

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

31st January 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Ford and Mrs. Hood.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Ford.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer) and C. Slack (Children's Centre).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Sutherland.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

B. Cowley and P. Riley (Egginton Parish Council), I. Smith (Etwall Parish Council), S. Bell and L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council) and C. Smith (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

K. Baston, J. Bilbie, A. Evans, M. Goodall, F. Hood, T. Maise, J. Orme, K. Walker and G. Wale.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Mrs. Brown and Roberts, District and County Councillor Mrs. Patten, Councillor Lacey (Derbyshire Police Authority), D. Muller, K. Cresswell, N. Ireland and B. Payton (Etwall Parish Council), J. Bates (Hilton Parish Council), Mrs. Avery, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Hague, R. Mathews and Mrs. Stewart.

EA/18. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sutherland gave an update on crime statistics for the North West Safer Neighbourhoods area, for the period September to November 2010. Overall, there had been a reduction in reported crime levels of 14%. Statistics were provided on burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour. For the majority of these, there had been significant reductions in

what were already low levels of reported crime. More recent figures were provided on anti-social behaviour. It was noted that at the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting, anti-social behaviour in Etwall had been set as a priority and the Officer spoke of recent action taken by the Constabulary to address this, including the arrest of one minor. An update was also provided on the joint initiative to fund the purchase of a laptop pc.

EA/19. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman noted that Helen Bralesford from the Office of National Statistics had been available prior to the meeting to deal with enquiries on the Census for 2011. In particular, she was looking for people to undertake the Census work for the Hatton area and interested residents were asked to contact her on 07801 331 347. The Chairman publicised a circulated document inviting residents to attend events about neighbourhood planning. A number of "drop-in" events were planned for this part of South Derbyshire and the Chairman advised of an additional event at Mickleover, which had been arranged since the document had been produced. It was questioned what publicity had been provided for these events and details were provided. Some residents were critical over the publicity arrangements for this event and the Area Forums. It was felt that if parish councils were being asked to assist with publicity, they should be sent posters to display on parish notice boards. An update was also provided on the Boundary Committee review of South Derbyshire.

EA/20. **CHILDREN'S CENTRE PRESENTATION**

Clair Slack from Children's Services gave a presentation on the County's Children's Centres. She advised that their role had developed from a Surestart programme in 1999, and children's centres now worked with all families, but particularly with targeted families. An aim was to try to narrow the gap of school attendance between affluent areas and poorer areas. Children's Centres were monitored in the same way as schools through OFSTED inspections. Detailed information was provided on the local services delivered through the centres within the South Derbyshire.

In response to a question, clarification was provided on the location of the Etwall Children's Centre. A District Councillor applauded the Children's Centres, the achievements made and terrific progress over recent years.

EA/21. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held on 28th October 2010 were noted.

EA/22. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated, which gave an update on the issues raised at the previous meeting. Officers confirmed that the requested report about flood defence schemes had been circulated with the agenda and publicised the date of the next Flood Liaison and Parish Liaison Meetings. In response to a question, further information was provided on the Flood Liaison Meeting, which gave parish council representatives the opportunity to meet with the relevant specialist agencies. A parish representative confirmed the value of this

meeting and urged fellow parish councillors to attend. He also referred to a recent Environment Agency event at Hatton, at which over 300 members of the public had been present.

EA/23. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A question had been submitted prior to the Meeting, which was read to those present. This concerned recycling facilities for “Tetrapak” waxed cartons. A response was also provided on the location of recycling banks within South Derbyshire, which were funded by Tetrapak and currently used to capacity. It was questioned why Derby City Council provided a kerbside collection service, which was not the case in South Derbyshire. There was an aspiration to enhance the kerbside collection scheme in South Derbyshire within the next two years. It was questioned whether the company could be approached to provide an additional bank for the Etwall area and recognised that there was a limit on the distances people would travel to use recycling facilities. The cost of providing and emptying such a recycling bank was also discussed.

It was agreed to research the cost of providing and emptying an additional Tetrapak recycling bank for the Etwall area.

There was further discussion about recycling and the efforts of residents was recognised, as the proportion of household waste that was recycled was now over 50%. Officers provided further information, including the costs associated with providing an additional blue, wheeled bin for commingled waste. Such costs could not be met through Council Tax increases and the Authority was trying to achieve service improvements through making savings elsewhere. A resident spoke about the broader range of services provided elsewhere in the country. Officers explained the difficulties associated with, for example, recycling envelopes and the lack of market for recycling some plastic materials. There was also some confusion over the types of plastics that could be placed in the banks at recycling centres.

There was a consensus that a presentation on recycling should be provided at the next Area Forum.

The Area Forum’s assistance was sought to lobby Royal Mail regarding the provision of a post box in Findern. A resident explained local endeavours to relocate the existing post box to the Village Green, the offer from Royal Mail to provide a smaller post-mounted box and the subsequent removal of the post box without consultation. This had caused difficulties for residents of Findern who now could only post mail at the Post Office, when it was open. Officers requested that a copy of the correspondence be forwarded to the District Council. It was noted that a letter on this subject had already been submitted to the District Council.

It was agreed that letters of support would be written from both the District and County Councils.

EA/24. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer publicised the Kilomathon Road Race, which this year would be held on Sunday, 20th March 2011. Its route was mainly in the City of Derby, but entered South Derbyshire near to Findern, travelling towards

Barrow-on-Trent and Stenson Fields before returning to the City of Derby. An outline was given of the planned publicity for this event.

The Officer also publicised a road closure, which would affect the Rail and Canal Bridge at Heath Lane and Buckford Lane in Findern. Pedestrian access would be maintained during the works. It was requested that all neighbouring councils be advised of these works. Reference was also made to the bridge at the top of Frizams Lane in Findern, which seemed to be damaged repeatedly. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to research this and to submit a report to the next Area Forum.**

An update was also given about the reinstatement of the Joint Highways Forum.

EA/25. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Area Forum received a presentation on the Council's budget for 2011/12. Information had been circulated at the Meeting showing current council tax levels and the proportion that was received by the District Council. Charts also showed how the District Council was funded, its net General Fund expenditure for 2010/11 and the initial budget for 2011/12. A key issue was the financial settlement for 2011 – 13 and the reduction in Government grant funding levels. This had resulted in key challenges for 2011/12 and the need to identify savings and efficiencies. The Council's aims were to reduce the deficit, maintain reserves and keep council tax low, through cutting costs not services. The presentation concluded with the budget timetable and where residents could find out more information on the budget process.

In response to a question, further information was provided about how reserves were accrued and subsequently used to meet budget shortfalls or emergencies. A question was submitted about the proportion of net General Fund expenditure used to meet overall management costs at the Council. It was confirmed that the majority of costs were for the people who delivered services. Detailed information on all expenditure of over £500 was now publicised via the Council's website. Further questions were submitted about the Council's pension fund position and the impact of a new management contract for the Etwall Leisure Centre. The Director of Community Services responded to both issues. An update was also sought about the sale of the Bretby Crematorium, which would need to be researched.

EA/26. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:20 p.m.