

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON – AREA 2

Thursday 20th June 2019 at Stenson Fields School

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Martyn Ford (Chair), Councillor Kerry Haines, Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Lakhvinder Singh

Kevin Stackhouse – Strategic Director of Corporate Resources

Claire Rawlins – Anti-Social Behaviour Officer

Debbie Ward – Service Assistant

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Linda Chilton

Derbyshire Police representatives

PCSO Harriet Dunn, PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite

DPCC Kevin Gillott – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Paul Collishaw (Ticknall Parish Council), David Dickson (Repton Parish Council), Mary Goodall (Findern Parish Council), Steve Toone (Bretby Parish Council)

Members of the public

Tony Bates, Mick Betts, Eddie Bisknell, Bikram Chayra, Harjinder Chayra, Kevin Cook, Lesley Cook, Elle Dudden, Rob Elsey, Steve Gibson, Jane Hadfield, Heather Hall, Lisa Ison, David Morris, John Orme, Steve Orme, Roger Paulson, Susan Phillips, Michael Richardson, Roger Westerman

RA/1 **Open meeting**

- **Introductions and apologies**

Councillor Andrew Churchill, Mrs. J.E. Griffiths, Councillor Andrew MacPherson

- **Declarations of interest**

None.

- **Chair's announcements**

Councillor Martyn Ford was elected Chair of the meeting and was also proposed as Vice Chair for future meetings, all were in favour.

Festival of Leisure 2019 takes place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June at Maurice Lea Park.

The new Summer Activities leaflet has been launched to promote Active South Derbyshire's summer holiday programme.

The Council has just submitted its Local Green Spaces Plan for examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Local Green Spaces are areas of land that are of value to the local community; they can be located in rural or built up areas. Once allocated, a local green space would have a policy designation similar to that of green belt, and therefore would restrict future development. The examination is expected to take place in the late summer or autumn.

- **To receive the minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

- **Matters arising from last minutes**

Councillor Martyn Ford advised that in response to issues previously raised in regard to car parking at Foremark Reservoir, Derbyshire County Council (DCC) have now double white lined the road as you go through Milton towards Ticknall.

RA/2 **Police Safer Neighbourhood report**

PCSO Harriet Dunn provided the following report: -

- PCSO Claire Robbins will now be covering Area 2 (Repton/ Mercia) and PCSO Harriet Dunn will be moving to Area 4 (Swadlincote).
- There will be a new Police Constable starting on Monday 24th June 2019. PC Pilgrim has now moved to the Rural Crime Team. Councillor Martyn

Ford extended thanks to both PCSO Harriet Dunn and PC Joe Pilgrim for their hard work in the area.

- There was a theft from Mercia Marina where the offender handed herself in.
- Speed checks were conducted in Ticknall by traffic and 18 vehicles were caught speeding on the 21st March 2019.
- A Speedwatch group volunteer in Milton caught approximately 51 vehicles which has shed a light on speeding in the area.
- There was a Van & Bike Marking event held in Willington on 13th April 2019.
- A visit was made to the Hidden Disabilities Awareness Group in Willington.
- Cuppa with a Coppa and Afternoon Tea events have been held at Findern Methodist Church.
- Visits have been made to Repton Beavers.
- A cannabis warning was issued along Wragley Way, Stenson.
- Speed checks were conducted by the Police at Wragley Way, Stenson. There weren't many caught.
- There was a Van & Bike Marking event held at Stenson
- Crime prevention patrols took place on the 16th June 2019
- There have been six Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents reported from March 2019 to now – all of which were neighbour disputes. There have been no reported issues in regard to nuisance youths during this period.
- Burglaries – statistic wise from May 2018 – April 2019 there have been eleven dwelling burglaries recorded in Stenson (plus one in May 2019). In response to the reported burglaries people have been referred to Safer Homes in order to get a free home safety check, a leaflet drop has taken place on Harebell Lane on the 6th June 2019 and an event was held at Stenson Primary School to raise awareness.
- One offender has been caught so far in connection to one of the reported burglaries.

A resident of Berwick Drive, Stenson raised their concerns that the attempted/ actual burglaries are not making it into the crime figures.

PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite explained that only reported dwelling burglaries are reflected in the figures previously mentioned.

Another resident raised that in the last two years there have been three burglaries out of eleven dwellings. Concerns were raised in regard to the access to the back of the properties where there is a walkway that goes down by Stenson Road. A Police presence in and around the area would be welcomed.

Kevin Gillott (The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire) provided the following update: -

- Reporting crime - if you are a victim of crime or have any information that could be relevant to a crime that has been committed please ensure that it is reported at the earliest opportunity so that it can be logged and investigated as appropriate.
- There are now around 450 fewer police officers and 300 fewer civilian support staff across the whole of Derbyshire which equates to a loss of approximately 20% of the workforce.
- Up to 50% of crimes are now committed online.
- Council Tax Increase - DPCC Kevin Gillott explained that Policing in Derbyshire is funded by two sources. One source is from the Government in the form of a grant and the other is from Council Tax. In 2010 £169 million was spent on Policing in Derbyshire yet in 2018 the exact same amount was spent. The decision was therefore taken to increase Council Tax in order to fund a further 120 members of staff which will equate to 58 new police officers and 62 civilian staff including PCSO's.

Councillor David Shepard asked whether the eleven burglaries previously mentioned were specifically in Stenson or Mercia.

PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite confirmed that the eleven burglaries mentioned were specifically in Stenson and reiterated that the figures will only represent burglaries that have been reported and where crime/ incident numbers have been raised.

Concerns were also raised by Councillor David Shepard on behalf of local residents in regard to car crime, particularly during the hours of darkness and asked what procedures are in place for the Police to request part-time night lighting be reinstated as full-time lighting.

Councillor Martyn Ford advised that it would not be a Police matter and that a request should be put in writing to DCC.

Another local resident raised that there have been significant thefts from vans and vehicles in Hall Lane, Findern.

Councillor Linda Chilton advised that every lamp has a number on it which can be reported to DCC as do the lights which are on part-time night lighting.

A resident raised an issue in regard to a resident in Findern that has been driving up the pavements.

PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite advised that this is an ongoing issue which is being dealt with by the Council and cannot be further discussed during this meeting.

A resident asked when it will be free to call 101. DPCC Kevin Gillott advised that it is a charge imposed by the Government and that calls are charged at 15p no matter which force you call or however long the call duration is. However, there are plans to abolish the charge from April 2020.

A resident queried why security cameras are not admissible as evidence. PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite advised that as she doesn't know the specifics around what the resident was told that it would be advisable for him to query this with the person that told him it couldn't be used.

RA/3 **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership update and Safer Neighbourhood grants**

Claire Rawlins provided the following update: -

- 'Your Choice' events have been taking place in secondary schools across the district, coordinated by Derbyshire Police. Talks around gangs and knife crime are given by Jason Farmer who was on the verge of getting into gang related trouble as a youngster in Liverpool and has since joined the Police and Dr Manny Barot who is a hate crime expert and has previously worked with right-wing extremists. These events have gone down extremely well with the schools involved and pupils have been completely engrossed.
- Safer & Stronger Funding Stream – there is currently £4000 available for the community to spend on projects which look to address crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area. Newton Solney Parish have submitted an application for a barrier to protect Common land from unwanted visitors. The total amount requested is £1500 towards a total cost of £2773.96. No objections were made but Councillor Martyn Ford suggested that more investigation is needed to ensure that the barrier does not restrict a Public right of way.

Councillor Martyn Ford brought to people's attention that DCC also have a Community Action Grant fund available for community organisations such as sports clubs and youth groups that arrange activities and events for local people that help to promote community activity, safety, physical activity and sport. Further details can be found on the DCC website (www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/lottery-funding/action-grants/action-grants.aspx).

RA/4 **Local authority issues**

Kevin Stackhouse updated: -

SDDC have appointed a new Community Safety Enforcement Officer (CSEO) with specific responsibilities and duties for Swadlincote Town Centre and the surrounding area, making a four strong team. This will allow the other three wardens to focus on issues reported across the rest of the District.

Tony Bates, parishioner at Willington asked how the Council determines where the CSEO's are to be sent and how matters should be reported so that they are included and not lost.

Claire Rawlins explained how the CSEO's have a remit around ASB and that every Tuesday there is a police tasking meeting where they look at all the crime and ASB figures for the week and allocate resource accordingly. Contact details for reporting issues to the Community Safety Enforcement Team can be found on the contacts page at the back of the Agenda Pack.

A resident asked whether there has been any progress with the street lamps at the bottom of Bladon House. Councillor Linda Chilton advised that she still has the file but is waiting for the petition to be submitted to her before raising the matter with DCC.

A resident raised an issue in regard to motorbikes or quad bikes that can be heard revving in the distance from beyond the canal towards Findern School during the early hours of the morning (between 2:30-4:30am) and queried how she should go about reporting it.

It was suggested that the resident should report the issue via 101 and keep a record of dates and times when the disturbance is happening.

Claire Rawlins added that nuisance motorbikes have been an issue throughout the district and that Operation BRENCO has now been set up in order to try and tackle the problem. Members of the Public are encouraged to get in touch with Crime Stoppers and a £1000 reward is on offer for information which leads to a successful conviction. The campaign also invites motorists to upload dash-cam footage of nuisance motorbikes to the Derbyshire capture website (<https://snap.derbyshire.police.uk/>).

A walker asked whether something can be done about the overgrown hedgerow on Findern Lane, between the crossing and the well-established ribbon development of housing on Findern lane, adjacent to the canal side.

Pedestrians are having to walk on the highway in order to avoid nettles and brambles etc.

Councillor Martyn Ford advised that the footway was installed several years ago and that SDDC have cut it back in the past.

ACTION: Communities Team to look into who is responsible for the maintenance of the overgrown hedgerow on Findern Lane and arrange for it be cut back.

Councillor Mary Goodall of Findern Parish Council asked whether there is a formal process that needs to be gone through in order to plant wild flowers on the verge of Heath Lane in Findern.

ACTION: Councillor Martyn Ford to take back to DCC the request to plant wild flowers on the verge of Heath Lane and report back as a cultivation license may be required.

A member of the public raised that he is hard of hearing and suggested that SDDC is in breach of the Disability Act by holding the meeting under conditions whereby a hearing loop is not available.

Councillor Martyn Ford responded to say that the Council may have access to a portable hearing loop system which can be used for future meetings.

ACTION: Communities Team to look into obtaining a portable hearing loop for future meetings and report back.

A member of the public raised issues regarding Cadent in respect to the recent roadworks and the traffic congestion that ensued and asked whether DCC can get more involved in respect to future works.

Councillor Martyn Ford advised that he would raise the matter again with DCC and that members of the public can also visit roadworks.org to find out what is going to be happening and when.

ACTION: Councillor Martyn Ford to raise the issue of Cadent with DCC Highways in respect to any future works that are planned.

A member of the public raised an issue regarding the 40mph speed limit along Stenson Road by the new estate.

Concerns were also raised in respect to Goathland Road where people are parking on pavements dangerously. Pedestrians are having to walk on the road or peoples gardens in order to avoid parked cars.

Councillor David Shepard advised that a request has been made to DCC Highways so that when they are looking at future development that they also look at a school safety plan which takes into account safe pedestrian access to and from schools.

Councillor Martyn Ford also suggested that a School Safety Walk can be requested from DCC.

Councillor David Shepard went on to reiterate the need to reduce the speed limit along Stenson Road by the new estate and requested again that it be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

The issue regarding the overgrown pathway off Holderness Close which leads to the back entrance of the school was also raised. There are hanging trees, overgrown hedgerows and blackberry bushes that are restricting the path and require attention. There is also an issue with regard to flooding of the path during wet weather.

ACTION: Councillor Martyn Ford to report to DCC that the trees /hedges off Holderness Close are overgrown and require cutting back. The quality of the pavement to be raised as well, as when it rains the pavement becomes water logged.

ACTION: Councillor Martyn Ford to raise Stenson Road with DCC Highways in terms of looking into whether the speed limit can be reduced from 40mph to 30mph and report back.

Councillor Neil Atkin advised that he has already raised the issue with DCC Highways in relation to concerns over parking near The Bubble Inn, Stenson and the feedback received from DCC is that they conducted a site visit and felt there was no appropriate action to be taken at this time.

The same issue has also been raised with PCSO Harriet Dunn who conducted a site visit and put warning tickets on every vehicle that had parked on the pavement. Councillor Neil Atkin assured that the matter is still being worked on and will also be raised with the owner of The Bubble Inn.

ACTION: Councillor Martyn Ford to invite DCC Highways to the next meeting.

RA/5 **Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update**

There were no community/ voluntary sector updates provided.

RA/6 **Summary of any agreed priorities/ actions**

- Communities Team to write a letter of thanks to PC Joe Pilgrim for his service in the Repton area.
- Communities Team to look into overgrown hedgerow on Findern Lane and arrange for it to be cut back.
- Councillor Martyn Ford to take back to DCC the request to plant wild flowers on the verge of Heath Lane and report back.
- Communities Team to look into obtaining a portable hearing loop for future meetings and report back.
- Councillor Martyn Ford to raise the issue of Cadent with DCC Highways in respect to any future works that are planned.
- www.roadworks.org to be added to the contact sheet for inclusion in future Agenda Packs.
- Councillor Martyn Ford to report to DCC that the trees/ hedges off Holderness Close are overgrown and require cutting back. The quality of the pavement to be raised as well, as when it rains the pavement becomes water logged.
- Councillor Martyn Ford to raise Stenson Road with DCC Highways in terms of looking into whether the speed limit can be reduced from 40mph to 30mph and report back.
- Councillor Martyn Ford to invite DCC Highways to attend the next meeting.

RA/7 **Close and date of next meeting**

Thursday 7th November 2019.

Councillor Martyn Ford
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7:54pm