

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

6th December 2001

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Richards (Vice-Chair in the Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Routledge and Wilkins.

I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), N. Betteridge (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**County Council Representative**

Councillor Routledge.

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

P.C. Holmes (Beat Manager).

**Members of the Public**

P. Bambrick, M. Biddle, T. Biddle, D. Coulson, M. Coulson, M. Goodwin, V. Goodwin, R. House, R. Hughes, E. Key, D. Mansfield, G. Myatt, W. Parker, B. Pipes, C. Pipes, M. Rose, D. Tagg and C. White.

NA/14. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Mrs. Mead (Chair) who was unwell, M. Dunn, S. Garland, G. Hall and M. Richards.

Attendees expressed their best wishes to District Councillor Mrs. Mead for a speedy recovery.

NA/15. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 6th September 2001 were noted.

NA/16. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed P.C. Holmes to the Meeting, who explained that he undertook the role of Beat Manager for the area in a joint capacity with W.P.C. Fearn. He had undertaken this role since October, although he had been based at Swadlincote Police Station since 1993.

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Routledge outlined the measures taken to alleviate flooding problems in Stanton and Mrs. Tagg expressed her gratitude on behalf of residents, advising that the situation had now improved vastly. The Chair advised residents that Councillor Bambrick had a petition regarding the parking of vehicles on Bretby Road, Newhall, if any resident wished to sign this.

NA/17. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Meeting reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made in each case.

With regard to the disposal of “green waste” at the Bretby Civic Amenity Site, a resident raised further concerns at problems experienced at this site. The District Council’s Deputy Chief Executive reminded the Meeting that this site was the responsibility of the County Council and outlined the rules and regulations that he understood were adopted to distinguish between commercial and domestic waste to prevent any abuse of the system. However, it was understood that a pre-arrangement could be made for vans or trailers visiting the site. The site was operated by a company on behalf of the County Council and it was agreed to invite appropriate officers to attend the next Area Meeting to explain the rules and procedures appertaining to the site.

With regard to the recent introduction of the “Clean Team” to concentrate on littered areas, the Chair advised that leaflets on this new facility were available from the Helpdesk. He encouraged the use of the free phone number (0800 5872349) and the Deputy Chief Executive reiterated that the service would rely on the general public using this free phone number.

With regard to inadequate signage concerning the weight limit through Newhall, the Chair advised that the County Highways Authority had now confirmed that a review of the signing scheme would be undertaken and any improvements or additions deemed necessary would be carried out. In the meantime, the County Highways Authority would approach the Police, who had exclusive powers of enforcement, to undertake enforcement, as their resources may permit.

NA/18. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident raised a problem relating to several properties on Meadow View Road, Newhall, involving tenants removing their front fences for vehicular access onto their frontage and subsequently leaving the fences in various positions obstructing the footway. The resident was advised that a Tenants Liaison Meeting was to be held at the Scout Hut, Higgins Road, Newhall on 12th December 2001, which he may attend and in the meantime, arrangements would be made for a Tenant Liaison Officer to contact the resident to discuss the problem.

A resident referred to motorcycles encroaching onto the walk areas in the vicinity of Oversetts Road, Newhall, causing considerable damage. The Deputy Chief Executive encouraged residents to report such incidents and confirmed that if necessary, the Council would undertake any necessary repairs. In the same area, Councillor Bambrick reported that he had also pursued missing bins for dog fouling with the District Council’s Facilities and Development Manager.

A resident enquired as to the responsible authority for the lights in the vicinity of Newhall Hostel. In this regard, she advised that these lights were only illuminated until relatively early in the evening and with the lowering of the hedge, a problem had been experienced with burglaries in the area. The matter would be pursued accordingly with the appropriate authority.

A resident of Wordsworth Avenue, Midway queried the method in which priorities on traffic calming were determined by the County Highways Authority. It appeared that the installation of traffic calming measures on

Springfield Road, Midway was imminent and the resident considered that such measures should also be implemented in the vicinity of the Post Office on Midway Road, Midway. County Councillor Routledge outlined the procedure adopted by the County Highways Authority and he suggested that the organisation of a petition may be an appropriate method to pursue the matter. On the same subject, a resident understood that funds had already been provided for the provision of traffic calming measures on Eureka Road, Midway following a residential development off that road.

A resident expressed concern at the likely number of heavy goods vehicles travelling through Woodville following the construction of the Ashby Bypass and it was reported that subject to the availability of funds, it was hoped to divert some of these vehicles off the A511 at a future date, although any such scheme was in its infancy at the present time.

The Secretary of the Friends of Newhall Park advised that confirmation had now been received of the allocation of a sum of £70,000 to spend on the Park. During the first quarter of the year, it was proposed to replace play equipment in conjunction with the District Council and bulb planting had also recently been completed. The efforts of the Group were applauded and Councillor Bambrick requested for consideration to be given to the provision of a soakaway in the vicinity of the footpath from Roseleigh Avenue, near the elderly persons' accommodation.

County Councillor Routledge advised that revised plans for the Nadins site were to be considered by the County Council shortly and he had a copy of the plans available if any resident was interested in viewing these proposals.

Following comments made at the last Area Meeting regarding the National Forest, Councillor Wilkins suggested a presentation by the National Forest at the Area Meeting in May 2002, which was agreed.

NA/19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next Area Meeting would be held at Newhall Centre on Thursday, 7th February 2002 at 7.00 p.m. and would include a presentation on the District Council's budget process.

NA/20. **PRESENTATION ON CRIME AND DISORDER INITIATIVES**

Ian Reid, the District Council's Deputy Chief Executive, referred to a Teamwork newsletter which had been circulated to attendees. This outlined the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which required the Council and the Police to work together with the Police Authority, Probation Service, Health Authority and other organisations set down by the Secretary of State in order to reduce crime and disorder in South Derbyshire. The Teamwork newsletter provided details of a recent audit carried out on crime and disorder in the District, which highlighted that overall, South Derbyshire was a safe place in which to live and work. Derbyshire had the second lowest recorded crime rate in the East Midlands of 84 crimes per 1000 population in 2000/01 and it was noted that in South Derbyshire, the recorded figure was 54 crimes per 1,000 population. The information outlined in the Teamwork document prepared by the South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Partnership was to be utilised to set priorities for the types of crime to be tackled and in which particular order.

A full copy of the South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Audit 2001 was available from the District Council and residents were encouraged to complete the response section in the newsletter.

K. J. RICHARDS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.