

LINTON AREA MEETING

4th December 2007

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman) and Councillors Grant and Jones.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend and P. White (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Bambrick and Mrs. Lauro.

D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and G. Duckworth (Democratic Services Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), K. Bradford (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), A. Hasell, M. Lintin, K. McLaden and S. Sherratt (Linton Parish Council), M. Knight (Overseal Parish Council), W. P. Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council) Dr. T. G. Elson and W. Taylor (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Members of the Public

C. D. Birch and B. Hall.

LA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Wheeler had been appointed Chairman of the Linton Area Meeting for the Municipal Year 2007/08 at a District Council Meeting held on 28th June 2007.

LA/2. **COUNCILLOR BOB SOUTHERN (Deceased)**

The Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Bob Southern, former Chairman of the Meeting, who had passed away earlier in the year. He had been a great public servant who had served the area well for a number of years. A moment's silence was observed in his memory.

LA/3. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor Timms (District Council Representative), Dr. Eaton (Chairman of Cauldwell Parish Meeting), W. Wadsworth (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), B. Matkin (Rosliston Parish Council), Jo Smith (Chairman of CVS) and K. Fairbrother (member of the public).

LA/4. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Jones be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Linton Area Meeting for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2007/08.

LA/5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 23rd January 2007 were noted.

LA/6. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman referred to Item 11 on the Agenda and reported that Mr. Corbishley, Manager at Community Transport, (Swadlincote) had advised that unfortunately, due to other commitments, a representative would not be able to attend the Meeting to give a presentation on public transport arrangements.

It was agreed that Community Transport (Swadlincote) be invited to provide the presentation on public transport arrangements in South Derbyshire at a future Meeting.

LA/7. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Meeting considered a report on the following issues raised at the last Area Meeting on 23rd January 2007:-

(a) Newhall Civic Amenity Site, Park Road, Swadlincote.

At the last Area Meeting, Derbyshire County Council had been requested to investigate the amount of waste that members of the public could leave at the civic amenity site in South Derbyshire. In addition, information was sought regarding the guidance given to operators of the civic amenity site, so that the public received clear and concise advice, in order to avoid problems created by fly-tipping.

Derbyshire County Council had confirmed that all forms of household waste were accepted at the household waste recycling centre at Newhall, including all items from a home that would normally be taken when moving house. Large amounts were always queried to ensure that there was no element of a commercial transaction in the delivery. Access was restricted to vehicles not exceeding 3.5 tonnes and trailers no longer than 2 metres. However, hardcore/rubble from evacuation or building renovation were not classed as household waste and would not be accepted at the recycling centre. As an aid to minor jobs and tidying up, two 25 kg bags of hardcore/rubble/soil (or the equivalent loose) would be accepted from the public with no return within seven days. Any major refurbishment of fixed furniture, floorboards, plaster and tiles constituted renovation work and was therefore classed as construction waste.

Tyres were restricted to four per person and asbestos to two sheets or two metres of gutter/pipe work with no further loads. Hazardous waste over 5 litres or 5 kg was normally referred to the Matlock office for consideration as a special collection. Alternatively, the public could call up the site before

organising transportation to check the form of waste and amount that would be accepted.

The contact details for the County Council's Waste Office at Matlock were provided. D. Tysoe advised that there was also an explanatory leaflet regarding these issues, available to the public.

It was agreed that the Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the Linton Area be provided with copies of the report received from Derbyshire County Council and the explanatory leaflet.

(b) Requests for Litterbins

At the last Meeting, the Director of Community Services had been requested to investigate the feasibility of providing floor-mounted litterbins in Rosliston and a larger litterbin in Castle Gresley. The Director of Community Services had since written to the members of the public from whom the requests were received to advise that the size and type of litterbins was dependant on the specific location. Floor-mounted litterbins were placed in positions which did not obstruct pedestrian traffic and where the need for a larger bin was deemed necessary, based on previous reports of excessive littering. As existing bins became unserviceable, the type and size of replacements were checked to establish that the site requirements were being met.

Mrs. Jackson had raised the issue initially and advised that the problem still existed. The site in question was outside the Chemist/general store on Linton Road, Castle Gresley.

It was agreed that the report be noted and that the Director of Community Services be requested to investigate further the provision of the litterbin in Castle Gresley.

(c) Government Proposals for Rural Post Offices in South Derbyshire

Further to a request received at the last Area Meeting, the Council's Chief Executive, Mr. McArdle, advised the Meeting on the latest situation on the Government's proposals for rural Post Offices in South Derbyshire. The District Council, at its Meeting held on 8th November 2007, had already given consideration to the consultation document from the Post Office on its Network Change Programme and particularly the Area Plan Proposal for the East Midlands.

Three Post Office branches were proposed for closure in South Derbyshire – Church Gresley, Egginton and Newton Solney. The community concerns had been represented at the Council Meeting. The District Council had also written to the Government Minister to express its concerns and was actively campaigning with the local MP. A further Government meeting to discuss the proposals had been held that afternoon and it was expected that the Government's decision would be announced the following day. The report was noted.

LA/8. **PRESENTATION BY THE COUNCIL'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SWADLINCOTE TOWN CENTRE**

The Chief Executive advised that a planning application had now been received for further developments in the Swadlincote Town Centre, to include

the provision of retail units occupied by high street brands; a four-screen cinema; an eight-lane bowling alley and an Argos centre. The façade of the buildings' design would be in keeping with the existing buildings in that area. The proposed residential development would be connected to the Town by cycleways and lit footways and there would be provision of additional off-street parking. A link to the existing Morrison's supermarket would also be provided. A recent meeting had been held with the Chamber of Trade to present the proposed scheme and the planning application would be considered further early in 2008. The report was noted.

LA/9.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

In relation to Item 11 on the Agenda, Councillor Grant raised the issue of proposed public transport cutbacks by Community Transport and enquired whether the representatives from Derbyshire County Council had any further information on this matter.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council would investigate this matter further and report back to the next Meeting.

An issue was raised concerning the lack of a speed van at Hillside Road, Linton, and problems with speeding in the area of the Castle Gresley Primary School and associated dangers with a pedestrian crossing in that vicinity. Sergeant Wright advised that details of accident/fatality statistics would be required in order to provide suitable traffic calming, including the use of a countywide speed van. The local Police would have the use of handheld speed cameras and it was suggested that WPC Croxall could assist in this matter.

Sergeant Wright also advised of the "Speed Watch" scheme which was currently being trialled in the Hatton area and would be rolled out to other villages in the near future. All parish councils/meetings should have received letters from the Police advising of the implementation of the scheme. Councillor Grant queried the inclusion of community volunteers in the scheme. Sergeant Wright gave a detailed response. The Meeting was advised that Sergeant Rogers would decide which villages the scheme would be implemented in, in consultation with Derbyshire County Council and would report any further progress to a future Meeting.

"Slow Down/Kill Speed" signs were requested for Linton and Sergeant Wright advised that if the Parish Council was able to purchase such signs from its own funds, installation would be undertaken.

Traffic calming signage was also requested by Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council, although it had not got funds available to make the necessary purchases. Councillor Bambrick advised that he had also asked for the provision of signage for Coton-in-the-Elms, together with consideration of speed restrictions to 40 MPH.

Reference was made to the potential residential development of affordable housing, which would increase traffic volumes considerably. Councillor Mrs. Lauro advised of a recent site meeting held at Castle Gresley in this regard and also advised that a meeting had been requested for Linton to discuss similar issues. It was anticipated that the County Cabinet Member Brian

Lucas and Peter Leigh from Derbyshire County Council's Highways Department would be present to discuss highway issues.

It was reported that Linton Parish Council had requested the installation of speed calming measures for Hillside Road and Linton Heath, which were both approaches to the local School. Sergeant Wright made reference to the availability of an additional "Safe Neighbourhood" vehicle which could be sited in the locations referred to act as a deterrent against speeding. The use of a speed warning sign was also mentioned.

It was agreed that the Police investigate the provision of traffic calming measures at Linton and Coton-in-the-Elms and liaise further with the Parish Councils.

P. Marbrow advised of the proposal to provide an Eco-Town bordering the parishes of Rosliston, Drakelow and Walton-on-Trent and almost reaching the A444. The proposals were for the provision of 5,700 houses, together with offices and industrial units. It was anticipated that the scheme would commence in 2011 and be completed by 2026. A public meeting was to be held on Thursday, 6th December 2007 at 7.30 p.m. at Rosliston Village Hall to discuss the likely implications for the affected South Derbyshire parishes and it was hoped that an action group could be formed to pursue this matter further. Councillor Grant advised there were a total of 10 Eco-Towns planned for Derbyshire. The report was noted and further progress would be reported to a future Meeting.

It was reported that residents of Coton-in-the-Elms had received circulars from the District Council warning of a possible £50,000 fine for leaving refuse at the side of their collection bins. These circulars were perceived as "threatening" and it was considered that they could result in people being deterred from recycling. The Chief Executive noted the comments made and referred to the legislation and enforcement issues regarding this matter.

It was agreed that this issue be referred to the Director of Community Services for further investigation.

Councillor Jones made reference to problems experienced at a recycling collection site. Contractors would not collect excess waste since this was regarded as fly tipping, but it was noted that residents in the local parishes were increasing their recycling. Future plans to increase the recycling of plastic items were queried. It was advised that the recycling of other types of plastics, in addition to those already collected, was currently being investigated.

Mrs. Jackson questioned the current position with regard to the proposed Nadins waste disposal site. It was advised that the District Council had discussed this issue at length and had objected strongly to the County Council's plan for the provision of large waste disposal sites at Egginton/Etwall, Drakelow and Nadins.

Councillor Bambrick queried the collection of cardboard in brown bins and Councillor Jones advised that households in local parishes should soon be receiving leaflets providing further information on this issue.

The frequency of recycling bin collections was queried together with details of which items could be included in the brown bins. Suitable signage to advise of these issues was suggested.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services be requested to investigate the matters with regard to recycling and advise Parish Councils accordingly.

The latest information with regard to the proposed re-opening of the Ivanhoe railway line was questioned. The Chairman advised that the District Council was satisfied with these proposals in principle, although sufficient funds would be required to enable the scheme to be implemented. D. Tysoe advised that the County Council had heard nothing further with regard to this matter. The report was noted.

LA/10. **REVIEW OF AREA MEETING STRUCTURE**

The Chairman outlined plans for a review of the Council's Area Meeting structure. He advised that maps were displayed in the room showing the proposed new boundaries. A total of seven Area Meetings based on the revised County Council Division boundaries, rather than the current six, were proposed. The new Linton and Church Gresley Area Meeting would be comprised of all of the Church Gresley Ward; part of the Linton Ward (excluding Rosliston, Drakelow and Botany Bay) and part of the Seales Ward (comprising of Overseal and Linton Heath). The remainder of the Linton and Seales Ward would be included in the Newhall and Seales Area Meeting. These proposals would necessitate the attendance by the Linton and Seales Ward Members at more than one Area Meeting.

Councillor Bambrick was happy for the current Linton Area Meeting arrangements to remain as existing and this view was echoed by those present in the Meeting.

It was agreed that the views expressed at the Meeting be reported back to the District Council for further consideration.

LA/11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was advised that a provisional date for the next Area Meeting had been arranged for 6th February 2008. Final details, including the venue, would be confirmed in due course.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.