

REPTON AREA MEETING

27th November 2007

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Bladen (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Murray, Taylor and Mrs. Wheeler.

Councillor Wheeler was also in attendance.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer and P. White (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Jones and A. Bond (Democratic Services).

District Council/County Council Representative

Councillor Ford.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Adams (Hartshorne Parish Council), D. Buchanan (Newton Solney Parish Council), R. Paulson (Repton Parish Council), K. Overton (Willington Parish Council) and R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

K. Bull, A. Gifford, Mr. Harrison, D. Oatley, J. Orme, Mr. Yates, J. Young and R. Young.

RA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Bladen had been appointed Chairman of the Repton Area Meeting for the Municipal Year 2007/08 at a District Council Meeting held on 28th June 2007.

RA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Mrs. Hood, D. Tysoe (Derbyshire County Council), Mrs. Ellis (Newton Solney Parish Council), Mr. Atkin, J. Stamford and Mrs. A. Gillespie.

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

It was agreed that Councillor Ford be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Repton Area Meeting for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2007/08.

RA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Meeting held on 31st January 2007 were noted.

RA/5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman thanked Councillor Taylor, (the former Chairman) for his services to the Repton Area Meeting. It was noted that Councillor Taylor had now been appointed Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Meeting.

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

The Committee received a report back on issues raised at the Area Meeting held on 31st January 2007:-

Police Issues

(a) Community Policing in Willington and the role and working hours of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

Sergeant A. Wright, Police Liaison Officer, advised that PCSO's were contracted to work between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and midnight, although in South Derbyshire most worked until 10.00 p.m.. There were 13 PCSO's throughout the District; each Safer Neighbourhood Area had at least 2 PCSO's and one Beat Officer. Willington was in the Safer Neighbourhood Area "Mercia", which also included Repton, Findern and Stenson Fields.

(b) Problems caused by parked cars in the area of No. 94 Trent Avenue, Willington

Following concerns raised at the last Meeting, the Police had been requested to investigate a complaint relating to problems caused by cars parking across the pavement and grass verge in the area of No. 94 Trent Avenue, Willington. Sergeant Wright confirmed that the local Beat Officer had written to the residents of Twyford Close/Trent Avenue, Willington, advising them of the law relating to parking on grass verges. The Police were continuing to monitor the parking situation in that area of Willington and further action would be taken if necessary. No further complaints had been received since the last Meeting.

Derbyshire County Council Issues

(a) Street Light Fault – Woodville

Following an issue raised by Woodville residents at the last Meeting, Derbyshire County Council had pursued the request to repair the street light outside No. 118 High Street, Woodville.

(b) Traffic calming – Newton Solney

Following the extensive concerns expressed by residents and representatives of Newton Solney Parish Council in relation to speeding traffic in Newton Solney, and the consequential requests for the implementation of traffic calming measures, it was reported that it had been agreed to arrange a

meeting between the Parish Council and Derbyshire County Council to discuss the matters raised.

A response had been sent to the Parish Council directly from Councillor Brian Lucas, the Cabinet Minister for Sustainable Communities and Derbyshire County Council had stated that there was no justifiable case for introducing traffic calming or any other intervention measures.

Mr. Buchanan advised that Newton Solney Parish Council had requested details of the serious traffic accidents which had occurred in the area, but those were still awaited from Derbyshire County Council. Particular reference was made to a serious accident, which had occurred on Remembrance Sunday.

Those present discussed speeding traffic issues and the need for traffic calming measures in Willington and Repton.

Sergeant Wright advised of the Speed Watch Scheme, which would be rolled out to various parishes, including Newton Solney from March 2008. Bids for traffic calming schemes would be considered in January 2008, although there were a number of criteria to be met. The provision of speed cameras for a period of six months could be offered to parishes.

It was agreed that a letter of support with regard to traffic calming in Newton Solney be forwarded from Repton Area Meeting to Mr Peter Leigh of Derbyshire County Council's Environmental Services Department.

(c) Signage/Traffic Marking Issues – Toyota Island, Willington

A meeting was held between Willington Parish Council and Highways Officers from Derbyshire County Council, to discuss the signage/traffic marking issues in the area of the Toyota Island, Willington and a progress report was provided.

Councillor Ford had been pursuing this matter with Balfour Beatty and would advise of any further progress at a future Meeting. There was also discussion about a current development in this area, the possible creation of a second roundabout and the likelihood of HGV's having difficulties negotiating certain roads in this area.

The information provided by Derbyshire County Council regarding the signage and traffic marking issues at the Toyota Island, Willington was noted.

Mr. Orme thanked Officers from Derbyshire County Council for the provision of the public footway at the new A50 flyover at Findern.

(d) Potholes – Access Road to Newhall Civic Amenity Site

At the last Area Meeting, Derbyshire County Council had been requested to repair the potholes in the access road to the Newhall Civic Amenity site. It had since had been reported that the area had been inspected and Derbyshire County Council had clarified that there were no potholes within the highways that it maintained. There might be potholes on the road leading down to the site, but that was not a public highway. Mr. Orme

queried ownership of the road and it was suggested that further clarification should be sought.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council undertake further investigations into the ownership of the road leading down to the Newhall Civic Amenity Site, in order to ascertain responsibility for the repair of the potholes.

RA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr Orme reported that a number of vehicles, had been parked on double yellow and double white lines on the B5008, Willington. The matter had been raised at the last Willington Parish Council Meeting, which P.C. Jed Grace had attended. Sergeant Wright advised that the Police would deal with any incidents reported to them.

Sergeant Wright agreed to investigate this matter further and would report back to Willington Parish Council.

Mr. Statham raised concerns about anti-social behaviour by groups of youths congregating in Woodville, particularly in the local recreation ground. The play area had been damaged by the smashing of bottles and it was suggested that designating this area as an alcohol-free zone might help to alleviate the situation. It was suggested that a meeting be held with the local Beat Officer to pursue this. Mr. Statham had already forwarded a letter to the Police. Councillor Taylor concurred that the situation in the park was unacceptable and he supported the proposals for the creation of an alcohol-free zone.

It was agreed that a letter of support be sent to the Constabulary from the Area Meeting for the provision of an alcohol-free zone in the area of Woodville Recreation Ground.

Mr. Yates made reference to an article within the County Council publication "Insight", which reported on parking issues in Woodville. In particular, residents on the Cameron Homes development were repeatedly parking on the pavement. Other issues included lorries blocking pavements and vehicles parked adjacent to bus stops. The provision of additional 'No Parking' signage was requested. Sergeant Wright advised that the obstruction of pavements by vehicles was a police issue.

Concern was also raised regarding traffic congestion in Woodville, particularly in the area from Granville School to the Clock Garage roundabout. It was recognised that the continued residential development in Woodville would exacerbate the problem. The Chief Executive gave a detailed response about the proposals to improve the Woodville area, including the creation of a link road, which should alleviate some of the congestion problems. Several meetings had been held recently with a number of parties to discuss proposals.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council be requested to provide additional signage, to deter the parking of vehicles at various locations in Woodville.

Mr. Orme advised that, at the last Willington Parish Council meeting, a consultation document had been discussed on a proposed Gravel Extraction Plan. The Parish Council was concerned that there had been insufficient opportunity to make any representations, since the consultation had only been received three days before the closing date for responses. Reference was made to a letter received from Mr. Mark Todd, M.P. who was also concerned about the lack of consultation. A representative from Newton Solney Parish Council advised that it had been consulted approximately 2 years ago on this issue.

Councillor Ford provided clarification about the proposed gravel extraction plans at Foremarke and the future stages in the consultation process. He agreed to report back further on this matter to the Parish Council. A representative from Repton Parish Council advised that written representations had been made against the proposals for the Foremarke site.

A resident of Woodville requested the provision of additional signage at Woodville Library car park, to clarify the one-way traffic system.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council investigate this matter.

A Willington resident referred to the renewal of the 'Gold Card' travel passes and the arrangements for outreach photographic sessions. No sessions were taking place in Willington.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council investigate this matter.

Mr. Orme raised a further item, about a press article on the review of rail franchises. Arriva was the new operator and planned to reduce significantly the frequency of passenger rail services stopping at Willington Station from December 2008. The Chairman also spoke to this item about the review of rail franchises and particularly service reductions.

It was agreed to convey the Area Meeting's concerns about reductions in passenger rail services to the train operators.

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

The next Repton Area Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 29th January 2008. Details of the venue would be confirmed in due course.

RA/9. **REVIEW OF AREA MEETING STRUCTURE**

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler, Leader of the Council, outlined plans for a review of the Council's Area Meeting structure. Maps had been displayed around the room to show the proposed new boundaries. There were currently six Area Meetings, based on the former County Council Divisions. However, following a Boundary Commission review, there were now seven County Council Divisions, which it was proposed that the Area Meetings should be based on. Details were provided of how the proposals would affect those parishes currently included within the Repton Area Meeting.

There was a discussion on the proposals, particularly the implications for parishes that would be aligned to other Area Meetings. It was noted that any resident could attend any Area Meeting within the District.

The Council would consider the consultation feedback before reaching its decision. Local representatives present at the Meeting should give further consideration to these proposals and raise any further issues at the next Meeting.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated 8.25 p.m.