

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

Thursday, October 18th, 2018 at Linton Brick Room

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) representatives

Councillor John Grant (Chair), Councillor Pat Murray.

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.

Chris Smith – Communities Manager.

Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) representatives

Councillor Pat Murray.

Derbyshire Police representatives

PC Paul Russell, PCSO Dave McMillan.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Claire Bradford (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Karen Bradford (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Sheila Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Carole Knight (Overseal Parish Council), Stephanie Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council), Janice Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Oliver Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), John Powell (Linton Parish Council), Steve Sharpe (Overseal Parish Council), Tony Stone (Netherseal Parish Council), Carl Talbot (Walton Parish Council), Kevin Tizzard (Linton Parish Council), Carol Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council).

Members of the public

Chris Beebee, Tim Bidder, Eddie Bisknell (Derby Telegraph), Katy Fieldhouse, Kerrie Fletcher (CVS), Mark Hunt (CVS), Linda Kinston, Paul Marbrow, Ben Stuart, Rob Talbot, Joanna Trawon.

LA/8

Open meeting

a. Introductions and apologies

Mary Horne.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

The meeting was informed that because there were only two district councillors available, the Area Forum was not quorate and would run as a community meeting only and not a constituted SDDC meeting.

Councillor John Grant updated the meeting on: Christmas bin collections, Swadlincote's Christmas lights switch-on, the Environmental Education Project giving away free trees and a consultation which was taking place on SDDC's Local Green Spaces Development Plan Document.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting. Councillor Grant added an update to the report back on planning enforcement in Netherseal. Permission had now been given for a single caravan pitch. A condition had been added specifying a mains sewer connection.

LA/9 **Safer Neighbourhood report**

PC Paul Russell reported that:

- There had been a spike in non-dwelling burglaries in Overseal.
- The number of quad bike thefts had increased.
- The expected rise in hare coursing usually seen during the summer had not been detected.

A resident asked who was responsible for enforcing the 7.5 tonne weight limit. PCSO Dave McMillan replied that it was Trading Standards which dealt with it. Details of the vehicle could be passed on via DCC's website. PC Russell added that Police could take action, but Trading Standards could issue more substantial fines for such offences.

A member of the public asked if it was offence – full stop – to park on the pavement. PC Russell confirmed that it was not. Councillor Grant added that it was an unfortunate fact of living in the countryside and, however annoying, it was something which residents had to put up with.

LA/10 **Communities update**

Chris Smith reported that:

- Safer South Derbyshire was involved with Hate Crime Awareness Week.
- An issue which affected everyone in the District was fraud, particularly online fraud. He explained the service offered by Action Fraud, an organisation set up to help victims and urged people to be wary of anything which appeared to be a scam.
- The Say Something If You See Something child sexual exploitation campaign was being backed by Safer South Derbyshire.
- There was still £4,000 of Safer Neighbourhoods grant funding available. He urged any eligible projects to come forward as funding was available and would potentially go to another area in South Derbyshire if it went unspent.

Kerrie Fletcher reported that:

- Nominations for the South Derbyshire Community Awards had opened. The first event was held in 2017. There were seven categories and nominations could be for anyone who made a difference in South Derbyshire.
- The CVS was launching the Improving Health and Wellbeing grant for sums of up to £1,000.

Mark Hunt explained the Safer Homes Scheme which was still operating for elderly and vulnerable residents, where the CVS would visit and install home security devices such as spy holes, door chains and window locks.

LA/11 **Local authority issues & public questions**

Frank McArdle reported that:

- There was a by-election being held in Linton the following week. There was also a vacancy in Hilton that would last until the 2019 Local Government Election if no nomination was received by the next week.
- Local Democracy Week was taking place. Pupils from Belmont and Pennine Way schools had visited the Civic Offices to see the duties undertaken by SDDC and had asked some pertinent and often excellent questions.
- The former SDDC Depot in Darklands Road was about to be demolished and the land used for a fast food outlet, pub and some residential respite care.
- The pay-as-you-pay golf centre in William Nadin Way was now up and running.
- Embryonic plans to move SDDC to a new headquarters in a multi-agency building in Swadlincote had been made. It was an exciting prospect.

A resident asked how the proposed third river crossing at Walton was progressing. Mr McArdle replied that all issues from SDDC's point of view had been solved. It was now in the hands of the developer. Officers at SDDC had done everything they could to facilitate the bridge being built and there were 2,000 homes in South Derbyshire's Local Plan reliant on it.

A member of the public said that since Councillor Beth Hall had moved out of South Derbyshire and during Councillor Pat Murray's illness, their village – in the Seales Ward – had been left without representation. How had Councillor Hall retained her seat after moving to live a long distance from her ward? Mr McArdle replied that Councillor Hall had not vacated her seat. If she attended a minimum number of meetings at the Council she would be within the rules. Anyone who wanted information regarding her attendance should use a Freedom of Information request. He was unable to comment any further on the question. Councillor Murray said he was undertaking his duties every day and was always available on the phone for his constituents. He started work every day at 7.30am and often worked into the evenings with his duties at County Hall. His colleague, Councillor Grant, had helped as well. The loss of Councillor Bob Wheeler had contributed too and he and Councillor Grant were doing their best to cover. Councillor Grant added that he lived in the Seales and would attempt to help anyone with a problem regardless of where they lived.

A resident voiced concern over the development at Chilcote and Stretton en le Field, in North West Leicestershire, putting even more traffic onto the A444. Mr McArdle replied that, as it was a planning matter, he was unable to comment. SDDC, as a neighbouring authority, would have been consulted and he understood the resident's concerns. Councillor Grant added that a planned development at the junction of the A444 and M42 included a distribution centre. It would impact on many of the villages and roads in the area. Councillor Murray said he had attended meetings with the developer and pointed out that the A444 was a cut through to the A38. DCC was fully aware of the situation.

A member of the public brought up the 40mph speed limit on Walton Road outside the Drakelow Park development which they felt should be 30mph. They were told it had previously been raised with DCC, who were happy with the status quo.

A resident thanked Mr McArdle for the foot golf which had been brought in as part of the new golf centre in William Nadin Way. Mr McArdle said he would pass the feedback onto N1 Golf, who were running the site and planning on bringing in Adventure Golf.

A member of the public asked that, since SDDC had taken over the running of Rosliston Forestry Centre, could consideration be given to allowing horse riders to use trails so they were not forced onto busy roads

in the area. A resident added that a mapping error in the 1950s meant that a lot of bridle paths had been reclassified as footpaths.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to raise request with DCC, the Forestry Commission and the National Forest

A resident complained about the standard of roads in the area. Councillor Grant replied that there was a system in place to report them to DCC. Councillor Murray added that 22,000 pot holes were fixed every year and they were being fixed more quickly than ever through the use of a new machine and extra crews.

LA/12 **Presentation on local community initiative**

In lieu of a presentation, Mr Smith updated the meeting that:

- Rosliston Rangers were looking for volunteers to help with gardening at Rosliston Forestry Centre. Work was undertaken between 10am and 3pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Further information was available at rosliston@south-derbys.gov.uk.
- The Drop-In Gardening sessions were still being held on Mondays between 2pm and 4pm until December 3rd. They would start again on January 7th.

LA/13 **Summary of any agreed priorities / actions**

ACTION: Frank McArdle to raise request (for possible use of Rosliston Forestry Centre by horse riders) with DCC, the Forestry Commission and the National Forest

LA/14 **Close and date of next meeting**

Wednesday, January 30th, 2019.

**Councillor John Grant
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8pm.