

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

17th November 2010

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chairman), Councillor Tilley (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Rhind and Southerd.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Farrington.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer) and P. Leigh (Environmental Services).

Census 2011

H. Bralesford.

Derbyshire Children's Centre

L. Morris.

Derbyshire Constabulary

PCSO North.

Members of the Public

B. Aldridge, M.G. Brotherhood, R. Causer, C. Cook, L. Hart, C.R. & S.E. Horridge, K. Hough, W. Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Key, R. Lukaszewicz, J. McCarthy, J. & O. Pallet, Mr. Sargent and Mr. Williamson

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Lane and Mrs. Lane.

SA/9. **POLICE ISSUES**

PCSO North gave an update on crime statistics for the area, and compared July to September 2010 to the same period of the previous year. She reported that there had been a 15.6% decrease in crime overall, and burglary, robbery and vehicle crime had all decreased. Violence and anti-social behaviour had both increased. The Police were running an operation over Christmas to combat this trend.

An update was also provided on speeding vehicles on Gresleywood Road. PCSO North reported that Sergeant Thompson was attempting to get details of the last speed survey, and depending on resources might undertake a further survey in the future. It was asked what would happen after this had been completed, as numerous speed checks had been done previously, with no resultant action. PCSO North responded that results would be analysed. However, she wasn't sure what the next set of action would be.

It was agreed that the Police would provide a response to the next Meeting.

It was asked why there had been no police presence at Church Gresley Remembrance Day Parade. There had been no escort, and this had led to the parade being very dangerous, as the traffic was not stopped. Several residents expressed their disappointment, and added that it was also very difficult to hear the service due to the amount of cars passing the war memorial. It was requested that a formal response be provided by the Police to the next Meeting, and also that the District Council consider making a road closure order as a matter of course for this parade. It was also requested that the District Council consider street cleaning this area before the parade.

It was agreed that a written response be provided to the next Meeting, from both the Police on their absence from this Parade and also the District Council regarding closure of the road for future years.

It was reported that there were problems with speeding vehicles on Coppice Side.

PCSO North agreed to feed this back to the relevant team and provide a report to the next Meeting.

A resident stated that many cyclists were riding on the pedestrianised Swadlincote High Street. PCSO North responded that she told youths not to ride in this area when she was on patrol. The Chairman requested that the Police look at CCTV footage to understand the extent of this problem.

A representative from Talbot Street Neighbourhood Watch reported that parking in this area was unacceptable. She added that it was very dangerous, and the Police were not reactive enough. PCSO North agreed to request that Sergeant Thompson continue to keep in touch with these residents.

It was requested that the new Police Inspector for the area (Inspector Cannon), attend an Area Forum. The Chairman added that the Police also attended Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, which concentrated on police issues.

SA/10. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 15th July 2010, were noted.

SA/11. **CENSUS 2011**

Helen Bralesford from the Office of National Statistics advised that the next Census would take place on 27th March 2011. She gave background

information on the Census, which was an account/estimate of the whole population, and had taken place every 10 years, since 1801.

She provided details of who used the Census information, and the ways in which they attempted to contact the whole population, including hard to reach groups. There was currently an address register being completed, which would be used for the delivery of questionnaires to every address in the United Kingdom. These would be delivered during March 2011, and residents would have ten days to return the form.

She confirmed that completing a census form was straightforward. Assurance was also given that the Census information was totally confidential. It was used to produce statistics, kept confidential for 100 years, then released into the public domain.

Help would be available for anyone unable to complete the form. However, she requested help from those members of the public who were able to assist vulnerable and hard to reach groups. She added that further information could be found on the website '2011.census.gov.uk'.

SA/12. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reviewed the items raised at the last Meeting and reported the progress made in each case.

With regard to visibility at Morrisons roundabout, the Forum Liaison Officer reported that an officer had visited this site with the landscape contractor for Morrisons. It was felt that visibility was satisfactory, and there were currently no issues, although this area would continue to be monitored.

An update was also provided on dust at Appleby Glade and the entrance to the golf course. Whilst it was accepted that new procedures to reduce airborne dust had yet to be fully tested due to the wetter weather, since the implementation, initial feedback had been positive. The condition of William Nadin Way, however, was a major cause for concern. Environmental Health Officers were pressing the Environment Agency and the developer for improvements to be made on the site, which would reduce the amount of mud being carried out into the road. In addition, the County Council's Highways Department had been informed. It was clear that the road sweeper the developer was using was not able to cope with the amount of material on the road, which was a particular concern as winter approached.

An update was also provided on the gate off Penkrige Road and residents were assured that since the recent encampments, the District Council had ensured, where possible, that land was secured in a robust manner. These security measures took account of the need for maintenance vehicles to enter the land, but in the case of the land off Penkrige Road, this did not prevent the barrier being welded.

With regard to the overgrown vegetation reported at Blackshed Island, it was reported that this referred to the corner of Bridge Close, which was understood to be Derbyshire County Council land.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to speak to the resident concerned to gain further information following the Meeting.

Concerns were raised with regard to the condition of the carriageway at the zebra crossing on Wilmot Road (near to the Salvation Army). It was reported that the surface had become broken up, and that the white “zigzag” markings had virtually disappeared.

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

SA/13. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – CHILDREN’S CENTRES**

Liz Morris (Children’s Centre Co-ordinator), gave an overview of the County’s Children’s Centres. She advised that these had developed from a Surestart programme in 1999, and Children’s Centres worked with all families. Children’s Centres were also monitored in the same way as schools by receiving OFSTED inspections.

Further information was provided on local services, and the centres within South Derbyshire and the South Derbyshire Dales areas.

SA/14. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident of Coppice Side referred to previous concerns regarding flooding at the bottom of this road. It was stated that this problem began following last year’s resurfacing works, and that, when it rained, water settled at the bottom of Coppice Side. Photographs were submitted to the Chairman supporting this observation. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that this matter had been referred to the contractors to ascertain whether there had been a problem with the resurfacing, and level surveys had been carried out which confirmed there were no problems with the levels at this site.

The Forum Liaison Officer advised that he would ask the Area Maintenance Section if they could investigate the cause of flooding and report back to a future Meeting.

It was also reported that there were problems with parked cars in this area and the new development surrounding this road had created a lot of traffic. It was believed that this could only be alleviated by finding residents alternative off-street parking. There was much concern for the future, and this area was proving very frustrating for motorists. Peter Leigh (Derbyshire County Council) responded that Coppice Side was a problem as there were many parked cars outside houses. However, he felt that this was acceptable as it slowed traffic down in this area. He added that, if the existing parking facilities were taken off residents, it would inconvenience them and promote speed, and Derbyshire County Council could not endorse this. He had met with residents in this area, and his view was that the existing situation was tolerable and acceptable. He added that the County Council would look at future development in this area and monitor the situation, but there would be no action at present.

It was pointed out that there was a lot of development taking place in this area, and the situation would be exacerbated. It was felt that there was a need to plan for the future, and that residents should be able to access secure

additional parking. Mr. Leigh responded that the County Council worked very closely with the District Council, however they could only react to the current situation, and could not predict what might happen in the future.

The by-pass that had been planned for Woodville was discussed, and the Chairman responded that lobbying was continuing for this road to be completed, but he was unsure how it would progress. The Director of Community Services confirmed that infrastructure issues would continue to be considered, however the current biggest issue was cost.

Concern was raised about the amount of traffic attempting to access the new golf course site, which was making it very difficult for residents to exit Appleby Glade.

It was asked what could be done about people who did not pick up their dog's mess. The Director of Community Services responded that if the offending owner was known, a witness statement could be given. If this was a regular occurrence, the District Council could be contacted and a warden sent out to patrol the area.

It was asked what the current situation was regarding the footpath on Harebell Close. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that the County Council had received two petitions, one for it's closure, and one which requested that it be left open. This matter was currently being investigated.

It was reported that at the top of Coppice Side (Blackshed Island), there was a very overgrown site where vegetation had been cleared, but was now left and had become very unsightly.

The Director of Community Services agreed that this be followed up and a report provided at the next Meeting.

SA/15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Swadlincote Area Forum Meeting was confirmed as 1st February 2011 at Sharpe's Pottery Museum, West Street, Swadlincote.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 9.00 p.m.