

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at St John's Church, Newhall

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Paul Dunn (Chair), Councillor Sean Bambrick, Councillor Kevin Richards, Councillor Mrs Linda Stuart, Councillor John Wilkins.

Kevin Stackhouse (Director of Finance and Corporate Services), Tom Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Sean Bambrick, Councillor Gary Musson.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

None.

Members of the public

Mick Chilver, Colin Dobson, Graham Hall, Richard House, Margaret Hughes, Mick Lunn, Cathy Miles (South Derbyshire CVS), Mick Mulgrew, Russell Nash, Mary Richards, Rhea Turner (Burton Mail), Barry Woods.

NA/10 **Apologies for absence**

Mike Lacey.

NA/11 **Declarations of interest**

None.

NA/12 **Chairman's announcements**

None.

NA/13 **The minutes of the meeting held on June 20, 2017**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

NA/14 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

Pedestrian crossing at Wideshaft

Councillor John Wilkins reported that there used to be a crossing 50 yards away. It was installed after a petition was lodged with Derbyshire County Council – a similar exercise now could yield positive results. Councillor Gary Musson added that he would look into the issue. A resident asked if Wideshaft was in Swadlincote and not Midway.

Bollard outside cottages in Orchard Street

Councillor Paul Dunn said that having read DCC's report back, he felt there had been a misunderstanding over what was requested. He asked for DCC to look again at the location.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to ask for a further report back from DCC

Midway Community Centre – MUGA requested by residents

A resident complained that nothing had been reported on the MUGA after a meeting had been promised on the subject. He had suggested an alternative location for the play area on the Horseshoe. An item of equipment at the current play area had been damaged on August 3 and had not been repaired. Three swings had also not been repaired. He questioned the community involvement in the centre and claimed it was known locally as a 'sports hall'. It was a major disappointment. Councillor Dunn added that a one-year celebration was coming up on October 25 but there was little to celebrate. All he'd heard was complaints about parking and vandalism and he'd met with SDDC Chief Executive Frank McArdle about the centre.

Kevin Stackhouse clarified that currently there were no plans for a MUGA at the centre and he'd been told one was never promised. There were plans to put something on the site, but it wasn't a MUGA, and there were proposals to tackle the car park issues. Four youths who were the main troublemakers in the car park had now been dealt with. Regarding community involvement, South Derbyshire CVS had been asked to get involved.

The resident said that the sporting ventures at the centre were commercial. He took umbrage with being told a MUGA was never in the plans as he'd seen one drawn on a draft. He'd never got an adequate reply on what had happened to it.

Cathy Miles from the CVS said it was a matter of working with what was there and trying to get some community groups going in the centre.

Councillor Kevin Richards reported that he'd had a meeting with Mr McArdle. One of the issues at the centre which had been solved was a lack of storage space, rectified with an extra room built on the side of the building. He added that there was work being done to resolve the issues around play areas. Community involvement was needed and if there was a sense of ownership, people would look after the centre. A prime example of this was Newhall Old Post Centre. He and other councillors would keep pushing for a MUGA at the centre. A resident asked why people had been told to forget a MUGA. Councillor Richards replied that one was not included on the final plans. Councillor Dunn urged those present to attend the open day on October 25 between 2pm and 7pm to make their feelings known.

A member of the public asked how much room hire was. It was confirmed as £10 an hour plus VAT. Councillor Dunn added that the plan wasn't to hire it at £10 an hour for commercial ventures to make a profit. Councillor John Wilkins said the closest centre to Midway in style was the one built on the Goseley Estate and that initially suffered vandalism. The centre let charitable groups have a cheaper rate than commercial organisations. Mrs Miles said that was the model being looked at for Midway.

A resident asked if there was categorically going to be no MUGA. They also asked how the centre was managed and whether that had an effect on vandalism. Was the centre manager full-time? Councillor Dunn confirmed the caretaker post was part-time and was advertised at 18 hours per week.

NA/15 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident raised electoral issues at the previous election, with some voters turned away from polling stations. Councillor Richards replied that Mr McArdle was aware of the issues. The resident said that they'd received nine voting cards at their address. They returned them to SDDC and also wrote to the Elections team but didn't get a response. Councillor Dunn replied that there had been issues with a temporary officer in Elections.

A member of the public asked if SDDC could tidy up the area around four garages in Pine Grove, Newhall, when ground workers came to cut nearby grass. The path behind Pine Grove going to the Burrows was also in a poor state and needed work.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report issues to Derbyshire County Council

A resident complained about the run down building next door to the Old Post Centre at 1, Main Street, Newhall. Years previously, the resident claimed a grant was awarded by SDDC to help make the property habitable. However, it was still unoccupied and was an eye sore again.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report building to SDDC Environmental Health

A resident asked when a dog bin would be reinstalled on the east side of Newhall Park. Mr Stackhouse replied that SDDC was aware of the problem and the area had been cleaned and a basket left for bags of dog mess as a temporary measure.

A resident complained about the lack of a security light at Pine Grove car park in Newhall. Councillor Sean Bambrick confirmed it was an SDDC responsibility.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report question over lighting at the location to relevant SDDC department

NA/16 **County council issues**

A resident asked if land opposite Chrysanthemum Court was going to be developed by DCC. Councillor Dunn replied that a development company was going to be set up by the old administration at County Hall but he was unsure of the new administration's plans. Councillor Bambrick said he would take the question to DCC and report back.

ACTION: Councillor Sean Bambrick to report back on formation of a development company

NA/17 **District council issues**

None.

NA/18 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on a date to be announced.

Councillor Paul Dunn
CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 8.23pm.