

# **NEWHALL AREA MEETING**

**AGENDA  
AND  
REPORTS**

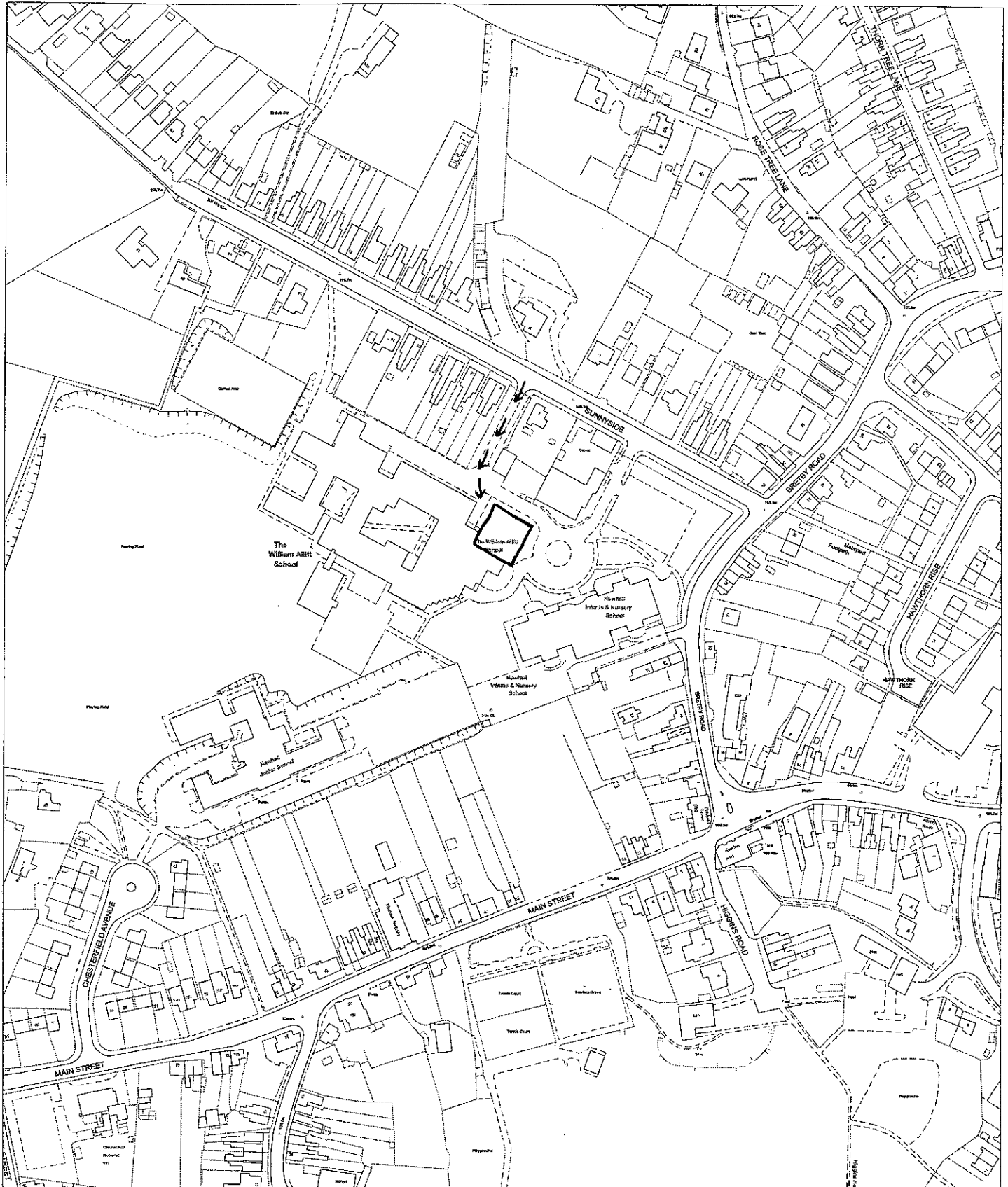
**WEDNESDAY, 28TH APRIL 2004**

**WILLIAM ALLIT SCHOOL,  
SUNNYSIDE,  
NEWHALL.**

**7.00 p.m.**



**Newhall Area Meeting William Allitt School Sunnyside Newhall**



**South Derbyshire District Council  
Policy Unit**

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Date Plotted 30/1/2004



# SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## **NEWHALL AREA MEETING**

(Covering Midway, Newhall and Stanton)

**Meeting to be held at  
William Allit School,  
Sunnyside,  
Newhall  
on Wednesday, 28th April 2004  
at 7.00 p.m.**

**(Light Refreshments will be available at 6.30 p.m.)**

### Members:

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

County Councillor: Councillor Routledge.



## **BUSINESS**

### Ordinary Business

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February 2004 (copy herewith).
3. Chair's Announcements (if any).
4. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
5. Public Question Time and suggestions for future local discussion items.

6. Date of next Meeting.

Community Items

7. Hard Surface Footpath from Newhall to Swadlincote.
8. Liberation Day – 27th May 2004.

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

9th February 2004

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

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

I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), K. Stackhouse (Financial Services Manager), E. Julian (Community Drugs Officer), N. Betteridge (Democratic Services Officer) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**County Councillor Representative**

Councillor Routledge.

**South Derbyshire CVS**

R. House.

**Members of the Public**

P. Bambrick, J. Docksey, R. Docksey, L. Gadsby, R. Hughes, J. Kinston, C. Maddock, G. Myatt, W. Parker, M. Richards, E. Tagg, E. Tunnicliff and B. Woods.

NA/20. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from M. Dunn, G. Hall and M. Perry.

NA/21. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 11th November 2003 were noted.

NA/22. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair invited County Councillor Routledge to address the Meeting on several issues. With regard to the Nadins site, he advised that the Trustees had engaged consultants to undertake a feasibility study from mid-February and it was anticipated that this would be completed early in the summer.

County Councillor Routledge reported that in excess of £1 million had been allocated towards capital works at Stanton Primary School, Fairmeadows Primary School, Elmsleigh Infants School and William Allitt School.

County Councillor Routledge advised that a 2.9% increase in the Council Tax was anticipated in respect of the County Council.

NA/23. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES PROGRESSED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Meeting reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made in each case. With regard to trees in Eureka Park overhanging John Street, Swadlincote, it was reported that no action was required at the present time but the trees would be monitored during the forthcoming months, when they had fully leafed.

NA/24. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident referred to a scrap vehicle business in operation from a property on Oversetts Road, Newhall and requested that the necessary enquiries be made with the local planning authority to ascertain whether the appropriate permission had been granted. In the same area, it was also advised that an area of land in the vicinity of Fairmeadows Primary School required tidying on a continual basis and this would be pursued with the Council's Clean Team.

District Councillor Wilkins advised that the Council had recently allocated funds in connection with a pilot scheme relating to the disposal of abandoned vehicles. Any resident wishing to dispose of an old vehicle should contact Mike Sunter, Licensing Enforcement Officer at the District Council although there may be a short period before the scheme was implemented. The principal funding for this scheme had been allocated by the Home Office together with other partners following problems experienced with abandoned vehicles on a national basis and it was hoped that this would be a cheaper method to address the ongoing problem. It was noted that previously, the average cost of the necessary process involving the disposal of an abandoned vehicle was approximately £2,000.

A resident referred to ongoing works in connection with tree planting around the perimeter of the proposed golf course on the former Nadins site. Unfortunately, motor cycles were still being ridden in this vicinity and it was feared that the trees would subsequently be damaged, when planted. The fence which had been erected was inadequate and this matter would be pursued with the landowner with a view to providing a more secure structure to prevent encroachment.

A resident advised that the dog fouling bin at the bottom of Oversetts Road, Newhall had been damaged and was still in pieces at this location.

Arising from the above-mentioned item regarding the free disposal of abandoned vehicles, a resident enquired as to the possibility of waiving the collection fee for other items, in particular for the elderly. It was noted that the YMCA shop in Swadlincote would collect furniture free of charge but the issue could be reconsidered in due course for other items, if appropriate.

A resident expressed concern that a newsagent in Newhall was allegedly selling alcohol to under-age customers and it was agreed to inform the Police and Trading Standards accordingly.

Reference was made to tipped material on the lane from the A511 to the former Bretby Hospital but it was noted that this land was within private ownership.

A resident complained at the level and manner of gutter cleansing and street sweeping at Sunnyside, Newhall, claiming that rubbish was piled in the gutters. He reported that the situation had steadily deteriorated and dog fouling was also a problem in the vicinity. He considered that the litter situation was exacerbated by the lack of waste bins around the nearby school premises. The resident also expressed annoyance at vehicles



encroaching onto his property for use as a turning area. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that arrangements would be made for the Council's Dog Warden to visit the area at an appropriate time in conjunction with the resident concerned, the Clean Team would be requested to undertake any appropriate tidying and the County Highways Authority would also be requested to inspect the surface of the road.

A resident expressed grave concern at local schoolchildren stepping onto the highway in front of vehicles and considered that education sessions were required at local schools on the dangers of traffic. The Chair agreed to raise this matter at her next meeting of the Governors of William Allitt School.

A resident understood that the County Council was currently considering highway maintenance in the vicinity of the former Bretby Hospital and hoped that the public rights of way in that area would remain unobstructed. However, the County Councillor advised that he was unaware of any proposals in this regard.

With regard to the former Newhall tip, a resident enquired as to the possibility of screening the area with trees and requested that this be pursued with the landowner.

NA/25. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the next Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 28th April 2004 at William Allitt School.

NA/26. **CVS VOLUNTEERING**

Mr. Richard House of the CVS was in attendance and gave a brief presentation on volunteering. He advised that the CVS were tasked with getting out into the community. In his role as Volunteer Co-ordinator, he endeavoured to find out what people could do on a voluntary basis and reported that current trends showed that people were giving less and less of their own time for such purposes. He advised that organisations often approached the CVS asking for assistance when volunteers were needed. The CVS was based at Grove Street in Swadlincote and was staffed by 5/6 in-house volunteers. Mr. Howe referred to a Befriending Scheme which was operated by the CVS which aimed to put volunteer befrienders in touch with lonely people in society. He also referred to the Social Car Scheme which involved drivers taking individuals to places such as Burton/Derby Hospitals. This service was unique in that the driver would stay with the person for the duration of the visit and a small charge was levied to use such a scheme. The CVS also dealt with referrals and supplied volunteers to work in charity shops, furniture recycling projects, Leonard Cheshire and Ryder Cheshire Homes. Mr. House outlined the benefits of volunteering and stated that some volunteers gave 30 to 40 hours per week of their time and some volunteers gave 2 hours per month, all of which was essential and appreciated.

Residents thanked Mr. House for the presentation.

NA/27. **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON DRUGS AND BURGLARY IN NEWHALL**

The Meeting received a presentation on this matter from Emma Julian, the Community Drugs Officer. She advised that in 2002, the South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Partnership had commissioned South Derbyshire CVS to undertake a community mapping and research project to identify how local people perceived the effects of drugs and drug-related activity and burglary. The consultation was conducted in two stages – the first stage between February and June 2002 and the second stage over the same period during 2003. A total of 153 people were interviewed in the first stage and 171 in the second stage. In the time between the two sets of research, several crime reduction and community safety projects were introduced in Newhall. The Crime and Disorder Partnership wanted to ascertain from the second stage of the consultation if people were aware of the projects, if they had made a difference to people's views on drug-related activity and if they thought the burglary rate had fallen. The research was undertaken on a one-to-one basis with CVS staff asking questions at a variety of locations in Newhall including local shops, the Doctors' Surgery, the Post Office and various street locations.

During the first stage, there was an overwhelming feeling in Newhall that there was a drug problem and that it had a relationship to the burglary rate. Recommendations for action were made in respect of increased police activity, improved environment, improved youth provision, better support for carers and better treatment services. Between June 2002 and April 2003, several crime reduction initiatives were implemented in the area including a high profile Police operation, a free burglar alarm scheme for victims of burglary and a new support service for carers.

Various information was displayed at the Meeting for residents' information and the second stage of the research had revealed the following:-

- ❑ A decrease in the number of people interviewed who had been burgled (from 18 to 3).
- ❑ A decrease in the number of people who felt directly affected by drugs (from 54 to 4)
- ❑ People were less concerned about drugs and burglary, with more focus on nuisance and vandalism.
- ❑ There was a general awareness of crime reduction initiatives, especially Operation Night and the Burglary Reduction Project.
- ❑ Concerns were raised at the behaviour of young people in some areas, particularly Newhall Park, shops and car parks.

Residents took the opportunity to ask several questions and it was felt that a small number of offenders had been causing the previous problems. However, burglaries in Newhall had decreased by 59% during the last year and an update was provided on the conversion of the former toilets in High Street, Newhall into a Community Police Office. It was reported that South Derbyshire was now the second safest District in Derbyshire and in general, the County of Derbyshire was a very safe place in which to live.

Residents thanked Emma Julian for the informative presentation.

NA/28. **CONSULTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET**

The Meeting received a presentation from Mr. K. Stackhouse, Financial Services Manager. He explained the aims of the consultation exercise and gave an overview of the topics covered in the presentation. Feedback from previous consultations had identified reasons for key priorities and the other aims that the Council should pursue. The total cost of services plus some £8.7m and a series of charts showed the costs of Environmental Services, Housing and Community Services and Finance and Management services. Details were given of the services provided by Derbyshire County Council and the Police Authority together with a chart showing the respective proportions of council tax income that funded these services.

Mr. Stackhouse explained how the Council managed its finances, focusing on a three year medium term. 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 more than it received in income at present, which was again demonstrated by graphs. Mr. Stackhouse then explained the financial constraints that the Council faced, levels of Government grant and how this affected the level of council tax increase. The budget proposals were reported and these sought to maintain existing services and to provide additional resources for service improvements and additional investment in Council building and major projects. The Council sought to provide better services for a growing population and to improve local facilities.

Residents took the opportunity to raise several issues, including the implications associated with ongoing increases in Council Tax. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the balance of funding was a policy issue for Central Government and District Councillor Wilkins advised that the Local Government Association was currently discussing funding matters with the Government. He outlined the possible proposals to reduce the level of future increases on taxpayers.

Residents thanked Mr. Stackhouse for the presentation.

MRS. J. MEAD

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.45 p.m.



# **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **NEWHALL AREA MEETING**

(Covering Midway, Newhall and Stanton)

Wednesday, 28th April 2004

### **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

At the last meeting held on 9th February 2004 at Stanton Village Hall, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made to date:-

<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>
1. Scrap vehicle business in operation from a property on Oversetts Road, Newhall.	Local Planning Authority unaware of any unauthorised activity – willing to investigate if necessary.	Rafe Shirley, Senior Enforcement Officer (01283) 595750
2. Untidy area of land in vicinity of Fairmeadows Primary School.	Site inspected by the Clean Team – the vast majority of the litter is on the School side of the fence. Very little litter on the side that the Clean Team can service.	Clean Team 0800 5872349
3. Motorcycles being ridden on former Nadin's site – inadequate fence.	Landowner approached – repeated attempts to keep motorcycles off the site have had only limited success – will continue to pursue.	Neil Betteridge, Principal Democratic Services Officer (01283) 595895
4. Newsagent in Newhall allegedly selling alcohol to underage customers.	Police informed – situation under observation.	Eileen Banton, Police Liaison Officer (01283) 595894
5. Possibility of screening former Newhall tip.	Updated report to be provided at the Meeting.	Neil Betteridge, Principal Democratic Services Officer (01283) 595895

<p>6. Gutter cleansing and street sweeping at Sunnyside, Newhall.</p>	<p>Site inspection undertaken by Waste and Cleansing Manager. Immediately following the visit, the channels along Sunnyside were swept as far as possible in view of the significant presence of parked cars. There was still a significant accumulation of material on the footways which was swept within the next few weeks. The gulleys have since received their yearly cleanse and arrangements were made to dig these by hand, if necessary. The adjoining school has been requested to consider the provision of litter bins to reduce the amount of litter dropped by school children. The Waste and Cleansing Team will monitor the situation in Sunnyside to ensure that the cleansing regimes are adequate for this location.</p>	<p>Paul Evans, Waste and Cleansing Manager (01283) 595764</p>
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**AGENDA ITEM: 8**

**ENTERTAINING DAY FOR OUR PENSIONERS**

Pensioners from throughout the district are invited to Liberation Day, which is this year being held on Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup> at Bretby Conference Centre from 10am to 4pm.

Organised by the South Derbyshire Crime & Disorder Partnership this is an all-day event with prize bingo provided by Mecca Bingo, a buffet lunch, performances by a youth theatre group, swing band, school choir and a dog obedience demonstration among the attractions. It is completely free of charge.

As well as the entertainment dozens of groups and organisations are setting up stalls for the day. These include:

- the Pension Service;
- the Library Service;
- Trading Standards;
- Citizens' Advice Bureau;
- Mobility Solutions;
- Cooking on a Budget;
- Dean & Smedley Ltd.
- Energy Efficiency;
- South Derbyshire District Council's Housing department
- Age Concern
- Reminiscence Readings.

Some of the exhibitors will have quiet areas available where visitors can discuss issues in private with them.

Every effort is being made to provide transport for people who would like to attend but who do not have a means of getting there themselves.

The day has been organised to help elderly and vulnerable people from throughout South Derbyshire see how they can stay safe and secure in their homes.

For further details about the event or to discuss transport requirements anyone interested should telephone the South Derbyshire Crime & Disorder team on 01283-595787.

