

LINTON AREA MEETING

22nd January 2003

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Lauro (Chair) and Councillors Shaw and Southern.
Mr. F. McArdle (Chief Executive), Mrs. G. Hague (Local Plans Manager),
Mr. K. Stackhouse (Financial Services Manger), Mr. N. Betteridge and
Mrs. H. Pexton (Democratic Services Officers) and Mr. B. Jones
(Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor Mrs. K.Lauro (Vice-Chair).

Parish Council Representatives

V. Taylor and W. Taylor (Walton-on-Trent), P. Ellis and J. Blythe
(Linton), P. Cherry (Coton-in-the-Elms) and G. Edwards (Overseal).

Members of the Public

L. Culpan, K. Birch and C. Birch.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant Carter and WPC Hornblower.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Douglas, B. Laxton (Castle Gresley Parish Council), C. Tagg (Netherseal Parish Council) and Dr. T. Elson (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

LA/14. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd October 2002 were noted. Attention was drawn to an error in these Minutes where reference was made to two Anti-Social Behaviour Orders served on individuals living at Linton. It was noted that the correct location was Church Gresley.

LA/15. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

County Councillor Mrs. Lauro reported that all actions from the previous Meeting had been dealt with. The trees which were causing poor visibility both to and from the entrance of the Barr Hall development had been cut back and the visibility splay was now to the required standards of the County Highways Authority.

The road signs at the Cadley Hill island which were beginning to show wear and tear would be replaced. The condition of the road on the Staffordshire side of the Bailey Bridge had been brought to the attention of Staffordshire County Council but unfortunately, no work had been undertaken by that authority. The issue of dropped kerbs at Clifton Road, Netherseal was discussed and it was advised that the relatively small budget for this work had already been allocated. However, it was acknowledged that the work was

necessary and County Councillor Mrs. Lauro would continue to pursue the matter.

The trees opposite the Shoulder of Mutton public house in Walton-on-Trent had been trimmed but only as far as the pavement and residents considered that after a short period, the previous problem would again be in evidence. It was therefore requested that the trees be trimmed further and County Councillor Mrs. Lauro agreed to pursue this.

LA/16. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Reference was made to a discussion at a previous Area Meeting when a Highway Engineer had requested residents to inform him if potholes were not being rectified correctly. Residents again expressed concern at the standard and method of maintenance of potholes by the County Highways Authority and were encouraged to telephone Mr. Waite of the Highways Department on (01629) 580000 to report such concerns at the time of the remedial works. It was suggested that Mr. Waite could be invited to the next Meeting to discuss this and other highway maintenance issues. Arising from this matter, it was reported that the highway at Burton Road, Castle Gresley had been left in a terrible condition following works in connection with the ongoing residential development by David Wilson Homes Limited. With regard to new housing developments in the area, residents expressed concern at the associated impact on local health provision and suggested that a representative from the local Primary Care Trust should be invited to a future Meeting to explain the policy relating to this issue.

Residents of Walton-on-Trent raised parking difficulties in the village and suggested that the grassed areas near verges could be converted into parking spaces. These areas tended to be used for parking in any event and eventually became very muddy as a result. However, Officers advised that this would be a very expensive exercise and there would also be associated problems involving land ownership, liability and safety issues.

The sequence of the traffic lights at Bailey Bridge was raised by residents who considered that these should be reset as there were often long tailbacks of traffic during the rush hour from the bridge into Walton-on-Trent. County Councillor Mrs. Lauro had already reported this to the County Council and the lights had been reset very recently. It may be possible to set the lights to account for differing peak periods during the day.

Concern was expressed at the length of time that a group of travellers had been sited at Rosliston Road, Walton-on-Trent. The Chief Executive advised that it was anticipated that the restrictions under the current legislation would be relaxed in due course, providing increased powers to move travellers. Residents also expressed concern at the methods for the disposal of waste and sewerage.

The Chair asked the representatives of Derbyshire Constabulary if there were any matters they wished to raise. WPC Hornblower advised that following the Anti-Social Behaviour Orders that had been issued, a home visit would be made to the two families by the Police. A decision on the matters could then be made.

Residents enquired as to the current position with the Rural Crime Unit and were advised that although the Unit was still in use, mechanical problems had been experienced. However, surgery dates for the forthcoming year would be published shortly.

LA/17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was explained that due to the District and Parish Elections to be held on 1st May 2003, the next Area Meeting would be delayed and residents would be advised of the date in due course.

LA/18. **TEN YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN – WALTON-ON-TRENT BYPASS**

The Chair introduced Gill Hague (Local Plans Manager) who had accepted the Council's invitation to talk on planning issues and, in particular, Walton-on-Trent bypass. A description of the various levels of plans was given as follows:-

- Regional Planning Guidance – this indicated major growth areas, strategic communications and targets for new housing per County.
- Structure Plans – these provided slightly more detail and were still strategic documents.
- District-Wide Local Plans – these were more site specific and provided much more information.

The documents were all subject to public consultation and the Local Plan was the major policy document. Plans had to be reviewed and rolled forward. When planning applications were submitted, they were assessed against the policies in those plans. At the Derbyshire Structure Plan EIP (Examination in Public) in February 1999, developers had suggested the inclusion of a new road from the A38 to the A444, funded by over 2,000 new houses on greenfield sites. It was decided that this should not be included, as such a proposal was not supported by the Highways Authority. This was raised again at the EIP Staffordshire Structure Plan in October 1999. A decision was taken that although premature, the concept should be assessed by the two County Councils, as appropriate and in the reviews of the Regional Planning Guidance. However, the Council was not aware of a joint meeting having taken place and there was no inclusion in the Regional Planning Guidance. In addition, both South Derbyshire District Council and the County Council objected to the amount of employment land allocated in East Staffordshire as it was considered that the release of greenfield sites prejudiced the redevelopment of brownfield sites in Swadlincote. Following the consultation in April 2001 on the draft of the new East Staffordshire Local Plan, an objection was raised to the continued over-allocation of employment land on greenfield sites in the A38 corridor. However, support was shown for cross-boundary working provided that such matters as new roads were developed in public discussion at Regional and Structure Plan level. The Council consulted on its new Draft Local Plan in February 2002 and East Staffordshire Borough Council objected as reference had not been made to any proposed link road.

The only allocation made in the vicinity of Walton-on-Trent related to employment on the site of the former power station but detailed studies were required to cover environmental and highway issues. There were objections

from landowners wishing to see other land allocated and these would be discussed at the Public Inquiry.

Once Local Plans had been adopted, the principle of developing certain areas was established. However, East Staffordshire Borough Council had consulted the Council on planning applications that could have cross-border implications. In December 2001, the Council was consulted on a planning application relating to land to the east of Lichfield Road, Branston which indicated on one plan a dotted line together with the annotation 'land reserved for possible future link to South Derbyshire'. No further details were provided and as this did not encroach into South Derbyshire there was no matter on which to comment. To date, no detailed plan had been submitted to indicate the line of this road. However, a planning application could still be submitted in the future.

A revised draft of the ten year plan had been issued for public consultation and the consultation period ended on 14th February 2003. Residents expressed concern regarding the employment area and closure of the other power station, which would result in more brownfield sites. They enquired whether this area would be considered for development and how traffic would be accommodated in a very industrial area. Mrs. Hague advised that the proposals were assessed by the County Council and there was a target for the amount of housing and employment land which the Council had to meet. The Council's Local Plan had to conform with the Structure Plan and developers had to satisfy the Council that transport problems would not be created by any proposed development. Consultants were currently undertaking a Multi Modal Study of movements between the West and East Midlands to identify problems and propose solutions.

Concern was expressed by residents at the volume of traffic through the villages and they considered that this issue should be addressed. They also questioned why brownfield sites were not being developed. It was explained that this required a higher investment and projections were undertaken by the County Council, which identified the type of land required. The Chief Executive stated that there were companies considering the development of brownfield sites, such as UK Coal and Bison. He added that the Council had tried, through Local Plans, to encourage the development of brownfield sites. To date, the only suggested method for the funding of a link road involved the erection of 2,000 houses on 'greenfield land'.

The Chief Executive advised that the Quality Employment Land Study identified areas which were depressed due to poor transport links and offered to provide the Parish Clerks with information on the open days for the Consultation Exercise, should residents wish to attend.

Residents complained that Overseal and Walton-on-Trent were often congested with traffic and travelling into Burton could be very tedious. The Chief Executive stated that the Council would continue to make the necessary representations to the appropriate authorities.

LA/19. **BUDGET CONSULTATION**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Kevin Stackhouse, Financial Services Manager, at the District Council. He explained the aims of this consultation exercise and gave an overview of the topics covered in the presentation. Feedback from previous consultations had identified residents'

key priorities and the other aims that the Council should pursue. The total cost of General Fund Revenue Services was some £9.61million and a series of charts showed the cost of Environmental Services, Community Services and Finance and Management Services. A further chart showed the respective proportions of Council Tax income that funded services provided by the District Council, the Police Authority and the County Council.

Mr. Stackhouse explained how the Council managed its finances through close monitoring of its expenditure, a more open budget process and by improving efficiency. The Council's current financial position was stable with improving levels of reserves. However, there was a need for caution as the Council was spending slightly more than it received in income at present. Mr. Stackhouse explained the financial constraints that the Council faced and how this affected the level of Council Tax increase. The Revenue Budget proposals were reported and these sought to maintain existing services and provide additional resources for service improvements. There was the potential for a low Council Tax increase for the second successive year.

Details were then provided of current capital spending, the constraints in place and capital spending proposals. Feedback from the Area Meetings would be submitted to inform the Council when it set its budget and Council Tax on 27th February 2003.

Following a query, Mr. Stackhouse clarified the scoring system adopted by the Council. Residents commended Mr. Stackhouse on the clarity of the informative presentation.

M.R. LAURO

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.