

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

14th July 2010

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman) and Councillors Grant and Jones.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Jones.

G. Duckworth (Democratic Services).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

J. Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), D. Eaton (Cauldwell Parish Meeting), K. Bradford (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), J. Powell (Linton Parish Council), B. Matkin and W. Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council) and Dr. T. Elson (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

Derbyshire Constabulary Representative

Sergeant A. Sutherland.

Members of the Public

C. Massey, O. Pallett and W. Taylor.

LA/1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from H. Wheeler M.P., District Councillor Timms, County Councillor Lacey, S. Jackson and C. Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council), V. Taylor (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council), M. Horne, K. Lauro and representatives of the Council for Voluntary Services.

LA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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

LA/3. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sutherland gave an update on crime statistics for the South Area, for the period March to May 2010. Overall there had been 10% reduction when compared to the comparable figures for the previous year. This was the

lowest crime area in South Derbyshire and the Officer gave specific reports on burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour. He publicised a police initiative "Have your say" which would be held at Sainsbury's supermarket in Swadlincote on 14th August 2010, and was an opportunity for people to raise concerns on policing. Questions were invited, and concerns were reported about individuals speeding along Harbin Road in Walton-on-Trent. Questions were raised about enforcement activity on the Bailey Bridge in Walton-on-Trent and the Chairman referred residents to the additional information circulated just prior to the Meeting by Derbyshire County Council's Trading Standards department. Sergeant Sutherland spoke about the traffic police monitoring of this area, the number of cautions and Fixed Penalty Notices issued. A request was made for ongoing monitoring of this area. Further points were raised about the number of breaches of the weight restrictions identified through this exercise and the problems caused by large vehicles travelling through this area, which had a 7.5 tonne weight limit.

A resident displayed a charity collection bag, which appeared to be raising funds for the Air Ambulance. These had been delivered to properties in Coton-in-the-Elms and a number of other local villages. Residents were concerned that these were not legitimate collections for the Charity and had reported the matter to Crimestoppers. Sergeant Sutherland agreed to pursue this and would seek to provide a police presence in the village when collections were due to take place.

Gratitude was expressed for the action undertaken by the County Council and the Constabulary to enforce weight restrictions at the Bailey Bridge in Walton-on-Trent.

In the Cauldwell area, concerns were reported about the speed of traffic along rural lanes. It was noted that many of these roads were derestricted which made enforcement difficult. However, the matter would be referred to local police officers to monitor dangerous driving.

LA/4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported on a public Meeting held just over two-weeks ago, to address concerns about illegal traveller encampments. A number of authorities had been represented and clear information had been given to residents on the powers available and responsibilities for local authorities. It was reported that the Forestry Centre had received a 'Green Flag' award and congratulations were recorded to those involved. The Chairman also reported on Rosliston in Bloom, for which judging would take place this Friday and he wished all involved every success.

LA/5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Linton Area Forum held on 15th March 2010 were noted.

LA/6. **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.

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

Further to Minute No. LA/31, there was discussion about Hillside Road in Linton and correspondence from Derbyshire County Council. It was proposed to erect signage warning of children crossing the road at this point, but there was still a problem with speeding traffic in the area.

A resident referred to the former Band Room in Coton-in-the-Elms. This property had now been empty for approximately 10 years and there had been no updates on redevelopment for some time. Concerns were raised as the premises were becoming derelict, there was a need for periodic maintenance and disappointment at the lack of response.

It was agreed that Officers from the District Council would request the Clean Team to visit and tidy this area. An update would be sought and this would be provided to local Ward Councillors and the Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Clerk.

Further to the concerns raised at previous Area Forum Meetings, about the A444 junction with Acresford Lane, an update was given. A Meeting had taken place with the County Highways section and relevant Cabinet Member. It was hoped that proposals would shortly come forward to address the concerns about signage and improving street lining in this area. It was noted that this was a cross-border issue, also affecting the adjacent area of North West Leicestershire.

LA/8. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Information was provided on the work of the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Examples were given of recent review areas and the public's input was sought to shape the Committee's work programme. Specific reference was made to the review work on broadband and the lobbying that had taken place. Further information was available via the Council's website or through contacting officers at the District Council.

Concerns were reported about a strong sewage smell in areas of Rosliston, particularly near the Bull's Head Public House. The Chairman agreed to pursue this matter after the meeting with the resident concerned.

A resident commented that there had been no meeting of the multi-agency Highway Forum. The reasons for this were explained. It was requested that contact be made with Derbyshire County Council, to seek the recommencement of Highway Forum Meetings.

LA/9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.45 p.m.