

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Frank Wickham Hall, Etwall

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs. Brown (Chairman) and Councillors: Mrs Patten; Mrs Plenderith Martyn Ford and Andy Roberts.

Frank McArdle - Chief Executive  
Ardip Kaur – Legal & Democratic Services Manager  
Julie Marson - Clerk

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs Patten and Martyn Ford

Paul Jameson (DCC)

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

I.Bennett, D.Muller, and N.Ireland (Etwall Parish Council); B.Myring (Etwall Neighbourhood Watch); T.Beresford (Foston & Scropton Parish Council); C.Hall (Burnaston Neighbourhood Watch); M Nesbitt (Egginton Parish Council); S McLernon (Fire & Rescue); David SImcox (CEO of CAB); Rob Helliwell (Burton Mail)

**Members of the Public**

S.Jolly

EA/23 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Plenderith; Andy Billings and Martin Buckley (SDDC Tree Officer).

EA/24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

EA/25 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUCEMENTS**

The **Local Plan** has been through its Examination in Public which started in November 2014. It lasted for 6 days covering all aspects of the Local Plan. Following the examination, the appointed Inspector has asked the Council to undertake some further work around housing, viability and infrastructure on strategic sites. This work when complete will be submitted to the Inspector who will then decide on the next steps.

The **Community Partnership Grant Scheme** has now been re-launched with a total pot of £300,000.

- Capital funding only is available
- Non-profit groups and Parish Council's in South Derbyshire can apply
- Will require a minimum of 50% matched funding
- Minimum Grant £1,000, Max. £25,000

Ian Hey said the first grant panel meeting is in March and he can work with applicants to help make a strong case for funding.

Full details can be found at - [www.south-derbys.gov.uk](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk) or by contacting Ian Hey; Community Partnership Officer at South Derbyshire District Council [ian.hey@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hey@south-derbys.gov.uk) / Tel :01283 228741

EA/26 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Removal of Lamp Posts between Marston Turn (Uttoxeter Rd) to the Salt Box at Hatton. Paul Jameson reported that the lamps along here were identified for permanent switch off under the part-night lighting proposals for Hoon & Marston on Dove in April 2013. The lights were permanently turned off shortly after the consultation period & the results were monitored for a year before removal of the columns earlier in the summer. These lights were on a straight rural road with no collision or crime issues. They were providing minimal highway safety use and given the current financial position, there was no justification for continuing to illuminate this road. There are no intentions to replace the lamp columns.

Tony Beresford – said that no repeat signage for no restrictions had been put in place since. Paul Jameson said he would look into this and report back. There has been 1% of lighting removed, how much does it cost to remove in comparison to being switched off. If lighting is removed it is a one off cost if the columns are switched off they still need regular maintenance.

Foston & Scropton Parish Council pilot scheme with County Council known as 'Community Resilience. – Frank McArdle has spoken to ATL Transport who are keen to be involved and will contact Foston & Scropton Parish Council.

EA/27 **TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (COPY ATTACHED)**

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

EA/28 **DAVID SIMCOX – CEO OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU**

It is the 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday locally of the CAB and 75 years nationally. At the moment they are going through a revamp to help those within the community and make the services more widely available within the district. Locally they asked people what is CAB and most people think it is a council or a taxi service. The CAB provides Free Independent,

Confidential & Impartial Advice to anyone in the district. They hold over 100 advice sessions a week and a great number of issues are raised including Debt, Benefits, Consumer, Housing and Immigration, to name a few. They are trying to reach out to the people and see how they can help and work towards preventive methods. They want to help people as soon as possible as this means there are more options available to them.

For the first time, debt was the number 1 issued raised and the average debt is £18,500 in South Derbyshire.

The CAB want to work with the communities and they hold weekly advice sessions at GP Surgeries, Children Centres and other outreach locations across the district. They can also do home visits. A copy of the Annual report was distributed and also leaflets advising of times etc. and how to contact the service.

Ian Bennett raised the question that from April 2015 advisors on Pensions will be trained. From the 6<sup>th</sup> April, 3 sessions a week will be held in relation to Pensions and these will be held at Church Gresley and out in the Community.

EA/29 **STEVE McLERNON – DFRS – CHINESE LANTERNS**

At present the selling of Chinese Lanterns is not illegal in England. There has been a lobby to Central Government but the E petition failed, so at the moment nothing is in place to change the law.

There have been 17 incidents recorded in the district and 4 have turned into fires. On the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015 a Chinese lantern landed on a fence in Hilton and set the house on fire. The highest profile incident was the one in West Midlands last year which was a major incident caused by a Chinese lantern.

The lanterns cause more issues in rural areas with the livestock and some Councils have banned the use of lanterns on Council owned land.

Cllr Martyn Ford has put forward a motion that lanterns are not to be launched from Council owned land and not to be sold in shops this will be taken to the full council.

In Australia, Fireworks are banned and allowed only at public displays, Could that law come over here? Is there any legal liability if the lanterns cause damage? There is but there has to be strict proof of liability. Repton Parish Council has banned them from being used on ground that they own.

Frank McArdle praised the Fire & Rescue service for their attendance and work on the 26hr operation at Newhall also in partnership with the Police and Bomb Experts.

Concerns were raised on the County Council cutting gritting services.

EA/30 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A question was raised about who will be liable if the trees on Burnaston Lane fell on cars.

Response: Derbyshire Council if the tree is on a highway.

Landowners can be liable if the tree is dead, dying or dangerous.  
SDDC have a Tree Officer who can be contacted and he can carry out a site visit.

EA/31 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

Feedback on Broadband was requested as Natalie, the Broadband Officer, has now left the authority. There is now a Green box at Devil's Elbow. The officer taking over from Natalie has confirmed that the box is there but they must close the road so that the box can be connected to the services.

**Action: Paul Jameson to look into this and hopes to report back for next meeting.**

Cllr Roberts asked about the Hatton Footpaths as he had contacted the Public Right of Way Officers at County Council and was informed that no more maintenance was to be done on them.

**Action: Cllr Roberts to give Paul Jameson list of footpaths and will look into this for him. Cllr Mrs Brown asked if the Footpaths Officer could attend a future meeting.**

On the road from Repton to Swadlincote a number of tyres have blown and 2 wheels damaged due to road conditions, potholes and the state of the edges of the road. What maintenance is planned to improve the road?

Cllr Mrs Patten said by Ashby Turn there is a 1 metre square pothole which she hit. She contacted the County Council who asked for a precise location. Due to the road, there are no significant markings to enable this but in the day light it can be identified clearly.

**Action: Paul Jameson to ask Highways Officer to do an inspection from Knights Lane onwards.**

Eighteen months ago there was a Planning Application submitted for 6 dwellings in Scropton which was refused, but approved on appeal. As the Parish Council submitted comments on the appeal shouldn't they have been informed of the decision by the inspectorate?

Response: With the appeal process the inspectorate is an independent body. A list of appeals is published on Planning Committee reports which are available on the website and also Appeal Decisions are published on the website.

Any news on the proposal of 50 houses on the Etwall Road into Egginton. Nothing to report.

EA/32 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

**Budget Update 2015-16**

Financial position has stabilised following a period of changes within the Council and this will continue but there have been no changes to the services we deliver. There has been an increase in the New Homes bonus from residential development in the district.

11% of the Council Tax bill covers South Derbyshire Services. The rate of Council tax for 2015/16 is subject to Council approval which is to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. A freeze has been proposed.

Grants have been increased for the Voluntary Sector and Parish Council Funding at a rate of 2.3% of the rate of inflation.

**Update from Martin Buckley (SDDC Tree Officer) on Ash Die Back Disease.**

Apologies were received from Martin Buckley and a brief summary was read out by Cllr Mrs Brown.

Confirmed findings at 6 January 2015

Nursery sites - 26

Recently planted sites - 398

Wider environment, e.g. established woodland - 525

Total: 949

Managing infected trees and woodland

- You are not required to take any particular action if you own infected ash trees, unless SDDC or another plant health authority serves you with a statutory Plant Health Notice requiring action
- keep an eye on the trees' safety as the disease progresses, and prune or fell them if they or their branches threaten to cause injury or damage
- help slow the spread of the disease by removing and disposing of infected ash plants, and collecting up and burning (where permitted), burying or composting the fallen leaves.

Swadlincote Woodlands is an infected site. SDDC are managing the disease by felling and burning infected material on-site. SDDC estimate there will be a loss of 5,000 trees. Locally there are 4 woodlands affected.

Other authorities recently affected are Nottinghamshire and Birmingham City. Nott's have estimated the cost of dealing with outbreak to be in excess of £500,000.

The question was raised as to which of the 4 woodlands are affected locally. Martin has replied that they are Swadlincote Woodlands, Willersley Woodlands, Pick Triangle & Feanedock Covert. Although 3 are over the Leicestershire border they are within the infected area – Fungal Spores do not recognise Political Borders!

EA/33 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be arranged.

**MRS L BROWN**

**CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 8.35pm