

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

29th January 2013

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Dunn (Chairman) and Councillors Bambrick and Pearson.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer).

**In attendance**

Councillor Mulgrew.

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillors Lacey and Murray.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

**Members of the Public**

P. Bambrick, C. Hobson, H. Hobson, R. House, R. Hughes, A. Jones, C. Maddock, J. Pallet, O. Pallett, K. Parker and R. Trim.

NA/17. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Richards and Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chairman), D. Parker, B. Woods, C. Gillespie and M. Richards.

NA/18. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that many Gold Cards would expire in 2013, and that a renewal application for a new one should be made before the old one expired. Further information was provided on the Gold Card scheme, and how residents could apply.

Information was provided on the 2020Vision exhibition. This was a photography exhibition road show which was taking place between the 18th March and 7th April 2013 in The Delph, Market Square, Swadlincote. There would be a street gallery of more than 100 images on display, taken by a team of top UK nature photographers.

NA/19. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Forum held on 25th September 2012, were noted, subject to Councillor Mulgrew being included as present.

NA/20. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

With regards to traffic signals on the Burton Road / Midway Road / Sandcliffe Road junction, it was reported that the stop line was beyond the traffic lights on the approach towards Ashby from Burton.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this issue and report back to the next Meeting.**

A resident asked what the current situation was with regard to Oversetts Road and the access to the football pitch.

**The Director of Operations agreed to respond directly back to the resident concerned.**

NA/21. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was reported that the refilling of grit bins had become a major issue over the last few weeks, exacerbated by the fact that there appeared to be some confusion over which local authority should be contacted. The Director of Operations responded that he had asked an officer to look at this and liaise with both South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council, to ensure that a consistent message was given out. The policy for the provision of grit bins was discussed, and it was confirmed that, at present, there was no further stock of new bins available. It was reported that if a resident was unsure whose responsibility it was to fill a grit bin, they should look at the top of the bin which had a unique number on it. Derbyshire County Council could then tell whose responsibility it was to fill the bin.

It was asked if the unused bin from outside the Masons Arms could be moved to Park Street, Newhall. The resident was advised to get the number from the top and ring Derbyshire County Council to see whose responsibility this was.

It was reported that the Eureka Road junction with Skinners Way had flooded a number of times, which had left the road in very poor state of repair. Councillor Murray responded that Derbyshire County Council had inspected this area and were planning to do some remedial works.

NA/22. **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

It was reported that gold cards were taking up to 3 to 4 months to issue.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this and report back to the next Meeting.**

NA/23. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Operations reported on the budget proposals for 2013/14. It was reported that future Government funding would depend on growth within the District and the New Homes Bonus would also be of benefit. In addition, the authority could now retain a greater proportion of its local business rates. However, the estimated reduction in Government resources were £1m over the next 5 years.

It was reported that the current financial position was healthy, but the reduction in funding would weaken this position. The District Council needed to take corrective action now and £300,000 of savings would be required over the period 2013/14.

An update was provided on the new council tax support scheme, and it was confirmed that pensioners and disabled residents would be protected, However working age claimants could pay up to 10% more.

It was pointed out that it may be beneficial to the District Council to consider an increase in council tax, as a 1% increase would raise £50,000, but would only increase a household bill by 3 to 4 pence per week.

Members would consider a report in March 2013, with proposals for savings of £300,000 required for the year 2013/14.

NA/24. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting to be confirmed in due course.

P. DUNN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.