

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

20th November 2006

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Harrington (Chair), Councillor Southerd (Vice Chair) and Councillors Lane, Tilley, Venning and Mrs. Wheeler.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillors Mrs. Lauro and Southerd and G. Roberts (Democratic Services).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Sergeant Thandi.

**Members of the Public**

M. Causer, R. Causer, M. J. Cooper, C. Horridge, S. Horridge, M. Hudson, M. Lunn, A. Pitcher, C. Rose, A. C. Sheriff and J. Williamson.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Mrs. Lane and Taylor, V. Harvey and D. Staley.

SA/9. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 10th August 2006 were noted.

SA/10. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

With regard to the obstruction caused by an overgrown bush on Common Side roundabout, Mr. Causer reported that he had investigated this further, and provided details of various planning permissions which were of relevance to this issue. He confirmed that this area had originally been part of a visibility splay for highway safety and it was conditioned that anything within this area should not be allowed to grow over one metre in height.

**It was agreed that both the District and County Councils carry out further investigation on this piece of land with a view to cutting back the bush.**

A resident expressed concern that following the provision of “dogs on leads” signs within the local parks, it had become very difficult to exercise dogs by allowing them to run freely. The Chair confirmed that these were not new signs, but had been in place for some time and had simply been replaced.

A resident confirmed that many jitties within the Town Centre were still in a very untidy condition due to the amount of litter. Councillor Lane confirmed that this was an ongoing problem, and agreements had been entered into with local businesses to attempt to eradicate this problem. These agreements

were due to start on 1st December 2006. Sergeant Thandi also confirmed that a number of fires had been started in the Town Centre within the litterbins. The Police, Fire Service and the Clean Team were hoping to instigate a target day to raise awareness of this issue.

With regard to an item raised at a previous Area Meeting, the Chair advised that he believed that the repairs which had recently taken place on the Rink Passageway had left this area in a worse condition than before. He added that the footpath needed re-surfacing and the work which was due to take place replacing the fence with metal railings had not yet started.

**It was agreed that further investigations would take place with regard to this issue.**

SA/11. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

It was reported that there was an ongoing problem in High Street, Swadlincote of windows being smashed, and egg throwing. Sergeant Thandi confirmed that eggs in particular had been a problem, and the Police were currently trying to identify culprits. In addition, Sergeant Thandi was aware of the damage being carried out in the Town Centre and the Police were trying to address this. It was confirmed that retailers had been issued with letters warning them with regard to the sale of eggs and to underage drinking. Shops were also currently being asked to adopt the “Challenge 21” scheme, which assisted in confirming the age of those wishing to purchase alcohol.

It was pointed out that following the completion of the Morrison’s development, a “no entry” sign had not been replaced at the area by the side of Greggs, on Rink Passage which was now being used as a through route.

**Derbyshire County Council agreed to pursue this issue with a view to replacing the signs.**

It was reported that a Securicor van was regularly parking on the junction of Church Street/Thorpe Downs Road, Church Gresley whilst attending the nearby Tesco Express. It was accepted that the Securicor van was parking as close as possible for security reasons, but the position of the van when parked was considered dangerous to highway safety.

**Sergeant Thandi agreed to speak to Tesco Express with a view to Securicor being requested to avoid parking in this location.**

It was pointed out that during the Christmas lights switch on evening, there were problems of vehicular access on Market Street and West Street due to the road closures. Sergeant Thandi agreed to monitor this during the current Christmas lights period and would consider any observations for Christmas 2007.

M. Hudson submitted a question with regard to recycling of plastic cups. She pointed out that it was very difficult to recycle the plastic in plastic bottles, as the recycling plants would not take plastic bottles that had a different coloured top. The Director of Corporate Services responded that it was very difficult and expensive to recycle plastic bottles. However the District Council was currently considering the subject of recycling and was trying to resource a solution to this problem. Councillor Lane assured the Meeting that South Derbyshire District Council did not send the plastic which was left at the recycling centres to a landfill site, but rather it was sent to a sorting centre.

A resident reported that they were very impressed with this year's display of hanging baskets and garlands in the summer, and wanted to pass on their thanks. Councillor Lane added that the Friends of Eureka Park had made an excellent contribution in this area.

SA/12. **FEEDBACK – “GETTING YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION”**

The Director of Corporate Services 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.**

SA/13. **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.**

SA/14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the date of the next Area Meeting was 6th February 2007 at 7.00 p.m. at St. George and St. Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Street, Castle Gresley.

K. HARRINGTON

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.