

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5th December 2007

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Atkin (Chairman), Councillor Jones (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Farrington and Mrs. Hood.

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Lane and Mrs. Mead.

In Attendance

Councillors Bladen, Ford and Mrs. Wheeler (Conservative Group).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith (Conservative Group) and Mr. Tony Smith (Severn Trent Water).

OS/33. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th October 2007 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

OS/34. **PUBLIC TRANSPORT ISSUES – WILLINGTON STATION**

The Chairman welcomed representatives from Willington Parish Council who had been invited to contribute to this item. Of principal concern was the review of rail franchise and proposals by the new operator, Arriva to severely reduce the frequency of passenger rail services at Willington Station from December 2008.

A detailed discussion was undertaken and the following issues and points were raised:-

- Arriva's consultation with local people on the proposals.
- The current services provided were well used and very convenient.
- It would be beneficial for the service frequencies at Willington to be increased rather than reduced.
- Better public transport links would be welcomed with existing bus services.
- Car parking was available within the village to support the use of the station.
- It would be more beneficial for the suggested service to be spread proportionately over the day.
- Environmental issues needed to be considered.

Following a request from the Chairman, the Parish Council agreed to undertake a survey, with the assistance of local Members, to identify usage of the current services operated from the Station.

Councillor Ford supported the views of Willington Parish Council and explained how he intended to support the local action. He advised that Stagecoach was also proposing to cancel the Burton-on-Trent to London service and it was therefore suggested that both Arriva and Stagecoach should be pursued about their planned service reductions. Reference was also made to the review of rural bus services.

It was suggested that further discussion could be undertaken with the other local authorities affected by the proposals, the train operating companies and the local bus operating companies.

Councillor Ford thanked the member of the press present for the coverage that had been given with regard to these issues and emphasised the necessity to encourage visitors to South Derbyshire.

At this point, Councillors Bambrick, Bladen and Ford left the Meeting.

It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting of the Committee, early in the new year and to invite representatives of Derbyshire County Council, Staffordshire County Council, Derby City Council, together with the train operators and operators of bus services in this area, to discuss issues relating to Willington Station, the frequency of services and integrated transport links.

At this point, the Willington Parish Council representatives left the Meeting.

OS/35. **FLOODING ISSUES**

(a) Implications of PPS 25 – Development and Flood Risk

Further to Minute No. OS/29 (b) of 24th October 2007, a detailed report was provided, which outlined the aim and objectives of PPS 25 and the activities of the Council in its role as the Local Planning Authority. In particular, this concerned the determination of planning applications and the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

The Council was required to undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. This would need specialist input by consultants, although the Environment Agency would offer advice and guidance. The estimated total cost was £50,000, which would need to be built into the budget for the delivery of the LDF.

It was noted that the PPS 25 set out Flood Zones and these would be used as the basis for determining planning applications until the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment had been undertaken. The Assessment would consider the impact of flood risk management infrastructure on the frequency, impact, speed of onset, depth and velocity of flooding within the Flood Zones. It would also help the preparation of appropriate LDF policies for the management of flood risk and inform site-specific flood risk assessments that accompanied planning applications.

PPS 25 stated that flood risk should be considered alongside other spatial planning issues.

The Committee noted the informative report on the implications of PPS 25, with regard to development and flood risk.

(b) Flooding

It was reported that, in response to the flooding that occurred within the District in July 2007, a questionnaire had been sent to the occupiers of all premises that had contacted the Council. This sought to evaluate the level and quality of customer service, establish where and why the flooding had occurred and the impact of the damage.

Details of the questions asked and the responses received were provided to Members. The Director of Community Services advised that a questionnaire had also been forwarded to Members and a report detailing the responses received would be submitted to a future Meeting.

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler congratulated the Council's Officers and other agencies for the work undertaken following the summer flooding. She commented that the issue of flooding was included within the revised Corporate Plan.

The Chairman questioned whether the British Waterways Board was a statutory consultee on planning applications for developments close to canals. The Director of Community Services agreed to investigate this matter.

The Director of Community Services advised of a multi-agency emergency exercise planned for February 2008. A report back on the results would be submitted to a future Meeting. Councillor Lane queried the management of the exercise and whether observers were allowed. The Director gave an outline of the arrangements.

The Chairman referred to the apology received from Mr. Tony Smith, a representative of Severn Trent Water, who had been invited to attend the Meeting, to speak on this item.

It was agreed that a representative from Severn Trent Water be re-invited to the Meeting to be held on 13th February 2008. Members were asked to compile questions, which would be forwarded to Severn Trent Water in advance of the Meeting.

(c) Information received from the Environment Agency

Further to Minute No. OS/29(a), information received from the Environment Agency was circulated. The Director of Community Services advised that Mark Swain from the Environment Agency had sent an apology that he was unable to attend this Meeting.

Councillor Lane reminded Members that the Environment Agency had offered to provide further information on how it prioritised capital expenditure schemes and he requested that this be pursued.

It was agreed to pursue this information.

OS/36. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

Members received details of the updated work programme and gave consideration to the items to be considered at future Meetings.

It was agreed to discuss the following issues at the Meetings indicated:-

- (1) 16th January 2008 – A briefing session on the budget scrutiny process.**
- (2) 23rd January 2008 – First stage of budget scrutiny.**
- (3) 13th February 2008, 2.00 p.m. – Conclusion of budget scrutiny and discussions with Severn Trent Water on Flooding and British Telecom on Broadband availability within the District.**
- (4) 26th March 2008 – Discussion on Health Scrutiny. Invite Councillor Jones, Chairman of the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, together with appropriate Officers.**

N. ATKIN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 6.20 p.m.