

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

2nd February 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chairman in the Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Dunn and Richards.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant Thompson.

Members of the Public

P. Bambrick, M. Biddle, T. Biddle, P. Dunn, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. & Mrs. Foy, S. Garland, G. Hall, R. Holden, R. House, R. Hughes, J. Lacey, C. Maddock, G. Myatt, W. Parker, H. Richards, R. Sexton, E. Tagg, E. Tunnicliffe, B. Wood.

NA/17. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Farrington (Chairman), Lacey and Wilkins.

NA/18. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Thompson gave an update on crime statistics for the area, and compared September to November 2010 to the same period of the previous year. He reported that average crime figures had fallen by 5½% overall. However burglary and robbery had increased slightly, whilst vehicle crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour had all reduced. Sergeant Thompson also gave a brief update on current crimes and arrests, that had taken place between December 2010 and January 2011.

He confirmed that the Police had made the prevention of anti-social behaviour at The Burrows a priority, and following this, a number of arrests had been made. He confirmed that the Police had secured funding to do further work in this area. They were also dealing with a number of complaints at the flats on The Old Market Place.

He outlined actions that were being taken by the Safer Neighbourhood Team, which included the introduction of a new force website. Safer Neighbourhood

Officers had all been trained on the use of the laser speed gun and Ozbox, an initiative designed to encourage young people who are involved in crime or anti-social behaviour, to take part in a boxing based fitness activity.

A resident asked if, for the next Meeting, Sergeant Thompson could get detection rate figures.

Sergeant Thompson agreed to provide these figures where possible for the next Meeting.

It was reported that there were various problems throughout the area with cars for sale being parked on roadsides. Areas of concern were highlighted as, Stanton Village Green, Cadley Hill Island, opposite Piddocks Farm, Geary Lane and the corner of Manor Close.

It was requested that both the District Council and the Police look into this matter and provide a report back for the next Meeting.

A resident reported that adjacent to the Gate Inn Public House at Cadley Hill Island, lorries were parking along the side of the road, reducing the road width, making it dangerous for other motorists.

Sergeant Thompson agreed to look into this matter report back to the next Meeting.

It was reported that a Land Rover was constantly parked on the pavement adjacent to William Allitt School, Sunnyside, and was constantly discharging oil onto the pavement and road. Sergeant Thompson responded that although they could observe it, unless the Land Rover was causing an obstruction on the pavement, they could not move the vehicle. Residents were requested to ring the Police when the pavement was obstructed.

NA/19. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that a series of drop-in events had been arranged by the District Council, beginning in February, to talk to local people about planning for their neighbourhood.

The events followed the Coalition Government's localism proposals to abolish centrally imposed building targets, and encouraged local people to get more involved with deciding how their neighbourhoods should change. Details were provided of dates and times.

NA/20. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Forum held on 3rd November 2010 were noted.

NA/21. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reviewed the items raised at the last Meeting and reported the progress made.

With regard to the public right of way claim at the former Horse and Jockey Public House site, the Chief Executive reported that he had received

correspondence from a solicitor at Derbyshire County Council, providing further information on this claim. The Forum Liaison Officer also reported that an Order had been made, and was due to be advertised imminently. Residents confirmed that notices had appeared on lampposts and it was understood that it was in the Burton Mail. Councillor Richards requested that it be noted that he was disappointed that nobody at Derbyshire County Council had advised him of the current position, as he had submitted the petition originally.

With regard to the sub-standard footpath at the Old Market Place development, the Forum Liaison Officer reported that a contractor had been appointed by the developer and a start date was now awaited.

It was reported that the graffiti on the golf course sign was still present.

The Chief Executive agreed to follow this up with the golf course developer.

It was reported that the grit bin previously referred to on Meadow Way, had been moved to the car park at Pingle Farm Road (The Burrows). This needed re-siting back in its original position.

It was agreed to look into this and a report would be provided to the next Meeting.

NA/22. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident reported that the grit bin at Stanton (opposite the school) was empty, and they couldn't establish who to contact to arrange refilling. It was also reported that this grit bin was broken.

The Forum Liaison Officer and South Derbyshire District Council agreed to look into the ownership of this grit bin.

It was reported that the benches in the fields behind Fairmeadows School had been vandalised and was requested that these be reinstated.

It was agreed to establish ownership of the benches and a report was requested for the next Meeting.

It was asked why it had been so long since an Area Forum had taken place in Midway. The Democratic Services Officer responded that every attempt was made to secure premises in Midway, however this was difficult as all known rooms were fully booked. It was requested that if anyone had any suggestions for an alternative venue that they contact the District Council.

It was reported that the garages at St. Catherine's Road had been demolished, and asked if the site could be used for parking, as there was a known parking problem in the area. The area was currently being cleared, but the District Council was currently unable to confirm its future use.

It was reported that two road sweepers had been seen at the bottom of Sunnyside, however they hadn't cleaned the gullies. In addition the litterbin was full. The bin had to wait for the next day when a different van came to the area and emptied it. It was considered that this was a waste of resources.

The Chief Executive agreed to provide further details on the process of road sweeping and emptying bins.

It was reported that four men had been seen taking down the District Council's Christmas tree on The Delph in Swadlincote and questioned why so much man power was required.

The Chief Executive agreed to make enquiries and report back to the next Meeting.

Concern was expressed that the County Council had proposed to switch off streetlights in residential areas at midnight.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this, and report back to the next Meeting.

It was reported that many potholes had appeared in the roads following the recent severe weather, and was asked if there was money available to rectify these problems. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that there had been a major issue following the severe weather and the Highways Inspector routinely inspected the highways. However, if residents noticed any potholes he requested that they ring Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058, and report these to the Helpdesk. If residents could also take note of the number of the nearest lamppost, it would assist the Highways Officers to establish the location.

It was asked what was the current situation with the derelict cottages on Oversetts Road, as it was understood that these should have been demolished at the beginning of 2011.

It was agreed to provide a report for the next Meeting.

It was asked if decisions had been made on proposed cuts within the District Council. The Chief Executive responded that reviews had been undertaken and staff were aware of the process. Consultation and interviews had taken place and a press release would be issued next week.

It was reported that within the Derbyshire County Council newspaper 'First' there was hardly any mention of South Derbyshire. It was asked if the Leader of Derbyshire County Council had ever visited South Derbyshire, and why there were no stories about the District.

Both the Forum Liaison Officer and the Chief Executive agreed to follow this up and report back to the next Meeting.

NA/23. DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES

2011/12 Budget

The Area Forum received a presentation on the Council's budget for 2011/12. Information had been circulated showing current council tax levels and the proportion that was received by the District Council. Charts also showed how the District Council was funded, its net general fund expenditure for 2010/11 and the initial budget for 2011/12. A key issue of the financial settlement for 2011 – 13, concerned the reduction in Government grant funding levels. This had resulted in key challenges for 2011/12 and the need to identify savings and efficiencies. The Council's aims were to reduce the deficit, maintain reserves and keep council tax low through cutting costs not services. The

presentation concluded with the budget timetable and where residents could find out more information on the budget process.

NA/24. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MRS. J. MEAD

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.