

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

12th February 2015 at Overseal Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman) and Councillors Jones; Frost; Murray and Mrs Hall.

S Batchelor (Director of Community and Planning); L Brewster (Service Assistant)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

P Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

County Council Representatives

None

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

S Jones; C Knight and M Patrick (Overseal Parish Council); PJ McGibbon (Netherseal Parish Council); A Lees; C Bradford and K Bradford (Coton in the Elms Parish Council); M Horne (Walton on Trent Parish Council); J Powell (Linton Parish Council); P Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council)

Members of the Public

None

LA/22 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from J Pallett, S Jackson, C Wright, Councillor K Lauro and Heather Wheeler MP

LA/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

LA/24 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Local Plan has been through its Examination in Public which started in November 2014. It lasted for 6 days covering all aspects of the Local Plan. Following the examination, the appointed Inspector has asked the Council to undertake some further work around housing, viability and infrastructure on strategic sites. This work once complete will be submitted to the Inspector who will then decide on the next steps.

The Community Partnership Grant Scheme has now been re-launched with a total pot of £300,000.

- Capital funding only available
- Non-profit groups and Parish Councils in South Derbyshire can apply
- Will require a minimum of 50% matched funding
- Minimum Grant £1,000, Max. £25,000

LA/25 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Linton Area Forum held on 2nd September 2014 were noted.

LA/26 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

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

Acresford Road, Netherseal - Carriageway flooding

Forum Liaison Officer discussed the flooding at Acresford opposite the Crickets Inn. It was reported previously that officers believed the drainage system ran underneath the adjacent field, with the outfall discharging into a brook. It was suspected that the pipe was broken but attempts to gain permission to enter the field to investigate had been unsuccessful.

DCC were to consider using powers to enter the field without the owner's permission. In the interim period, arrangements were made for one of the larger jetter vehicles to cleanse the system and it now appears to be running clear. It may be that, rather than a break in the system, there was a substantial blockage which required the larger jetter to dislodge it.

The Highway Inspector will continue to monitor the drainage and DCC are no longer looking to pursue the option of entering the land. A resident reported that the field has since been sold and the new owner may be more co-operative, should DCC need to investigate further.

Highways maintenance in South Derbyshire

A proactive approach to maintaining carriageways better using accelerated funding will be carried out over the next 3 years to address the never ending issue of potholes. Details of this funding can be found in the relevant Cabinet Member report on the website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/meetings/decisions/meetings/cabinet/582014_cabinet.asp.

The Director of Community and Planning advised the meeting that a further Parish Council briefing session on Planning is due to take place on Wednesday 18th February at the Council Offices. This will include an update on neighbourhood plans, including the progress at Melbourne.

LA/27 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Continuing the issue of potholes it was queried as to where the funding will be used. Moira Road, Overseal was highlighted as a priority area.

ACTION – Forum Liaison Officer to report back to a future meeting.

The recent traffic chaos on the A444 following snowfall at the end of January was raised. It appeared that the road had not been gritted and became impassable for a time.

ACTION – Forum Liaison Officer to report back to a future meeting.

It was queried as to why the application to install a vehicle activated speed sign (VAS) at the edge of Overseal had been refused. The Forum Liaison Officer advised that the criteria is very stringent and only speed related collisions involving injury that had been reported to the Police could be taken into account. VAS signs cost between £20,000 and £25,000 each.

It was suggested that a VAS near to Cadley Hill does not meet the criteria. The Forum Liaison Officer suspected that this VAS was approved prior to the implementation of the policy. There were no plans to review VAS introduced before the policy came into effect; they may not meet the existing criteria but would have been brought in to resolve a road safety issue.

The forthcoming installation of fibre optic broadband locally was raised. It was queried as to why Netherseal is not included.

ACTION – Forum Liaison Officer to report back to a future meeting.

The issue of litter across the District was raised. The Chair advised the meeting that litter should be reported to the Clean Team at SDDC. However roadside litter problems, such as along the A38, fall under the responsibility of Highways.

ACTION – Director of Community and Planning to contact Environmental Services regarding litter at private businesses.

A query was raised about the installation of LED street lighting in the area. The Forum Liaison Officer replied that an LED street lighting scheme has been agreed.

LA/28 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None

LA/29 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Community and Planning gave a brief update on the SDDC budget covering

- Local council tax freeze, although the other bodies are expected to increase their portions
- Council tax support scheme
- Increase in concurrent functions
- Increase in grants to voluntary bodies

The Council's financial position is stable with a balanced budget for this year and next year. This was helped by new homes bonuses which increased to £170,000. District and City Council business rates are to be pooled rather than paid to the Government, which should give SDDC a greater share.

However, there will inevitably be a spending review after the election in May which could result in potential funding problems.

The maintenance of built facilities continues to be an issue. Parts of Green Bank Leisure Centre have been refurbished and a large grant from Sport England should be announced shortly to complete major refurbishment of the rest of the facility.

Following a query regarding the new golf course on William Nadin Way, it was advised that the driving range and clubhouse may be open this summer. The golf course will depend upon when the grass has grown sufficiently and the proposed hotel is dependent on SDDC finding a partner.

Concerns were raised regarding the proposed reduction of Fire Service cover in the district.

LA/30 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

R WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 8.15 pm