

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at John Port School, Etwall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown (Chair), Councillor Andy Billings, Councillor David Muller, Councillor Mrs Julie Patten.

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.
Dennis Bateman – Safer Neighbourhood Warden.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Martyn Ford and Councillor Mrs Julie Patten.

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

Ian Bennett, R Ireland, Dave McDonald (Etwall Parish Council), A Bentson, R Brooks, Steve Cooper, J Osborne (Hilton Parish Council), Chris Hall (Burnaston Neighbourhood Watch).

Members of the Public

G Wale.

EA/11 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Amy Plenderleith, Councillor Andy Roberts, Lis Kolkman, Brian Myring and Miles Nesbitt.

EA/12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

EA/13 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown reported that as part of the Local Plan part two being produced by South Derbyshire District Council, in total sites for around 600

additional houses were being sought in rural areas around the district. A paper will soon go to the Environmental and Development Services Committee.

Councillor Mrs Brown updated the meeting on the forthcoming Parish and Member Training meetings at SDDC.

Councillor Mrs Brown then presented a list of current planning applications in the district and said that a certain number of homes have to be built. She gave a taster of the workload SDDC's Planning Department is dealing with, citing it as one of the hardest-working departments at the council under great pressure to deal with a range of applications.

Dennis Bateman, a recently appointed Senior Neighbourhood Warden, was introduced to the meeting by Councillor Brown. Mr Bateman's 33 years in the police were highlighted, as was his service in the army, both as a cook and parachutist. He told the meeting he was in his post to tackle dog fouling and fly tipping, two of the most complained about issues for SDDC, among a range of other things. Mr Bateman has signed 150 people up to the Green Dog Walking Scheme, which sets an example to all dog owners of the standards of behaviour expected of them. He also asked for assistance from the public in identifying offenders so he could act. Regarding fly tipping, Mr Bateman reminded people at the meeting that handing rubbish over to a stranger would land them in trouble if that rubbish was later fly tipped. A member of the public suggested that younger dog walkers would be more inclined to leave their animal's mess instead of picking it up. Mr Bateman agreed that teenagers were the worst offenders.

Councillor Mrs Brown asked Mr Bateman to return at a future meeting for an update on how the Green Dog Walking scheme fared.

EA/14 **TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JULY 1, 2015 (COPY ATTACHED)**

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

EA/15 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Burnaston Lane, Etwall: Overhanging Trees

Councillor Martyn Ford said he would keep an eye on the trees after Derbyshire County Council reported that they were in good health and not an issue over the highway.

Ash die-back in the District

Councillor Mrs Brown said it was unfortunate that a large number of ash trees – which make up 15-20% of trees in the National Forest – would be lost to disease.

EA/16 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

None.

EA/17 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

Paul Jameson (AFLO) raised one issue, which is the online consultation for the 2016-17 budget being carried out by Derbyshire County Council. He told the meeting that savings need to be made by 2018, and DCC needs to identify £40m of savings from next year's budget. The online consultation was an opportunity for the public to give their thoughts on how the savings should be achieved. He said it gives a picture of the challenge being faced by the council and other public bodies. The consultation closes on December 4.

Councillor Mrs Brown raised the issue of “white areas” with poor access to superfast broadband, of which there are several in the North West Parishes of South Derbyshire. She asked the AFLO if it was possible to have a presentation on the subject.

AFLO to report back on Digital Derbyshire initiative at the next meeting

A member of the public reported potholes in Etwall Lane and Dee Lane, Burnaston and said he believed DCC had a substantial backlog of holes to deal with. The AFLO said he was unaware of a substantial backlog and that all potholes are referred to a control centre which issues them to area Rapid Response Teams to get fixed. He also said that potholes can be reported online and by phone.

A resident reported a lack of white lines being replaced on the roads in Hilton. The AFLO said that lining works was an area where there was a backlog of work due to serious issues with a previous lining contractor. These issues have now been resolved but there is a backlog of work remaining. The work was now being dealt with on a priority basis, with relining after surfacing works on A and B roads taking precedence.

EA/18 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Frank McArdle, Chief Executive of South Derbyshire District Council, reported his presence at an industrial ground breaking ceremony in Dove Valley. He said there was little which inspired more confidence than a developer building industrial units which will be empty upon completion, showing how bullish they are at the chance of them being occupied.

Mr McArdle told the meeting that the Festival of Leisure had been another success in South Derbyshire and the Christmas Lights were soon to be switched on in Swadlincote. He clarified a story recently published in the local press which stated that the lights had cost £41,000. Mr McArdle said this was not a true figure as the figure quoted included everything which went with the lights, which themselves are a smaller proportion of the total cost. Mr McArdle added that the lights provide a phenomenal boost to the economy of Swadlincote.

Unemployment in South Derbyshire is running at 0.6%, compared to 0.7% when Mr McArdle last spoke at the Etwall Area Forum. It is the second lowest figure in Derbyshire after Derbyshire Dales. The figure is down – and down in the area where Mr McArdle wants it most, the 16-24 age group, where South Derbyshire unemployment is half the national average.

Children from Pennine Way Junior Academy held a school parliament gathering at the SDDC Civic Offices where they debated the Magna Carta. Mr McArdle reported the event was a great success, with the great seals of South Derbyshire present to inspire the youngsters.

Mr McArdle urged those present to register as an elector on the Electoral Register by the end of the month, if they were not already registered.

Newhall and Stanton had submitted a petition with the minimum required 7.5% of the parish to get themselves a parish council. A consultation by SDDC will now take place with residents of Newhall and Stanton about whether they want a parish council.

Mr McArdle gave an update on Combined Authorities, which he says could offer benefits to Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and beyond in terms of strategic infrastructure, spending and transport. He said that he was working with political leaders towards getting a proposal for South Derbyshire that members could say yes or no to at a meeting of the council.

A member of the public asked Mr McArdle how much losing the New House Farm appeal cost SDDC. The Chief Executive said the final figure was currently unknown. Mr McArdle said SDDC had objected on what it felt were valid grounds but the Secretary of State disagreed.

Councillor David Muller raised the ongoing situation regarding noise levels coming from the A50 for residents of 120 houses to the west of Egginton Road. He has discussed the situation with Environmental Health at SDDC regarding decibel levels.

EA/19 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

**Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.30pm.