

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

1st November 2005

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Richards (Chair), and Councillors Bambrick, Mulgrew and Wilkins.

I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillors Bambrick and Jones.

D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and D. Molyneux (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Inspector S. Fairbrother.

Members of the Public

I. Fern, E.A. Foy, R. House, R. Hughes, C. Maddock, G. Myatt, B. Parker, M. Perry, M. Rose, C. White and B. Woods.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Dunn and Mrs. Mead, P. Foy, E. Tagg, D. Mansfield and M. Richards.

NA/11. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 17th August 2005 were noted.

The Deputy Chief Executive referred to a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Hansford received on 1st November 2005. In response to item (1) of the letter, Inspector Fairbrother confirmed that the current Beat Officer for the area was moving on and a new Beat Officer, Richard Proudler, would be taking on this role. In response to item (2), it was considered that the final paragraph of Minute No NA/7 was clear and accurate. With regard to the ongoing condition of the land, an Officer of the Council had reviewed the matter recently and steps were now in place to ameliorate the position. Item (3) related to a request to provide steel litter bins in Alma Road/Ashleigh Avenue and this would be referred to the appropriate Department of the District Council for consideration. It was considered inappropriate to respond at an Area Meeting to item (4) regarding expenditure on CCTV surveillance and it was suggested that the residents should pursue this information by a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

NA/12. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair passed on his thanks to PC Michelle Fearn for all her work as the Beat Officer in Newhall, and welcomed the new Beat Officer, Richard Proudler.

The Chair confirmed that Councillor Mrs. Mead had recently undergone surgery and expressed his best wishes to her for a speedy recovery.

NA/13. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES PROGRESSED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Meeting reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made in each case.

With regard to illegal parking in the vicinity of Orchard Street/High Street, Newhall, Inspector Fairbrother stated that the police had paid visits to this area. He confirmed that the problems seemed to be caused by car users visiting the nearby doctors surgery and chemist. Inspector Fairbrother confirmed that the police would continue to monitor this situation.

With regard to the alignments on the highway at A444/Park Road, Stanton, Councillor Bambrick advised that he had been in consultation with the County Council's Highways Department and it was agreed that extending the line on the junction could confuse road users. However, it was accepted that this item needed further consideration and Councillor Bambrick would continue to pursue the situation.

NA/14. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident expressed concern at the difficulties experienced by pedestrians, wheelchair and pushchair users in accessing the Roland Memorial Methodist Church Community Hall on James Street, Midway due to cars parked on the pavement. Inspector Fairbrother confirmed that cars parked on the pavement was a difficult issue as it could be deemed an obstruction. He advised residents to report this problem to the police who would then pursue the matter.

It was reported that due to the Sunday Market which was now taking place in Swadlincote, together with increased car parking, it was becoming very difficult to gain access onto Civic Way/Midland Road. Inspector Fairbrother agreed to monitor this situation, particularly with regard to the Remembrance Day Parade which was due to take place shortly.

A resident referred to the junction at the Lamb Inn, Newhall. He considered that this was dangerous and asked if yellow parking restriction lines could be imposed opposite this junction. Councillor Bambrick advised that there was currently no off-street parking provision for residents in this area, which was causing a problem. However, he agreed to pursue this issue.

A resident queried the proposed residential development on Oversetts Road, Newhall. Councillor Bambrick confirmed that a planning application had recently been refused on highway grounds. The Council's Enforcement Officer had held a meeting with the owner and action would be taken if the site was not tidied.

In response to a query, the Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the revised Local Plan had been withdrawn due to a legal challenge. The previous Local Plan was still in place and a new Local Development Framework was now under consideration subject to consultation. Although the revised Plan had attracted abortive costs, much of the work was being used in the new Local Development Framework. Councillor Wilkins suggested that a presentation be given at a future Area Meeting on the Local Development Framework.

Concern was expressed at low frequency noise problems that were being experienced in the area. It was suggested that the Environmental Health Department may wish to pursue this with DEFRA and County Councillor Jones added that DEFRA had provided new guidance over the summer, which may be helpful.

A resident requested confirmation of the emergency services number, as 112 had recently been advertised on the news. It was explained that 112 was a standard emergency number accessed across Europe and provided the same access into emergency services as 999.

A resident requested that security measures should be considered on Newhall Playing Field at the top of Oversetts Road, as it was felt that vandalism was becoming a problem. The Chair advised that unfortunately it was impossible to cover all 'green spaces'. Inspector Fairbrother added that he would investigate the extent of the problem, but was not aware of any issues being reported.

A resident expressed concern at the noise emitted from the Bison Concrete factory at Swadlincote. He claimed that this was causing problems on every day, including weekends from 7.00 a.m. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the concern should be reported to the Environmental Health Department at the District Council.

A resident queried contact details for any problems relating to fireworks. Inspector Fairbrother confirmed that entertainment fireworks were allowed until midnight and added that when problems were encountered, fixed penalty notices and an £80 fine could be imposed.

Concern was expressed at the amount of litter which was left outside local shops and the possibility of shop owners becoming accountable was raised. As the Waste Development Team would be providing a presentation at the next Area Meeting, it was suggested that this may be covered at that time.

The current position with regard to Newhall Civic Amenity Site was queried. A resident stated that when the new company assumed control, vans were not allowed on the site. The Chair confirmed that there should be no trade waste at this site and although this was initially enforced strictly, there now appeared to be some relaxation.

Concern was expressed over the number of cyclists riding on the pavements and Inspector Fairbrother confirmed that the new Beat Officer would monitor this situation.

NA/15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

NA/16. **CORPORATE PLAN**

The Deputy Chief Executive 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 Deputy Chief Executive 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 Deputy Chief Executive 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.

K. J. RICHARDS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.