

REPTON AREA MEETING

31st October 2002

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chair) and Councillors Bell, Bladen, Evens, Sherratt and Mrs. Wheeler

S. Whiles (Head of Community Services), E. Julian (Community Drugs Officer), N. Betteridge (Democratic Services Officer) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor Jones (Vice-Chair).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant M. Gaghan.

Parish Council Representatives

D. Adams (Hartshorne), A. Atkin (Newton Solney), S. Evans and A. Skipper (Repton), R. Morrow and C. Warner (Willington).

Members of the Public

Mr. and Mrs. J. Cownie, D.J. Deboo, M. Gaskell, A. Gifford, M.J. Groom, J. Orme, J. Parker, R. Paulson, R. Russian and K. Vincent.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from P. Shadrack (Hartshorne Parish Council), D. Falder (Newton Solney Parish Council), D. Roberts (Repton Parish Council), Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Gillepsie, Mr. Kimber, Mrs. Stamford, Mr. Wass and the Chief Executive of the District Council, Mr. F.B. McArdle.

RA/7. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd July 2002 were noted.

RA/8. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and explained the progress made in each case.

With regard to the lack of a footway at Findern Lane, Willington, Mr. Orme advised that he had received a verbal reply from the County Council and also a written reply in relation to the recent traffic census at Willington.

A resident queried progress on the hazard caused by the Poplar trees at Mill Hill, Repton and this would be pursued with the County Council.

With regard to the proposed closure of the public toilets in Willington, it was requested that a progress report be submitted to the next Meeting following residents' concern that they were being "charged twice" for toilet provision, as reported to the last Meeting. Residents again expressed their strong opposition to the closure of the toilets and the Chair reiterated that the District Council was willing to enter into a partnership with the Parish Council. However, Mr. Morrow of Willington Parish Council advised that the Parish Council had reluctantly agreed to make a significant financial contribution towards the running costs associated with the toilet provision. This had been rejected by the District Council and Mr. Morrow advised that the Parish Council's problem was associated with assuming the responsibility of the toilets, involving their opening and closure on a regular basis. In this regard, he considered that the District Council was in a more advantageous position to offer continuity of service and accordingly, he requested the District Council to reconsider the financial offer made by the Parish Council.

The Chair referred to a previous outstanding item concerning the 40 mph speed limit on the Repton to Willington Road. No response had yet been received from the County Highways Authority and County Councillor Jones agreed to pursue the matter accordingly.

RA/9. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

District Councillor Sherratt advised of recent public transport problems experienced in Hartshorne, reporting that Arriva had curtailed some bus services in the area. He expressed concern at the lack of consultation undertaken and suggested that a representative from the Company should be invited to address the next Meeting and explain the situation. The Head of Community Services advised that the Council had been working in partnership with Rural Transport and an Officer was dedicated to this service area. Accordingly, she suggested that this Officer could also be invited to the Meeting.

District Councillor Mrs. Wheeler advised that the A511 Ashby Road at Bretby had recently been resurfaced at the point of a fatal accident last year. The County Highways Authority had confirmed that this stretch had been covered with an anti-skid surface and white hash markings were also to be imposed on the surface. It was noted that this stretch of highway was now subject to a reduced speed limit of 40 mph.

A resident expressed his disappointment that the railway station at Willington had not benefited from recent increases in rail passenger services. District Councillor Evens reiterated this and advised that he had submitted a motion on this issue for consideration at the next Meeting of the District Council on 7th November 2002. Residents also claimed that fares were not always collected on trains from Willington, which did not provide a true reflection of the usage.

A resident enquired as to the current situation on the second draft of the Local Plan and the Chair advised that a Special Meeting of the District Council's Environmental and Development Services Committee was to be held on 20th November 2002 to consider the matter. A consultation exercise would subsequently be undertaken and Mr. Morrow of Willington Parish

Council requested that if the consultation timescale included the Christmas period, a further period should be allowed to compensate for this holiday period. In connection with the Local Plan, flooding issues at the site of the former power station were discussed and it was noted that the Environment Agency had not yet produced a study on the projected flooding situation. A resident queried whether a moratorium had been placed on any further development on the flood plain until the study had been produced.

A resident referred to the refuse freighter to be sited shortly in the car park at Repton Village Hall and enquired as to those items allowed to be deposited in the freighter. The resident was requested to leave details with the Helpdesk and a response would be provided to her accordingly.

Residents referred to the high level of lorry traffic in the area associated with the Calder Industries factory at Willington. It was claimed that the lorries were attempting dangerous manoeuvres and that they should be utilising a preferred route around the area. A representative of Willington Parish Council advised that this matter had been discussed regularly at Parish Council Liaison Meetings and the company had claimed that they had no control over the route taken by lorries after they had left the premises. Investigations had been made into the possibility of utilising a rear entrance into the premises but this had proceeded no further following the County Highways Authority's refusal to provide any financing towards this private road as there would be no financial advantage. It was agreed to write to the company expressing concern at the route taken by the lorries and to request the company's co-operation in attempting to secure the use of a preferred route.

A resident referred to the encampment of travellers on 21st October 2002 at the bottom of Frizzams Lane on a visibility splay. The Police had been informed and following a subsequent accident, the Police had advised that the owner of the land, being the County Highways Authority, was responsible for removing the travellers. The situation remained unchanged and the District Council's Head of Community Services advised that the Council could pressurise landowners to remove travellers. Accordingly, she would ensure that the County Highways Authority was aware of the situation and Sergeant Gaghan confirmed that wilful obstruction constituted an offence. He was aware of the situation and as the travellers had moved when requested, no offence had been committed. The Head of Community Services confirmed that the District Council could not force travellers to relocate to an approved site in the District. The District Council had to follow certain procedures to remove travellers from land within its ownership and private landowners could often undertake this process much more quickly.

A resident enquired as to the current situation with the footway on the Repton to Newton Solney Road. This had been completed at each end but a section was still missing in between. County Councillor Jones advised that this scheme had been included for consideration in next year's budget and he encouraged any residents concerned to make appropriate representations to the County Highways Authority.

RA/10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the next Area Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 28th January 2003 at Woodville Infants School.

RA/11. CRIME AND DISORDER INITIATIVES

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Emma Julian, the recently appointed Community Drugs Officer, who spoke to a circulated handout “Reducing Crime in our Community”. The vision for a safe South Derbyshire would be achieved through partnership working between local authorities, Police, Health, other statutory bodies, voluntary organisations and the business sector. The community would also be encouraged to take action itself to reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.

The Crime and Disorder Act had placed a statutory responsibility on authorities to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder through the production of a strategy every three years. The 2002 to 2005 Strategy had identified six main priority areas which were outlined, together with their respective three year targets. The literature showed the South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Partnership structure and a table was submitted outlining current activity being undertaken by each of the action teams.

Clarification was provided on Emma Julian’s role as Community Drugs Officer. She spoke of the multi-agency approach to deliver a range of projects and commented particularly on the Communities Against Drugs initiative. This sought to reduce crime through stopping the supply of drugs, identifying and prosecuting criminals and providing support services to drug users.

Residents expressed their congratulations at the work undertaken to date and parish councils were encouraged to return questionnaires recently forwarded to them.

RA/12. PAVEMENTS ARE FOR PEOPLE

Mr. D.J. Deboo addressed the Meeting on this initiative by the County Council concerning vehicles parking on pavements. He advised that he had written to the local Member of Parliament and the Chief Constable. He had subsequently received a visit from a Sergeant but Mr. Deboo advised that vehicles were still parking on pavements in Repton. Mr. Deboo disputed the Sergeant’s interpretation of the legislation that a highway included the pavement and considered the problem to be linked to other issues involved with speeding and horses riding on pavements. Mr. Deboo considered that a foot patrol should be provided periodically to advise motorists not to drive/park on pavements and horse riders to refrain from using pavements. To achieve these aims, visits should be made to schools and commercial premises.

Mr. Deboo referred to a recent fatal accident on the Repton to Milton road and considered that speed limits on all roads linking villages in the area should be reduced to 40 mph. To reduce vehicle speeds within village limits, Mr. Deboo considered that black and white pedestrian crossings should be imposed on the road surface at appropriate locations rather than other traffic calming measures, including speed humps. In this regard, it was noted that a petition had been submitted for the removal of speed humps in an area of Derby.

It was agreed that the comments expressed by Mr. Deboo be referred to the relevant agencies. Inspector Hargreaves of Swadlincote Police would also be requested to contact Mr. Deboo to discuss the interpretation of the legislation concerning pavements being included within the highway.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.