

ETWALL AREA MEETING

11th August 2004

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Whyman, M.B.E. (Chair) and Councillors Bale, Ford, Hood, Mrs. Hood, Lemmon and Mrs. Walton.

T. Neaves (Chief Finance Officer), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), S. Haslett (Community and Leisure Development) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs. M. Littlejohn and Mr. P. Leigh.

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Acting Inspector A. Wright and PC G. Cross.

**Nottingham East Midlands Airport**

J. Froggatt and J. Saville.

**Parish Council Representatives**

C. Foord (Burnaston Parish Council), Mrs. B. Cowley (Egginton Parish Council), B. Payton and N. Ireland (Etwall Parish Council), L. Nash and S. Dunncliffe (Findern Parish Council), C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council) and C. Buckston (Sutton-on-the-Hill Parish Meeting).

**Members of the Public**

L. Archer, M. Basworth, R. Basworth, P. Black, B. Chell, M. Cramp, A. Crossley, M. Dowie, S. Frazer, C. Gerrard, S. Goacher-Langden, S. Greasley, G. Green, M. Henderson, D. Hill, R. Hill, S. Jolly, N. Lee, R. Matthews, B. McGibbon, J. Parkinson, B. Penlington, R. Rowland, T. Rodgers, V. Rodgers, B. Smedley, G. Wale, L. William, R. William.

EA/1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was noted that Councillor Whyman M.B.E. had been appointed Chair of the Etwall Area Meeting at the Annual Council Meeting.

EA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor G. Martin, County Councillor B. Lucas, R. Buxton (Hatton Parish Council), G. Banton (Hilton Parish Council), S. Avery, J. Dove, H. Hague, A. Mitchell and I. Smith.

EA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was agreed that Councillor M. Bale be appointed Vice-Chair of the Etwall Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

**EA/4. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Meeting held on 14th April 2004 were noted. On behalf of Mr. Smith, clarification was provided to correct Minute No. EA/28, relating to parking by students in the vicinity of the John Port School in Etwall.

**EA/5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair introduced representatives of the organisations present and announced that Terry Neaves, Chief Finance Officer at the District Council would shortly be leaving to take up a new position with the Derbyshire Police Authority. He paid tribute to the Officer's achievements, particularly in relation to the Council's improved financial position.

The Chair reminded the meeting that highway issues were raised frequently at the Area Meetings. Derbyshire County Council, which was the responsible authority for highway matters had advised that its local area committees now met at 6.00 p.m. in the evenings. There was a public forum for the first half hour of each meeting and Highway Officers would be able to respond to residents' questions. Future County Council local area committees would be held on 20th October 2004, 5th January 2005 and 9th March 2005. Those wishing to be included on the distribution list for future agendas were asked to contact Kay Fox at Derbyshire County Council on 01629 580000.

Mr. Wale criticised the publicity arrangements for County Council Area Committees. The Chair requested County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn and Peter Leigh to refer these comments back to the authority. He also requested the Clerk to write formally requesting improved publicity for the local area committees and asked that this letter be circulated to County Councillor Southerd.

**EA/6. NOISE FROM NOTTINGHAM EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT**

The Chair introduced John Froggatt, the Airport's Planning and Development Director and Jenny Saville from the Environmental Division of the Airport. Questions were invited and Councillor Mrs. Walton referred to the Airport's Community Grant Scheme. An application from a Hilton based community group had been rejected as the Village was more than ten miles away from the Airport. She felt there was little difference in noise levels affecting villages just outside the ten mile radius used for the grant scheme. Mr. Froggatt explained how the scheme operated and confirmed that there were other grant funds for specific community projects. The Chair advised that he had raised this issue at the Airport's Consultative Forum. It was suggested that representatives of the Hilton Group contact Louise Holland, the Community Relations Manager at the Airport, to see if some grant assistance could be provided. A resident suggested that the grant scheme be revised to provide varied levels of support dependent on proximity to the Airport. Jenny Saville provided further information on the operation of the grant scheme, confirming how the funds were generated from fines imposed against aircraft operators.

Mr. Foord commented that Burnaston residents were pleased that DHL had ceased using the Boeing 727 aircraft. The Chair added that the airport took noise issues seriously. It monitored and sought to control the noise climate in the vicinity of the Airport

There was a discussion about noise preferential routes and the Chair felt that this scheme was proving successful as fewer fines were being imposed. Councillor Hood asked about the altitude of aircraft departing over the villages of Hilton and Etwall. He also felt that noise levels seemed to have increased recently. Jenny Saville confirmed that the height of aircraft would be between 4,000 and 8,000 feet at this location and the increase in noise levels might be due to the use of an alternate runway, linked to a lower approach by aircraft. Councillor Ford suggested an alternate method to fund the community grant scheme by imposing a levy on all aircraft using the Airport. John Froggatt spoke of the merits of the current scheme. He felt that it wasn't reasonable to penalise all aircraft operators, particularly those who operated newer, quieter aircraft. Jenny Saville added that the issue of training flights was being considered by the Airport.

A question was submitted about flight paths over the Newton Solney area. Jenny Saville confirmed that the Airport had no control over approaching aircraft, as pilots had discretion and safety issues were paramount. Typically, aircraft tended to follow a band between Swadlincote and Burton and then over Repton. The aircraft were usually at an altitude of 4,000 - 5,000 feet over Swadlincote. The approach height varied, dependent upon a number of conditions. The Airport was trying to implement a continuous descent approach by all pilots, rather than a stepped approach, which generated more noise. The Chair reiterated that the Airport had control over departing aircraft, but not those approaching the Airport.

A resident asked about changes to flight paths and Jenny Saville explained the introduction of noise preferential routes in March 2001. Before this, there were no prescribed routes for departing aircraft. Details of the routes were provided on the Airport's website. Mr. Froggatt added that a change of Government policy led to the introduction of noise preferential routes and over 90% of aircraft followed the correct routes. A resident sought statistics on the routes used previously, but it was unlikely that this data would be available.

Councillor Ford asked whether the change of name to Nottingham East Midlands Airport had resulted in increased business. Mr. Froggatt responded that BMI particularly had seen an increase in business in recent months.

There was a discussion about car parking problems in the vicinity of the Airport terminal. It was intended to submit a planning application and undertake a review of the interior short stay parking arrangements, to overcome these problems. The Chair sought information about security issues and a response was provided by Mr. Froggatt. The Chair thanked representatives of the Nottingham East Midlands Airport for their attendance.

#### EA/7. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and provided an update on the progress made. PC Cross gave an update on the Police issues raised at the last Meeting. He explained the monitoring undertaken in the Scropton area concerning the alleged abuse of a weight limit and speeding traffic. Despite public perception, many of the vehicles using this route were below the 7.5 tonne weight limit. However, continued monitoring would take place.

The Chair requested Acting Inspector Wright to provide statistics on speeding traffic to a future meeting. Beat Officers were being trained on the use of speed monitoring equipment. There had been numerous prosecutions and warnings issued in recent months. The Officer assured the meeting that all parts of the District were being covered where possible and subject to other priorities. Scropton had been visited two or three times since the last meeting. The Officer then reported on the parking problems in Etwall. Beat Officers had monitored this situation, but to date, no complaints had been received. If a specific complaint was made, this would be pursued. Officers had also patrolled the Willington Road area of Etwall.

Mrs. Chell reminded the meeting that speed cameras had been sought for the Hatton area for several years. Over 11,000 vehicles travelled through Hatton each day and there was a need for fixed or mobile speed monitoring cameras to be used. The police officers responded, particularly on the need for a safe area to undertake speed monitoring. The Chair asked that police officers undertake speed monitoring along Station Road in Hatton. Mr. Cramp, a resident of Station Road also complained about large convoys of heavy commercial vehicles. He named specific companies that used this route repeatedly and this issue was noted by the police officers.

Councillor Hood reported on a site meeting at Willington Road, Etwall on 1st July 2004 with Officers of Derbyshire County Council. Information had been provided on the problems being experienced. Councillor Hood felt that the number of parking offences had reduced since there had been two beat officers patrolling this area.

Councillor Mrs. Walton pursued the issue of abuse of weight restrictions. She was grateful to PC Cross for the information provided and agreed that there was a perception that some vehicles were heavy commercial vehicles when they were actually below the 7.5 tonne weight limit.

The Chair explained that a report would be provided later in the Meeting about the implementation of an enhanced kerbside collection scheme. This issue was seen as important by the Council and it was being raised at each of the Area Meetings. At the last Meeting, there had been a question about additional parking at the John Port School in Etwall. The Chair provided a report and advised that he had raised this issue with the School's governing body. The School had been asked to consider student parking within its campus. The Deputy Head Teacher had attended an Etwall Parish Council Meeting and the School was now aware of the local difficulties caused by students parking in the Village. This issue would continue to be monitored.

Following the request at the last Meeting, a report was provided on proposed powers for local authorities, to help resolve hedge disputes. It was hoped that by the end of the year there would be a scheme in place, so that Councils could try to resolve hedge disputes. The proposed powers would enable Councils to require a hedge to be reduced to two metres in height. If the landowner refused, Court action could be taken, possibly resulting in a £1,000 fine and further fines for repeated non-compliance.

EA/8. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Wale had given notice of a question about the publicity arrangements for appointments for the Derbyshire County Council Gold Card Scheme. The Chair gave a brief summary of this matter and explained that a written

response had been prepared by Chris Swain, the Council's Revenue Manager, which would be provided to Mr. Wale. Mr. Wale explained his concerns about the publicity arrangements for the free photo sessions and appointments for the new gold card. The Chief Finance Officer added that where further requests were made, details were being kept on a database. When there were sufficient numbers, further appointment sessions would be considered.

Mr. Williams of Willington Road, Etwall had also given notice of a question. This related to a highway issue and he agreed that the item be taken later in the Meeting.

A resident reported concerns about weekly car boot sales in Church Broughton. It became apparent that this matter related to a current planning application and the Chair advised that it could not be considered by the Area Meeting. There were also concerns that the site in question could become occupied by travellers and about increasing traffic volumes in this area because of the car boot sales. As a general point, the Chair advised that owners could use land for any purpose unless it contravened planning law, thus requiring a planning application. He spoke of the consultation arrangements and urged the resident to make appropriate representations as part of the planning process.

Mr. Black complained about the poor maintenance of a Council garage site in Findern. There were problems with weed growth and fly tipping. The resident was asked to raise this matter with the Findern Ward Members present. It was confirmed that maintenance of the garage site was due to be undertaken as part of a work programme.

Councillor Mrs. Walton spoke as a resident of Willowpit Lane in Hilton, about the expansion of the composting scheme. She explained that her property was one of ten in the Village that was not included in either of the local composting rounds and asked if these properties could be included in a composting scheme. Mr. Williams, a Sutton-on-the-Hill resident sought the introduction of a mobile Civic Amenity facility for the rural areas. He spoke of difficulties in accessing the Burton-on-Trent Civic Amenity facility. The Chair understood that access problems to that facility had been resolved. The Council was considering the introduction of a mobile service. Councillor Mrs. Walton reminded the resident of the Civic Amenity site in Newhall.

Councillor Bale raised concerns about the Police's poor geographic knowledge of the rural areas of the District. Response times to burglary seemed very slow. Following a suggestion from County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn it was agreed to invite the Community Beat Sergeant to attend the next Meeting. Acting Inspector Wright confirmed that Beat Officers were keen to establish a good working knowledge of their patrol areas. Officers had access to a computer-based mapping system via the Derby Control Room. There was a Rural Officer and it was hoped that Beat Officers attended local meetings. However, in a large rural area like South Derbyshire this was a recognised problem.

EA/9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Etwall Area Meeting would be held on 10th November 2004 at the Egginton Memorial Hall.



EA/10. **HIGHWAY ISSUES**

Peter Leigh of Derbyshire County Council was introduced. Initially he responded to the highway issues raised at the last Area Meeting. He clarified proposals for the removal of the A516 weight limit and confirmed that it would remain in force within Hilton Village. He felt that this should not have a significant impact on the number of heavy commercial vehicles travelling through Hatton. He then spoke about the proposed weight limit for Station Road in Hatton and its reclassification. This issue had been ongoing for many years. He explained that traffic surveys had been undertaken by both Derbyshire and Staffordshire County Councils. Derbyshire County Council would like to introduce a weight limit along this road, but Staffordshire County Council had not responded to various requests made over the last twelve months. The same delays were being experienced with regard to the reclassification of this route. Presently, it was classed as a primary route and the County Council was obliged to sign Burton-on-Trent via Hatton and Tutbury. To provide a compromise, signage was also provided on the A50, but the County Council could not enforce the use of that route. It was working with Staffordshire and Leicestershire County Councils to seek the reclassification of the A511 but no progress was presently being made.

Mr. Leigh confirmed that improved signage would be provided to the Newhall Civic Amenity facility. He then spoke about damage to a ditch in Watery Lane, Scropton. There were no planned improvement works, but it was hoped to give better warning of the ditch to reduce the number of accidents.

With regard to Bellfield Road in Etwall, Mr. Leigh explained that the concrete sections of this road could not be surface dressed because of threshold levels. The cost of undertaking full resurfacing works was between £100,000 and £250,000, which could not be afforded at present. The road was considered to be in a sound condition, but the noise problems were recognised. Mr. Williams clarified the section of Bellfield Road that was a particular cause of noise problems. Mr. Leigh would ask colleagues to contact the residents direct to pursue this issue. Mr. Williams then compared the reported problems in Willington Road with those at Bellfield Road.

A resident of Sutton-on-the-Hill requested maintenance works to the street lamp column at the junction of Marlpit Lane and Common Lane, before the winter months.

Mrs. Cowley referred to planned improvements to the Egginton crossroads. At the last Parish Council Meeting, there had been a discussion about the relocation of the bus shelter and the possibility of providing pavements in its vicinity. A reply had been received from Derbyshire County Council that a scheme was included on the reserve list of projects for 2005. It was questioned whether these works could be undertaken at the same time as the improvement scheme for the crossroads. Mr. Leigh spoke about the planned improvements to the Egginton crossroads and agreed to pursue this matter. County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn understood that the problem with an overhanging Oak tree was also being looked at. Mrs. Cowley reported a further problem with a raised British Telecom cover in a pavement within the Village. This was noted by Mr. Leigh.

Information was sought about the planned traffic calming measures for Hilton. Peter Leigh confirmed that a scheme was currently being designed and it was hoped to undertake local consultation on the draft scheme within

one month. Councillor Mrs. Walton commented that a scheme was prepared some 5-6 years ago and it was a cause of agitation why the traffic calming measures had not yet been completed. Mr. Leigh confirmed that the scheme designed originally was not acceptable to Derbyshire County Council.

There were concerns about the rationale behind the proposed weight restriction changes. The Officer spoke of the potential enforcement action which could be undertaken by the Police and Trading Standards. It was hoped that the traffic calming scheme, coupled with appropriate enforcement should resolve some of the current difficulties. The resident felt that the traffic calming measures should have been put in place before the weight restriction was withdrawn. Mrs. Chell repeated concerns about heavy goods vehicles travelling through Hatton and added that due to on-street parking at times it was not possible for some vehicles to pass. The Hatton Action Group intended to seek a meeting with the Minister of Transport on this issue. Councillor Ford would speak with Mr. Leigh after the meeting to pursue problems with speeding traffic on Doles Lane in Findern. Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn sought clarification over maintenance responsibilities at rail crossings. Mr. Leigh confirmed that Network Rail was responsible for the area between the safety barriers. Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn asked that the County Council undertake complementary works when improvements were made to rail crossings.

EA/11. **PRESENTATION ON CRIME AND DISORDER UPDATE**

Sue Haslett, the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer gave a presentation to the Meeting. She advised that the Crime and Disorder Partnership was a local partnership between the Police, Local Authorities, Health, Probation, Voluntary Services and the Fire Service. The Partnership's priorities, as contained within the 2002/05 Strategy were house burglary, auto crime, fear of crime, anti social behaviour, substance misuse and violent crime (domestic abuse). The Partnership was resourced by a Police Liaison Officer, an Anti Social Behaviour Officer, a Community Safety Officer, a Community Drugs Officer and a part-time Community Engagement Officer.

The Officer gave an overview of projects currently being run by the Partnership, which included a Safer Homes for South Derbyshire Scheme, skateboard parks at Swadlincote and Hilton, a Youth Needs Survey (involving liaison with over 4,000 young people), a burglar alarm installation scheme, Environmental Improvements, a Domestic Abuse Campaign and a project to support parents of drug users.

The Partnership was undertaking new work in the areas of Anti Social Behaviour Orders, starting a mediation service, an abandoned vehicle scheme together with sports and arts development opportunities. A Liberation Day had been held during May 2004. A School Safety Day was being organised involving over 300 children, including a theatre production on anti social behaviour.

The Meeting was advised of crime statistics for the District and the successful work of the Partnership in relation to victims of house burglary. The Partnership's proposals for 2004/05 included a Domestic Abuse Drop In Centre, a Neighbourhood Watch Support Scheme, an Anti Social Behaviour Response Team, environmental improvements and new facilities and activities. The timetable for the launch of the Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2005/08 was outlined. [Page 7 of 8](#)

Mr. Ireland of Etwall Parish Council sought information about neighbourhood wardens and it was confirmed that these people would deal with environmental issues such as fly tipping and undertake liaison with vulnerable people, as a first point of contact. A question was submitted about the community consultation for the Crime and Disorder Audit. Sue Haslett explained how this consultation exercise would be undertaken. In response to a further question, acting Inspector Wright explained that until recently, there had been no repeat victims of burglary. One repeat burglary had occurred, but it was noted that the resident had not taken up the offer of an alarm system. The Chair added that the Council was proud of the work undertaken through the Crime and Disorder Partnership, which was seen as an exemplar within the East Midlands.

EA/12. **RECYCLING NEWS**

The Meeting was advised that South Derbyshire's residents had beaten the Council's recycling target for the financial year 2003/04. During the year 40,000 tonnes of waste were collected in the District, out of which 6,500 tonnes were recycled (17%). The Council's target for the year was 14%, so it was well on its way to meeting the statutory target set by the Government to recycle 21% of waste by 2005/06. The main recycling developments during the previous year were the extension of the composting scheme by a further 6,000 households, a fortnightly kerbside collection of paper and the launch of a new scheme in January of this year for the kerbside collection of glass, cans, foils and textiles as well as paper from 12,000 households in the District.

Mr. Neaves responded to questions raised earlier in the meeting about the recycling of plastics and the identification of an additional site for a recycling centre in Hilton. He explained that recycling credits were based on weight. Unfortunately, plastic containers tended to be bulky and of little weight, which reduced the commercial viability of plastics recycling. Problems had been experienced in identifying a suitable site within Hilton for an additional recycling centre. The resident felt that an holistic approach should have been taken, given the extent of development within the Village. County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn also spoke about cardboard recycling.

B. WHYMAN

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 9.05 p.m.