

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

22nd July 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman) and Councillor Timms.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), P. White (Democratic Services and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Lacey.

P. Jameson (Local Area Forum Liaison Officer).

District Council and Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Jones.

Derbyshire Constabulary

P.C. Trudi Bullick

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

J. Pallet and C. Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council), G. and R. Palmer (Linton Parish Council), W. Marbrow and L. Sullivan (Rosliston Parish Council), M. Horne and V. Taylor (Walton on Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

O. Pallet, L. Ramsay (South Derbyshire CVS) and W. Taylor.

LA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Wheeler had been appointed Chairman of the Linton Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting.

LA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from M. Todd M.P., District Councillor Grant and S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council).

LA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that District and County Councillor Jones be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Linton Area Forum for the ensuing year.

LA/4. **POLICE ISSUES**

P.C. Bullick addressed the Meeting, giving an update on police issues. It was advised that she had recently taken over from P.C. Croxall as the local Area P.C. and had extensive knowledge of the area, due to her locality. It was advised that figures for reported crime were currently average as compared to the remainder of the County. Burglary figures had recently reduced by 90%, although it was stressed that the public should avoid leaving windows open during the hot weather, either whilst sleeping or whilst properties were vacant. Incidents of anti-social behaviour had also decreased by 7.8%, although it was noted that, due to the imminent school holidays, this figure could increase.

Reference was made to the “Restorative Justice” police policy where discretion was given to allow the police to deal with minor criminal/public order incidents in consultation with other agencies. Since early July 2009, 922 incidents had been dealt with under this new policy.

A local Ward Member raised the issue of increased litter from a take away premises in the Walton-on-Trent area, and it was agreed that this matter be discussed further with the District Council’s Director of Community Services following the Meeting.

Confirmation was sought of P.C. Bullick’s contact telephone number and working pattern, details of which were provided.

LA/5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Linton Area Forum held on 30th March 2009, were noted.

LA/6. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the Agenda, which provided an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting.

With regard to parking restrictions outside Linton Primary School, Derbyshire County Council had advised that revocation of the waiting restrictions between Nos. 93 – 107 Main Street, Linton was soon to be proposed. In the interim, it had been arranged for the time plates to be removed from that section of the road, which would render the stretch unenforceable. The Enforcement Officers had been advised of this action. Consultation on the revocation of the waiting restrictions would commence in due course, although it took generally a minimum of 8 months for the process to be completed. Initial consultees would include the Parish Council, following which a Public Notice consultation would be undertaken with other interested parties including residents in the locality. The Chairman advised that the issue of parking outside Linton Primary School had been raised at the last Parish Council Meeting, following which the local PCSO and the District Council’s Enforcement Officer had agreed to investigate the matter further. With regard to the parking of a particular company’s vehicles on Hillside Road, Linton it was reported that the company had now secured new premises out of Linton and the former premises would be let to a new company.

In relation to concerns raised previously regarding the curtailing of conditions of pass holders using public transport, it was reported that the County Council's Public Transport Unit had confirmed that there were no plans to reduce the level of concessionary travel for South Derbyshire residents for 2009/10.

LA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Concern was raised regarding the potential impact of the proposed "Drakelow Park" residential development on the surrounding villages in respect of increased traffic movements. The Chairman advised that the County Council, as the Highways Authority, was aware of the issues and advised members of the public to inform Parish, District and County Council Members of their concerns. The District Council's Director of Community Services advised of the statutory consultees in respect of all planning applications.

The purpose of a traffic survey undertaken on Main Street, Walton-on-Trent was questioned. It was noted that this might have been undertaken by the developer. It was requested that a similar survey be undertaken on Station Lane, Walton-on-Trent (at the Bailey Bridge), during school term time, in view of concerns that the amount of traffic travelling over the bridge had increased significantly recently.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate the request further and report back to the next Meeting.

Overgrown hedges were reported at the Flint Mill crossroads (travelling from Cauldwell Road, Linton to Drakelow), which were obstructing visibility resulting in road accidents, and at Sandy Lane, Cauldwell also obstructing visibility on dangerous bends. The Forum Liaison Officer advised of the County Council's maintenance programme and also suggested that there was a nesting period in which hedges could not be cut back. It could therefore be several weeks before the work could be undertaken. A local resident contested that the nesting period ended in mid-July.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate both matters further and report back to the next Meeting.

The non-recycling of plastics by the District Council was questioned. The District Council's Director of Community Services advised that nearly 50% of the total waste collected in the District was recycled. Following investigation last year into the cost of collecting plastics, it was reported that this would cost over £650,000, which would incur a 12% increase on Council Tax bills. Due to the high expense, the District Council had agreed to collect compost as an alternative and had increased the rate from 30% to 50% in the last three years. The Chairman advised that the collection of plastic remained a priority at the top of Members' agendas and would be reconsidered should sufficient funds become available. Following further discussion concerning the collection of plastics, it was advised that plastic yoghurt pots could be collected from the recycling bins outside Sainsbury's. Since this was not well known in the local area, it was suggested that it should be publicised in the local press.

LA/8. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – CONSULTATION ON MINERALS AND WASTE PLANNING**

The Forum Liaison Officer reported that Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council had jointly begun preparing new plans, setting out details of minerals and waste development over the next 20 years. A booklet outlining the proposals was circulated at the Meeting. The County Council was undertaking further consultation and had asked for residents' views on the content of the minerals and waste plans. Any person wishing to be consulted regularly could also be included in the list of consultees. Although residents could get involved at any stage, they were advised to register their interest early in the process. Contact details for residents to express their views or register interest were provided in the booklet.

The Chairman made reference to a potential waste transfer site at Drakelow Park and questioned whether this site would be included in the development plan. It was queried whether the Peak District National Park would be included as a consultee.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate these matters further and report back to the next Meeting.

LA/9. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES – FEEDBACK ON VISION AND PRIORITIES**

The Director of Community Services advised that a booklet had been circulated entitled "Local Priorities Consultation – Summary of Key Findings". During 2008 and early 2009, the District Council had consulted key stakeholders on priorities for South Derbyshire. A wide range of consultation methods were used and the results had then formed two key documents – the Council's Corporate Plan and South Derbyshire's Sustainable Community Strategy. The booklet gave a summary of key findings following this consultation and residents were thanked for their feedback.

LA/10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that a provisional date of Wednesday, 11th November 2009 had been agreed for the next Linton Area Forum Meeting. This would be confirmed in due course.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.