

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

26th July 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Brown (Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Ford, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. Patten and Roberts.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Ford and Mrs. Patten.

G. Spencer (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant S. Todd.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

B. Cowley, M. Nesbitt, S. Nesbitt and P. Riley (Egginton Parish Council), N. Ireland and I. Smith (Etwall Parish Council), L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), R. Brooks (Hatton Parish Council) and J. Bates and B. Walton-Knight (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

B. Bendall, J. Bilbie, J. Dove, A. Hill, F. Hood, R. Mathews, J. Orme, V. Walton-Knight, I. Way, M. Wilson.

EA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Mrs. Brown had been appointed Chairman of the Etwall Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting.

The Chairman paid tribute to her predecessor, Councillor John Lemmon for the way that he had chaired the Area Forum.

EA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Lemmon and Mrs. Plenderleith, K. Cresswell, D. Muller and B. Payton (Etwall Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), Mrs. J. Clarke and Mr. T. Wherly.

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

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Patten be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Area Forum for the ensuing year.

EA/4. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Todd was introduced to those present, as a successor to Sergeant A. Sutherland and the Police Officer gave an update on crime statistics for the area.

An Egginton resident referred to incidents in the village the previous Thursday night. Sergeant Todd reported on this, explaining that incidents had been logged by the Police Call Handling Centre, but regrettably had not been actioned until the following morning. He apologised on behalf of the Constabulary, gave an update on the action taken against those responsible and confirmed that this error was being investigated. A related question was responded to about compensation arrangements.

There was a discussion about the service provided to District Councillors, to give summary level information of crimes within their areas. The Sergeant confirmed that monthly summary reports were available and detailed statistics could be obtained via the website www.police.uk. The Councillor agreed to speak to the Police Officer after the Meeting. A further issue raised was people collecting scrap metal from properties. Residents wishing to report these concerns were asked to contact Sergeant Graham Summers.

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

The Chairman referred to consultations held at earlier in the year about housing allocations required across the District. The Council was working jointly with Amber Valley Borough Council and Derby City Council, to see how much housing would be needed for the area over the next 15 years or so. It was expected the Government would scrap the existing regional building targets and residents' views would be sought on how much housing growth should be planned for and the extent to which it should be concentrated around the edges of Derby or dispersed to other towns, villages and locations throughout the Derby housing market area. A number of drop-in events were being held throughout the District over the coming weeks and information had been circulated to those present.

The Chairman also referred to a current consultation document about planning for traveller sites. She confirmed that the Council had recently responded and further details were available from the Council, should people wish to submit personal responses to this consultation.

EA/6. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chairman introduced Phillip Heath, the Council's Heritage Officer who gave a presentation on Conservation Areas. Initially, he explained the legal definition of a conservation area, which could be designated based on architectural or historic grounds. He gave background on why Conservation

Areas were introduced and there were now 22 within South Derbyshire. He gave examples of the types of conservation area ranging from small villages to Swadlincote town centre, together with the special requirements relating to demolition of buildings, planning and maintenance of trees. The presentation included photographs showing the different types of conservation areas in villages such as Repton, Ticknall, Melbourne and the town of Swadlincote. The Officer also gave examples of the type of work his role included in this generally reactive process, but also the proactive grant schemes operated to improve properties. Mr. Heath was thanked for the presentation.

EA/7. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held on 31st January 2011 were noted.

EA/8. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and the Chairman reminded those present of the issues raised and the action taken to date. With regard to recycling, it was confirmed that a presentation would be made at the next Area Forum on planned developments for this service.

EA/9 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Concerns were reported about overgrown hedges obstructing a pavement near to Buckford Bridge in Findern. It was requested that a letter be sent from the Area Forum asking the adjacent landowner, Network Rail to undertake maintenance, as this route was used by children walking to the nearby school. A local Councillor reported that this matter had already been referred to Network Rail and the Company was due to undertake maintenance shortly.

EA/10. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

It was reported that a new footpath had been provided near to the John Port School in Etwall. This terminated close to the entrance to the School used by buses and it was questioned whether any further works were planned. There were concerns as school children were now having to cross the main road on a corner.

The County Council's representative agreed to pursue this matter and would provide a report back to the next Meeting.

EA/11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue for the next Etwall Area Forum would be confirmed in due course and in closing the Meeting, the Chairman explained plans for consultation about the future operation of the Area Forums.

MRS. L. BROWN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7:55 p.m.