

ETWALL AREA MEETING

27th October 2005

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Whyman M.B.E. (Chair), Councillor Bale (Vice Chair) and Councillors Hood and Mrs. Littlejohn.

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

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Hood.

G. Duckworth (Democratic Services).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

H. Thornton (Burnaston Parish Council), B. Cowley (Egginton Parish Council), B. Payton and N. Ireland (Etwall Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council) and L. Kolkman and G. Banton (Hilton Parish Council).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Inspector Fairbrother.

Members of the Public

J. Baston, K. Baston, G. Bilby, S. Brown, B. Chell, M. Cramp, M. Dowie-Bowes, J. Etchells, C. Gerrard, K. Gibson, G. Green, K. Holbrook, K. James, B. Medley, J. Newton, J. Parkinson, B. Penlington, J. Redfern, I. Smith, D. Strain, G. Wale, U. Walton-Knight and V. Wright.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Walton, District and County Councillor Ford, R. Buxton (Hatton Parish Council), Mrs. Avery, Mr. Green, H. Hague, R. Matthews and Mrs. Smith.

EA/10. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Meeting held on 7th September 2005 were noted. Under Minute No. EA/6 the representative of Hatton Parish Council thanked Derbyshire County Council for the progress made on the vehicle activated speed warning signs. The Parish Council now needed to raise funds to enable this equipment to be purchased and a total of £4,000 was needed, together with £250 to £500 each year for maintenance. It was envisaged that only one sign would be needed for the Village and Councillor Hood offered to donate £500 from his Community fund towards this project.

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

The Chair reviewed those issues raised at the last Meeting and gave an update on progress. The complaints about litter and fly tipping along the A516 had been referred to the Clean Team for action. Mr. Ireland reported that some of the items had been removed by landowners, but others were still to be removed. The Chair was disappointed, given the Clean Team's normally efficient service. There was a discussion about responsibilities for highway maintenance and the Chair asked County Councillor Hood and Gemma Duckworth to refer these matters back to Derbyshire County Council and to provide an update at the next Meeting. Mr. Ireland explained that drains along the A516, near to Dee Lane were in need of clearance as this section of road was flooding. The Chair agreed to refer this matter to the Council's Engineering Technician and would ask him to liaise with the Parish Council.

Inspector Fairbrother provided an update on the action taken by the Constabulary in response to the concerns at the previous Meeting about motorcycles in Hatton and traffic problems at Long Lane. The Inspector reminded that there were increasing numbers of motor vehicles on the roads, there were issues about responsibility and public perception. He considered the vehicle activator sign in Hatton to be a positive step. A resident referred to the problems with mini motorcycles and particularly the noise nuisance in residential areas. The Police had taken action to contact the families of young people using these motorcycles, serving notices where appropriate and further action would be taken if required. The Inspector was mindful that these mini motorcycles were becoming very popular and their numbers were likely to increase around Christmas. He was aware that some mobile telephone outlets were giving the motorcycles free with certain mobile telephone contracts. Mr Thurman outlined a potential initiative to allow the use of these motorcycles at Marston Fields, thus removing the problem from roads in Hatton. There was an antisocial behaviour issue, but also a need to find an area where the equipment could be used safely. The Inspector agreed and reminded that he had appealed to local landowners to identify a site last year, but he was mindful of the noise problems.

The Chair reported feedback from Derbyshire County Council on the request for provision of a footway between Long Lane and Thurstaston. Councillor Bale understood that the Police were monitoring this area and Derbyshire County Council planned to erect signage. A Meeting would be held on 31st October at Longford to discuss this issue further and he would be in attendance at that Meeting.

County Councillor Hood updated those present on highway issues in Hatton. An approach had been made to the Cabinet Member, Councillor Lucas to attend a Hatton Parish Council Meeting. An offer had been made for Peter Leigh, the County Highways Officer to attend the Meeting, but it was felt better to await a visit from the Cabinet Member, who would not be available for a number of weeks, for personal reasons. Mr. Beresford of Foston and Scropton Parish Council asked to be involved in that Meeting.

The Chair provided a report on the parking problems in the vicinity of Hilton Primary School. Councillor Mrs. Walton had spoken to the head teacher who in turn had raised the issue at a governors meeting and written to parents. Councillor Mrs. Walton was mindful of the proposed school extension, which

if approved would provide a new access from Avon Way and should help to alleviate the current situation. Mrs. L. Kolkman reported that the school was resurrecting its travel plan. The Parish Council also requested improvements to 'The Greenway' access, as many parents living on the adjacent housing estate would then be able to walk to school. County Councillor Hood offered to work with the Parish Council on this issue. He added that the request to paint white lines at the end of residents' driveways to discourage obstruction had been referred to the Environmental Services Department at County Hall. A site visit was due to take place in the coming weeks and an invitation was extended to Mrs. Kolkman to attend the visit. Inspector Fairbrother noted this was a historic problem, but he felt that walking schemes were another positive move. When a CPSO presence was provided, little notice was taken. Enforcement action could be taken, but this did not provide a long term solution.

The Chair provided an update on the safety concerns along the A38 trunk road. Correspondence had been received from the Highways Agency and the Chair offered to circulate this to those present. Similarly, information about Parish Council consultation on liquor applications would also be provided to those present.

EA/12. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mrs. Dowie-Bowes submitted a question about the recycling of plastics. She understood that due to the difficulty of recycling certain types of plastic, it was separated and then still sent to landfill. The Chief Executive offered to send a detailed reply to Mrs. Dowie-Bowes. He also explained a recent approach from a company considering the transportation of plastics to China for recycling.

Mr. Etchells referred to Government planning guidance and he considered that three storey developments in villages like Hilton were inappropriate. The Chair agreed as a Member of the Council's Development Control Committee. This issue was raised when such planning applications were considered by the Council. A related issue was the impact of further residential development on the flood plain and the flooding of Hilton Playing Fields was referred to as an example. The Chair noted the impact of additional development on the drainage of surface water. He suggested that the Parish Council might wish to write to him directly as the Council's Leader or to the Head of Planning, to pursue this issue. Mrs. Penlington asked why planning authorities allowed developments on the flood plain, particularly when residents might experience difficulties in getting home insurance. The Chair replied that district councils might refuse such planning applications, but they could be overturned on appeal.

In response to a question from a resident, the Chair explained the active campaign in Hatton over the last five years about traffic problems on Station Road. There was a Derbyshire County Council proposal to impose a 7.5 tonne weight limit in this area, which was currently being consulted upon. The resident felt there was no point in imposing such a weight limit if access was granted to the Salt Box Cafeteria. Another resident referred to a notice placed by the Chair in the local Village newspaper. She reminded of the traffic volumes through this Village and the proportion of heavy goods vehicles. The Chair asked the representative of the County Council to refer

back residents' views. Mrs. Kolkman commented on the similar issues experienced in Hilton relating to the bypass.

EA/13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

EA/14. **CORPORATE PLAN**

The Chair 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.

Frank McArdle, the Council's Chief Executive 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. The Chief Executive 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 referred to the presentation slides and highlighted the possible action areas under theme two, "Safe and Strong Communities". Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn sought further information on the consultation questionnaire and with regard to theme three – "Prosperity for All". The Chief Executive pursued this point, identifying the high quality employment opportunities being sought for the area and the need for training provision to be tailored, to provide a suitably skilled workforce. The Chair added that South Derbyshire did not wish to attract large warehouse type developments, but to achieve a better quality of employment opportunities for the area. In response to a question from a resident, the Chief Executive explained the wide range of consultation being undertaken on the Corporate Plan. It was agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation slides to those present.

The Chair asked that for future Area Meetings a Senior County Council Officer be present. County Councillor Hood pursued this point and also requested that the Fire and Rescue Service be invited to attend a future Area Meeting, to explain changes in this service area.

B. WHYMAN M.B.E.

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.