

REPTON AREA MEETING

16th June 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Bladen (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Murray and Mrs. Wheeler.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), P. White (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Jones and P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

District Council/County Council Representative

Councillor Ford.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant S. Clough.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Buchanan, S. Ellis and A. Topliss (Newton Solney Parish Council), R. Paulson (Repton Parish Council), K. Overton and P. Ricketts (Willington Parish Council).

Members of the Public

A. Aitken, C. Bilson, N. Cumming, A. Gifford, A. Gillespie, A. Mayger, J. Orme and C. Warner.

RA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Bladen was appointed Chairman of the Repton Area Meeting at the Annual Council Meeting held on 22nd May 2008.

RA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Mrs. Hood, Southerd and Taylor; Mr. Adams, Mr. Atkin and R. Statham.

RA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Ford be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Repton Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

RA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Meeting held on 29th January 2008 were noted.

It was advised that Brian Lucas, rather than Peter Leigh, of the County Council's Environmental Services Department was currently involved in the appointment of Decriminalised Parking Officers which would now be delayed until autumn of this year.

RA/5. **POLICE ISSUES**

It was noted that a Safer Neighbourhood Meeting for the Repton Area had been held during the previous week.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be submitted to PC Chris Fearn in respect of the use of the mobile police station.

Sergeant Clough provided an update on traffic problems in relation to the marina development at Willington and advised that it was hoped that many of the problems would cease on completion of the development works due on 27th June 2008.

Further updates were provided with regard to the parking of vehicles outside the British Legion Public House, Repton; measures to control the behaviour of youths at Woodville Recreation Ground; the implementation of the 'Speed Watch' scheme in Safer Neighbourhood Area 2 during July, August and September for which additional volunteers were required; the use of the Mobile Police Station administered by PC Chris Fearn; 'Operation Relentless 3' targeting alcohol-induced offences including anti-social behaviour and violent crime; and the extension of the 'Pub Watch' scheme to a 'Canal Watch' scheme from September 2008.

The lack of a police presence at the Willington Raft Race was queried and Sergeant Clough advised that he had not been aware of the event, although localised events were normally manned through the local neighbourhood police, if necessary.

A resident stated that a diversion sign situated on The Castleway, Willington, advising eastbound drivers to turn left at the mini roundabout into the closed Etwall Road was in conflict with the closure.

Derbyshire County Council was requested to investigate the matter and remove the incorrect sign.

RA/6. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman advised that this was the last Meeting at which Barrie Jones would be administering the Helpdesk and thanked Barrie for his commitment and diligence in this role over the last few years.

RA/7. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Information had been circulated and a brief summary was given on the issues raised at the last Meeting and the follow-up action taken.

Proposals had now been considered for the implementation of any necessary improvements, adjustments or additional/alternative calming measures for High Street and Main Street, Repton. It had been agreed to remove one speed plateau due to noise issues and subsequently install a replacement further south on High Street, Repton (exiting the village in the direction of Swadlincote). There were also plans to improve the existing plateau, although there were noise issue problems. No additional traffic calming measures were planned for Repton.

Local residents raised concerns that the planned measures would be inadequate and have no effect on traffic speeds. It was considered that further speed reduction measures, including additional plateaus, were required on Main Street and High Street. It was also queried whether the County Council intended to install a vehicle activated sign on Main Street/High Street.

It was agreed to request Derbyshire County Council to re-investigate this matter further and report back to the next Area Meeting.

Following a request for the implementation of traffic calming measures on Burton Road, Repton, Derbyshire County Council had advised that there were now plans to reduce the derestricted zone from 60 mph to 50 mph at the entrance to the village.

Following weight restriction issues on Boot Hill Bridge, Repton raised at the previous meeting, residents advised that they had witnessed Severn Trent Water lorries using Boot Hill/Brook End, Askew Grove and Springfield Road, Repton.

It was agreed to request Derbyshire County Council to investigate this matter further.

Derbyshire County Council had advised of a number of traffic calming and highway improvement measures to be undertaken in Newton Solney. Local residents stated that there had been a spate of recent accidents and considered that the proposed measures would be insufficient to counter any further incidents. In particular, it was queried whether speed plateaus could also be introduced throughout the village, in line with the proposals at Repton discussed earlier.

It was agreed to request Derbyshire County Council to investigate this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

Concerns had previously been raised about the one-way system in the Swadlincote bus station car park not being clearly indicated and it was now noted that the car park was owned by the District Council, rather than the County Council as initially thought. Any works required could be incorporated within the District Council's ongoing improvement programme.

It was noted that, although the Area Committee's concerns about reductions in passenger rail services had been conveyed to East Midlands Trains, a response had not been received. A further discussion ensued on this matter and particular concern was raised that the bus and train operating companies did not provide complimentary services.

RA/8. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

It was reported that a heat map identifying home insulation levels applying to Willington had identified residential properties built in the last ten years as being inefficient. It was also noted that such information was a requirement of Housing Information Packs (HIPs) when a residential property was sold. The District Council advised that any report provided arising from the application of the heat map was for advisory purposes only. The maps produced were updated on a three-yearly basis and there were funds in next year's budget for the next update. It was also queried whether a date could be added to the maps.

It was agreed that the District Council would submit a report to the next Meeting to explain the interpretations of the heat maps.

Concerns were raised regarding the new traffic signals at the junction of Findern Lane/Etwall Road, Willington. The recent temporary signals had caused queuing and vehicles to stop on the level crossing in one direction, with further queuing across the two mini-roundabouts in the other direction. There was concern that the situation could recur when the permanent traffic signals were installed.

Derbyshire County Council was requested to investigate the situation when the traffic signals were fully operational and provide a report to the next Area Meeting.

A resident raised the issue of a rumoured proposal to remove all parking restrictions in Repton.

A resident also claimed that Derbyshire County Council had previously promised an improved chevron sign at the western end of Newton Solney village, on the bend proceeding towards Burton.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council would investigate the above issues further.

An issue was raised regarding the condition of the former Willington Power Station site at Twyford Road, Willington and reference was made to the District Council's powers under the provisions of Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which enabled steps to be undertaken requiring land to be tidied when its condition adversely affected the amenity of the area.

It was agreed that the District Council would investigate this matter further.

The Chairman advised that the inaugural meeting of the Joint Highways Forum would be held at 10.00 a.m. on 26th June 2008 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Swadlincote. All Parish Councils/Meetings had been advised of the Forum and each invited to send two representatives.

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

Details of the date and venue of the next Repton Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.05 p.m.