

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM  
ETWALL

8th October 2008

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Mrs. Brown, Ford, Mrs. Patten and Mrs. Plenderleith

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), D. Townsend (Democratic Services), M. Guest (Corporate Performance & Policy Officer), S. Ryan (Policy Officer), K. Allies (Environmental Development Manager) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representative**

Councillor Ford.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer), M. Evans and D. Meredith-Wood.

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Sergeant M. Sisman.

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

P. Coulter (Dalbury Lees Parish Council), B. Penney, P. Whittingham and B. Cowley (Egginton Parish Council), N. Ireland and I. Smith (Etwall Parish Council), S. Dunncliffe and L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), R. Smith (Foston & Scropton Parish Council), C. Thurman and T. O'Connor (Hatton Parish Council), B. Walton-Knight, G. Banton, L. Kolkman and J. Bates (Hilton Parish Council).

**Members of the Public**

S. Avery, F. Baston, D. Behnke, E. Behnke, J. Bilbie, Q. Butler, J. Clarke, S. Cowdrey, O. Emery, H. Hague, K. Holbrook, G. James, H. Keft, R. Matthews, Mr. & Mrs. Moor, J. Orme, J. Parkinson, L. Ramsey, S. Savage, L. Shaw, V. Stewart, M. Trow and T. Whorly.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and reported on the renaming of the public meetings from 'Etwall Area Meeting' to 'South Derbyshire Area Forum - Etwall'. He added that the crest of the District Council appeared on the cover alongside those of the County Council and Derbyshire Constabulary, to indicate that these were joint meetings for the area. He added that in future there would be greater involvement from the County Council to respond to questions on the functions that they were responsible for. In addition, the Police were continuing to be represented at these Meetings. However, their main role was to discuss partnership issues that concerned the police and other agencies. He reminded those present that the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings would continue and these were the main forum for police issues.

EA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Lemmon was appointed Chairman of the Etwall Area Meeting at the Annual Council Meeting held on 22nd May 2008.

EA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from County Councillor Hood, District Councillor Mrs. Hood, Mr. Beresford, Mr. Cramp, Mrs. Dove, Mr. Gerrard and Mrs. Penlington.

EA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Etwall Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

EA/4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised the Meeting of the current arrangements for discussing planning issues. He confirmed that arrangements for Area Committees (as they were originally called) were approved by the Council in May 1997. At this time, the framework was set and it was explicitly agreed that matters relating to planning applications would not be permitted at Area Meetings. In addition, there was an issue, particularly for Members of the Development Control Committee, that discussing such items in a public forum, could risk an accusation of pre-determination. Therefore, any matters that related to a current, or potential application could not be discussed at this forum.

EA/5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Meeting held on 21st May 2008 were noted subject to the amendment of Minute No. EA/19, the penultimate paragraph on page 2, which referred to parking on Sutton Lane. It was requested that this was changed to Main Street in Etwall, as there was no pavement on Sutton Lane.

In addition, in referring to Minute No. EA/19, third paragraph on page 2, it was pointed out that the Chief Executive had offered to pursue a matter with the Planning Department, however, there was no reference to this within the report back.

**It was requested that a response to this item be provided to the next Meeting.**

EA/6. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

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

With regard to the item on recycling facilities in Hilton, concerns were once again raised about the need for additional facilities. It was pointed out that two previous planning applications had been granted and that recycling facilities had not been included.

**The Chairman agreed to look into this in conjunction with the Planning Department and would report back to the next Meeting.**

With regard to the Willington Marina, a resident requested that Derbyshire County Council be thanked for the work that they had done in providing a footpath between Willington and Findern.

Councillor Ford added that in the vicinity of the new Marina, Derbyshire County Council had been asked to undertake a speed limit review in the interests of road safety around this area.

With regard to the item concerning the diversionary route from the A50, it was questioned if, in view of the response received from Balfour Beattie, the District or the County Council had made any further representations in an attempt to identify alternative options. Paul Jameson responded that Derbyshire County Council had accepted the response, as there appeared to be no alternative options. It was suggested that it might be useful if Balfour Beattie were approached requesting that they consider entering into a consultation process with local residents. With reference to this item, an email was read out at the request of Mr. Beresford, who was unable to attend the Meeting.

**It was requested that this item remained on the agenda, and that Derbyshire County Council pursued this with Balfour Beattie due to the strength of concern of local residents.**

With regard to the item concerning heavy goods vehicles using Marston Lane, it was pointed out that difficulty was caused by non-English speaking drivers and the use of satellite navigation. It was suggested that better signage would assist with this problem, in addition to Nestle being contacted, requesting that their drivers were made aware of this problem. It was pointed out that not only was this causing considerable inconvenience to local residents, but hedgerows and verges were also being damaged.

**Derbyshire County Council agreed to follow-up this item and report back to the next Meeting.**

In response to Derbyshire County Council's reply with regards to the pedestrian refuge or crossing on Station Road, Hatton, it was stated that a temporary refuge had been installed in the past and had proved very successful.

**Derbyshire County Council agreed to look into this issue again and report back to the next Meeting.**

Concerns had been raised over the proliferation of developer signs in Hilton, and it was reported that this had improved. However, it was queried whether the appropriate authorisation had been received for a number of Redrow signs that were now present on verges.

**Derbyshire County Council agreed to look into the Redrow signs.**

EA/7. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sisman reported that PC Bateman and Sergeant Cadman were now responsible for the local area. The Police had recently pursued a suspect with regards to graffiti, and hoped to have a further update at the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting. He also added that two new PCSO's would become operational in South Derbyshire at the end of November.

A resident asked about the current situation at the 'T' junction on the B5008 adjacent to the development of Willington Marina. He added that although there was the possibility of traffic lights in the future, currently there were 'no right turn' signs, which HGV's were ignoring, and causing a traffic hazard by turning right. Sergeant Sisman responded that he would follow this up. He believed that the lorries in question were accessing Bardon Quarry. P. Jameson added that traffic signals were due to be installed at this location by early November 2008.

A resident congratulated the police on the lack of issues that were outstanding in the area. He believed the police were providing a very efficient service. Sergeant Sisman added that PC Bateman was contributing greatly to the success in the area. Councillor Lemmon added his thanks and appreciation to the police for their work.

Sergeant Sisman reported that the next Safer Neighbourhoods Meeting was to be held on 1st December 2008 at Hilton Village Hall, and encouraged residents to attend.

EA/8. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

The Chairman advised the Area Forum that he was in receipt of a letter from a local resident. He advised the Forum that, as the letter raised issues which were dealt with by many different agencies, it was being pursued outside the Meeting and a response had been provided direct to the resident.

It was reported that as speed bumps in Hilton had been incorrectly sited, Derbyshire County Council had advised that following consultation, a central hump would be put in, on the first and third sets of humps. It was pointed out that none of the local residents had been consulted, and that the requirement for a third hump on the middle set was the most important. Residents added that they would prefer gateways to humps at this location. It was also pointed out that the crossing was poorly sited and a request was made that this be considered.

**Derbyshire County Council agreed to pursue this issue and report back to the next Meeting.**

It was reported that there were currently two gypsy sites in South Derbyshire and a liaison meeting was already in place, however participation in this was limited. It was asked if this could be opened up to include local residents, the District Council and representatives of parish councils.

**Derbyshire County Council and Councillor Lemmon, on behalf of the District Council agreed to look into this issue and report back to the next Meeting.**

A resident felt that the Area Forum was the correct place to discuss local issues, including the proposed railhead site. He asked that if this could not be discussed in specific terms, a general overview of railheads be given. Councillor Lemmon responded that there was currently a Government initiative to identify possible sites for the transfer of goods onto or off of the railway in an attempt to reduce the amount of road transportation of goods. He also confirmed that a need had been identified for nine railheads throughout the Country.

Councillor Mrs. Brown responded that this was an important issue for local residents, and that this forum should be used to discuss the possible siting of a railhead in the locality. Councillor Lemmon responded that it was explicitly agreed within a Council report that the discussion of matters relating to planning applications would not be permitted. In addition, it was particularly difficult for Members of the Development Control Committee to discuss such items in a public forum, as they could risk being accused of predetermination.

Councillor Mrs. Brown and several members of the public left the Meeting.

EA/9. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRIORITIES**

M. Evans addressed the Meeting and explained the purpose of this presentation and consultation was to understand local priorities, to help shape future priorities, and understand why, and what action could be taken either by organisations, communities or individuals to achieve them. It was important to get a sense of priority at local level, and the County Council were attempting to find out if anything was missing, and what things were important in having a good quality of life. It was requested that those present split into groups, each with a facilitator to discuss these issues further.

Several of those present responded that they would have liked advance notice in order to prepare and consider their priorities, and that they would prefer to do this by another method. It was agreed that, as the District Council was in the process of writing to all parish councils, they would incorporate this consultation.

EA/10. **ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Kate Allies (Environmental Development Manager) advised that a new Environmental Forum for South Derbyshire was being set up by local environmental groups, parish councils and individuals who wanted to share ideas about environmental projects. These were being supported by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and South Derbyshire District Council.

The Forum would involve a networking group to which groups and individuals would be invited. Meetings would usually include formal and informal information sharing and consultation, plus a walk or talk by a local group about their area.

It was confirmed that the first meeting would be held at Repton Village Hall on Tuesday, 4th November at 7.00 p.m. A reply slip was attached to the agenda and people were requested to return this if they were interested in being involved in the Forum.

EA/11. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dates for future Meetings were confirmed as Wednesday, 4th February 2009 at Frank Wickham Hall, Etwall, and Wednesday, 1st April 2009, at the Hatton Centre.

J.L. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated 8.25 p.m.