

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
ETWALL

1st April 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. Patten and Roberts.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services) P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Ford and Hood.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

P. Coultas (Dalbury Lees Parish Council), B. Cowley and C. Gerrard (Egginton Parish Council), N. Ireland and B. Payton (Etwall Parish Council), L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), M. Adcock (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council), G. Banton and L. Kolkman (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

S. Avery, J. Bates, J. Bilbie, K. Bowler, M. Cramp, G. Green, H. Hague, K. James, R. Mathews, P. Riley, and G. Wale,

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Mrs. Brown, T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), I. Smith (Etwall Parish Council) J. Clarke and V. Stewart.

EA/18. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant A. Wright gave an update on policing issues in South Derbyshire. He referred to the economic climate and a related increase in certain crime statistics. He reminded residents of the need to be security conscious. Overall, there had been a 5.7% year-on-year reduction in crime statistics. The Sergeant then spoke about the Policing Pledge and further information was available via the Helpdesk. He referred to the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings and the next for this part of the District would be held at the Frank Wickham Hall on 10th June 2009 at 6.30 p.m. The Officer then referred to recent press publicity on a policing review, working with victims of crime, where offenders would be required to do community service. It was envisaged that this would be appropriate in about 5% of cases.

Questions were invited and the first concerned the increase in the numbers of burglaries. Compared to other areas, South Derbyshire still had low levels of burglaries and detection rates were very good. A resident of Hatton repeated previously reported concerns about vehicles with number plates that did not comply with the required standards. **This matter would be pursued with the local beat officer, PC Bateman.** A number of concerns were reported about speeding cars and motor cycles, particularly along the A516, in the early evening in a 40 mph speed limited area. The use of Speed Watch was suggested, but the resident did not feel that this would be appropriate. **The Sergeant agreed to respond to the resident directly on this matter.** Further the along the A516 towards Mickleover, concerns were also reported about speeding traffic. There was a discussion about the merits of using speed detection equipment to provide statistics on the numbers of vehicles that were exceeding speed limits in these areas.

EA/19. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held on 4th February 2009 were noted. An update was provided, to clarify the concerns raised at the previous meeting about the problems caused by dog waste in plastic bags being thrown into verges along the Mickleover to Egginton cycle path. This matter was being pursued by Derbyshire County Council and a further report would be provided to the next Meeting.

EA/20. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the agenda, to provide feedback on the issues raised at the previous meeting. There was further discussion about the traffic calming along Main Street in Hilton and a site meeting was requested. The County Council's Officers were due to contact Hilton Parish Council to arrange a site meeting shortly. The local County Councillor provided further background on this matter. Thanks were recorded for the positive response after the last meeting and progress with pedestrian crossing facilities in Station Road at Hatton. Similarly, a Member welcomed the 40 mph speed limit introduced in the Willington to Findern area. Clarification was then provided on the location of damaged verges, at Etwall Road, Willington, that had been raised after the last Meeting.

EA/21. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A number of highway related concerns were reported, which the Forum Liaison Officer agreed to refer to appropriate colleagues at Derbyshire County Council. These comprised the poor quality of works to dropped kerbs in various parts of Hilton and concerns about speeding traffic along Welland Road and Marston Lane in Hilton. It was requested that a 50 mph speed limit be introduced between Hilton and the Salt Box cafeteria in Hatton. The Officer explained that a County-wide review was being undertaken of speed limits and he would check on the status of the road in question. A resident thanked the County Council for the dropped kerbs provided at Station Road in Hatton, but explained that no tactile paving surface had been provided at one of the locations.

There were concerns about potentially dangerous trees at Sutton Lane, going towards Church Broughton. Branches were being shed into the adjacent brook and some were so large that they would require specialist equipment to

remove them. It was considered that the trees required pollarding. In Dalbury Lees, footpath refurbishment works were sought and the representative would speak to the Forum Liaison Officer after the Meeting.

In Egginton, there were a number of reported problems with footways, particularly in Duck Street, the Elmhurst Estate and Etwall Road. Local representatives explained the nature of the problems, with potholes and broken edging kerbs. It appeared likely that some patching works were due to be undertaken, but the residents felt these areas needed re-surfacing.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to refer these issues to colleagues at Derbyshire County Council and would provide a further report to the next Meeting.

EA/22. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES – UPDATE ON VISION AND PRIORITIES**

The Area Forum received a presentation from Mark Alflat, Director of Community Services at the District Council. This provided an update on the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2009-11. The Director explained the evidence and consultation undertaken prior to approving the Plan and actions for the next year. There was a new vision "Making South Derbyshire a Better Place to Live, Work and Visit" together with four new themes. These comprised Sustainable Growth and Opportunity, Safe and Secure, Lifestyle Choices and Value for Money. Examples were given to demonstrate each of the themes and their underpinning targets. The presentation concluded with information on the Council's values.

Questions were invited and in response to a discussion about reducing the carbon footprint in Walton-on-Trent, it was agreed to receive further information on this at the next Area Forum. There was discussion about rail services and integrated bus shuttle services, to make use of the recently established Parkway rail facility. Tourism was of growing importance for the area. A further issue discussed was the ability of commuters to travel to the London 2012 Olympics. Related to sustainability, a question was submitted about a recently determined planning matter for the provision of a Children's Centre in Etwall. Concerns were voiced that such a facility should have been provided in Hilton, rather than Etwall. Hilton Parish Council sought the re-siting of this facility. The Director of Community Services explained that the strategic siting of the Centre was outside the Council's scope of planning issues and this was a matter for the applicant.

The Chairman referred to the Council's new vision and the current economic climate. The District Council was working in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to try and help those in difficulties, by identifying potential problems at the earliest possible stage. Related to this, a Member spoke of the CAB's outreach work at the Hilton Surgery, which would save local residents travelling to Swadlincote. Also raised under this item were the centres of excellence for various sports being established in South Derbyshire and an update was given about a traveller encampment at the Dove Valley Park.

EA/23. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The dates for the Etwall Area Forum for the next municipal year would be confirmed shortly.

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.45 p.m.