

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at Stanton Village Hall

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs Mead (Chairman) and Councillors Mulgrew, Murray and Wilkins

F McArdle (Chief Executive) and S Winfield (Service Assistant).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

P Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

**Members of the Public**

C Maddock; N Reid (Swadlincote Times); Helen Kreft (Burton Mail); C Gillespie; J Pallett; O Pallett; R House; L Mulgrew; G Hall; R Trim; M Lacey; E Tagg; B Parker

NA/17 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence for the meeting was received from Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Richards and Pearson and A Argent.

NA/18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

NA/19 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Draft Local Plan comments have been collated and currently being considered. Pre-Submission Plan to be consulted on in March through into April. The pre-submission consultation will go to a venue in each of the Area Forum areas for an afternoon/evening drop in session. The Local Plan will be submitted in June with a public examination likely to be in the Autumn this year.

NA/20 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Forum held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were noted.

NA/21 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and the Forum Liaison Officer reported the progress made in each case.

Traffic lights on A444 at Stanton. Residents raised that the lights are not giving enough time and contested they were correct as they give only 8 seconds to pull out of Park Road and then the A444 traffic is on green.

Councillor Mulgrew discussed the wooded area from Garden King up the hill on Park Road and confirmed that the Highway were meeting UK Coal today regarding the footway. Overhanging branches on Park Road were not complying and the lower ones would be cut back.

Councillor Murray confirmed that contractors had been out today and carried out work along the hedges but the rubbish had all been left behind.

NA/22 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Resident reported an increase in noise from the gun club and this has been referred to Environmental Health and recording equipment has been installed in his property. A change has occurred at the club in the last few months. SDDC are liaising with the gun club.

Resident raised that he had read in the Burton Mail that Council Tax was to increase by 1.99% and rents to rise by 5.5% in April. The Chief Executive confirmed that Council Tax rates had not yet been decided until the Council meeting due to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> February and full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Government information is due imminently. Council Housing Committee meeting to decide on housing rent was scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> February. Councillor Wilkins discussed a proposal by the County Council, which was reported in the Burton Mail, but a decision by SDDC had not been taken. Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that it had been discussed at County Cabinet to increase Council Tax by 1.99% and a budget consultation was carried out at the end of last year.

Resident raised that County Council clean the rubbish from a culvert adjacent to the village hall. Rubbish was left on the bank and ended up back in the water. Culvert needs cleaning out again and the rubbish removed from site.

**Forum Liaison Officer to make enquiries and report back to a future meeting.**

It was raised that new public styles are not very wide and it is difficult for people to pass through. One in particular is near to the Manor House.

**Forum Liaison Officer to make enquiries and report back to a future meeting.**

Resident raised that there was rubbish along Woodland Road up to Cadley Island and Newhall Road to Newhall. It was recommended that the Clean Team are called out to clean up the verge.

NA/23 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

It was raised that roads around the area are in a bad state of repair.

The Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that the County Council budget had been cut by 157 million pounds. A total of 36.7 million will be cut next year and residents can view the County's proposals and current consultations on the Derbyshire Challenge webpage [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/challenge](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/challenge) or by telephoning Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190. Current consultations are changes to the mobile library service and changes to adult care services.

NA/24 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chief Executive confirmed that central Government have been reducing funding to the District from 2010 to 2018. Since 2010, 1.25 million has been taken from the base grant. The Council are making savings and economies without cutting services. Last year a total of £320,000 has been saved with a further £300,00 next year. A restructure has taken place with a reduction in management and services have improved, i.e. the new recycling scheme. Investments have been made into leisure facilities with an introduction of an artificial football pitch at Etwall. South Derbyshire is the fastest growing district outside London and the South East.

Councillor Mead stated that the district had 72,000 residents in 1984, whereas today that stands at 98,000.

The Chief Executive discussed a new private enterprise training centre in Swadlincote, which will enable locally trained people to gain local employment. A total of 42% of attendees at Burton College came from South Derbyshire, which has now become Burton and South Derbyshire College with the site in Swadlincote occupying 64,000 square feet, dedicated to construction trades. A new training centre is also planned at Cadley.

The Chief Executive discussed the new golf course in Swadlincote. An announcement by the golf company would be made on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. It will be the largest putting green in the country, which is exciting for Swadlincote as a “pay as you play” centre.

When Peacocks closed in the Pipeworks development it was sad for the town. The shop will be returning and taking over the old Woolworth’s building in the High Street. They will be recruiting locally for staff.

Residents thanked the officers for the golf course development.

Councillor Wilkins discussed the former Masons Arms public house at Midway, which is to be turned into a Sainsbury’s. The inspector’s report states that residents will police the delivery traffic. The demolition process also raised issues at it adjoins a very busy road. Bus drivers also struggle to turn right at the lights without using the bus lane.

NA/25 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MRS J MEAD

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 pm