

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

24th January 2007

PRESENT:

Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council

Councillors Whyman, M.B.E. (Chair) and Carroll.

Officers

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), M. Alflat (Director of Community Services) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services).

Parish Council Representatives

W. Lythgoe and F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), M. Littlejohn and B. Cowley (Egginton Parish Council), P. Jesper (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), K. Fairbrother and S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), F. Crocker (Willington Parish Council), S. Ellis, D. Buchanan and J. Ransome (Newton Solney Parish Council), H. Wheeler (Bretby Parish Council), S. Bell (Findern Parish Council), G. Taylor and C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), B. Freeman, N. Hill and T. Statham (Melbourne Parish Council), A. Roberts, C. Thurman and R. Buxton (Hatton Parish Council), A. Plenderleith and L. Kolkman (Hilton Parish Council), N. Ireland and B. Paton (Etwall Parish Council).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), A. McCaskie (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), B. Wood (DALC), Smisby Parish Council, K. Bradford, M. Falder, S. Graham, C. Jerrard, I. Smith, J. Storer and W. Wadsworth

POLICING ISSUES

Councillor Whyman opened the Meeting by introducing Inspector Rick Cuttall and Sergeant Clough.

Inspector Cuttall advised the Meeting that he was currently considering a process of change in his new role. He added that he was totally committed to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, which were replacing the traditional Beat Offices. He believed that South Derbyshire was a very safe place to live, but anti-social behaviour and youth issues were currently causing many problems, particularly during evenings and weekends. Inspector Cuttall reported that he was re-organising his Officers, with the focus of allocating resources appropriately at the right time. There would be six teams within the District, with a minimum of one dedicated neighbourhood officer in each team, plus Police Community Support Officers dedicated to each team. In addition, they would continue to provide an emergency prioritised response. A Neighbourhood Task Force would be created which would not be assigned to any particular area. This would consist of three police officers with a proven history of effective and efficient policing, and it was hoped that this team would not work any specific shift rota, but as required. Where there was a problem, with the assistance of this Neighbourhood Task Force, the

police would be able to flood an area and deal with specific issues as they arose. He added that investigation and research into this possible change was still ongoing and further details would be released when known.

Inspector Cuttall then spoke of the need for both the police force and local communities to embrace the new Police Community Support Officers and confirmed that these P.C.S.O.'s would be working within communities and become a constant resource within an area.

Inspector Cuttall introduced Sergeant Clough, who was currently undertaking research and investigation into the possible changes. Sergeant Clough had worked in Swadlincote for the past two years and whilst reviewing the current Neighbourhood Teams, he believed more could be done with the resources available.

Councillor Whyman asked, if a resident experienced an incident, who should now be contacted. Inspector Cuttall advised that he would like each team in the future to have one phone number, regardless of who was on duty. He added that when the proposed structure was in place, leaflets would be distributed in each area with all contact details.

G. Taylor queried the hours P.C.S.O.'s were contracted to work. Inspector Cuttall responded that they were contracted to work between 8.00 a.m. and 12 midnight, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They were currently working on a shift rota of six days on four days off.

L. Kolkman asked if Richard Proudler was still working in the area. Inspector Cuttall responded that he had recently passed his qualification to become a Sergeant, and wanted to pursue his career. He was currently in a post of Acting Sergeant.

S. Jackson asked if a P.C.S.O. could be offered a comfort break. Inspector Cuttall replied that it was necessary for the P.C.S.O.'s to engage in partnership working with communities, and actively encouraged this.

C. Barker reported that Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council had a lack of confidence in the current policing arrangements and added that an increased police presence would improve the situation. Inspector Cuttall replied that P.C.S.O.'s would assist with this and when the new neighbourhood teams were developed, it was hoped that the partnership approach with communities would also assist in improving this perception.

PC/43. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th October 2006 were received.

PC/44. **MATTERS ARISING**

It was requested that with regard to Minute No. PC/38, the Parish Emergency Planning document should be circulated again. With regard to Minute No. PC/41, C. Barker reported that she was pleased with the response from South Derbyshire District Council on the Regional Spatial Strategy. Councillor Whyman advised the Meeting that with regard to Minute No. PC/39, an appeal had been upheld and permission granted.

PC/45. **CORPORATE PLAN**
“IDEAS INTO ACTION” UPDATE

Both the Chief Executive and the Chair thanked all those present for their engagement in the Corporate Plan and “Ideas into Action” process. The Chair thanked N. Ireland for being instrumental in starting this process, and added that it was vital that the District Council consulted with the local community and devolved decision-making. The District Council had listened and implemented many ideas. Other ideas, which were out of the control of the District Council, had been passed to relevant agencies and partners. N. Ireland added that he appreciated the efforts of the District Council in this regard.

B. Cowley asked a question relating to weeds.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services would investigate this and further details be taken following the Meeting.

The Chair advised the Meeting that Derbyshire County Council currently had a Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Scheme, from which funds could be claimed by parish councils.

It was agreed that a copy of this scheme would be distributed following the Meeting.

PC/46. **RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT REGIONAL PLAN**

The Chief Executive reported that a response to the draft East Midlands Regional Plan had now been completed by the District Council. He pointed out that the District Council was gravely concerned by the proposals in the draft plan and considered it to be over-prescriptive. He felt that the plan misunderstood the unique characteristics and needs of South Derbyshire, and that it did not take into account that the District was already delivering growth. In addition, there was great concern over the current transport network within the District. It was felt that this was a loss of opportunity for the Government to show that it had any confidence in a local council’s Local Development Framework. He added that Members had dedicated a substantial time commitment into completing this response.

Councillor Whyman felt that Members believed that the City of Derby should not have to grow in the way set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy. He added that it was recommended that 9,000 houses be built around the urban core of Swadlincote, which the road network could not support. In addition, 32% of the houses should be affordable, which did not take into account the huge demand in rural areas for affordable homes. Members were developing the Local Development Framework, which was the relevant document that should be under consideration relating to development appropriate for South Derbyshire.

N. Hill congratulated the District Council on the response to the Regional Spatial Strategy. The Chair added that this was a cross-party response and in addition, many others were being contacted to reiterate the views of South Derbyshire District Council.

PC/47. **REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT**

It was agreed that a briefing note be forwarded to all parish councils following this Meeting.

PC/48. **QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS**

S. Jackson reported that there were a number of cars for sale on the grass verges in Castle Gresley and asked how this could be prevented.

It was agreed that the Head of Planning Services be asked to respond to this issue.

N. Ireland asked if the District Council organised Health and Safety courses which the parishes could utilise.

The Head of Community Services responded that he would pursue this request and advise parishes as soon as possible.

B. WHYMAN, M.B.E.

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.05 p.m.