

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

30th August 2005

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillors Southerd and Taylor.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), N. Betteridge (Democratic Services Officer) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representative**

Councillor Southerd.

D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and K. McIntyre (Democratic Services).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Acting Inspector S. Pont.

**Members of the Public**

M. Causer, R. Causer, K. Hough, T. Jackson, D. Pitcher, S. Pitcher, S.P. Robinett, A. Sheriff, J. Tomlinson and J. Williamson.

SA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was noted that District Councillor Stone had been appointed as Chair of the Area Meeting at the Council Meeting held on 30th June 2005.

SA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Stone (Chair), Harrington, Isham, Lane and Murphy, County Councillor Mrs. K. Lauro and Mrs. E. Key.

SA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was agreed that District and County Councillor Southerd be appointed Vice-Chair of the Area Meeting for the remainder of the municipal year.

(In the absence of Councillor Stone, Councillor Southerd assumed the Chair).

Councillor Southerd advised that Councillor Stone (Chair) was currently unwell and residents expressed their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 7th February 2005 were noted.

SA/5. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Meeting reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made in each case. With regard to the central reservation outside Tesco Express, Church Street, Church Gresley, County Councillor Southerd advised that a reservation would ease crossing to the adjacent bus stop and

would also assist in enforcing the parking restrictions outside the store. Lighting problems had delayed the matter to date but hopefully, work would commence within the next eight weeks. It was noted that a dropped kerb would also need to be lifted. A resident expressed concern that the milk delivery van had been parking on the frontage at a peak time early in the morning and this would be pursued with the store.

Residents received a position statement on the restoration works at Maurice Lea Memorial Park, Church Gresley.

With regard to the open area of land at Thorpe Downs Road, Church Gresley, it was reported that the District Council was responsible for many similar areas of public open space on housing developments and was not in a position to enclose these to prevent possible intrusion by travellers. In any event, experience had indicated that travellers tended to be attracted to more secluded areas of land away from residential properties.

With regard to the possibility of speed humps at Thorpe Downs Road, Church Gresley, County Councillor Southerd advised that an accident history was usually necessary prior to the installation of speed humps and monitoring would also need to be undertaken. It was also acknowledged that there were many more roads in a seemingly worse position throughout the District unable to meet the qualifying criteria for speed humps.

With regard to speed cameras on Swadlincote Road, Woodville, it was noted that the route would be reviewed following the installation of traffic signals at Hill Street/Frank Bodicote Way as part of the ongoing Morrisons development. If there was still a need for a mobile camera position, this would be considered in conjunction with the Camera Partnership.

With regard to the comment by Councillor Southerd at the last Meeting relating to the effectiveness of South Derbyshire's Crime and Disorder Partnership, it was reported that Mr. and Mrs. Hansford, who were unable to attend the Meeting, had queried the evidence in support of this comment. In this regard, Councillor Southerd referred to various statistics together with comments by Mr. M. Todd, M.P. in Prime Minister's Question Time in the House of Commons. Councillor Southerd's comments were reiterated by Acting Inspector Pont, who advised that the crime statistics were improving. Arising from this, Acting Inspector Pont introduced himself to residents and outlined current activities. Mr. Rose considered it would be useful if the previous exercise involving members of community accompanying Police Officers during their duties could be repeated.

SA/6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The nature of the proposed development on the land at the top of Thorpe Downs Road, Church Gresley was queried and the Chair advised that planning permission had recently been granted for an Extra Care Unit facility. In this regard, the Director of Community Services outlined the provisions of the Housing Strategy containing various housing needs and reported that this facility would provide a level between nursing care and home help, involving integration into the community. The Chair advised that the initial building had proposed four storeys but this had now been amended to a mixture of two and three storeys. A resident considered that

the current state of the land was untidy and this would be pursued with the Council's Enforcement Officer.

A resident expressed concern at the number of heavy goods vehicles travelling down Hearthcote Road, Swadlincote on a daily basis from Sheffield, contrary to the agreed route, and this would be pursued with the nearby Extec factory. Vehicles were also travelling to CIS (former Sabine Brothers premises) nearby and the Chair advised that an improved scheme was currently being pursued.

A resident considered that a pedestrian crossing should be provided on Church Street, Church Gresley, in view of the speed of vehicles travelling in this vicinity. If this was not possible, it was felt that 30 mph speed limit reminder signs should be erected. County Councillor Southerd agreed to pursue this with the County Highways Authority, along with possible alignments on the highway suggested by a further resident.

Progress relating to speed and parking restrictions in Church Gresley was queried. The Chair advised that the police had experienced problems in enforcing this issue, often due to resources but potential developments were ongoing which could assist the situation.

A resident queried the Council's policy on litter picking, advising that the area in the vicinity of Tesco Express, Church Street, Church Gresley was often untidy. The Director of Community Services advised that a team was allocated to these duties but was mostly engaged in the areas of central Swadlincote. However, the Council was currently considering methods of enforcing the legislation relating to litter dropping and this would free the litter picking team to venture into more rural areas. The Council was considering utilising Neighbourhood Wardens with a uniformed presence in a multi-functional capacity for the purpose.

A resident referred to the recycling centre at Sainsbury's, Civic Way, Swadlincote and advised that the area was often untidy and full to capacity. The Director of Community Services emphasised that this was a successful recycling site, being emptied on three occasions per week. However, people appeared to be leaving contents on the ground even when the recycling banks were not full and it was suggested that a report be submitted to the next Meeting on the matter. District Councillor Taylor reported that on balance, the Council was performing well on recycling and various issues needed to be considered to identify a solution to the problems.

A resident expressed concern at recent restrictions on materials transported to the Amenity Disposal site at Newhall, considering that the materials refused were legitimate and reasonable. District Councillor Taylor advised that this had also been raised at a recent Repton Area Meeting and the District Council's Environmental Services Manager had written to the County Council regarding the problems. County Councillor Southerd also agreed to pursue the matter as he had also received complaints.

It was agreed that future agenda items should include the report on recycling facilities and an update on the restoration works at the Maurice Lea Memorial Park.

SA/7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported the next Area Meeting would be held during October/November and residents would be advised of the date in due course.

SA/8. **FUTURE STRUCTURE OF AREA MEETINGS**

A report was circulated advising that since 1997, the District Council had had six Area Meetings based on the previous County Electoral Division boundaries. However, an Electoral Commission boundary review of the County had resulted in seven Electoral Divisions for South Derbyshire and these came into effect at the recent County Council elections held on 5th May 2005. This revision of the County Council's Electoral Divisions and the decision taken by the County Council to make use of the established Area Meeting structure at the District Council provided an opportunity for the Council to review the current boundaries of its Area Meetings.

It was proposed that South Derbyshire District Council would submit a proposal for a revised structure of Area Meetings in the near future. The Council's Constitution required that "the Council will consult with relevant Parish and Town Councils and the Chairs of relevant Parish Meetings when considering whether and how to amend the operation of its existing Area Meetings". It was reported that as well as using the forum of Area Meetings to undertake such consultation, letters would also be sent to the relevant Parish Clerks in order that the matter could be discussed at Parish Council Meetings and comments fed back to the District Council. Those present were requested to contact the Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services on this matter should they require further information, or have comments to make.

SA/9. **CORPORATE PLAN**

A detailed report on the Council's Corporate Plan for 2005/2008 was circulated. The Director of Community Services advised that the main purpose of this report was to outline the contents of the Council's latest Corporate Plan, which detailed its plans and priorities for delivering local services over the next three years. A secondary purpose was to provide a context for the consultation the Council would be undertaking shortly with local people and groups on the development of the next Corporate Plan. The key aims and underpinning themes together with a sample of the Council's milestones for 2005/06 were circulated. The Director of Community Services advised that the Council would be undertaking a consultation exercise to roll forward the Corporate Plan at the next Meeting and would also be consulting on its budget proposals.

T. SOUTHERD

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.05 p.m.

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