

ETWALL AREA MEETING

21st November 2007

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Mrs. Brown, Ford, Mrs. Patten, and Mrs. Plenderleith.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Ford.

D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and J. Roberts (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant M. Sisman and PCSO K. Waite.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

B. Cowley and C. Gerrard (Egginton Parish Council), B. Payton and N. Ireland (Etwall Parish Council), L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), D. Taylor (Hatton Parish Council) and L. Kolkman and B. Walton-Knight (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

F. Banton, K. Baston, J. Bilbie, J. Dove, K. Holbrook, S. Jolly, R. Mathews, J. Orme, B. Penlington, L. Ramsay, S. Savage, I. Smith and G. Wale.

EA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Lemmon had been appointed Chairman of the Etwall Area Meeting, at a District Council Meeting held on 28th June 2007.

EA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Mrs. Hood, County Councillor F. Hood, Mr. Adams, S. Avery, J. Clarke, M. Cramp, H. Hague and V. Stewart.

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

Two proposals were submitted for the position of Vice-Chairman, being Councillor Mrs. L. Brown and Councillor Mrs. A. Plenderleith. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs. A. Plenderleith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Etwall Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

EA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Meeting held on 30th January 2007 were noted.

EA/5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman introduced Officers of the District and County Councils, together with representatives of the Derbyshire Constabulary. He referred to the recent consultation process by the County Council on the Waste Management Site Allocations. Councillor Mrs. Brown also spoke to this item, advising that some 2,000 objections had been submitted to the County Council on its proposals. Mr. Orme voiced concerns over the way that the County Council had undertaken this consultation process. The Chairman spoke about the future consultation stages and urged residents to be prepared to respond at the appropriate time. He also paid tribute to the previous Chairman of the Etwall Area Meeting, Barrie Whyman M.B.E..

EA/6. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

David Tysoe updated on the various matters referred to the County Council at the last Meeting. With regard to the verge at Ashgrove Lane, Egginton, Mrs. Cowley advised that this was still being damaged, although it was acknowledged that some works had been undertaken. **Mr. Tysoe agreed to refer this issue back to the County Council for further consideration.** He then provided a report on the County Council's policies relating to parking provision at schools. Mr. Ireland clarified the problems experienced in Etwall, where older students were parking their vehicles in the Village centre, causing congestion. He referred to the extended school timetable, which current bus services did not meet. When such schools were extended they should be required to provide additional parking. Mr. Smith of Etwall added that there was a need to make representations to those who made policies at the County Council.

Related to this issue, there was a discussion about traffic and parking problems at other schools in this part of South Derbyshire. Mrs. Kolkman referred to Hilton Primary School, which now had some 700 pupils. Despite its excellent 'Walk to School' policy, many pupils still had to travel to the School by car. She spoke about plans for the construction of a turning circle, which had been withdrawn and the ongoing problems with the closed rear entrance to the School, which meant the only access was off Peacock Lane. This was causing huge problems within the Village. Mrs. Bilbie commented that the parking situation in Etwall had worsened over recent years and she was surprised that there had not been a fatal traffic accident. Mr. Ireland spoke about the determination of planning applications for schools and the particular circumstances surrounding the John Port School in Etwall, which was a grant maintained School. There was a consensus that the response provided had not addressed residents' concerns. **It was agreed that Mr. Tysoe refer the issues back to Derbyshire County Council and that a further report be provided to the next Area Meeting.**

A number of other school related issues were raised. Mr. Orme was concerned at the lack of footway along a section of the A5132, which was a safety issue for pupils using this route. Councillor Ford gave an update on this matter, but it was noted that the John Port School was some 6

kilometres away from the area in question. Mr. Taylor referred to Heathfields Primary School in Hatton, particularly about parking problems causing an obstruction to nearby residents' driveways. He referred to a visit by the local Police Inspector and the lack of action taken, despite observing such an obstruction. Councillor Ford advised of the decriminalisation of parking enforcement and the future joint working plans with the District Council to control such parking issues. Mr. Smith stated there was a need in Etwall to restrict parking in certain areas through the use 'double yellow' lines and then to undertake enforcement.

At the last Meeting, it was requested that a copy of the Section 106 Planning protocol be circulated to parish clerks and chairmen of parish meetings. It was apparent that this had not been received by some parish councils and the clerk offered to re-circulate this information. Updates were also provided with regard to the departmental incident numbers issued by Derbyshire County Council's Call Centre, about the refuse freighter service and the information provided to a resident on weed control. The South Derbyshire CVS had been provided with contact details, in order to circulate information about its social car scheme. Liz Ramsay of the CVS advised that further information was available on the helpdesk. Mrs. Cowley gave an update about the provision of lighting for Egginton Church and discussions were taking place between the Church's architect and the Council's Design and Conservation Officer.

EA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Questions were sought initially on Police matters. An update was provided on the action taken by the Police with regard to the misuse of the public toilets adjacent to the playing fields in Etwall.

Councillor Bale had experienced some difficulties in contacting Police Officers and he felt some Officers had a poor knowledge of the more rural north western parishes. The Sergeant acknowledged that it was difficult for new Officers to know all parts of this large geographic area and he sought further details, so that he could investigate and report back to Councillor Bale. Councillor Bale used a specific incident as an example and then questioned why it was not possible to contact Officers at the Swadlincote Police Station. Sergeant Sisman responded to this point and a further question from a Hatton resident regarding the future Beat Officer arrangements for the area. Councillor Ford voiced his thanks to the Constabulary for its responsive action to a number of incidents, leading to a recent prosecution. He also advised that the Beat Officer telephone numbers were on an information sheet available from the helpdesk.

There was a discussion on the problems caused by travellers occupying an area of land, owned by Severn Trent Water at Boundary Road, Etwall. In particular, residents referred to the waste left at this location, presumably from the employment activities undertaken by those occupying the site. The Company had undertaken some works to clear the site and to reduce the likelihood of future occupation by travellers. Other issues discussed were the roles of various agencies, including the County Council, as the waste management authority and the Environment Agency, which had powers to enforce against the unlicensed transfer of waste. It was questioned what action could be taken against travellers and whilst it would be difficult on

this occasion, the Environment Agency had the power to seize and impound vehicles used for the unlicensed transfer of waste. **It was noted that the local Member of Parliament, Mark Todd MP had pursued many issues associated with travellers and the District Council's Chief Executive offered to write a letter of support to the MP in his endeavours.**

Mr. Ireland reported that at this time each year, flooding problems were experienced on the A516, near to its junction with Dee Lane. He thought that certain gullies might be blocked and questioned how often they were cleared. The Chairman clarified that this problem was caused through the obstruction of a pipe between two gullies and he was conscious that the County Council undertook periodic maintenance. **It was agreed that this issue be referred to the County Council for attention and that a report be provided to the next Area Meeting.**

Mr. Ireland noted that the composting scheme had concluded for the current year and he questioned why it had finished so early. Councillor Mrs. Brown agreed that the scheme needed to be extended. **The Chief Executive agreed to investigate this matter and would report back to the next Area Meeting.**

Related to this, Mr. Smith recalled previous discussions about the recycling of plastic materials. The District Council was currently negotiating revised contracts for the collection of recyclable materials. This issue was being pursued, as were arrangements for the collection of cardboard.

A resident referred to recent news articles about the proposed construction of a bypass for Hatton. The Chief Executive suggested that the resident speak to his local Ward Member, Councillor Roberts.

Mr. Wale made further reference to the recent County Council consultation document on waste disposal sites. He felt this issue should not be left until the next round of consultations. The Chairman urged residents to be prepared to respond at the next consultation stage. The local District Councillors were monitoring this issue closely and would keep local parish councils and residents informed of developments. Mr. Orme spoke about the consultation arrangements to date and he read extracts of a letter from the Member of Parliament. **It was agreed to include an item on the agenda for the next Area Meeting, to keep residents informed of the Waste Sites Allocations Development Plan.**

Mrs. Cowley asked about grant schemes for Spring bulbs and the Chief Executive agreed to research this matter and to provide a response to the Egginton Parish Clerk.

EA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue of the next Etwall Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

EA/9. **REVIEW OF AREA MEETING STRUCTURE**

The Chief Executive introduced this item and there was a discussion about proposals to review the Area Meeting arrangements within South Derbyshire.

There was a consensus from those present that Area Meetings should continue. A further report would be made to the next Area Meeting.

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated 8.25 p.m.