

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

5th July 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman) and Councillors Frost, Mrs. Hall and Jones.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Jones and Lacey.

P. Jameson (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary Representative

Sergeant J. Thompson.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

J. and O. Pallet (Castle Gresley Parish Council), A. Lees (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), G. and R. Palmer and J. Powell (Linton Parish Council), P. McGibbon (Netherseal Parish Council), S. Jones (Overseal Parish Council) and M. Hurne (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

LA/1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from T. Elson, S. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Passey and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

LA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Jones be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Area Forum for the ensuing year.

LA/3. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Thompson gave an update on crime statistics relating to assault, robbery, dwelling and other burglary, criminal damage and theft. Overall, there had been an approximate 10% reduction in levels of reported crime and anti-social behaviour was highlighted, which had reduced by 24%.

The Officer spoke about traffic policing issues, including speed checks on the A444 at Acresford and at Hillside Road in Linton. The Officer also reminded of

the multi-agency initiative “Operation Safe Drive”, giving examples of the types of offences detected. Other issues reported were the Farm Watch Scheme and the opportunity for residents to become involved in Community Speed Watch.

It was suggested that future speed monitoring along the A444 at Acresford should be adjacent to the County boundary. **The Officer agreed to look into this request.**

At the Nature Reserve in Coton Park, Linton, young people were congregating, leaving litter and it was alleged that drug use was taking place. Sergeant Thompson responded that the police were aware of this issue and would provide a periodic officer presence.

LA/4. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman explained plans to consult about the future operation of the Area Forums. He gave background to the review, the current duplication with Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, boundary changes and constitutional issues. A consultation would take place with parish councils, with information also being placed on the website and sent to the Council’s partners. The Chief Executive gave a broad outline of the process, leading to the Council considering proposals in September.

The Chairman then referred to consultations held at earlier in the year about housing allocations required across the District. The Council was working jointly with Amber Valley Borough Council and Derby City Council, to see how much housing would be needed for the area over the next 15 years or so. It was expected the Government would scrap the existing regional building targets and residents’ views would be sought on how much housing growth should be planned for and the extent to which it should be concentrated around the edges of Derby or dispersed to other towns, villages and locations throughout the Derby housing market area. A number of drop-in events were being held throughout the District over the coming weeks and information had been circulated to those present.

LA/5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Linton Area Forum held on 26th January 2011 were noted.

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

A report had been circulated with the Agenda and the Chairman gave a verbal update on recycling issues relating to the kerbside paper recycling scheme, plastic recycling banks within the southern parishes and the provision of wheeled bins for composting. Written copies of this update were available. With regard to the report on plastic recycling, it was noted that the recycling banks were only for the collection of bottles, not other plastic materials.

LA/7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

With reference to Minute No. LA/24, a resident again raised concerns about the poor condition of a footway in Coton Park, Linton, leading to the recreation ground. It had been anticipated that works would be completed to widen this footpath, but these had still not taken place. The Forum Liaison Officer gave an update and was seeking clarification on funding sources for this work.

It was agreed to refer this matter back to Derbyshire County Council and that a further report be submitted to the next Area Forum Meeting.

Concerns were reported about a development that had commenced on a field adjacent to the Cricketts Inn public house at Acresford. It was explained that this matter was the subject of action by the Council, through its planning and legal functions and therefore it could not be discussed at the Area Forum, but residents' concerns were noted.

In response to a question, an update was provided about the import of materials for the Golf Course off William Nadins Way in Swadlincote. There had been a slight delay, due to the need to get consent from the Environment Agency. However, the overall project was still on time and on budget. The driving range would be the first phase released. The Chief Executive referred to a planned visit to the site and residents of Appleby Glade expressed a wish to be involved in that site visit.

The Chief Executive agreed to include Appleby Glade residents in the planned site visit.

There was a discussion about the "Gold Card" concessionary travel scheme, as it was understood that charges were to be introduced. It was clarified that this was still a free travel service for those qualifying for a Gold Card. A charge was being introduced for the community transport "dial a bus" service. This followed a consultation with service users, which had concluded that it would be better to levy a small charge, rather than risk losing the service.

A resident sought further information about proposals for an incinerator close to Swadlincote. It was confirmed that no specific approach had yet been received by the Council.

The Chief Executive gave an update on current developments in Swadlincote, which were nearing completion. The new site adjacent to Morrisons Supermarket would include a five-screen cinema, several leading retail stores and a restaurant. The development had retained heritage features on the site. He also outlined plans to work with local bus services to ensure that these new facilities were accessible to both those within the greater Swadlincote area and those in surrounding villages. Related to this, there was a discussion about the retention of heritage features at the T.G. Green site and about bus services generally. Thanks were recorded to Mr. McArdle and the staff involved.

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

The date and venue for the next Linton Area Forum would be confirmed in due course.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.