

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

22nd July 2010

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. Patten, Mrs. Plenderleith and Wheeler.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), P. Evans and G. Coates (Refuse/Recycling), M. Guest (Policy and Communication) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Ford and Mrs. Patten.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Sutherland.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

B. Payton and I. Smith (Etwall Parish Council), L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council) and J. Bates (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

C. Massey and G. Wale.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Mrs. Brown, P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council), N. Ireland (Etwall Parish Council), D. Allen, S. Avery, J. Clarke, M. Cramp, H. Hague, R. Mathews, B. Penny, V. Stewart and representatives of the South Derbyshire CVS.

EA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Etwall Area Forum for the ensuing year.

EA/2. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sutherland gave an update on crime statistics for the area, for the last three months. Overall, there had been a slight increase when compared to the figures for the previous year. Specific reports were given on burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and violent crime. The Officer confirmed the Safer

Neighbourhood priorities for this area, being anti-social behaviour in Hilton, particularly near to the Village Hall and the skate park. The Sergeant spoke about a new police operation, which would give an increased Officer presence on Friday and Saturday evenings, to target the problems caused by “nuisance youths” and those drinking alcohol. He advised that community policing would now be based at Hilton, rather than the Officers having to travel from Melbourne. Sergeant Sutherland publicised the initiative “Have your say” which would be held at the Sainsbury’s Supermarket in Swadlincote on 14th August 2010 and was an opportunity for people to raise concerns on policing.

A resident outlined two incidents reported via the internet to both Neighbourhood Watch and the Police. Whilst a Neighbourhood Watch response had been received, no such response had been received from the Police. **Sergeant Sutherland agreed to pursue this with the resident outside the Meeting.**

Arising from this, an Etwall representative confirmed there had been a spate of vandalism within the Village. In response to further questions, updates were provided about the charges brought against the owner of a dangerous dog and against three people thought to be responsible for anti-social behaviour in the local area. The Officer also advised on a recent change in legislation and the ability to seize alcohol from young people. If alcohol was seized from the same person on three occasions, a prosecution could then be pursued.

EA/3. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported with sadness on the death of Geoff Banton of Hilton Parish Council, John Walton, the former Hilton Parish Clerk and his wife, former District and Parish Councillor Mrs. Roma Walton. Those present observed a minute’s silence in their memory and tributes were paid by a local Member and the Council’s Chief Executive.

An announcement was made on behalf of the Chairman of the Council, who had hoped to be at the Area Forum and was looking forward to visiting all parts of the District during his year in office. If he could be of assistance to local groups, they were asked to contact the Civic Office either by telephone (01283 595721) or via the Council’s website (www.south-derbys.gov.uk).

EA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held on 10th March 2010 were noted.

EA/5. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the agenda, which gave an update on the issues raised at the previous meeting. A verbal update was provided about the 40 mph signage on Burton Road and Doles Lane at Findern and to confirm that machine patching repairs had been completed on Egginton Road at Etwall.

EA/6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

A local Member presented two items for the Area Forum's consideration. The first requested that a letter be written from the Area Forum to Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust that funding be ring-fenced for a proposed new medical centre. It was understood that the developers were actively looking at sites for this facility, and it was important that the opportunity was not lost before a site was identified and suitable permissions secured.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Derbyshire PCT accordingly.

The second request was that the proposed car parking charges at Willington Marina car park, be withdrawn. It was felt that these charges would have a dramatic impact on the number of people using the local train service at Willington Station. In addition, these charges could also lead to traffic congestion and parking on-street, causing more traffic problems in the Village.

It was agreed that a letter be written from the Area Forum to Derbyshire County Council, urging it to reconsider the car parking charges proposed at Willington Marina car park.

Personal representations could be directed to Councillor Chris Jackson, the Cabinet Member for Highways at Derbyshire County Council. Representations could also be made to the Chairman of the Primary Care Trust.

A Findern representative recorded thanks for the works undertaken at Lower Green Lane and Common Piece Lane, following the issue raised at the previous meeting. It was then reported that Findern Parish Council had been in lengthy correspondence with Network Rail regarding a footway bordering its land, in the vicinity of the Findern Primary School. Overgrown verges and bushes made it difficult to use this footway and pedestrians were having to step into the road. The last effective maintenance took place two years ago. It was requested that copies of previous correspondence be forwarded to the District Council. **It was agreed that Officers at South Derbyshire District Council would then write to Network Rail, requesting that maintenance be undertaken.**

EA/7. DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**Presentation On Recycling**

The Area Forum received a presentation from Paul Evans and Gillian Coates. Mr. Evans gave an outline of the development of the Council's recycling and composting services and now, approximately 48% of waste was recycled or composted. South Derbyshire was in the top 100 authorities in the Country and the highest in Derbyshire in terms of recycling, due to residents' efforts. He explained Officers' aspirations to take recycling levels over 50%. He then gave statistics on the amount of waste generated per household and the estimated value of food wasted each year.

Questions were invited and an update was sought about the kerbside collection of plastic materials. A comparison was made to neighbouring authorities, where plastic was collected from the kerbside. Officers recognised that this was an important issue to residents. They explained the current

kerbside scheme, previous tendering exercises and the costs of collecting plastic materials. The Council was continuing to look at innovative ways of service delivery, whilst being mindful of likely budget reductions in the coming months. The Leader of the Council also spoke about the costs of recycling plastic materials. The Council was looking at all options on waste collection and he referred to ongoing talks with a neighbouring authority, which might lead to further improvements in recycling.

An Etwall representative referred to a newspaper article about Derbyshire County Council 'policing' recycling across the County. Officers responded, speaking about initiatives to work more efficiently, including joint working. It was understood there might be some funding available to encourage local authorities to join up services.

It was confirmed that the Council sought to emulate good practice elsewhere, to further improve its recycling performance. Another question concerned problems with maggots in the compost bin and details of the resident were requested, so that further advice could be provided to them.

There was a discussion about the recycling and disposal of fluorescent tubes, low energy light bulbs and batteries. Ideally, these items should be kept separate and they could be taken to local civic amenity sites for disposal. The Sainsbury's supermarket chain had provided recycling points for low energy light bulbs and there were recycling points for fluorescent light tubes and low energy light bulbs at the Recolight collection point on Rinkway Business Park, at Park Road in Newhall and the trading estate in Stores Road at Derby.

A further issue discussed was the value of glass recycling banks. It was confirmed that the amount of glass collected had reduced by about 20%, but these banks were still well used. There was concern about the cleanliness of the blue paper recycling bags and it was questioned how often they were changed. Bags were replaced when they became torn or dirty and additional bags could be supplied to any parish council or local Ward Members on request. Another issue raised was the capacity of the black refuse bin for families with several young children. Officers also spoke about the comparative benefits of the current recycling receptacles or a single wheeled bin for all recyclables. Clarification was also provided on the plastic materials that could be deposited in the recycling bank located at Hatton.

Freedom of the District of South Derbyshire

It was confirmed that the Mercian Regiment had accepted the offer of the freedom of the District of South Derbyshire. This would give the Regiment the right to parade through Swadlincote. A scroll would be presented to the Regiment at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 11th November 2010.

EA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Etwall Area Forum would be confirmed in due course.

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:15 p.m.