September to allow more in depth discussion with stakeholders. The Chief Executive said he will be meeting with his members in September and will be discussing this in further detail.

The Chief Executive was asked about the Swadlincote Regeneration Route and what the status of the Route is within the area. His reply was that the Council is bidding for money from growth funds in Europe and is very close to achieving an outcome. Residents have been consulted and a planning application will come forward this summer from the County Council. There will be a considerable amount of money put into facilitating the project and hopefully, by the end of the Summer, it could become a reality.

SA/07 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None.

SA/08 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chief Executive reported on:

Derbyshire Cycle Plan - The County, City, Districts and a number of other bodies are producing a Plan for Cycling which aims to raise the participation of cycling in the County significantly over the next decade. The consultation process will be promoted from next week via the Derbyshire Sport website and the District Council will host a briefing session for interested parties. A South Derbyshire Action Plan will be developed from that briefing session and will feed into infrastructure development and cycle participation and events.

Grove Climbing Centre - A £1million development of a Climbing Centre in Swadlincote at the Green Bank Leisure Centre is progressing with a completion date in October. A further stage of the project includes the provision of a Skate park in Newhall Park and an Outdoor Gym in Eureka Park.

Members and Parish Council Briefings – Following on from the sessions that were delivered in previous years, a new series of briefing sessions are planned

for the coming year starting with Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy and Development on 16 September. The full programme of dates will be sent out to parish councils in July.

Councillor Neil Atkin, Chairman for South Derbyshire District Council, gave an introduction to the Chairman's office and ways he can help within the district. The Chairman's theme for the civic year is called "Unsung Heroes in the Community".

SA/09 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance – a date will be confirmed in due course for the next meeting.

G RHIND

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30pm