

LINTON AREA MEETING

6th February 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman), Councillor Jones (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Grant.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), P. White (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Bambrick and Mrs. Lauro, D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and A. Bond (Democratic Services).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), D. A. Eaton (Cauldwell Parish Meeting), R. Palmer and K. McLaren (Linton Parish Council), G. Gee (Netherseal Parish Council), Dr. T. G. Elson, V. Taylor and W. Taylor (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant Sissman.

Members of the Public

P. Bambrick, C.D. Birch, D.Hindley (South Derbyshire CVS) and Mr. and Mrs. E. Key (Swadlincote and District 50+ Group).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Timms (District Council Representative), K. Bradford (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), A. Hassell (Linton Parish Council) and B. Matkin (Rosliston Parish Council).

LA/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Linton Area Meeting held on 4th December 2007 were noted, subject to "K. McLaden" in the list of the present being amended to "K.McLaren"; on page 4, "Castle Gresley" Primary School being amended to read "Linton" Primary School (Minute No. LA/9, paragraph 3) and on page 5, "Derbyshire" being amended to read "the Country" (Minute No. LA/9, paragraph 4).

LA/13. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Further to Minute No. LA/10 of 6th December 2007, the Chairman advised that, following consideration of the proposals by all Area Meetings during November and December 2007, no overwhelming agreement had been

reached to change the existing structure. It had therefore been agreed to retain the existing arrangements.

The Chairman read a statement provided by the District Council's Director of Community Services, which advised that two emergency planning test events would be held this year. One would be regarding an underground fire from a coal seam leading to an evacuation to be held on 13th February 2008 and the other would be on flooding, affecting the most vulnerable parishes, to be held on 22nd April 2008. The outcome of the tests would be used to improve the District Council's responses should a real emergency occur.

The Chairman advised that information had been circulated on the new "In vessel" composting scheme. The scheme had been introduced over the past eighteen months and had proved to be extremely successful. The 18,000 properties on the existing "green-waste" scheme were now being converted to the new scheme and the villages of Castle Gresley (part), Coton-in-the-Elms, Linton, Rosliston and Walton-on-Trent in the Linton Area were included in the conversion. Details were provided of the additional materials that could be placed in the brown compost bin and it was advised that road-show exhibitions would be held at a variety of locations during the week commencing 25th February 2008. The first collections would be undertaken during the first two weeks in March 2008.

Councillor Grant was disappointed that the Seales Ward was not included in the conversion. The Director of Community Services advised that the pilot scheme was being extended to a number of other parishes within the District. The Seales Ward would be included at a later date.

The Director of Community Services agreed to investigate when the scheme would be extended to the Seales Ward and to report at the next Meeting, if possible.

LA/14. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Committee received a report back on issues raised at the Area Meeting held on 4th December 2007:-

(a) Newhall Civic Amenity Site

Further to Minute No. LA/7 (a) of 4th December 2007, it was reported that a copy of the information from Derbyshire County Council regarding use of the Amenity Site had been provided to Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the Linton Area.

Derbyshire County Council's Waste Management Department had advised that it would be shortly forwarding copies of the explanatory leaflet entitled "Household Waste Recycling Centres", which had been recently updated and reprinted. The leaflets would then be distributed to interested parties in the Linton Area, as requested.

(b) Request for a Litter Bin at Castle Gresley

Further to Minute No. LA/7 (b) of 4th December 2007, it was reported that the Director of Community Services had advised that additional inspections of the two existing litterbins on Linton Road, Castle Gresley had been

undertaken. All three litterbins in the vicinity of the shops were emptied twice each week and there was capacity in each bin just prior to emptying. The Director of Community Services was therefore of the opinion that there was no need to increase the capacity of the litterbins.

The issue of litterbin provision in general was dependant on the specific location. Since floor-mounted bins were larger than post-mounted bins, they were placed in positions that did not obstruct pedestrian traffic and where the need for a larger bin was deemed necessary. As existing bins became unserviceable, the type and size of replacement were checked to ensure that the site requirements were being met.

Mrs. S. Jackson advised that she would continue to monitor the situation as the weather improved and would advise the District Council further if any changes arose.

(c) Proposed Public Transport Cutbacks by Community Transport

Further to Minute No. LA/9 of 4th December 2007, the County Council had now advised that bus services in the greater Swadlincote area had been revised on 6th January 2008. The effects for Linton had been minimal, with service 4 running to a new timetable. Whilst there had been some route changes, the destinations of Burton, Swadlincote and Ashby were still served.

Councillor Grant raised the issue that all parishes within the Linton area, rather than just Linton itself, should be looked at, in terms of the impact of the proposed cutbacks.

Councillor Bambrick queried the position for “goldcard” users as part of the “Dial-a-Bus-Ride” Scheme. He was advised that the new “goldcard” could be used countrywide from 1st April 2008. Furthermore, Derbyshire County Council had agreed a budget provision of £200,000 for the scheme for the next 12 months, which would ensure that the community buses would continue to run for this period.

(d) Traffic Calming Measures – Linton and Coton-in-the-Elms

Further to Minute No. LA/9 of 4th December 2007, Sergeant Sissman gave an update on liaison with parish council’s about the introduction of the “Speed Watch” scheme. Sergeant Rogers was the contact Officer at the Swadlincote Police Station WPC Croxall was also currently undergoing training on the use of the speed cameras. The updating of speed limits in the areas concerned was currently being discussed with Derbyshire County Council.

The County Council had also provided a detailed response on the request for traffic calming in Coton-in-the-Elms, which was reported.

If the Parish Council still required additional signage, it would have to source the necessary funding. The County Council would be able to design the signs and arrange for them to be erected, usually at no cost to the Parish Council.

The Traffic and Safety Manager had been unable to visit the area since the last Meeting to assess whether any other course of action would be reasonably practical, but hoped to do so in the next few weeks and would contact the Parish Council to discuss any further options.

(e) Refuse Collection Circulars – Coton-in-the-Elms

Further to Minute No. LA/9 of 4th December 2007, the District Council's Waste Management Team had advised that it had no knowledge of the refuse collection circulars in question. A resident from Coton-in-the-Elms advised that the circular had been handed to an Officer, to enable the matter to be investigated.

(f) Recycling Issues

Further to Minute No. LA/9 of 4th December 2007, the Director of Community Services had reported that contractors were not able to collect overflow at recycling centres, as it contravened health and safety regulations. The Waste Management Team monitored all recycling centres regularly and increased emptying frequencies, or installed additional banks, as appropriate, to alleviate overflow. The District Council's Clean Team also visited recycling centres on a regular basis. Should the Area Meeting be able to pinpoint overflow problems at particular centres, the Waste Management Team would investigate and remedy these as appropriate.

All residents in the District would shortly be receiving a new 'green box' kerbside recycling calendar.

Plastic recycling would not be included in the kerbside collection scheme from April 2008 as originally thought. This was due to the decision to put the refuse, street cleansing and recycling collections through a contract tendering process, which would include the collection of such materials.

The Director of Community Services advised that, during the current budget process, an allocation of £10,000 had been included to increase the frequency of emptying of bins at the recycling centres.

LA/15. **CONSULTATION ON THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE BUDGET**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Mark Alflat, Director of Community Services at the District Council. The purpose of the consultation was to inform and consult on the draft key priorities and actions within the 2008/11 Corporate Plan and the budget proposals for 2008/09. A copy of the Corporate Plan had been circulated, together with a questionnaire seeking feedback. Copies of the presentation slides had also been circulated, which explained the Council's vision and the six Corporate Plan themes, under which were set key priorities and proposed actions for 2008/09. The Director of Community Services explained how resources were spent on Environmental Services, Community Services and Corporate Services. The budget proposals for 2008/09 were outlined, together with the current financial position of the District Council. The Council had a minimal amount of debt and its investments were earning interest.

The Council was investigating the contracting out of services, in order to keep costs low and was also releasing surplus assets in order to secure additional

income. Particular reference was made to three council housing sites which had been sold and the relocation of a sheltered housing facility.

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

Mrs. Jackson raised concerns regarding the condition of the road at Appleby Glade/Basses Crescent, Castle Gresley. She advised that the loose grit on the surface of the road was currently breaking up and creating potholes.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council investigate the road condition of Appleby Glade/Basses Crescent, Castle Gresley.

Mrs. Taylor questioned why the District Council's road-sweeper was not used on Station Lane, Walton-on-Trent. Pavement cleaners were sent to this location, but operatives had advised that they were unable to turn around and therefore would not go over the 'Bailey' Bridge. Mrs. Taylor considered that there was sufficient turning space available.

It was agreed that the District Council investigate the matter of the road sweeper accessing Station Lane, Walton-on-Trent.

Mrs. Taylor also advised that additional gully emptying was required on Station Lane, Walton-on-Trent. Gully emptying was undertaken twice each year in Main Street but only once a year in Station Lane. There was concern that all of the Village water flowed down Station Lane and sometimes resulted in flooding across the road, when the drains were full to capacity.

It was agreed that Officers at the District Council investigate the possibility of increasing the frequency of gully emptying at Station Lane, Walton-on-Trent to twice each year.

A local resident queried whether it was possible to recycle black plastic items and was advised that only clear plastic was recyclable at the present time.

Reference was made to a recent news item about a recycling company, which had been requesting plastic items to recycle into fence posts. The Chairman advised that the cost of collecting plastics was very high. The Director of Community Services advised that quotations had been obtained for the collection of all plastics throughout the District. It was envisaged that such arrangements would equate to an additional £650,000 cost to residents, which would mean a 16% increase on the Council Tax bill. This was not an option. Therefore the District Council was tendering the refuse, recycling and street cleansing service, to see if money could be saved.

Councillor Bambrick advised that the Scrutiny Committee had visited Blaby District Council to view the process for recycling plastics, using a shredder. Councillor Grant commented that Blaby District Council had claimed that its plastic recycling process was unique. Mrs. Taylor also questioned whether envelopes could be recycled.

The Director of Community Services agreed to investigate the recycling of envelopes and would report back to a future Meeting.

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

The date and venue of the next Linton Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.40 p.m.