

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS**

TUESDAY, 6th FEBRUARY 2007

**ST. GEORGE & ST. MARY'S PARISH ROOMS
CHURCH STREET
CASTLE GRESLEY**

7.00 p.m.

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ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬ੍ਰੇਅਲ ਜਾਂ ਆਡਿਉ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL:

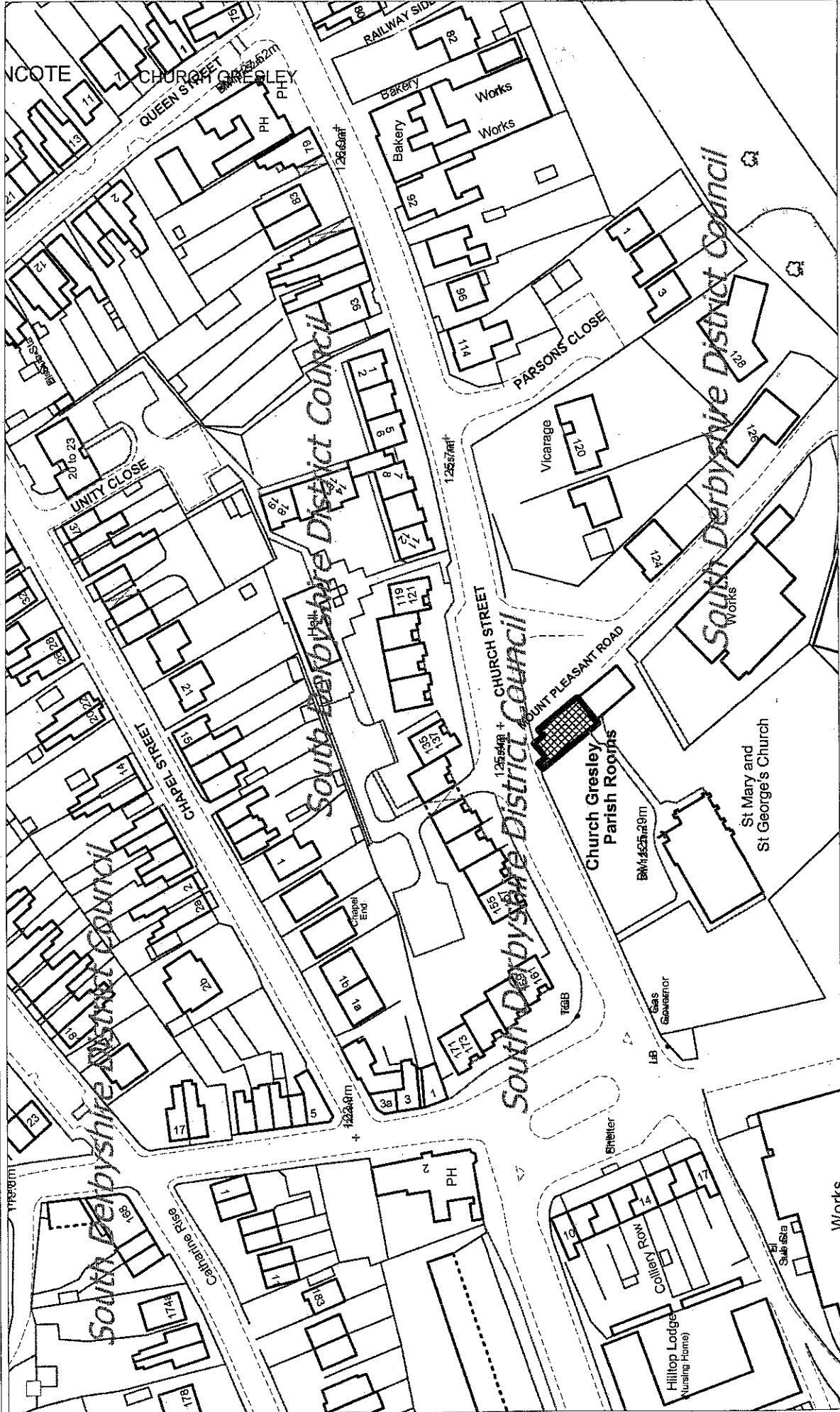
Corporate Scrutiny (Special – Budget)	Monday, 29 th January 2007 – 4.30 p.m.
Finance and Management (Special – NNDR)	Monday, 29 th January 2007
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 1 st February 2007
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 8 th February 2007
Corporate Scrutiny	Monday, 12 th February 2007 – 4.30 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 13 th February 2007
Community Scrutiny	Monday, 19 th February 2007 – 4.00 p.m.
Finance and Management	Monday, 19 th February 2007
Overview	Monday, 26 th February 2007 – 4.00 p.m.
COUNCIL	Thursday, 1 st March 2007
Development Control	Tuesday, 6 th March 2007
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 8 th March 2007
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 15 th March 2007
Finance and Management	Thursday, 22 nd March 2007
Community Scrutiny	Monday, 26 th March 2007 – 4.00 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 27 th March 2007
Corporate Scrutiny	Monday, 2 nd April 2007 – 4.30 p.m.
Overview	Monday, 16 th April 2007 – 4.00 p.m.
COUNCIL	Thursday, 19 th April 2007
Etwall Leisure Centre (John Port School, Etwall)	Monday, 23 rd April 2007 – 5.00 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 24 th April 2007
ANNUAL COUNCIL	Thursday, 24 th May 2007
Development Control	Tuesday, 29 th May 2007
CIVIC COUNCIL	Thursday, 31 st May 2007

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the Council's Civic Offices and will start at 6.00 p.m.



Area Meeting Venue

Church Gresley Parish Rooms Church Street

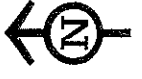


South Derbyshire District Council

Policy and Economic Regeneration

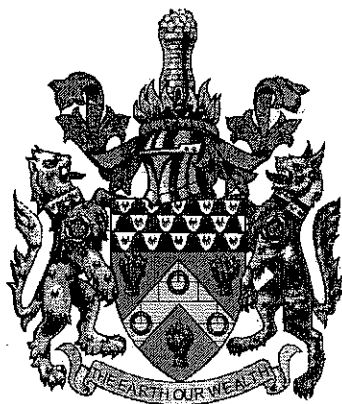
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Date Plotted 13/9/2005

Scale 1:1250



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Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 0AH

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SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

(Covering Church Gresley and Swadlincote)

Meeting to be held at
St. George & St. Mary's Parish Rooms,
Church Street,
Castle Gresley,
on Tuesday 6th February 2007
at 7.00 p.m.

(Light Refreshments will be available at 6.30 p.m.)

Members:

District Councillors: Councillor Harrington (Chair) and Councillors Mrs. Lane, Lane, Southerd, Taylor, Tilley and Venning.

County Councillors: Councillor Mrs. Lauro and Councillor Southerd (Vice Chair).



BUSINESS

1. Apologies.
2. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th November 2006 (copy herewith).
3. To note any declarations of interest arising from any items on the Agenda.
4. Chair's Announcements (if any).
5. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
6. Public Question Time and suggestions for future local discussion items.
7. South Derbyshire District Council – Responding to your views. (Please see attached report).
8. Date of next meeting.



SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

20th November 2006

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrington (Chair), Councillor Southerd (Vice Chair) and Councillors Lane, Tilley, Venning and Mrs. Wheeler.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Mrs. Lauro and Southerd and G. Roberts (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant Thandi.

Members of the Public

M. Causer, R. Causer, M. J. Cooper, C. Horridge, S. Horridge, M. Hudson, M. Lunn, A. Pitcher, C. Rose, A. C. Sheriff and J. Williamson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Mrs. Lane and Taylor, V. Harvey and D. Staley.

SA/9. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 10th August 2006 were noted.

SA/10. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

With regard to the obstruction caused by an overgrown bush on Common Side roundabout, Mr. Causer reported that he had investigated this further, and provided details of various planning permissions which were of relevance to this issue. He confirmed that this area had originally been part of a visibility splay for highway safety and it was conditioned that anything within this area should not be allowed to grow over one metre in height.

It was agreed that both the District and County Councils carry out further investigation on this piece of land with a view to cutting back the bush.

A resident expressed concern that following the provision of "dogs on leads" signs within the local parks, it had become very difficult to exercise dogs by allowing them to run freely. The Chair confirmed that these were not new signs, but had been in place for some time and had simply been replaced.

A resident confirmed that many jitties within the Town Centre were still in a very untidy condition due to the amount of litter. Councillor Lane confirmed that this was an ongoing problem, and agreements had been entered into with local businesses to attempt to eradicate this problem. These agreements

were due to start on 1st December 2006. Sergeant Thandi also confirmed that a number of fires had been started in the Town Centre within the litterbins. The Police, Fire Service and the Clean Team were hoping to instigate a target day to raise awareness of this issue.

With regard to an item raised at a previous Area Meeting, the Chair advised that he believed that the repairs which had recently taken place on the Rink Passageway had left this area in a worse condition than before. He added that the footpath needed re-surfacing and the work which was due to take place replacing the fence with metal railings had not yet started.

It was agreed that further investigations would take place with regard to this issue.

SA/11. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

It was reported that there was an ongoing problem in High Street, Swadlincote of windows being smashed, and egg throwing. Sergeant Thandi confirmed that eggs in particular had been a problem, and the Police were currently trying to identify culprits. In addition, Sergeant Thandi was aware of the damage being carried out in the Town Centre and the Police were trying to address this. It was confirmed that retailers had been issued with letters warning them with regard to the sale of eggs and to underage drinking. Shops were also currently being asked to adopt the "Challenge 21" scheme, which assisted in confirming the age of those wishing to purchase alcohol.

It was pointed out that following the completion of the Morrison's development, a "no entry" sign had not been replaced at the area by the side of Greggs, on Rink Passage which was now being used as a through route.

Derbyshire County Council agreed to pursue this issue with a view to replacing the signs.

It was reported that a Securicor van was regularly parking on the junction of Church Street/Thorpe Downs Road, Church Gresley whilst attending the nearby Tesco Express. It was accepted that the Securicor van was parking as close as possible for security reasons, but the position of the van when parked was considered dangerous to highway safety.

Sergeant Thandi agreed to speak to Tesco Express with a view to Securicor being requested to avoid parking in this location.

It was pointed out that during the Christmas lights switch on evening, there were problems of vehicular access on Market Street and West Street due to the road closures. Sergeant Thandi agreed to monitor this during the current Christmas lights period and would consider any observations for Christmas 2007.

M. Hudson submitted a question with regard to recycling of plastic cups. She pointed out that it was very difficult to recycle the plastic in plastic bottles, as the recycling plants would not take plastic bottles that had a different coloured top. The Director of Corporate Services responded that it was very difficult and expensive to recycle plastic bottles. However the District Council was currently considering the subject of recycling and was trying to resource a solution to this problem. Councillor Lane assured the Meeting that South Derbyshire District Council did not send the plastic which was left at the recycling centres to a landfill site, but rather it was sent to a sorting centre.

A resident reported that they were very impressed with this year's display of hanging baskets and garlands in the summer, and wanted to pass on their thanks. Councillor Lane added that the Friends of Eureka Park had made an excellent contribution in this area.

SA/12. **FEEDBACK – “GETTING YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION”**

The Director of Corporate Services reported on feedback of the Ideas into Action campaign.

Following the Council's consultation on its Corporate Plan, an “Ideas into Action” campaign had been undertaken, requesting ideas from individuals, parish councils, and community groups within the District. 64 ideas had been received, which included:-

- specific complaints about issues such as untidy land.
- requests for improved services to the whole District such as collecting plastics for recycling.
- ideas for local initiatives that required funding or other support to launch the idea.
- suggestions where the Council had little influence, such as dismantling electricity pylons and laying the cables underground.

It was confirmed that all the ideas received had been acknowledged by letter and would receive a detailed response when the appropriate course of action to be undertaken had been decided.

It was confirmed that ideas for improving services across the District or developing local initiatives which had budgetary implications would be considered in the Council's budget cycle later this year. Where there was no cost it would be investigated and if the idea could be implemented, it would. Where the Council was not responsible for provision of a service, the suggestion would be passed to the relevant body or partner.

An analysis had been undertaken of the ideas received. The top issues suggested included:-

- litter/cleanliness
- graffiti
- better recycling facilities collection
- untidy sites
- more trees, flowers and spring bulbs
- highway maintenance and improvement
- support for Neighbourhood Watch
- better facilities for children and young people

It was agreed that the content of the report “Ideas into Action” be noted.

SA/13. **COMMUNITY SCRUTINY NEEDS YOU!**

The Area Meeting considered a report on the work of the District Council's Community Scrutiny Committee which invited contributions from members of the public to participate in the Committee's projects. The Council had

appointed two scrutiny committees and an Overview Committee. The purpose of the scrutiny committees was to improve the Council's performance by monitoring, questioning and making recommendations on the way services were provided and decisions taken. A short guide to the membership, dates of meetings and work of the three scrutiny committees was circulated.

It was confirmed that the Community Scrutiny Committee's remit focused on community and environmental issues, culture, leisure and arts, housing, economic development and land use.

The Area Meeting was advised that the Community Scrutiny Committee had completed four projects to date relating to:-

- Housing repairs and maintenance services
- Homelessness services
- Waste management services
- Planning application services

The above four scrutiny reviews would contribute to the Council's delivery of better, more efficient and more effective services to residents and would ensure continued best value for money. During the period to May 2007, the Community Scrutiny Committee would be investigating the following projects:-

- The future of post offices
- How health services would be delivered by the new Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust
- Street Scene review
- Cleaner neighbourhoods

It was agreed that the content of the report "Community Scrutiny Needs You" be noted.

SA/14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the date of the next Area Meeting was 6th February 2007 at 7.00 p.m. at St. George and St. Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Street, Castle Gresley.

K. HARRINGTON

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

(Covering Church Gresley and Swadlincote)

6th February 2007

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the last meeting held on 20th November 2006 at the Council Offices, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made:-

ISSUES	PROGRESS	ACTIONED BY
1. Obstruction by over-grown bush on Common Side Roundabout.	Derbyshire County Council are currently making enquiries into ownership of this land, but as the bush is causing an obstruction, have undertaken to ensure that this matter is resolved as soon as possible.	Derbyshire County Council A. Bond (01629) 590000
2. Bank Passage (between High Street and Connexions).	The tarmac that has sunk has been identified, and the contractor has been asked to rectify the problem.	David Adkins Footpaths Officer South Derbys District Council (01283) 595762
3. "No entry" signs on Rink Passage.	Derbyshire County Council have agreed to visit this site to establish the current position and replace the sign where necessary.	Derbyshire County Council A. Bond (01629 580000)
4. Parking by Securicor at the junction of Church Street and Thorpe Downs Road, Church Gresley.	Update to be provided at the Meeting.	Sgt. S. Thandi Derbyshire Constabulary

South Derbyshire District Council

Responding to your views

Report to Area Meetings **January 2007**

What we set out to do?

In the last 12 months we have consulted local people about what they wanted us to do to improve our services and South Derbyshire as a place to live. Last January we asked you to prioritise some of the ideas being considered for our Corporate Plan for 2006. In October we asked you for your ideas in our initiative called "Ideas into Action".

We reported back earlier this year about our new Corporate Plan and to the last Area Meetings about the ideas you had submitted. This report gives you feedback about what we did about what you said to us.

What you told us – and what we did about it

Corporate Plan 2006/09

We have 6 themes in our corporate plan and we put forward a number of suggestions for actions within each theme. We acted on the ones that you prioritised at these meetings and incorporated proposals within our 3 year plan that runs to April 2009. We have listed in Appendix A the 4 highest priority actions, based on the area meeting consultation, together with the actions taken so far and an indication what we will do next, if the proposal is not yet completed.

Ideas into Action

At the last meeting we told you that the top issues people put forward were

- Litter / Cleanliness
- Graffiti
- Better recycling facilities / collections
- Untidy Sites
- More trees, flowers and spring bulbs
- Highway maintenance and improvements
- Support for Neighbourhood Watch
- Better facilities for children and young people

These have gone to the top of the list for any new money that will be available in the new budget that runs from April 2007, but we may not be able to fund everything that we all want to do. However, we have implemented some ideas immediately so we can make a difference straight away. These ideas include

- We now take action to clear litter from private land where public access makes it prominent and noticeable this is in addition to the usual highways and council land where we have a duty to control litter. We will work with private landowners to make sure they do not avoid their legal responsibilities but this will make sure that problem areas remain tidy whilst we sort out the legal position.
- We currently only deal with graffiti on council owned land and buildings. This year we have started to remove prominent graffiti where it is visible to the public.
- We are launching a grant scheme for Parish Councils to plant spring bulbs or other planting to improve the look of public areas. A similar scheme will operate in the unparished urban core.
- We are working with Derbyshire County Council, who are responsible for Civic Amenity Sites, to seek improvements to access, particularly in the north of the district where access is limited. As an interim measure we are introducing a Saturday Refuse Freighter collection from a number of villages and details of locations and dates will be available shortly.
- We will provide financial support for Rosliston, who will represent South Derbyshire in the national Britain in Bloom competition in 2007. We will also contribute to an urban landscape scheme promoted by Groundwork and the Parish Council in Melbourne.

Finally – Thank you

Residents of South Derbyshire are always very positive and helpful in our consultation exercises and this helps us deliver what you want to see. Thanks for all your views and ideas in this exercise and all the other consultation work we do.

We hope this note demonstrates that we do listen to what you say and take action on what our local communities are telling us.

Ian Reid
Deputy Chief Executive
January 2007

Appendix A

Proposal	Action delivered
<p>Theme 1: You at the Centre</p>	
<p>1st Provide more litter bins and improve weed control and road sweeping</p>	<p>We have provided 20 additional litter bins, improved our approach to street sweeping and litter picking, doubled the frequency of mechanical road sweeping and increased the frequency of weed spraying on footpaths. Our performance is now comparable with the best in the country.</p>
<p>2nd Extend composting and green box recycling scheme across the whole of the district</p>	<p>We have extended composting collections to 3000 properties and this new scheme collects kitchen waste as well as garden waste. The green box scheme has been extended across the district and now covers over 98% of properties.</p>
<p>3rd Deliver a programme of community based environmental projects through Groundwork Trust</p>	<p>Groundwork launched. Consultation on use of Council garage sites to improve the appearance of the area. A DVD making it easier to apply for disabled facilities grants, and a consultation on the future appearance of Swadlincote.</p>
<p>4th Deliver an annual programme of communication and consultation</p>	<p>4 issues of The South Derbyshire District News published per year. Our website has been reviewed externally by the Society of Information Technology Management who gave very positive feedback on content and functionality. Members of the public have tested our website and improvements made following their comments. An information screen has been introduced in our reception area to communicate information. We have improved our approach to consultation and this is exemplified by the Ideas into Action initiative, which was publicised in the newspaper.</p>
<p>Theme 2: Safe and Healthy Communities</p>	
<p>1st Deliver the Safer Neighbourhoods Project</p>	<p>6 Safer Neighbourhood meetings established across the district.</p>

<p>2nd Appoint Safer Neighbourhood Wardens to patrol anti social behaviour hotspots and enforce "Cleaner Neighbourhoods" legislation</p>	<p>Wardens are now patrolling a hit list of anti social hot spots suggested by the Police, the public and Councillors. Much positive feedback from the community on their beneficial impact.</p>
<p>3rd Continue to implement The Youth Facilities Plan</p>	<p>Plan rolled out with a range of new and improved facilities including multi use games areas at Midway, Castle Gresley and imminently Hatton.</p>
<p>4th Promote awareness of anti social behaviour hotline</p>	<p>Hotline launched and promoted. 78 calls received and responded to.</p>
<p>Theme 3: Prosperity for All</p>	
<p>1st Consult older people about the services they need from the council</p>	<p>Consultation framework under development with SDCVS. Specific consultation with Age Concern has identified a number of actions that we will undertake.</p>
<p>2nd Promote the use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to tackle truancy issues</p>	<p>11 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts in place (0 of which relate to truancy issues)</p>
<p>3rd Reduce the time taken to provide home adaptations and promote ways of enabling people to stay in their own home</p>	<p>Time taken to approve major adaptation grants reduced with 100% of grants new grant referrals received this year being completed within the 42 weeks Government Target.</p>
<p>4th Significantly reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty</p>	<p>434 households assisted with insulation and heating measures. 1507 tonnes CO2 saved as a result of activity.</p>
<p>Theme 4: High Quality Services</p>	
<p>1st Set clear standards in consultation with service users</p>	<p>First phase of Service Standards project is complete with publication of standards for environmental services and customer service. Other areas will generate equivalent documents. Achievement of Government approved Chartermark awarded to Environmental Services (supported by Customer Services).</p>
<p>2nd Develop a framework for assessing the needs of specific service users</p>	<p>This will follow on from the Service Standards Project.</p>

<p>3rd Set targets for service reliability and responsiveness in consultation with service users and monitor performance</p>	<p>Customer Service standards have been adopted and are used in Customer Services. These standards are available on our website will be rolled out to other service areas. Part of the Service Standards Project.</p>
<p>4th Establish a rolling programme of customer satisfaction surveys</p>	<p>The Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys, the results of which are now starting to come forward, form the basis of this year's project.</p>
<p>Theme 5: Rural South Derbyshire</p>	
<p>1st Ensure rural environmental issues are adequately covered in the Sustainability Appraisals and policies of Local Development Framework documents</p>	<p>Policy Framework in development.</p>
<p>2nd Establish Service Level Agreements with Parish Councils (linked to funding arrangements) in order to promote innovation in the delivery of local service priorities</p>	<p>Initial scoping work undertaken by consultants for the Council and updates given to Parish Council Forum. Parish Council funding to continue on current basis until consultation and discussions with parishes is completed.</p>
<p>3rd Establish a means of extending the Rural Transport Partnership (with partners) beyond 2006 in order to improve public transport in rural areas</p>	<p>County Accessibility Partnership to be established to take forward recommendations contained in report commissioned by Derbyshire County Council and East Midlands Development Agency.</p>
<p>4th Develop a better understanding of how our performance in delivering services varies across the district</p>	<p>The Pilot Project for examining selected Best Value Performance Indicator data at a ward level is about to commence.</p>
<p>Theme 6: Strong in the Region</p>	
<p>1st Resisting Changes in the delivery of services which could have an adverse impact on local people and communities and report outcomes back to local people</p>	<p>The Council has resisted changes to the bus route to Melbourne and Nottingham East Midlands Airport. Scrutiny currently undertaking consultation and meetings with the MP and Sub-postmasters about possible closure of rural post offices. The Council has responded to proposals in the Draft Regional Plan has also supported the SDLSP to formulate a response.</p>

<p>2nd Lobby on issues of concern and report outcomes back to local people</p>	<p>Council lobbied against reorganisation of Derbyshire Police. Regional Spatial Strategy discussed at Committee & SDLSP.</p>
<p>3rd Ensure that the Council is represented at meetings of the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)</p>	<p>The Leader of the Council is a representative on the EMRA and the Chief Executive works closely with EMDA on all inward investment opportunities. Both attend and represent the Council at all important meetings.</p>
<p>4th Provide details of the work we are doing to represent the interest of South Derbyshire in newsletters and on our web site</p>	<p>Details reported to all homes and businesses in The South Derbyshire District News / website. In addition we use the local media, Press Releases and radio networks communicate the work of the Council to local people.</p>

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