

LINTON AREA MEETING

8th November 2005

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Southern (Chair) and Councillors Lauro and Wheeler.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), D. Townsend (Democratic Services Assistant) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs. Lauro, D. Tysoe (County Secretary), G. Duckworth (Democratic Services) and J. Seymour (Environmental Services).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Inspector S. Fairbrother.

**Members of the Public**

C. Birch, K. Birch, D. Eaton, G. Edwards, Dr. T. Elson, S. Jackson, H.J. Kinson, P. Laughlin, T. Nicklin, L. Taylor, V. Taylor and W. Wadsworth.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Bambrick and Mrs. Hall. J. Blythe, K. Bradford and B. Matkin.

LA/10. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th August 2005 were noted. With regard to the final issue within Minute No. LA/6, it was reported that other lorries, apart from Argos were also using the route concerned.

LA/11. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

With reference to parcels of land in the District Council's ownership, the Director of Community Services stated that any resident requiring further information should contact Sarah Hirst (Corporate Asset Manager) on (01283) 595965. He confirmed that she held the Asset Register which related to all land owned by the Council in the District.

A resident then continued with a specific query regarding the Band Room at Coton-in-the-Elms. The Director of Community Services replied that this had been considered as a development opportunity for social housing. However, due to an existing culvert and access difficulties, the Council was now disposing of this asset on the open market. A member of Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council asked about an amount of money, which was reportedly held in trust, relating to the aforementioned Band Room. The Director of Community Services agreed to respond directly to this issue.

Inspector Fairbrother confirmed that the Community Speed Watch Scheme was still ongoing, and would provide an update in due course.

A resident asked if it would be possible to take the deregulated speed limit off the A444 following another accident. Inspector Fairbrother confirmed that many organisations had lobbied for no change of speed, and advised residents to visit [www.slowitdown.com](http://www.slowitdown.com). Councillor Lauro asked if yellow rumble strips could be imposed onto the A444 bypass, but it was confirmed that this had already been explored and it was felt that they would be too close to residential properties and would provide a noise nuisance. Councillor Mrs. Lauro confirmed that this road did have an anti-skid surface. However, she agreed to ask the County Council Highways Authority to reconsider any alternatives.

A discussion ensued with regard to HGV's, and it was requested that consideration be given to the erection of signs at appropriate locations at Drakelow indicating a no through route for heavy goods vehicles.

LA/12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the date and venue of the next Linton Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

LA/13. **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED SURGERY RELOCATION FROM MIDWAY TO CASTLE GRESLEY**

Dr. Starey addressed the meeting and confirmed that public consultation was currently being carried out on the proposed surgery relocation from Midway to Castle Gresley. The pressure of growth, (he stated that the population within the district was predicted to grow by 10,000 between 2000 and 2010), had created an increase in patient numbers to 8,000 compared to 4,500 eight years ago. The current surgery provided neither space nor facilities for this larger number of patients. He added that to provide modern healthcare, there was a need to perform minor surgery, plus a full range of disease prevention, rapid assessment, and consultation. For this reason, purpose built premises were necessary. The current proposal, which was located on the new David Wilson Homes site at Castle Gresley would provide a unified surgery, additional parking, and treatment facilities. He confirmed that the results of the consultation process would be considered by the Board on 20th November, 2005.

The Chair pointed out that in Church Gresley, there were many elderly residents and he felt that the new proposal would make it more difficult for them to access a doctor. Dr. Starey advised that as elderly patients were from all over the District, an attempt had been made to identify the best compromise. Home visits were made and there were residential care facilities which were visited weekly.

A resident from Walton-on-Trent asked if they would be able to visit the new surgery. The Doctor advised that currently new patients would not be accepted from outlying areas due to insufficient capacity.

LA/14. **PROPOSED THIRD RIVER CROSSING**

Following discussions at the last meeting, Mr. Seymour from Derbyshire County Council gave a brief history of this project. He advised the Meeting that an additional crossing was not a new idea, but significant land use pressures could influence this matter. He added that the East Midlands Multi Modal Study had now been completed. A proposal had been submitted

to replace the existing Bailey Bridge which had been refused by East Staffordshire Borough Council and it was now subject to appeal. He added that the economic benefits for this link did need to be considered.

Staffordshire County Council appeared to want to take the lead in considering the feasibility of this scheme. Currently, Derbyshire County Council had not expressed a view. It was felt that the County Council should be considering a current scheme to identify potential problems and issues in readiness for further developments.. Mr. Seymour confirmed that the proposals from the Multi-Modal Study were available but this was only a concept, and not in a form that should be considered as final. Mr. Seymour offered to return to address a future Meeting to provide updates when necessary.

LA/15. **CORPORATE PLAN**

The Director of Community Services introduced this item and explained the importance of the Corporate Plan and the consultation exercise being undertaken. This was residents' opportunity to shape where District Council funds were spent. He explained that the District Council's Members and Officers had devised six themes, each with two priorities. Residents' feedback was sought to shape these priorities and hopefully to condense them into three or four key priorities. Council spending in some areas might be reduced or even withdrawn, whilst for other areas, levels of resources would be 'inflation proofed'. A questionnaire had been circulated and the Council sought a thoughtful response from residents to ascertain priorities. Following the consultation, a further report would be provided to the next round of Area Meetings.

Mr. Alflat confirmed the importance of the Corporate Plan, which set out the ambitions for South Derbyshire, the plans and priorities for delivering improved services and a framework for partnership working. The new style document had better links with the Community Strategy, a new Vision for South Derbyshire, with six cross cutting themes and a clear indication of the challenges to be faced, priorities and action areas.

The presentation then looked at the detail of each of the six themes. They comprised You at the Centre, Safe and Strong Communities, Prosperity for All, High Quality Services, Rural South Derbyshire and Strong in the Region. The presentation concluded by looking at the next steps, following the community consultation. The Council would develop detailed proposals, consult, short list and then agree the final Plan, linked to the budget. Mr Alflat added that this new Corporate Plan was different to its predecessors and was the most inclusive that the Council had produced. The consultation being undertaken was real and the document would provide the way forward in delivering Council services over the next three years.

The Chair encouraged residents to complete the questionnaire and thus have an input into the future priorities of the Council.

LA/16. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident queried the situation with regard to two properties on Bells End Road Walton-on-Trent. He added that there were fully grown trees between

these two houses, and residents of one were very concerned about the possible damage being caused. The Director of Community Services agreed to refer this matter to a Housing Officer.

The Chair then advised the Meeting of the availability of funds from the Community Partnership Scheme. Several residents requested further information and the Chair suggested that an Officer of the Council could provide a presentation at the next Area Meeting.

R. W. SOUTHERN

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.