

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

July 5, 2016 at Repton Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council representatives

Councillor Michael Stanton (Chair), Councillor Andrew MacPherson, Councillor David Shepherd.

Mike Haynes (Director of Housing and Environmental Services), Tom Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton.

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Charles Fellows (Stenson Fields Parish Council), M Goodall (Findern Parish Council), Fred Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council), Richard Lisewski (Stenson Fields Parish Council), John Orme (Willington Parish Council), Peter Rainey (Repton Parish Council), Steve Toone (Bretby Parish Council).

Members of the public

Heather Hall (Findern Footpaths Group), Pat Pearson, Grace Varty.

RA/1

Apologies for absence

Councillor Manjit Chahal, Councillor Rob Davison, Councillor Martyn Ford, Councillor Peter Smith, David Barker, Mrs Cunningham.

RA/2

Declarations of interest

None.

RA/3

Chairman's announcements

Councillor Michael Stanton announced that Part One of the South Derbyshire Local Plan had been adopted. Part Two, dealing with smaller developments, was now being consulted upon.

RA/4 **The minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2015**

Councillor David Shepherd proposed the minutes and Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton seconded them.

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

Bretby Lane, Bretby – drainage issues (issue from forum on 13.10.15)

Paul Jameson (DCC Area Forum Liaison Officer) reported that positive noises were being made by Severn Trent Water and company could soon be in a position to disconnect their drain from DCC's sewer. He wished he had something more concrete to present to the area forum, but the ball was firmly in Severn Trent's court. A resident said they had seen one email from the company suggesting that the drainage on Moat Bank only served 10 properties. They hoped that DCC was pursuing the issue avidly.

Askew Grove, Repton – pothole reporting process

A resident had complained about a lack of pothole repairs at the location back in January. The AFLO had reported the situation to the pothole centre and remedial works had taken place. However, the same resident again asked about the repairs as the road was still in a poor state. Mr Jameson answered that the road had been identified for carriageway patching and was seeking confirmation whether funds to do this were available in the current financial year's programme.

Stenson Road, Stenson Fields – request for crossing

Residents and councillors had been calling for a crossing in the area, with DCC waiting for the nearby development to be finished before making a decision. Mr Jameson said the county council had always maintained the stance that it would look at the area again. A concern that vehicle numbers were only measured during the day and not at peak times had been passed on to the highways team.

Milton Road, Repton – street lighting

A suggestion for additional street lighting in Milton Road near to the new development had been suggested. Mr Jameson reported that the lighting had been installed.

Petition for lighting outside Bladon House School

DCC's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Infrastructure was given a report and the petition on May 10, 2016. Councillor Mrs Chilton confirmed the petition had been rejected but added that the case could be reopened if further reasons could be put forward. She was personally very disappointed it had failed but hoped further information from a signatory could help in a new bid. Mr Jameson added that if a significant issue was brought forward that was not included the original petition, DCC would investigate further and respond appropriately.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to be copied into email from Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton containing new justification for lighting

Findern Parish Council: VAS query

A query had been raised with DCC regarding Findern Parish Council using funds to pay for a speed-activated sign (VAS) in the village. Mr Jameson reported that there had been no injury collisions in Heath Lane, where the sign was mooted, in the previous three years. Therefore, the area did not meet the criteria for a VAS. A resident asked that if the parish council was paying, surely they could have the sign? Mr Jameson said any signage on the highway had to be justified and DCC could not be seen to be operating a system of bias towards parish councils in affluent areas while poorer areas may not have been able to afford such signage. A member of the public said there was such a sign in Cockshut Lane, Melbourne. Mr Jameson confirmed it had been fitted before the current legislation was passed. He added that mobile VAS were believed to be more effective. Councillor Shepherd said that some of the places with VAS would not have had them now if the new 2012 criteria were applied.

RA/6 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident asked if advance minutes could be supplied for SDDC's annual Flood Liaison meeting. They said that minutes had only been given with the agenda for the next year's meeting.

ACTION: SDDC to produce Flood Liaison minutes more rapidly following the meeting

A member of the public complained about overgrown verges in Newton Lane and Bretby Lane. What had been a two-lane road was now akin to a tunnel and was getting dangerous. He feared that it could cause an accident. Councillor Stanton added that in his area it seemed that verges had grown excessively quickly. Mr Jameson said that two cuts a year were approved by DCC to ensure road safety. Mike Haynes (Director of Housing and Environmental Services) confirmed that SDDC was up to date with all of its cuts. Growing weather had been excellent with lots of sun and rain. There had been no frost in the winter to kill certain plants off, so this year's growth

was a continuation of last year's. His team has worked hard to keep on top of the situation.

A resident suggested the bus service through the villages of Findern, Willington and Repton be altered to reflect changing times. He suggested the Villager service from Trent Barton terminate at the Royal Derby Hospital, from where there was a regular bus service into the centre of the city. This would save time and allow a more thorough service to the villages. He asked if someone at SDDC could suggest this. Mr Haynes said it was probably a DCC issue. Mr Jameson said that if the Villager was a fully commercially-run service then it was down to the operator. DCC had a Public Transport Unit which talked to operators and it might be able to highlight the issue.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to flag up possible Villager route change through Public Transport Unit

Councillor Andrew MacPherson raised the issue of the speed limit between Repton and Willington, where drivers "put their toe down". He said it would make sense to keep the limit to 30mph between the villages, and not the National Speed Limit, as it currently was. Mr Jameson replied that DCC had to meet criteria, with the limit respecting the location. They were based on the level of development in the area. It was stipulated that on the edge of a built-up area the limit should be 40mph while in more rural environments it should be 60mph or potentially 50mph if there were certain hazards, such as a series of sharp bends. Drivers generally drove to the conditions and if they saw a limit which was inappropriate they would not keep to it and that brought the limit into disrepute. It then gave the police an enforcement issue.

A resident reported that the Willington Power Station site had been sold by RWE Npower. The new owners had written to the people of the village to say they would meet them in due course to discuss their plans for the site. Councillor MacPherson said he had had a meeting with the new owners, who own two other power stations. They had bought the site with a view to securing overseas investment to build a gas-fired power station. A resident asked if there was anything to stop the new owners applying for a change of use. Mr Haynes replied that technically they could, but whether they would be granted permission was a different matter. Councillor Shepherd added that with Part One of SDDC's local plan adopted, he thought the district would be protected from such developments.

A member of the public said that in Newton Solney there was some common land at the bottom of Trent Lane with signs up which said overnight stays was not allowed. Newton Solney Parish Council had received a Freedom of Information request asking which bylaw precluded overnight stays and wondered how to answer. Mr Haynes recommended they refer it to SDDC Legal and Democratic Services Manager Ardip Kaur.

A resident asked why the speed limit was 60mph between Stenson and Stenson Fields when it was 40mph between Melbourne and Stanton by Bridge.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to investigate why the speed limits were different

A member of the public theorised that the speed limit in Stenson village was unenforceable due to a lack of repeater signs. Mr Jameson refuted this and insisted the 30mph limit was entirely legal and enforceable. Repeater signs are permitted in rural 30mph speed limits where there is no street lighting.

RA/7 **County Council issues**

Councillor Shepherd reported that a meeting had taken place with the builder of the new development in Stenson Road. Assurances had been given that it would be completed by the end of the year. DCC had said it would look at criteria for a pedestrian crossing once the development was completed. Councillor Shepherd also looked to reinforce the campaign which had taken place to lower the speed limit now that properties fronted the road and street lighting was in place. Mr Jameson answered that the response from DCC would remain the same – the road met the criteria for a 40mph limit and a crossing would be considered when the development was completed.

RA/8 **District Council issues**

Councillor Shepherd said he had received complaints regarding footballs being kicked against an electrical substation in Eggesford Road, Stenson Fields. It was a problem for residents. A resident said that landscaping the area would be more effective a solution than putting up a 'no ball games' sign.

ACTION: Zoe Sewter (SDDC Open Space and Facility Development Manager) to be asked for a report on the playing fields

RA/9 **Date of next meeting**

To be announced in due course.

Councillor Michael Stanton
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8.20pm.