

## **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM MEETING**

### **NEWHALL – AREA 5**

**Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2023**

### **The Old Post Centre**

#### **PRESENT: -**

##### **South Derbyshire District Council Representatives**

Councillor Kalila Storey (Chair), Councillor Sean Bambrick, Councillor Sarah Harrison, Councillor Alan Jones, Councillor Louise Mulgrew, Councillor Mick Mulgrew, Councillor Robert Pearson

Tracy Bingham – Strategic Director (Corporate Resources), Claire Rawlins – Anti Social Behaviour Officer, Paige Robinson – Communities Team Service Assistant

##### **Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Peter Smith

##### **Derbyshire Police Representatives**

Inspector Mike Sisman, Sargeant Tarj Nizzer, PCSO Kerry Wallington-Waite, PCSO Karen Coldicott

##### **Members of the Public**

Eddie Bisknell, Mr & Mrs Bolton, Howard & Pam Foy, Joe & Ian Goodall, Richard Hayse, Ron Hughes, Colin Madden, Frank Stone, Glenys Tagg

##### **N/A 1. Open Meeting**

###### **a) Introductions and Housekeeping**

###### **b) Apologies**

Councillor Gary Musson, Mike Lacey, Kevin & Mary Richards

###### **c) Chair's Announcements**

##### **Free Tree Scheme (Parks and Green Spaces)**

The details for the Councils Free Tree Scheme are currently being finalised. Anyone interested will be able to apply online for up to two trees in their garden, whilst organisations can apply for up to ten. The choice of tree species will be confirmed at



the start of October, at which point you will be able to make an application online via the Councils Website. The closing date is the end of October.

### **Council Information**

There are a variety of Council and Partner information leaflets at the back of the room, by the signing in sheet, so please have a look and help yourselves on your way out.

### **New Chairs Charity**

The new Chair of the Council, Councillor Sean Bambrick has chosen Miles for Smiles as his chosen charity for this year. The Charity's mission is to provide relief to people with life limiting or life changing health conditions.

The Charity provides days out and mini breaks to individuals in need, to help enhance their quality of life.

### **d) To Receive the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Councillor Sean Bambrick raised that the last set of minutes listed Councillor Paul Dunn as the Chair when the Chair of the meeting was actually Cllr Bambrick but otherwise were a true and accurate record.

### **e) Matters Arising from the Last Minutes**

No matters raised from the last minutes.

## **N/A 2. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Report and Police Q&A**

### **Since the last meeting**

- There has recently been nuisance from off road bikes in Newhall. Due to the issue, there was a meeting with the Landowners who confirmed the area is private property with no permission for bikes. Weak boundary areas were identified, resulting in bollards being placed on the pull in area to stop vans parking, signage put up and bike barriers placed on the footpath opposite which was being used to access. SNT patrols were prioritised, and riders were stopped and issued section 59 warnings giving the police powers to seize their bike if seen causing anti-social behaviour (ASB) again. As a result, we are no longer receiving reports of this nature.
- We have completed our first year of Mini Police with Newhall Juniors, the school and pupils enjoyed it and have started this year with the new year 6 pupils. We go into the school every Friday and teach the children about all aspects of the police and staying safe.
- There are two Community Speed Watch (CSW) groups in police area five: one in Newhall and one in Midway.
- The team worked with Trading Standards Officers to carry out Test Purchase Operations, visiting shops which sell vapes & knives. Two shops failed for selling a



Stanley knife & a vape to underage test purchasers. Both cases are now being dealt with by Trading Standards.

- The SNT have found and recovered around 15 stolen vehicles across the district. As well as dealing with numerous vehicle owners for no insurance/ licence offences.
- The team have been working closely with South Derbyshire District Council issuing ASB letters/ contracts and Community Protection Notice Warnings (CPNW's) to individuals causing ASB.
- A BMW was stopped on Plummer Road, Newhall and the driver was arrested for possession of an offensive weapon, concerned in the supply of drugs and drug driving as they tested positive for cocaine. On searching the home address of the driver there were concerns for the welfare of a dog at the property. The driver was further arrested for unnecessary cruelty to an animal and the dog was seized.
- A positive warrant was executed at a property on Parliament Street, Newhall where a substantial amount of drugs and cash were recovered, resulting in a male being charged with possession with intent to supply class B drugs, production of class B drugs and possession of an offensive weapon in a private place.
- A positive warrant executed at a property on Union Road, Midway resulted in a male being arrested after a large-scale cannabis grow was found at the address and the electricity had been by passed from a different location meaning the pavement had to be dug up to enable the property to be made safe.
- From intelligence we have received a 43-year-old male has been interviewed for possession of class B drugs, a 35-year-old male has been identified for shop thefts and a 43-year-old male has been interviewed and issued with a summons for shop theft.
- A blue Ford Transit that was seen in various suspicious circumstances led to the arrest of two males on suspicion of theft, the vehicle was seized as believed to have been used in connection of a crime. A 49-year-old and a 15-year-old male from Birmingham were subsequently charged with six thefts.
- A male of no fixed abode was convicted at court for driving dangerously and failing to appear at court. He received a rehabilitation order, is required to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work, will receive a 12-month disqualification from driving (to remain disqualified until he passes a driving test again) and pay £200 in court costs.
- A 20-year-old male arrested by SNT officers pled guilty in Court to Public Order offences and an assault on an emergency services worker. He received a community order, 150 hours unpaid work and £85 in court costs.
- Following reports of distraction thefts in the South Derbyshire area committed by two males including at places of worship, an arrest of a 33-year-old male for 14 offences in South Derbyshire was made.



- A male from Chrysanthemum Court has been dealt with by the Courts for driving whilst disqualified, having no insurance, failing to stop and driving under the influence of cannabis. The male received an 18-week suspended sentence, an eight-week curfew on tag, over £200 in fines and a further disqualification from driving for three years.
- A male from Stanton has now been sentenced to 21 months in prison following a positive warrant conducted at Woodland Road, last year where a cannabis grow was found and electricity abstracted.
- Dog related incidents - SNT officers have been inundated with incidents involving dogs. A number of incidents where dogs have either attacked other dogs or bitten a person have been dealt with by the team including a 31-year-old woman interviewed and sent to Court for possessing a dog whilst disqualified from doing so. The woman in question has since been fined, ordered to pay kennel fees and the dog seized.
- A dangerous dog was seized from a 52-year-old man in the Swadlincote area after the dog caused significant injuries, biting its owner to the face and causing him to end up in hospital.

***Cupper with a Copper at Garden King – 10:30-11:30am on the following dates:***

- Friday, October 6, 2023
- Friday, November 3, 2023
- Friday, December 1, 2023

**Q&A**

The police were thanked for their work to stop the use of e-scooters which has reduced in this area significantly.

An issue was raised regarding parking outside of Boomerangs Nursery, Birch Avenue, Newhall. People are parking outside of the nursery on the pavement around a blind bend which makes it difficult to pass safely. In addition, cars have also been seen speeding in this area.

The Police advised that there are already 'No parking' banners on display outside of the nursery but will look into the issues raised and work with the nursery as necessary to try and improve matters further.

A member of the public raised an issue regarding obstructive parking on the corner of Willow Drive and Bretby Road, Newhall. The parked cars on the grass verge make it very difficult to see when pulling out and could cause an accident.

Elmsley Green has work vans parked along the road in places they shouldn't be which is posing an injury risk.

The police updated that they have been moving vehicles on when they are parked where they shouldn't be and will continue to keep an eye on the areas mentioned.

Claire Rawlins added that parking restrictions are for the County Council to enforce.



A member of the public raised concerns about an incident concerning a property located in the Bramblewood cul-de-sac, Newhall where someone has punched a hole through the metal fence surrounding the house.

The police informed that the incident needs to be officially reported to the police via 101 or online so that an incident number can be allocated, the police can then action as necessary.

A member of the public raised concerns about the Cadley area not getting the same attention in terms of police monitoring in comparison to other areas of South Derbyshire and felt that as a result there may be more opportunity for people to commit crimes and get away with them.

Concerns were also raised regarding the response times and consistency of the communication methods available for contacting the Police following an incident involving two teenagers that were stealing fire extinguishers.

A resident queried whether they should phone 101 or 999 after coming across a tree that had fallen in the middle of the road at night? The resident mentioned that when they had tried to call 101, it took a long time to get through even though a tree in the road was hazardous.

Inspector Sisman informed that it would be better for them to call 999 in that situation since a tree in the road at night could cause the loss of a life. Sgt Nizzer added that it depends on what other calls are being received by 999 as to whether the situation is deemed as a priority.

Concerns were raised regarding the number of cars driving through Newhall at night that smell strongly of Cannabis.

The Police advised that they are working hard to tackle the issue of drugs in the South Derbyshire area as a whole and urged those present to report anything suspicious, providing as much detail as possible, e.g., license plate numbers of cars etc. to 101 so that the crime can be officially recorded and dealt with accordingly.

### **N/A 3. South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership/ Safer Neighbourhood Grants Update**

#### **Safer Homes Service**

South Derbyshire CVS have produced a new leaflet for the Safer Homes service, a supply of these can be found on the signing in table at the back.

The service can improve the security of people's homes through a free crime prevention survey and the fitting of free security items. Victims of crime, vulnerable people and the over 60s can access the scheme. Self-referrals are accepted. Contact details and how to refer are included on the leaflet or via the CVS website.



281 properties were secured in South Derbyshire in 2022/23 and 90 referrals were received in Q1 of this year.

In June the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was re-introduced, this gives police and Council Enforcement officers additional powers to deal with ASB. The order includes prohibitions on street drinking and any person's misbehaving can be removed from the area for a 24-hour period. There is also a new prohibition to prevent nuisance cycling and scooter use.

We are currently consulting on introducing another PSPO at Eureka Park. The park has had persistent ASB over the last few years and the prohibitions will be exactly the same as the PSPO in Swadlincote Town Centre.

We are again supporting knife crime education sessions in the South Derbyshire Support Centre in Newhall. An organisation called Street Whyze visit the school and provide both 1-2-1 work and group sessions. The service is being extended to be delivered at Pingle, William Allitt and Granville Schools during the coming year.

Safe and Sound continue to visit Swadlincote and Newhall to do valuable outreach work. The charity which focuses primarily on Child Exploitation are making weekly visits to our urban parks to talk to young people. Valuable information is passed onto us and also to the Parks team about any issues or requests to improve the parks.

#### **N/A 4. Local Community and Voluntary Sector Projects/ Update**

Please see attached document.

#### **N/A 5. Local Authority Update and Public Q&A**

##### **Housing**

The first wave of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund is now approaching completion, providing improved insulation, doors, and windows to 89 properties across Swadlincote, Melbourne, Hartshorne and Netherseal.

The second wave will provide similar improvements to around 103 properties across Hilton, Church Broughton, Scropton, Smisby, Hartshorne, Netherseal and Lullington.

The tenants of the properties that may be included are being written to informing them of the scheme and will be consulted with before any works commence.

##### **Legal and Democratic Services**

The Annual Canvass for 2023 has started - this is the process where the Council contacts every household to check we've got the right information on the Electoral Register. The process also gives anyone who isn't registered to vote yet, the chance to do so.



The Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and therefore we will be using on-line methods of contact where possible. Online contact will also reduce costs by reducing postage, paper, and processing time.

You will receive an email or letter asking if your household's details on the Electoral Register are correct. All you need to do is follow the instructions, and you'll be ready to have your say in upcoming elections. You can reply online, by phone, text, or by returning the paper form.

If you can reply online, we encourage you to do this. If you have to respond and do not respond, we will try to contact you by telephone or make a property visit.

### **Cultural and Community services**

The new South Derbyshire Community Grant Fund is now open for applications.

The scheme, administered by South Derbyshire District Council, is financed by part of South Derbyshire's allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) monies.

The Fund has a total of £350,000 available over the next two years until March 2025. Capital grants of between £2,000 and £25,000 are available (up to 80% of total project costs) with a minimum project cost of £2,500. Match funding of 20% is required.

Applicants must demonstrate that their project meets one or more of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund outcomes and further information including a Guide to the Criteria, Application Process and Conditions of Funding is available on the Community Grants section of the Council's website, when you search "Community Grants".

It is an open rolling application process until the 31 December 2024 (to allow for completion of projects) or until all funding has been allocated.

### **Customer Services**

South Derbyshire District Council is currently developing its Customer Access Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to shape how the Council will serve its customers, and to define the projects and initiatives it needs to deliver in order to achieve its ambitions.

We want local people to feel valued by their Council, trust us and have excellent customer experiences in their dealings with us, whatever channel they choose.

The Customer Access Strategy will set out how we will improve access to our services for our customers. We want to make dealing with the Council as quick and easy as possible, making the best use of technology whilst working in a cost-effective way.

The document can be accessed by contacting Customer Services at SDDC, or if you speak to us after the meeting, we can take your details and email you a copy of the document.



## Q&A

Concerns were raised around access to the Cadley Hill section of the new Cadley Park and that because the main access to the park is not yet open people are using the pedestrian access point instead which is causing conflict with cyclists and is also disrupting car traffic. There is also no wheelchair access at the park currently.

**ACTION: Claire Rawlins to forward the issues raised regarding access to Cadley Park to the Parks and Greenspaces team.**

A member of the public raised awareness that they recently received a scam call from someone pretending to work for the council.

**ACTION: Tracy Bingham to look into the issue raised around scam calls to see whether there have been any other reports and to further raise awareness via social media channels explaining what the council will/ won't ask when contacting residents.**

A question was raised regarding Annual Canvass, if there are no changes then should the letter be ignored?

Tracy Bingham informed that residents should respond to the electoral changes letter either through text or another way. If there is no response and you need to respond, then someone from the council will visit your house or give you a call.

A member of the public asked what was happening in terms of the incinerator.

Tracy Bingham updated that the Head of Planning is sending a report which will confirm the district council's comments about the incinerator. However, it is a County Council matter. Members of the public will be able to attend the committee meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. Customer Services or Democratic Services can be contacted for more information.

A member of the public asked about any future cost of living grants as the £150 grant given to households in lower council tax bands appeared to be going to waste as people were spending it on fireworks. Councillor Mick Mulgrew added that he was disappointed by this mindset as there is no solid information about the claims being made so it is just accusations.

Tracy Bingham informed that there are no national schemes currently, however, there are a number of local schemes for families in need.

A noise complaint about a local compound was raised. The resident explained that the noise is incredibly loud as it is situated within 6 feet of their property and doesn't understand why it was put in a residential area. Any complaints made about the compound have gone ignored. This issue was also echoed by another resident who lived on the same street.





Tracy Bingham advised that she would pass on the concerns raised to Housing to help deal with the issue as contractors are expected to be considerate of local residents when working.

**ACTION: Tracy Bingham to inform Housing of the noise complaint raised regarding the Novus Compound on Cecil Road.**

A local resident raised that local ground maintenance in the area was not up to the expected standard, e.g., hedges are overgrown, there are weeds everywhere and the grass is being cut less frequently and rather than moving objects out of the way that inconvenience the job, such as bins, the lawn mower operatives just cut around the obstacle which then makes the area appear untidy.

A member of the public raised concerns about dogs being let loose in Newhall Park and recounted an incident whereby the resident saw a dog that had been let off its lead attack another dog.

**ACTION: Claire Rawlins to flag the issue of dog walkers letting their dogs off the lead with the Council's Community Safety Enforcement Officers (CSEO's).**

A Newhall resident asked about the possibility of a streetlight to be sited along the alleyway between the end of Park Street and Tudor House Close (Newhall) stating that the pavement is uneven and could result in injury.

**ACTION: Peter Smith to take forward the request for additional street lighting to be sited along the alleyway between Park Street and Tudor House Close in Newhall to the County Council.**

A dangerous island in Newhall needs amending as it may result in a collision if not fixed – details passed to Peter Smith to take back to the County Council as they deal with any road issues.

**ACTION: Peter Smith to take back the issue raised regarding a dangerous island in Newhall to the County Council.**

A resident raised that Midway Fishponds are currently unusable due to a lack of path and mud due to the weather so would like to know what can be done, specifically as to whether a footpath can be put in.

**ACTION: Claire Rawlins to pass the issue raised around a lack of suitable footpath around Midway Fishponds to the Parks and Green Spaces team.**

An issue with potholes was previously logged by the County Councillor but there has been no feedback, and the potholes are getting larger in some areas. People who live on the road with the potholes cannot enter their own garages so are having to use the local church car park.

**ACTION: Councillor Peter Smith to chase DCC regarding the potholes in Newhall**



A resident queried why a street sign previously located at the junction of Church Road, Newhall which was knocked down and removed last year has not been replaced.

**ACTION: Councillor Peter Smith to take back the issue raised regarding a replacement street sign at the junction of Church Road, Newhall to DCC.**

A local resident raised concerns that there is no safe link between Cadley Park and Coronation Street, explaining that pedestrians have to go through the driving range car park and then the road by the driving range before they get onto Coronation Street which is not suitable for people with prams, young children or wheelchair users

An issue was also raised regarding the security lighting at the driving range as it goes on at around 10pm and is so bright that it is illuminating the houses nearby. Residents are reportedly having to close their curtains at 10pm or buy black out blinds to be able to sleep.

Concerns were raised regarding pools of water gathering in different spots along the pump track at Cadley Park which could be dangerous if someone were to fall off their bike and hit their head and land in the water. It was suggested that the area is therefore unsuitable for use while there are pools of water present.

**ACTION: Claire Rawlins to pass the issues raised around Cadley Park to the Parks and Green Spaces team.**

#### N/A 6. Summary of Agreed Actions

Action	Person responsible
Contact Parks and Green Spaces regarding the lack of wheelchair access at Cadley Park	Claire Rawlins
Look into any further reports about scam callers pretending to be from the council and put-up social media posts about council call procedures	Tracy Bingham
Contact housing regarding the noise issue from the contractors at the compound on Cecil Road	Tracy Bingham
Flag up issues of dogs being let off of their leash on Newhall Park to enforcement officers	Claire Rawlins
Check if the County Council can put streetlights on Park Street due to safety issues	Peter Smith
Pass the issue with the unsafe traffic islands in Newhall to the County Council	Peter Smith
Contact Parks and Green Spaces about potentially implementing a footpath at Midway Pond	Claire Rawlins
Enquire to see if the fixing of potholes can be done quicker by the county council due the increase in their size	Peter Smith



Enquire if there can be a replacement sign put on the junction of Church Road	Peter Smith
Contact Parks and Green Spaces regarding the link between Cadley Park and Coronation Street, the driving range lighting, and the water spots on the pump track.	Claire Rawlins

### N/A 7. Close and Date of Next Meeting

TBC.

**Councillor Kalila Storey**  
CHAIR  
The meeting terminated at 19:58pm

