

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

28th November 2006

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Richards (Chair), Councillor Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Mulgrew and Wilkins.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services), L. Neave and K. Ashley (Waste and Cleansing) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Bambrick and Jones.

D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and G. Duckworth (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant S. Thandi.

Members of the Public

P. Bambrick, L. Gillespie, P. Holden, R. Holden, R. House, C. Maddock, B. Marsden, G. Myatt, W. Parker, M. Richards, E. Tagg and B. Woods.

NA/10. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Dunn, M. Dunn, R. Hughes, K. Parker, M. Perry and E. Tunnicliffe.

NA/11. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 22nd August 2006 were noted.

NA/12. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair passed on his congratulations to the Chief Executive of South Derbyshire District Council for introducing Morrison's to Swadlincote Town Centre. He also extended his welcome to the new Health Centre on Civic Way.

NA/13. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made in each case.

With regard to item 3, Councillor Bambrick confirmed that Officers from Derbyshire County Council had visited Sunnyside and were currently dealing with these issues directly with the resident concerned.

NA/14. **RECYCLING**

Copies of a presentation entitled "Waste Minimisation, Recycling and Composting" were handed out to those present at the Meeting and Lorraine

Neave and Karen Ashley (Waste and Cleansing Officers) responded to questions. Items raised were as follows:

- It was confirmed that there were currently 16,000 properties without brown bins within the District. To initiate a new scheme, which included 3,000 to 4,000 new brown bins involved a very labour intensive process including consultation prior to the commencement of the scheme and assistance post commencement. It was also confirmed that the 2010 target for all properties in the District having brown bins was currently being reviewed. This could possibly be accelerated for completion in 2008/2009.
- It was confirmed that cardboard should be placed in the recycling bin, as this aided with rotting, and also made better compost.
- District Council Officers could assist with problems of flies or maggots within bins, and had a stock of hygiene leaflets. It was also pointed out that by ensuring meat was wrapped up before putting it in the bin, maggots would be less likely to develop.
- Ashes from a coal fire should be placed in the black bin, although it was possible to place small amounts within the brown bin.
- Plastic recycling was being considered further by the District Council, but this was currently difficult as there was not a local processing plant which would accept the District's plastic refuse. It was confirmed that recycling of plastic would hopefully be included within the green bin collection by 2008.
- A resident asked why a recycling plant could not have been provided on the site occupied by Drakelow Power Station. D. Tysoe confirmed that Derbyshire County Council was currently considering its waste disposal policy. However, incineration was a very controversial subject as the process itself produced toxic waste.
- Representatives of Stanton Village Hall thanked the Waste and Cleansing Team for providing a plastic recycling container at their site.

NA/15. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident reported that Radio Derby was currently promoting the Derbyshire flag, and asked for the District Council's view on this matter. The Chief Executive responded that he felt that this flag was not a democratic choice as there had been no consultation. He added that it was his view that this was the commercial promotion of a product. Very few authorities had adopted this flag and the Chair added that in his opinion, the symbol for South Derbyshire was the District Council's crest.

A resident asked how many houses had been built in South Derbyshire over the last five years. The Chief Executive responded that although he did not know the exact number of new properties within South Derbyshire, he could confirm that the population in England had grown by 3.4% over ten years. However, the population in South Derbyshire had grown by 11.1% over ten years. He added that the District had seen significant growth and Hilton was a major provider of new houses. The proposal within the Regional Spatial Strategy required 6,000 more houses by the year 2026. Recommended areas for these houses were either the surrounds of Derby, for example the Sinfen area, or within the Swadlincote area. It was vital that to enable further growth, additional employment opportunities were provided for people to live

and work within South Derbyshire. It was important to ensure that houses and employment grew together to avoid a dormitory District.

It was asked if assurance could be given that land on Nadins Way would not be developed for residential purposes. The Chief Executive confirmed that UK Coal had no intention of building houses on this area of land. Councillor Wilkins added that the only proposals of which the District Council was aware were for two golf courses and a driving range, although these were problematical. A resident felt that not everybody may want to play golf and other leisure facilities should be considered for this site. The Chair added that this was a very important issue for the area, and further discussions would be held shortly with UK Coal.

The purpose of the white lines recently imposed outside residences in front of the dropped kerb was queried. A general discussion ensued and it was understood that these were imposed to discourage parking, although Sergeant Thandi confirmed that enforcement could only be pursued if the parked vehicle was causing an obstruction.

D. Tysoe agreed to look into this matter and report back both directly to the resident concerned and also to the next Meeting.

It was requested that the Police should monitor the area of Bretby Road and Sunnyside at school closing time, as due to the number of children and vehicles, this location continued to be very dangerous. Councillor Mrs. Mead responded that this had been reported many times and letters had also been sent to parents. It was very difficult to control as there were three schools in this area, necessitating at least four school buses plus many cars of parents picking up children.

Sergeant Thandi agreed to pursue this issue with all schools in the area.

NA/16. **FEEDBACK GETTING YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION**

The Chief Executive reported on feedback of the Ideas into Action campaign.

Following the Council's consultation on its Corporate Plan, an Ideas into Action campaign had been undertaken requesting ideas from individuals, parish councils, and community groups within the District. 64 ideas had been received, which included:-

- specific complaints about issues such as untidy land
- requests for improved services to the whole District such as collecting plastics for recycling
- ideas for local initiatives that required funding or other support to launch the idea
- suggestions where the Council had little influence, such as dismantling electricity pylons and laying the cables underground.

It was confirmed that all the ideas received had been acknowledged by letter and would receive a detailed response when the appropriate course of action to be undertaken had been decided.

It was confirmed that ideas for improving services across the District or developing local initiatives which had budgetary implications would be considered in the Council's budget cycle later this year. Where there was no cost it would be investigated and if the idea could be implemented, it would.

Where the Council was not responsible for provision of a service, the suggestion would be passed to the relevant body or partner.

An analysis had been undertaken of the ideas received. The top issues suggested included:-

- litter/cleanliness
- graffiti
- better recycling facilities collection
- untidy sites
- more trees, flowers and spring bulbs
- highway maintenance and improvement
- support for Neighbourhood Watch
- better facilities for children and young people

It was agreed that the content of the report “Ideas into Action” be noted.

NA/17. **COMMUNITY SCRUTINY NEEDS YOU!**

The Area Meeting considered a report on the work of the District Council’s Community Scrutiny Committee which invited contributions from members of the public to participate in the Committee’s projects. The Council had appointed two scrutiny committees and an Overview Committee. The purpose of the scrutiny committees was to improve the Council’s performance by monitoring, questioning and making recommendations on the way services were provided and decisions taken. A short guide to the membership, dates of meetings and work of the three scrutiny committees was circulated.

It was confirmed that the Community Scrutiny Committee’s remit focused on community and environmental issues, culture, leisure and arts, housing, economic development and land use.

The Area Meeting was advised that the Community Scrutiny Committee had completed four projects to date relating to:-

- Housing repairs and maintenance services
- Homelessness services
- Waste management services
- Planning application services

The above four scrutiny reviews would contribute to the Council’s delivery of better, more efficient and more effective services to residents and would ensure continued best value for money. During the period to May 2007, the Community Scrutiny Committee would be investigating the following projects:-

- The future of post offices
- How health services would be delivered by the new Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust
- Street Scene review
- Cleaner neighbourhoods

It was agreed that the content of the report “Community Scrutiny Needs You” be noted.

NA/18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the date of the next Meeting was 22nd January 2007 at 7.00 p.m. at William Allitt School, Sunnyside, Newhall.

K.J. RICHARDS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.