

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

16th October 2012

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Tilley (Chairman) and Councillors Bell, Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Murray, Rhind, Southerd (Vice-Chairman), Stuart and Taylor.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Mrs. Farrington and Murray.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

In attendance

Councillor M. Lacey (Derbyshire County Council) and Councillor R. Wheeler (South Derbyshire District Council).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

C. Dobson and A. Jones (Hartshorne Parish Council) and S. Orme (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bird, R. Causer, C. Horridge, S. Horridge, H. Hudson, E. Lummis, M. Lunn and L. Sargent,

SA/9. **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Heather Wheeler, M.P.

SA/10. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that the District Council were currently undertaking consultation on the Local Development Framework. He reported that this would have an implication on all major developments in the local area, and advised that there were 12 public consultation sessions planned. Details of these were available at the Meeting.

SA/11. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 4th July 2012, were noted subject to the amendment of spelling L.G. Sargent and E. Lummis.

SA/12. 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.

SA/13. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

A resident raised concerns in regard to HGV's accessing the Pipeworks Retail Park, who missed the access road and were entering Coppice Side in error. It was alleged that this happened on a regular basis and that delivery vehicles turned into driveways in order to return from Coppice Side. It was pointed out that this road had a 7 ½ tonne weight restriction. It was asked if signage could be installed on Sir Herbert Wragg Way to make drivers aware of the access road. The Forum Liaison Officer advised that an Officer from the area's Traffic and Safety Team had visited the site and noted that the retail units and access road were both clearly visible as vehicles approached the Morrison's roundabout. It was therefore considered that a sign for the retail park was unnecessary. The Forum Liaison Officer added that Derbyshire County Council had a Sign De-cluttering Scheme Programme for Swadlincote Town Centre, and that the installation of new signage, unless absolutely necessary was to be avoided. In addition, the Forum Liaison Officer had recently written to all the business and Retail Park and requested that they take measures to ensure that any delivery drivers were aware of the correct way in which to access the park.

It was also suggested that the tree growth on Morrison's roundabout prevented HGV drivers from being able to see the access road. The Forum Liaison Officer had visited this site, and felt that the access road could clearly be seen when at the roundabout. The landscaping of the roundabout was the responsibility of Morrison's, and their contractors inspected the landscaping on a regular basis. The area's Clerk of Works had been asked for his view on whether he felt that the landscaping caused visibility problems, and a report back on this would be provided to the next forum.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to report back to the next Area Forum on this matter.

The Forum Liaison Officer also reported that Trading Standards had previously been advised of breaches of the weight restrictions on Coppice Side. There was a weight restriction monitoring form available on Derbyshire County Council's website which could be submitted to Trading Standards for appropriate action. The Forum Liaison Officer added that if residents wished to leave their address, he would forward paper copies of this form if required.

It was asked why surplus tarmac, which was left over following road repairs, could not be put to better use. It was currently being dumped at a site in Swadlincote. A resident informed the Forum that when resurfacing works had taken place, there was always a slight over-estimation on the amount of material required, and this had to be disposed off. The machine had to be emptied out as soon as the works were completed to avoid damage being caused, which meant that the tarmac would need to be deposited in the immediate vicinity as soon as possible.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this and report back to a future Meeting.

A Councillor raised concerns on behalf of a resident of Coppice Side, in regard to problems he experienced when exiting his driveway, due to the close proximity of Morrison's roundabout. It was reported that vehicles exited the roundabout at speed, and made it difficult for the resident to access his property. It was asked if a sign could be introduced at the approach to the roundabout to alert drivers of this access. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that Traffic Sign Regulation Act did not permit signs to be erected on the highway for private access. It was noted that the building of the roundabout may have reduced visibility for exiting this property, but not to an extent that could give rise to the planning application being refused on the grounds of highway safety. The designs had originally proposed a solution which would have improved visibility for this property (and offered to carry out the works) but it was rejected by the resident.

It was asked if a Zebra Crossing was being installed adjacent to Granville Fishponds, Midway Road. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that a crossing was proposed in this area.

It was asked what was the current position in regard to the car park at the Market Hall. The Chief Executive responded that he had met the Chairman from the Chamber of Trade who had agreed to take control of this, outside its current hours, when it was used for Council staff. He added that the Bank House car park had also been offered to the Trade of Commerce to share with market traders. In addition, he had enquired whether an area at the east end of High Street could be de-regulated, also to be used by traders. He added that the District Council were working hard to provide extra parking in the Town Centre.

It was reported that there was a dog fouling problem in Woodville Park, and asked if this could be monitored.

It was agreed to look into this and report back to the next Meeting.

It was asked when the sign de-cluttering programme in Swadlincote Town Centre was due to be implemented.

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

A Councillor asked that consideration be given to the introduction of some form of crossing facilities opposite the skate park on Common Road. It was reported that there were no facilities here, even though large volumes of young people crossed the road in order to access the park.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this and report back to a future Meeting.

It was asked why Eureka Park had not been included within the recently revised Dog Control Order (DCO), to exclude dogs from the Park. The Chairman responded that this Park was currently being developed and funding was being sought. Once this was established the DCO would be reconsidered in this area.

It was reported that there were many potholes in Poole Street. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that he had already asked for these to be repaired.

SA/14. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer read out a statement regarding Derbyshire County Council's attempt to recover the contribution arising from a Section 106 agreement, for development of a controlled crossing point on Burton Road, as follows:-

“Originally South Derbyshire District Council had asked that the Section 106 Agreement for the development, incorporate an obligation to fund a crossing point, as it's Development Control Committee had concerns about extra traffic and congestion close to Granville Community School. The County Council's view at that time was that the crossing was not required as the amount of traffic and pedestrians created by the 15 house development would be negligible resulting in the crossing being largely unused. However, the obligation on the company was included in the agreement.

The Company, who had agreed to pay the money under the Section 106 agreement, had since been liquidated. Legal advice obtained by the County Council had confirmed that there was no reasonable prospect of the Council securing the £30,000 due from the Company for the installation of a Pelican Crossing. Derbyshire County Council had recently revisited the site to review the situation, and in particular, the concerns regarding extra traffic. Having considered all the circumstances, the view that the crossing was not required remained the same. In addition, the Council had been advised by its Officers that it would be very difficult to find a suitable place install a crossing, even if this were thought desirable. Having taken this all into consideration, Derbyshire County Council had decided it would not be appropriate to proceed with installing a crossing on Burton Road”.

Members expressed their concern and disappointment at this response from Derbyshire County Council, and reiterated that they still felt that a crossing was required in this area. It was felt that residents had been betrayed. It was reported that a crossing site had been identified adjacent to Lincoln Way, and it was requested that a further site visit took place.

The Forum Liaison Officer provided a further update on the Wilmot Road crossing and confirmed that a site visit had been undertaken in regard to the use of Section 106 monies which were available for improved crossing facilities at this site. It was established that there were some concerns with regard to the existing Zebra Crossing, and there would be benefits in upgrading the facilities to a Puffin Crossing. The Section 106 money was not sufficient to both upgrade the existing crossing and also introduce a new crossing at the southern end of Wilmot Road, so it was therefore proposed to combine the Section 106 money with a bid for Capital Funding for the next financial year. This money would enable a Puffin Crossing to be introduced at the southern end of the road, whilst also allowing the existing Zebra Crossing to be upgraded. If the funding bid was successful, it was hoped that the works could be carried out in the new financial year. Consultation would shortly be carried out with stakeholders in regard to these proposals. This news was welcomed,

and it was felt that this would help in improving the safety for residents and pedestrians in this area.

The Forum Liaison Officer reported that a consultation exercise was being undertaken by Derbyshire County Council – ‘Healthwatch Derbyshire’. Further information was distributed and he reported that the consultation had been extended to the end of the month.

SA/15. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chief Executive reported that consultation was currently being undertaken on the Council Tax Support Scheme. He confirmed that changes to this scheme would only affect people in receipt of Council Tax Benefit. It was proposed that from 2013, funding would be 10% less which equalled £500,000. South Derbyshire District Council currently supported 6,000 people and 2/3's got 100% support towards their council tax. As the funding was being reduced by 10%, the District Council had to decide if they could still afford this level of benefit.

Final proposals would need to be in place by the end of December 2012, and the Council would decide how they were going to deal with this issue on 24th January 2013. The Scheme must be in place by the end of January 2013 and would operate from 1st April 2013.

SA/16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

N. Tilley

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.