

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at Rosliston Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Pat Murray (Chair), Councillor Mrs Beth Hall, Councillor Bob Wheeler.

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

None.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

Karen Bradford (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Mary Horne (Walton Parish Council), Sue Jones (Overseal Parish Council), Paul Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council), Brian Matkin (Rosliston Parish Council), Philip McGibbon (Netherseal Parish Council), Janice Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Ollie Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), John Powell (Linton Parish Council), Louise Ross (Rosliston Parish Council), Michelle Skinner (South Derbyshire CVS), Tony Stone (Netherseal Parish Council), Carol Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Helen Kreft (Burton Mail), Mary Rhodes, Lynn Sullivan, Arthur Webb, Sandy Webb, Mr Wilson, Mrs Wilson.

LA/21 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor John Grant, Sheila Jackson, Paul Jameson, Carole Knight, Councillor Mrs Kath Lauro and Heather Wheeler MP.

LA/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

LA/23 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Pat Murray told the meeting of a forthcoming Parish and Member Briefing session being hosted by South Derbyshire District Council.

LA/24 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2015**

Councillor Murray proposed the minutes and Councillor Mrs Beth Hall seconded them. The minutes were agreed as a true record.

LA/25 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Derbyshire County Council issues

Sunken Manhole covers

A member of the public reported that a sunken manhole cover in Cadley Hill Road, opposite the junction with Ryder Close, had been repaired. However, another manhole cover had sunk in William Nadin Way near the entrance to TNT.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report sunken pothole to Derbyshire County Council

Rosliston – request for No Verge Parking zones

A member of the public complained that a proposal to bring in a No Verge Parking zone had been dismissed by DCC as unsuitable. Councillor Murray said that councillors and others attending Area Forums do take on board what is said and return answers to the meetings using their expertise.

South Derbyshire District Council issues

Empty House in Netherseal

At a previous meeting an empty house in Netherseal, which was falling into a state of disrepair, was mentioned. A resident asked for an update on the situation. Frank McArdle said that from time to time properties do end up in a state of disrepair. Councillor Bob Wheeler said that as long as confidential information was not being passed on, a report from SDDC's housing team could be requested for the next Linton Area Forum.

ACTION: SDDC Director of Housing to be asked for a report for the next meeting

LA/26 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident reported that a post was lying in the hedge at the Flint Mill Crossroads.

A member of the public said, in reference to Rosliston, that parking restrictions would always cause problems. The more housing that was built in South Derbyshire, the worse the problem would get. He suggested the forum send a message to the planners at SDDC saying that they needed to start taking into account the increase in cars per household when planning was granted. He suggested that three to four spaces per household would be ideal. Mr McArdle said that SDDC was limited as to what it could do.

Councillor Mrs Hall reported her concern about the state of roads in the Seales area. She said there were some roads between Rosliston and Coton in the Elms that were deteriorating rapidly, along with Moira Road past Short Heath. DCC needed to come to the area and look at the road system and realise how “appalling” the situation in the Seales was, she said.

A resident said that if households were going to have three to four cars, perhaps parish councils could work to minimise the number of houses being built in villages around Area 6. Mr McArdle said that every planning application had to be dealt with on its merits. Part 2 of the Local Plan, which was currently in the process of being adopted, required SDDC to include an extra 600 around the district.

A member of the public asked for an update on the bypass and bridge proposal at Walton. Mr McArdle said there was nothing further to update since the previous meeting in November. He was still hopeful of the right decision being made in the near future.

Councillor Wheeler said that adoption of Parts 1 and 2 of the Local Plan would give South Derbyshire some protection against unwanted development. As for the Walton bypass, he had been told that Drakelow Developments were ready to start work in April – but would reserve judgement until the deal was sealed and in writing.

LA/27 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None.

LA/28 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

SDDC Budget

Mr McArdle told the meeting that a budget report went to members on January 14. SDDC’s financial position had stabilised in the past two years through

efficiency savings and good practice – and no council services had been cut for years. However, SDDC had come 45th out of 383 local authorities in terms of the level of cut to its Central Government grant, with a 14% reduction by 2017-18. Mr McArdle said the authority would find the savings through efficiency improvements. A Council Tax rise of 1.95% would be considered to help balance the books. He also said that South Derbyshire was the fastest-growing district in Derbyshire and income would be generated through the district being able to keep a proportion of its Business Rates in future.

A resident said it had been a masterstroke from Mr McArdle to keep Roger Bullivant in the area. Mr McArdle replied that the company had a good team of people and the people of South Derbyshire know how to make things, a tradition going back to past industries of coal mining and pipe making.

Sainsbury's 'Waste Less Save More' initiative

Mr McArdle told the meeting how South Derbyshire beat off 188 other entries to secure investment from Sainsbury's under its 'Waste Less, Save More' initiative. It was a massive opportunity for the district to improve its recycling, he said. Councillor Murray said the cost of landfill had increased and that people needed to be more efficient in their daily lives. A resident asked if shops could be persuaded to donate waste food to charities instead of throwing it away. Mr McArdle said that Sainsbury's was ahead of the game in this area, with any out-of-date food going to food banks.

LA/29 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was to be advised in due course.

**Councillor Pat Murray
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.20pm.