

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

10th August 2004

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Richards (Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mrs. Mead and Wilkins.

T. Neaves (Chief Finance Officer), S. Haslett (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer), N. Betteridge (Democratic Services Officer), J. Bellm (Democratic Services Assistant) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor W. C. Routledge.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Acting Inspector A. Wright.

Members of the Public

P. Bambrick, M. Dunn, M. Goodrwin, Mr. and Mrs. D. Hardwick, R. House, C. Maddock, D. Mansfield, G. Myatt, W. Parker, M. Perry, M. Richards, D. Tagg and B. Woods.

NA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

The appointment of Councillor Richards as Chair made at the Council's Annual Meeting held on 20th May 2004 was noted.

NA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from M. Brooks, I. Fern, R. Hughes and V. Thornley.

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

Councillor Mrs. Mead was appointed Vice-Chair of the Meeting for the remainder of the municipal year.

NA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 28th April 2004 were noted.

NA/5. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair advised that details of the "Quids In" scheme would soon be received by 2,860 households in Midway. This scheme provided information by way of a 'check list', which would enable residents to ascertain whether or not they were entitled to benefits such as council tax benefit, housing benefit and working tax credit. Newhall and Stanton households would receive the information during September. The Chair reported that it was hoped to increase the benefits figure to £20 million and Welfare Rights Officers would be located within the Wards to assist residents.

The Chair announced that South Derbyshire Local Area Committees, organised by Derbyshire County Council, now took place during the evening, commencing at 6.00 p.m. Future meetings would be held on 20th October 2004, 5th January 2005 and 9th March 2005, at venues to be confirmed. The County Council had advised that a representative of the Highways Department would be present at all meetings and would respond to concerns raised by members of the public. Copies of future agendas would be available on request.

The Chair invited Mr. B. Woods to present a cheque for £50 to Councillor Mrs. Mead, Chair of the District Council which had been raised from a Summer Lunch. The cheque would be donated to St. Giles Hospice which was one of Councillor Mrs. Mead's chosen charities for her year of office. Councillor Mrs. Mead extended her thanks to Mr. Woods.

NA/6. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES PROGRESSED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Meeting reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made in each case. Residents asked whether there were any proposals to provide a specific site for motorcyclists in the area. It was reported that a suitable location was still under investigation.

NA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Several residents complained about the untidy condition of the former Horse and Jockey site in Meadow Lane, Newhall. Planning permission for residential development of the land had been refused pending a current appeal and residents asked whether it was possible for the Council to require the tidying of the site in the interim period. District Councillor Dunn confirmed that he would pursue this matter with Officers. The Chair reported that there were also issues relating to a right of way across this land, which would be the subject of an application to the County Highways Authority for a definitive route. Acting Inspector Wright agreed to monitor the parking of vehicles in this vicinity.

Residents discussed general problems relating to parked cars, particularly on the junction of High Street and Oversetts Road. It was reported that cars parked on the grass verge in this vicinity caused problems during inclement weather conditions, when mud was deposited onto the roads. Residents suggested that this area could be hard-surfaced and designated as a formal car parking area, but this would create a precedent for many similar areas in the District. Acting Inspector Wright agreed to monitor the parking of vehicles at this location.

Residents queried the policy on the imposition of yellow parking restriction lines. The Chair encouraged residents wishing to raise highways issues to attend the County Council's Local Area Committee Meetings, as notified during his announcements earlier in the Meeting.

A resident expressed concern at vehicles undertaking dangerous manoeuvres when using the Sunday School premises at the junction of A444/Park Road, Stanton and considered that clearer markings were required.

County Councillor Routledge addressed residents regarding parking issues in the area surrounding William Allitt School. Two temporary classrooms were being constructed, causing extra traffic, and as a consequence, parking problems during school hours, which may require action by the Police. The temporary structures were for a period of ten years and there may be the possibility of new school provision in the future.

District Councillor Mrs. Mead reported that certain footways in Newhall had recently been repaired, but several were still outstanding. County Councillor Routledge agreed to pursue this matter, along with the uneven condition of Robinsons Road and Parliament Street now raised by a resident.

NA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 3rd November 2004 at Stanton Village Hall.

(Note: The arrangements were subsequently amended to Monday, 22nd November 2004 at the Old Post Centre.)

NA/9. **CRIME AND DISORDER UPDATE**

S. Haslett, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, gave a presentation to the Meeting. She advised that the Crime and Disorder Partnership was a local partnership between the Police, Local Authorities, Health, Probation, Voluntary Services and the Fire Services etc. The Partnership's priorities contained within the 2002/05 Strategy were house burglary, auto crime, fear of crime, anti social behaviour, substance misuse and violent crime (domestic abuse). The Partnership was resourced by a Police Liaison Officer, an Anti Social Behaviour Officer, a Community Safety Officer, a Community Drugs Officer and a part-time Community Engagement Officer. The Officer gave an overview of projects currently being run by the Partnership which included a Safer Homes for South Derbyshire Scheme (Man in a Van), skateboard parks at Swadlincote and Hilton, a Youth Needs Survey (involving liaison with 4,000+ young people), Burglar Alarm Installation Scheme, Environmental Improvements (involving the cleaning-up at Goseley Estate, Hartshorne), a Domestic Abuse Campaign and a project to support parents of drug users. The Officer also advised the Meeting that the Partnership was undertaking new work in the areas of Anti Social Behaviour Orders, starting a mediation service, an abandoned vehicle scheme and sports and arts development opportunities. A Liberation Day had been held during May 2004 and a School Safety Day involving 300+ children including a theatre production on anti social behaviour was being organised. The Meeting was advised of the statistics relating to crime for the District and the successful work of the Partnership in that there had been no repeat victims of house burglary. It was reported that the Partnership's proposals for 2004/05 included a Domestic Abuse Drop In Centre, a Neighbourhood Watch Support Scheme, an Anti Social Behaviour Response Team, environmental improvements and new facilities and activities. The timetable for the launch of the Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2005/08 was outlined.

The Meeting was informed of the availability of burglar alarms, subject to certain criteria. It was noted that there had been no repeat burglaries in the District within the last three years.

Mr. Woods referred to a lack of recreational facilities for young people in this area. The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer commented that there was a problem in trying to meet differing needs. A survey had revealed that boys requested sports facilities, whereas girls were interested in drama, youth clubs, etc. County Councillor Routledge commented that the Old Post Centre had a Youth Room but currently, this facility was not widely used.

District Councillor Wilkins referred to the Liberation Day on 27th May 2004. The day had been organised to help elderly and vulnerable people throughout South Derbyshire learn how they could stay safe and secure in their homes and he reported that over 600 people had attended. He thanked Sue Haslett and the Crime and Disorder Partnership for their efforts.

It was reported that the next meeting of the Newhall Crime and Disorder Group would be held on 15th September 2004 at 6.30 p.m. at the Old Post Centre and residents were encouraged to attend.

NA/10. **RECYCLING NEWS**

The Meeting was advised that South Derbyshire's residents had beaten the Council's recycling target for the financial year 2003/04. During the year 40,000 tonnes of waste was collected in the District out of which 6.5 tonnes were recycled (17%). The Council's target for the year was 14%, so it was well on its way of meeting the statutory target set by the Government – 21% in 2005/06. The Meeting was advised that the main recycling developments during the previous year were in the areas of the extension of the composting scheme by a further 6,000 households in the District, a fortnightly collection of the kerbside paper and the launch of a new scheme in January of this year for the kerbside collection of glass, cans, foils and textiles as well as paper from 12,000 households in the District.

NA/11. **MAINTENANCE OF GRASS VERGES AND LACK OF GUTTER AND LITTER CLEANSING**

The content of a letter from Mr. B. Woods was discussed. There were various issues contained within this letter, including a suggestion that a greater proportion of the District Council's income was spent in rural areas rather than the urban core. It also highlighted the problem of litter in Newhall.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that rural areas received additional resources from parish councils and were not wholly funded by the District Council. It was noted that urban areas had the benefit of free parks, whereas rural areas had recreation sites which were subsidised by the parish councils. Overall, it was an issue of balance.

The issue of street cleansing was then discussed. It was felt that where access was restricted i.e. due to parked cars, the cleansing performance was often affected.

Councillor Bambrick emphasised the role of the Clean Team, a service which could be deployed wherever necessary. He also felt that litter bins may need to be emptied more regularly.

Residents requested that details of expenditure by the District Council on items such as street cleansing and maintenance of grass verges be reported to the next Meeting.

K. J. RICHARDS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.