

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at Goseley Community Centre

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe (Chair), Councillor Robert Coe, Councillor Stuart Swann, Councillor Ray Tipping, Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt.

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Stuart Swann.

Parish Council / Meeting Representatives

None.

Members of the Public

Jenny Burley, Alan Clarke, Michael Hine, Eric Lummis, Sheila Mayer, Cathy Miles (CVS), Maureen Mycock, Dave Sharpe.

SA/1 **Apologies**

Colin Dobson, Councillor Neil Tilley.

SA/2 **Declarations of interest**

None.

SA/3 **Nomination of vice-chair**

Councillor Stuart Swann nominated Councillor Robert Coe to be vice-chair of the meeting for the forthcoming year. The councillors present voted unanimously to appoint Councillor Coe as vice-chair.

SA/4 **Chairman's announcements**

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe reported on a consultation being conducted by South Derbyshire District Council's Planning Policy department, the Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Strategy which was due to be adopted by SDDC the following day and the work being undertaken by the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens.

SA/5 **The minutes of the meeting held on February 15, 2017**

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

SA/6 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

Pedestrian crossing at Hepworths Retail Park

Frank McArdle had an action to raise the positioning of a pedestrian crossing with the owner of Hepworths Retail Park. He was now in possession of an aerial photograph of the site and had a health and safety officer looking into the issue.

Flooding of the roundabout in Civic Way

Mr McArdle updated the meeting that he was waiting for feedback from Severn Trent. The drains in question were in full working order and the problem was not at the locality, but elsewhere, possibly in Darklands Road. The issue would be discussed at SDDC's Flood Liaison meeting.

Flooding under the bridge in Occupation Lane, Woodville

Councillor Robert Coe reported that the problem seemed to have been eased by the building of an entrance and the installation of a new drain.

Potential for a pedestrian crossing / refuge at Castle Road

A resident said he felt a report into a possible crossing suggested it was a pedestrian's own fault if they were run over at the location.

SA/7 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident raised the issue of signage for HGVs in Coppice Side. Was it possible to have it improved? Mr McArdle asked the resident to speak to him after the meeting and show him exactly where signs were needed. He would take that information away and see what could be done.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to report back on possible new signage

A member of the public reported that a bollard in Thorn Street, Woodville – off High Street – had been broken and left lying on a verge since 2016. It wanted removing or reinstalling.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report issue to Derbyshire County Council

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe raised the issue of drivers continuing to go the wrong way along High Street, Swadlincote. There were still bollards in place. Could they be raised to prevent this from happening?

ACTION: Tom Sloan to obtain a report from Derbyshire County Council regarding the bollards

A resident asked about a public footpath sign at the bottom of Coppice Side, Swadlincote, which seemed to have no footpath near it. Could it be removed? Mr McArdle asked the resident to see him after the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe introduced Councillor Ray Tipping, who had recently won a by-election in Woodville. She also introduced Councillor Swann, the new Derbyshire County Council representative for Swadlincote South. Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton was also offered congratulations for being selected as the Chair of Derbyshire County Council for the year.

SA/8 **County council issues**

None.

SA/9 **District council issues**

Mr McArdle reported that at the recent General Election, 76,000 people were eligible to vote in South Derbyshire and 52,000 did, of whom 11,000 were postal voters. It represented a turnout of 69%.

The Festival of Transport had taken place since the previous meeting. It had been a safe, secure and professional festival.

Mr McArdle welcomed Councillor Tipping to the authority.

Swadlincote had switched from holding a farmers' market to a makers' market, hosted by Curly Magpie. Visitors were coming in larger numbers.

The Environment and Development Services Committee had approved a scheme to improve shop fronts on the Delph, Swadlincote. An artist's impression of what the area would potentially look like was impressive. Councillor Mrs Chilton asked how many empty shops there were in the town. Mr McArdle replied that an average market town had 14% of its shops empty. Swadlincote town centre currently had only one shop empty. People wanted to feel good about being in the town and free parking was key. SDDC's members resisted the chance to get an income from it year after year – it was not a way to encourage economic development.

Mr McArdle had asked Morrisons to help with improvements to Ernest Hall Way. The back entrances of traders in High Street, Swadlincote, were often blocked by parked cars and a scheme to discourage parking using tubs of plants was being considered by the supermarket's head office.

Mr McArdle was talking to a company which built care homes for older people about possibly coming to Swadlincote. The secret of a successful town centre was to put people in it.

SDDC's Depot was soon to disappear from its position opposite Sainsbury's and be relocated to an industrial estate. The land would be used for a pub and a Kentucky Fried Chicken eatery. A day centre and residential centre for young people with mental health issues would be built at the rear of the site. Work was predicted to start in September.

A resident asked if the old TG Green site in Swadlincote would be developed. Mr McArdle replied that the site had been bought but the problem was that five kilns, which were protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, needed investment. However, there was little commercial value in doing so. The kilns were falling into disrepair and the investor had been hit with a bill before work could even start. Until the issue was solved the site would not get developed.

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe reported that the Festival of Transport had become a charity. The plan was to expand it into a Festival of History. It was a case of 'watch this space'.

A community awards ceremony, sponsored by Toyota, was taking place on October 13, involving the Swadlincote Chamber of Trade and the CVS.

Mr McArdle reported that Sharpe's Pottery Museum was close to delivering a potter and wheel at the museum.

A resident asked if there was anything further to report on the regeneration route at Woodville. Mr McArdle replied that £6.4m was guaranteed to pump prime the scheme.

SA/10 **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course.

**Councillor Kim Coe
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.30pm.