

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

29th July 2009

PRESENT:

Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Brown (also Egginton Parish Council representative), Mrs. Gillespie (also Woodville Parish Council representative), Harrison, Lemmon, Mrs. Mead, Murray (also Hartshorne Parish Council representative), Shepherd (also Ticknall Parish Council representative), Taylor (also Woodville Parish Council representative) and Watson (also Ingleby Parish Meeting representative).

Officers

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), A. McCaskie (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), S. Batchelor (Head of Leisure and Community Development), Martin Guest (Corporate Policy and Communications Manager) and P. White (Democratic Services).

Parish Council Representatives

C. Blackmore (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Camwell and J. Storer (Burnaston Parish Council), K. Fairbrother and S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), K. Bradford (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), R. Smith (Dalbury Lees Parish Meeting), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), P. Woolrich (Egginton Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), D. Muller and I. Smith (Etwall Parish Council), S. Bell (Findern Parish Council), C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council), D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council), A. Wing (Netherseal Parish Council), D. Buchanan (Newton Solney Parish Council), J. White (Overseal Parish Council), J. Shortt (Repton Parish Council), C. Bunston (Repton and Ticknall Parish Councils), T. Cooper (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Crookes and K. Overton (Willington Parish Council).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Bladen and Timms, B. Bagnall, T. Beresford, R. Buxton, C. Knight, D. Martin, C. Pidcock, R. Statham and B. Wood (DALC).

PC/1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th April 2009 were received, subject to an addition to Minute No. PC/49 referring to the questioned relocation of the Footpaths Officer.

PC/2. **MATTERS ARISING**

A further update was requested with regard to the relocation of the Footpaths Officer. It was advised that the position would be held by the same Officer, although he would be based at Derbyshire County Council. Contact details would be available shortly on the District Council's website.

PC/3. **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

Stuart Batchelor, the District Council's Leisure Services Manager, made a presentation to the Meeting on this item. He spoke to a number of presentation slides, which explained the new structure of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the targets delivered relating to sustainable development and safer communities. Information was provided on the targets achieved relating to healthier communities and vibrant communities. Details were also given on the Children and Young Peoples' Trust, investment funding provided by partners to the LSP and the strategic work undertaken on both the Sustainable Community Strategy and Improvement Plan. A number of examples were given of the projects undertaken by the LSP and its various sub-groups.

A number of further points were raised on this issue, including running costs of the LSP, details concerning youth engagement and participation of young people in Partnership projects. Detailed responses were provided.

PC/4. **SAFER SOUTH DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Wheeler, presented this item as Chair of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership. She spoke to a series of presentation slides, initially explaining the purpose of the Partnership and giving details of its support staff. The four priorities and objectives of the Partnership were confirmed as tackling criminal damage and anti-social behaviour; violent crime; the public perception of crime and acquisitive crime. Progress against national and local targets was reported, together with achievements in terms of acquisitive crime, violent crime (including domestic abuse), anti-social behaviour and criminal damage and the fear of crime. Details were provided of the Safer Neighbourhoods' achievements, the resources provided by partners for the previous year and the future plans and partnership development.

Arising from this presentation, the subject of bogus callers was discussed in some detail. It was noted that this matter could be addressed further at the Safer Neighbourhood meetings.

PC/5. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Frank McArdle, Chief Executive to the District Council, made a presentation to the Meeting on this item. Reference was made to the effect of the economic downturn on the South Derbyshire and it was noted that the manufacturing and construction industries had been affected the most. However, the last recorded figures showed that the District had 1% below the national average and the second lowest unemployment level in the County.

Emphasis was made of the partnership working undertaken by the District Council. This included links with the voluntary service, funding to voluntary sector organisations, public investment, constant bidding to maintain economic growth and funding from the East Midlands Development Agency. Reference was also made to the promotion of tourism, an example of which was funding for the National Forest.

It was advised that District Council's website contained an article entitled 'Beat the Crunch', which provided a good practice guide for businesses, charities and individuals in dealing with the current economic downturn.

It was hoped to be able to provide a six-monthly update with regard to the economic situation.

The Chairman made reference to revised contract terms with local firms whereby invoices were paid with ten days, instead of the usual twenty-eight days. The possibility of widening this practice to include sub-contractors was being investigated.

Arising from the presentation, the possibility of acquiring premises for a bowling alley in Swadlincote was questioned. It was advised that investment was not currently available for a possible suitable unit. However, should inward investment be received, the District Council would be open to negotiation.

PC/6. **LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT UPDATE**

Martin Guest, Corporate Policy and Communications Manager to the District Council, gave a presentation on this item. He spoke to a series of presentation slides which outlined the background to the three-year Local Area Agreement (LAA), its annual review, the partner authorities and their responsibilities and the District Council's monitoring of the LAA.

A number of points were discussed including the relation to the County and District Council's targets with the LAA, particularly crime reduction targets and the potential for tourism within the District. Detailed responses were provided.

PC/7. **QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Concern was raised at the lack of Officer attendance from the County Council at the last Joint Highways Forum to enable questions on highways issues to be answered.

It was requested that a presentation on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes be provided at a future Meeting.

PC/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A provisional date for the next Joint Meeting had been arranged for Wednesday, 11th November 2009 at 6.30 p.m. This would be confirmed in due course.

MRS. H. K. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.