

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

Monday, October 31st, 2016 at the Brick Room, Linton

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

Alan Lees (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Stephanie Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council), Janice Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Oliver Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), John Powell (Linton Parish Council), Tony Stone (Netherseal Parish Council), Kevin Tizzard (Linton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

WP Marbrow, Sarah Glennon, Mr Wilkin, Mrs Wilkin

LA/10 **APOLOGIES**

Claire Bradford, Karen Bradford, Carol Wright.

LA/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

LA/12 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Pat Murray had no announcements to make.

LA/13 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JULY 20, 2016**

The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record.

LA/14 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

South Derbyshire District Council issues

Empty house in Stanley Close, Netherseal

A resident asked Frank McArdle if there was any further news he could report on the status of the house in Stanley Close. Matt Holford (SDDC Environmental Health Manager) had written a report saying that legal interventions to undertake external cosmetic works to the property were being explored. Mr McArdle added that he hoped progress could be made in the near future.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to take contact details of resident for Matt Holford to update him directly on situation

Derbyshire County Council issues

Footpath along the River Trent from Walton on Trent to Catton

Paul Jameson asked for some clarification on the location of the public footpath as no designated rights of way at the route specified at the meeting. Councillor Murray said it related to a path running from the edge of the village. Part of the path had been cleared of overgrown vegetation but then the work suddenly stopped. It needed further cutting to maintain it as a right of way, he said.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to report overgrown vegetation to relevant department

LA/15 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Councillor Bob Wheeler stated that from four years ago, every time there was heavy rain for several days, Oak Close in Castle Gresley was getting flooded. Water flowed off the neighbouring land and the situation wasn't helped by drains which were not as clear as they should be. There was also a balancing pond on site and it wasn't clear whose responsibility it was to maintain it. Councillor Wheeler hoped that the issue could be given some attention before the winter set in.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to report the issue to Derbyshire County Council's flooding team

A resident complained about a length of the pavement on Hillside Road, Linton, between its junction with Main Street and Coton Park. The pathway was only on

one side of the road and in places was down to 18in wide, making it impassable to anyone pushing a double-width pushchair. They had been told that the overgrown bank belonged to the manor house, whose owner had built houses on the land nearby. Councillor Mrs Kath Lauro said the owner had been written to in an attempt to get the pavement cleared. She asked Mr Jameson to follow it up at County Hall. Mr Jameson said DCC's maintenance team was aware but legally had to give the owner chance to cut vegetation back. If no action was taken, work could then be carried out and a bill sent to the landowner. A resident pointed out that it wasn't only parents who were in trouble – a wheelchair user would also struggle to get past.

A member of the public pointed out that a 7.5 tonne weight limit sign had been knocked out of the ground at Coton Park.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to report the matter to the highways team

Councillor John Grant reported an issue in Blacksmiths Close, off Dog Lane, Netherseal, similar to the overgrown pavement in Linton. He said that the developer had failed to hand the road over to Derbyshire County Council and there was now a section which was overgrown to a point where the signage at the entrance to the close was covered. It also covered the path and was encroaching onto the highway. Councillor Grant had spoken to Walton Homes, the original developer, and had been told it wasn't one of their priorities. Walton Homes definitely owned the land and were not doing anything about it, he said.

A resident asked if he could cut back overgrown vegetation. Mr Jameson replied that he could not give a definitive answer if the land did not belong to the individual.

A member of the public reported problems with dog dirt being left all over parks in Linton and Coton Park. When challenged, the dog owners responsible became aggressive. He felt the situation needed the Neighbourhood Wardens to pay a visit. The Clean Team had been forced to visit – at a cost – to get the parks safe for children and football teams.

LA/16 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

A resident reported a sunken manhole at the junction of Cadley Hill Road and Appleby Glade. Mr Jameson said he would report the issue to the highways team.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to report sunken manhole

LA/17 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Mr McArdle reported that all the practical issues had been sorted at Drakelow regarding the third river crossing of the Trent, other than the finance. A meeting was set for mid-November to discuss it.

A Community Governance Review had been undertaken in Newhall and Stanton and, after a consultation, SDDC resolved not create a parish council for the area. Another Community Governance Review was under way in Barrow upon Trent, Stenson Fields and the unparished areas of Twyford and Stenson. It was important to know that the governance of parishes within South Derbyshire could change after due consideration.

An international food fair had been held in Swadlincote town centre. Despite the weather, there had been a fantastic turnout of people and it had been an excellent three days of trading for the town. Mr McArdle's next such project would be to look at Christmas fairs to see how successful they were in places like Birmingham with a view to potentially launching one in Swadlincote. A member of the public asked if it would be this year. Mr McArdle replied that it would be from 2017 at the earliest.

The Christmas lights switch-on was planned for late November. It had proved a successful venture and had taken place for more than 20 years.

Midway Community Centre had opened on District Council land in Chestnut Avenue. It had been built by the developer as part of a housing scheme. Every house had been sold and SDDC had taken a profit share on each house built on the land. As a result, there was an excellent community centre, superb football pitches and car parking.

Swimmer Lewis White had won a bronze medal at the Rio Paralympics. He was due to visit SDDC later in the week to be officially thanked on behalf of the Council.

Mr McArdle reassured those present regarding press reports that the Festival of Transport would be lost because the safety of those present could not be guaranteed. He confirmed that he was confident there would be a Festival of Transport in May, 2017.

LA/18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

Councillor Pat Murray
Chair

The meeting terminated at 8pm.