

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

24th April 2012

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Southerd, Stuart and Tilley (Vice-Chairman).

B. Ledger (Head of Housing and Environmental Services) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Farrington.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

M. Mycock and P. Smith (Hartshorne Parish Council) and C. Gillespie (Woodville Parish Council)

In attendance

Councillor Lacey (Derbyshire County Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bird, M.G. Brotherhood, K. Dicken, C. Dobson, R. Causer, C. Horridge, S. Horridge, J. Hough, K. Hough, H. Cleft (Burton Mail) J. McCarthy, D. Morris, M. Shepherd, R. Thomas and P. Yates.

SA/27. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Bell and Rhind (Labour Group).

SA/28. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that South Derbyshire District Council had issued a recycling survey, which had been distributed. A new recycling contract was due to begin in 2013, and the District Council was attempting to get people's views on this matter, for input into the contract.

SA/29. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 24th January 2012 were noted, subject to an amendment to SA/23, paragraph 1, in which the Chairman requested that it be recorded that a senior officer from Derbyshire County Council had been asked to attend the Area Forum with regard to this matter.

SA/30. REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

It was reported that the road markings on George Street had now been completed.

With regard to the Burton Road crossing, the Chairman asked that it be recorded that he was very disappointed that a senior Derbyshire County Council Officer had not attended this meeting. He reported that he would raise this matter with the Chief Executive of South Derbyshire District Council. Members also added that they shared the disappointment of the Chairman, and considered that, as the District Council provided senior officers at the Forum Meetings, the County Council should do the same. The Chairman requested that Derbyshire County Councillors take this feedback back to the County Council. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that he had requested a senior officer to attend to discuss Wilmot Road, however he had not asked for a Legal Officer to attend regarding the Burton Road matter. He stated that officers from Legal Services and Development Control would provide him with progress reports when appropriate, which he would pass on to the Area Forum. In addition, Councillor Farrington added that she would also undertake to request someone attend a future Meeting.

The Forum Liaison Officer advised that with regard to the Wilmot Road crossing, an Officer from Derbyshire County Council had arranged a Meeting with the Local County Council Member, Councillor Jones. He added that although he had asked for a Senior Officer to attend the Area Forum, Derbyshire County Council had a policy of only allowing Highways Officers to attend Community Forums where there was a significant and technically complex issue to be discussed that only a Highways Officer could explain. In the case of the Wilmot Road issue, it was felt that attendance by a Senior Highways Officer was not warranted. The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to report any further updates when available. Councillor Southerd responded that although he was unhappy with the response, he would like to be involved in the Meeting of the Highways Officer and Councillor Jones, along with other District Ward Members, including Councillors Rhind and Stuart.

In response to the issue of the Coppice Side footway, the Forum Liaison Officer reported that it had been inspected, and, although it was noted that the footway was narrow, there had been no history of safety issues, so it was unlikely for any work to be completed in this area.

It was reported that a further manhole cover was now missing on Coppice Side.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter, and report back to a future Meeting.

With regard to traffic management issues on Coppice Side, including pedestrians accessing the new retail park, the Forum Liaison Officer reported that Traffic Officers were in South Derbyshire regularly and this area would continue to be monitored.

The Head of Housing and Environmental Services reported that the contract was about to be let for the work required on the property on George Street.

This work would commence on 7th May and be completed within 6 weeks.

With regard to the car park and footpath adjacent to Rink Way, the Head of Housing and Environmental Services reported that this was due to be reworked with additional ramps and white lines being installed. In addition, bollards would be constructed to stop vehicles accessing the footpath, and there would be a turning head put into the car park. These works were due to commence within 4 to 6 weeks.

With regard to car parking in Swadlincote, the Head of Housing and Environmental Services reported that the District Council had carried out a survey, which had identified pressure on parking in the Town Centre, particularly in the morning. A full report was due to be submitted to Members in the near future. It was also hoped that the old Co-op/Somerfield site would be re-let shortly, and that the car park at this site be reopened.

It was asked if the car park, which had been converted from the indoor market, could be opened on a Saturday. It was also asked if this car park was being fully utilised by Council employees. The Head of Housing and Environmental Services reported that negotiations were under way which sought to extend the opening hours of the car park.

It was agreed to provide a further response to the next Meeting.

It was also confirmed that the yard adjacent to the Royal Mail office was very small, and where possible was being utilised by employees.

SA/31. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

It was reported that the Moira Road weight limit signs needed moving.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter.

A resident was concerned that, as the chemist was relocating from High Street to Burton Road, Woodville, there would not be enough car parking spaces in this vicinity, and crossing facilities were inadequate for the increased number of pedestrians. The Chairman responded that Derbyshire County Council be asked to consider pedestrian access in this area.

It was agreed that the Forum Liaison Officer look into this matter and report back to a future Meeting.

It was reported that there were issues with Woodville High Street as there was a lack of traffic infrastructure to support development in this area. The Chairman responded that it was an aspiration that a road between Occupation Lane and Swadlincote road be completed, which would help relieve this problem.

It was reported that some of the edging slabs on the Delph had spalled and needed replacing.

It was agreed to look into this and report back to the next Meeting.

It was asked if there were any plans to open the public footpath at Rose Hill.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to respond to this matter at the next Meeting.

It was reported that a new road had been discussed between Woodville by-pass and Bretby since 1978. There was still space for this road, and it was felt that residents and Members should be campaigning for this to be completed.

A resident asked what the cost of the reinstatement of Coppice Side was. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that he had written to the resident concerned and informed him that he could not provide this figure. The resident was advised that if he needed further information, he would need to issue a Freedom of Information request.

It was reported that many areas within Swadlincote needed white lines reinstating, and an example was given of Oak Street, where it crossed Hall Street in Church Gresley. There had also been two minor accidents in this area. It was felt that a review of line markings across the District was required.

It was reported that the old Swadlincote Tram Station, which was behind the Fire Station was in a very bad state and asked if this could be preserved.

It was agreed to report back on this matter at the next Meeting.

It was asked if 2 large fields which were adjacent to Thorpe Down's estate were being considered for housing development as people had been seen measuring them up. It was felt that these should be kept as green field sites. The Chairman responded that he wasn't able to talk about this matter as it may be subject to a planning application. However, he agreed to respond directly to the resident if he became aware of any matter in the future.

It was reported that the scrap merchant yard at Woodville was causing excess noise and requested that this be looked into. The Chairman responded that if there was a noise issue it would need to be reported to the Environment Agency who licensed this operation.

SA/32. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer advised that he had brought weight restriction monitoring forms as requested at the previous Meeting, and they were also available via the website.

SA/33. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

S. TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.45 p.m.