

**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM**

**REPTON**

**June 26, 2017 at Milton Village Hall**

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council representatives**

Councillor Peter Smith (Chair), Councillor Andy MacPherson, Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Michael Stanton.

Stuart Batchelor (Director of Community and Planning Services), Tom Sloan (Clerk).

**Derbyshire County Council representatives**

Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton.

**Parish Council / Meeting representatives**

Mary Goodall (Findern Parish Council), Rosemary Rose (Findern Parish Council), Trevor Skeith (Repton Parish Council), Steve Toone (Bretby Parish Council).

**Members of the public**

Polly Faulkner, Jade Fitch, Julie Fitch, Heather Hall, Parmjit Maskian, Sam Watters.

RA/1 **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Martyn Ford, Fred Hill, Lynette Nash, Anne Yates.

RA/2 **Declarations of interest**

None.

RA/3 **Chairman's announcements**

Stuart Batchelor reported that Local Plan Part II had been through the examination in public stage and it went very well. A list of modifications had been made ahead of a proposed adoption in September and they were currently out for consultation. One of the documents being consulted upon related to design and was interesting as it would affect the way developments

in South Derbyshire looked. An event at Repton Village Hall on July 5 between 2.30pm and 6pm would allow residents a chance to meet with officers and put across their thoughts.

Councillor Peter Smith reported that the new Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Strategy had been adopted by South Derbyshire District Council. He was very passionate about exercise and the strategy was important to the community as it would promote the use of the whole district to improve people's health. The more people got involved, the better.

Mr Batchelor announced that plans were being made to possibly combine Area Forums with Safer Neighbourhood Meetings to make one meeting. There would possibly be an update in time for the next meeting in the autumn. If time was used better, there was a possibility that Derbyshire County Council would send an officer.

RA/4 **The minutes of the meeting held on January 31, 2017**

Councillor Michael Stanton raised the issue of Area Forum Liaison Officer Paul Jameson no longer holding the position and there being no replacement at DCC. It looked pointless sending any issues to County until that changed. Could the forum have an update as to what was going happen? Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton replied that issues would go into the Highways Hub. She had asked whether the situation could be reversed and an officer provided for Area Forums. DCC's Local Area Committees had ceased, so savings there could allow the Area Forum service to start again. Councillor Smith said that since Mr Jameson had departed there was a void and all the Area Forums could do would be the same as a member of the public, making the process longer. Was the forum seeking to get Mr Jameson's position reinstated?

**ACTION: Councillor Mrs Chilton to raise the issue at a Derbyshire County Council group meeting**

**Drainage in Bretby Lane**

No update was available from DCC at the previous meeting and therefore no minute could be taken. A resident said that the item had been on the agenda for years and all it needed was for DCC to contact Severn Trent and check that work promised had been carried out. Mr Batchelor replied that SDDC's annual Flood Liaison meeting had been held the previous week and the issue would appear in the minutes. Councillor Mrs Chilton added that to her knowledge work had been completed in Bretby Lane by Severn Trent.

The minutes were proposed by Councillor Andy MacPherson and seconded by Councillor Stanton.

RA/5 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

**Street lights being turned off at night in Willington**

Councillor Neil Atkin reported that the previous administration at DCC didn't have streetlight repair backup. The job had now gone out to tender and the issue should be resolved very quickly in the short-term.

**Car damaged opposite the Bonnie Prince due to incomplete road works**

Councillor David Shepherd had reported DCC's response (that the issue needed to be taken up with a contractor) to the resident whose car was damaged. The resident considered himself beaten by it. Councillor MacPherson asked for the issue to be reported to SDDC Planning Enforcement as it regarded developers not finishing works before occupation.

**ACTION: Tom Sloan to report issue to SDDC Planning Enforcement**

RA/6

**Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident reported that a large wall had been built at Church Side, Willington, and had been joined onto the wall of St Michael's Church. It was an eye sore. Did the resident have planning permission for it? Councillor MacPherson confirmed that the wall was being investigated by SDDC Planning Enforcement to establish whether or not there was a breach. Mr Batchelor added that the issue was whether the wall was built under permitted development rights or not.

**ACTION: Tom Sloan to ask for a report back from SDDC Planning Enforcement**

A member of the public asked whether a flooding issue in Findern Road had been aired at the Flood Liaison meeting.

**ACTION: Tom Sloan to produce Flood Liaison minutes as quickly as possible and circulate**

A Milton resident living opposite an entrance to Foremark Reservoir complained about abusive drivers parking there at night and causing a nuisance through loud music, littering and general anti-social behaviour.

**ACTION: Stuart Batchelor to liaise with the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and if necessary write to Severn Trent Water**

A Repton resident asked what action was appropriate with Japanese Knotweed. Councillor Smith replied that he had raised the invasive species at the Flood Liaison meeting. Experts there said it was a difficult issue to enforce but he had been told the weed had been cut back and treated. Councillor MacPherson added that cutting could be counterproductive.

**ACTION: Tom Sloan to get feedback to the area forum on Japanese Knotweed from South Derbyshire District Council Environmental Health**

A resident reported that shrubs were overhanging a road in Repton. Councillor Smith replied that SDDC was behind on cuts but a new piece of equipment was on the way which would help.

A member of the public asked if highways were considered during development. Mr Batchelor confirmed that they were – and expert advice was taken before permission was given. DCC gave the advice and an officer would go out and look in detail at the situation. Councillor MacPherson asked how much strength a Village Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan would have. Mr Batchelor replied that a Village Plan would form part of planning policy. A Parish Plan held no weight in the planning process.

A resident asked how many houses in total were planned on the old Calder Aluminium site in Repton Road, Willington. Traffic already queued from Willington to Repton and vice-versa. Mr Batchelor replied that he was unsure of the total but traffic issues would have been addressed by DCC. All information was available in the public domain.

RA/7 **County Council issues**

Councillor Linda Chilton reported that changes were taking place at County after the new administration took over.

RA/8 **District Council issues**

Mr Batchelor reported that a lot of work relevant to the area was going on at SDDC. An enforcement briefing would go out with the minutes, showing how SDDC was clamping down on issues including fly tipping, littering and dog fouling. Consideration was also being given to publicising poor hygiene ratings at eateries, as well as good ones. Councillor Smith added that SDDC could now levy £1,000 fines for people not clearing up after their dog.

Councillor Mrs Chilton said that Area Forums needed better advertising. Mr Batchelor replied that it was part of a review into the forums.

RA/9 **Date of next meeting**

To be announced in due course.

**Councillor Peter Smith**  
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8.30pm.