

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM - REPTON

11th November 2008

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

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

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. White (Democratic Services), L. Basi (Policy Officer (Equalities)), K. Allies (Environmental Development Manager) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer), J. Cox (Acting Policy Manager – Performance) and G. Spencer (Policy Officer).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Sergeant A. Wright.

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

J. Burley, D.E. Jenkinson, A. Sherratt and D. Tagg (Hartshorne Parish Council) and R. Paulson (Repton Parish Council).

**Members of the Public**

N. Cumming, R.G. Fairbrother, R. Frudle, H.D. Harris, D. Hartwell, D. Hawkins, D. Hindley (South Derbyshire CVS), C. Manifold, J. Orme, A. Symonds and P. Yates.

RA/10. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised of the renaming of the public meetings from “Repton Area Meeting” to “South Derbyshire Area Forum – Repton”. He added that the crest of the District Council appeared on the cover, alongside those of the County Council and Derbyshire Constabulary, to indicate that these were joint meetings for the area. He added that, in future, there would be greater involvement from the County Council in responding to questions on the functions the County Council had responsibility for. In addition, the police would continue to be represented at these meetings, although their main role was to discuss partnership issues concerning the police, and other agencies. Safer Neighbourhood Meetings would continue and would be the main forum for police issues.

RA/11. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from County and District Councillor Ford (Vice-Chairman) and District Councillors Mrs. Gillespie and Stanton, M. Todd M.P., D. Adams, D. Buchanan, S. Ellis, A. Gifford and J. Stamford.

RA/12. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant A. Wright addressed the Meeting, giving an update on staffing, including the appointment of a new inspector, Alan Sandiman who had attended the recent Safer Neighbourhood Meetings and the appointment of a new Beat Officer, P.C. Dave Oliver for the Goseley/Woodville area. He reported on the reduction of recorded crime rates and the current detection rates for assaults and thefts from motor vehicles. It was noted that the main priorities for the area included the targeting of anti-social behaviour, under-age drinking and speeding.

Reference was made to the implementation of the Violence, Alcohol, Harm and Licensing (VAL) Group. This was a partnership forum consisting of representatives from Trading Standards, Council licensing, police licensing, Primary Care Trust, The Safer South Derbyshire Partnership, the Fire Service and local Police. The VAL Group sought to address problems with alcohol and violence by sharing information to tackle the issues around alcohol misuse in the District and targeted specific locations and licensed premises suffering from violent or alcohol-related crime.

It was also noted that the recent pilot Speed Watch Scheme had been very successful, utilising local residents in the use of speed guns and reporting results to the police. South Derbyshire was the only District within Derbyshire undertaking this pilot scheme, which was run from March to September each year.

A resident raised grave concerns regarding a convicted paedophile who had been invited back into the local community of Woodville, following sentencing at Derby Crown Court. Particular concern was raised that the convicted resident had dressed as Father Christmas at a local school on the recommendation of the School Governing Board, Chaired by Councillor Taylor. It was alleged that Councillor Taylor had written a character reference for the convicted resident, who was a nearby neighbour and that a letter had defended the convicted resident. Councillor Taylor wished it to be recorded that evidence was required to be shown of his involvement in this matter. The Police were asked to advise on courses of action to be undertaken to safeguard local children. The Sergeant advised that he was unable to comment, since he was unaware of this situation.

A resident asked for details of two accidents which had occurred recently at the zebra crossing in Woodville.

**Sergeant Wright agreed to investigate the matters further and provide the required details to the resident, following the Meeting.**

Reference was made to the use of a lay-by on the southbound carriageway leaving Hartshorne, allegedly as an operating base for a local business. Sergeant Wright acknowledged that he was aware of vehicles recently parking in the lay-by.

**Sergeant Wright agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.**

A resident raised a number of issues relating to the control of illegal parking near Woodville Post Office by the Police and street warden patrols; traffic calming requirements for Manchester Lane, Woodville and traffic congestion problems at the Clock Garage Island, Woodville.

With regard to the illegal parking issue, Sergeant Wright advised that this matter was difficult to police as there were currently no street wardens in place. PC Carrera had been the previous lead officer dealing with this matter. The resident was concerned that the local Councils had a responsibility to deal with this issue and suggested that existing businesses be requested to take HGV's away from the village. It was noted that the District Council had plans for the provision of a relief road, through means of a Section 106 Agreement should a future large planning application be received in the area. However, this was considered to be unlikely, as the number of developments through infill could not be increased and any further development would be resisted. Private inward investment would be required to enable this matter to be progressed.

The County Council had confirmed that it had applied for parking enforcement to become a civil responsibility. Unfortunately, a delay of at least a further two months would occur in the Department for Transport granting the application. Once granted, the County Council would be working in partnership with District and Borough Councils in order to enforce parking restrictions. The County Council would have the resources to manage the enforcement of restrictions that the Police currently did not have and dedicated parking enforcement officers would be employed to work throughout the County. It was appreciated that illegal parking had become a frustration in many areas of the County, but significant improvements should be seen once civil parking enforcement commenced.

Councillor Taylor made reference to similar issues which had been raised at the Swadlincote Area Forum Meeting, in connection with the Swadlincote Regeneration Scheme, as an Area Action Plan within the Local Development Framework.

With regard to the traffic calming issues at Manchester Lane, Hartshorne, the County Council confirmed that the Parish Council was funding the installation of three speed humps on Manchester Lane, although their exact positioning, or a commencement date for the work was unknown. The scheme was due to go out for consultation within the next month, to be undertaken over a period of approximately four weeks. Should no objections be received, it was anticipated that the humps would be in place by March 2009, although this could not be guaranteed, as the County Council's contractor would be tying up work programmes at this stage and would try to fit the scheme into its schedule.

With regard to the congestion problems at the Clock Garage Island, Woodville, the County Council advised that these issues should be alleviated to some extent, through the Swadlincote Regeneration Scheme. The link road from Butt Lane, through to Moira Road (B5004) should take some traffic away from

the Clock Island. Should the land to the north of Occupation Lane be developed, there was potential for the link road to be extended onto Occupation Lane and across to Bridge Street (B586).

Reference was also made to similar issues occurring at Repton Road, Hartshorne.

At a recent site visit in Newton Solney, Councillor Ford had requested that the 30MPH limit through the village be extended beyond the Newton Park Hotel towards Burton-on-Trent and had requested that support for this request be given by the Area Forum. It was noted that the County Council had trialled a 30MPH limit in this vicinity approximately three years ago and unfortunately, the scheme had been unsuccessful. However, residents were of the opinion that such a scheme would be more successful in the current climate.

**It was agreed that letters of support from the Area Forum be submitted to Derbyshire County Council and the Police requesting the extension of the 30MPH speed limit beyond the Newton Park Hotel, Newton Solney towards Burton-on-Trent.**

A local Ward Member advised of local residents' request for the provision of a one-way street off Moira Road, Woodville.

**Derbyshire County Council agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.**

At this point, Councillor Jones joined the Meeting; Councillor Taylor left the Meeting.

RA/13. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Meeting held on 16th June 2008 were noted.

RA/14. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report circulated with the agenda which provided an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting was noted.

It was clarified that the planned traffic calming measures for Repton included the provision of a new plateau outside Hallifields Farm, rather than Zyteck Engineering.

Following the request for further traffic calming measures in Newton Solney, it was advised further that a school safety zone/40MPH buffer zone was being implemented.

An update was provided on the traffic signals for the junction of Findern Lane/Etwall Road, Willington. It was noted that some delay had been experienced in the provision of the traffic signals by the Marina developers, although the reason for this was unknown. The provision of a light controlled pedestrian crossing was questioned and was also related to the details requested of the two accidents which had occurred recently in Woodville.

**Derbyshire County Council agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.**

A further update was provided on the rumoured proposal to remove all parking restrictions in Repton. The County Council's Traffic and Safety Manager had spoken with and been advised to write to Councillor Ford with regard to this issue; no correspondence had been received currently. It was noted that the Parish Council had originally objected to the removal of the yellow lines.

**It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council would investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.**

Representatives of Willington Parish Council thanked the District Council for the action undertaken with regard to the former Willington Power Station site at Twyford Road, Willington.

Further to the explanation provided of the interpretation of the heat maps, residents felt very strongly that the maps issued were totally misleading and suggested that the matter be taken up with the provider company.

RA/15. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Concern was raised regarding the links between overhead power lines and childhood leukaemia and particular reference was made to proposals for a social centre at Woodville in close proximity to overhead power lines.

**It was agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.**

RA/16. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – “TELL US YOUR PRIORITIES”**

Jane Cox introduced this item, relating to the partnership work of Derbyshire County Council. Surveys had been undertaken to assist the County Council in formulating 19 key priorities. Officers were now attending 41 forums across the County to discuss the key priorities with local people and to seek feedback. Questionnaires had been circulated prior to the Meeting, which residents were asked to complete, expressing their priorities and raising any local issues.

The Meeting was adjourned for ten minutes to enable the questionnaires to be completed and a feedback session then followed. The top five priorities related to highways/roads/transport; reducing crime; provision of activities for children and young people; affordable housing and improvement of qualifications/skills/job prospects.

It was noted that the District Council would use the information provided regarding local priorities for incorporation in its Corporate Plan. The County Council would use the information to feed into four or five different Plans and would provide a further report to update the Area Forums at the next Meeting.

RA/17. **ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Kate Allies (Environmental Development Manager) advised that a new Environmental Forum for South Derbyshire had been established, involving local environmental groups, parish councils and individuals who wanted to share ideas about environmental projects. These were being supported by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and South Derbyshire District Council. The Forum involved a networking group, to which groups and individuals were invited. The Meetings were to include formal and informal information sharing and consultation, plus a walk or talk by a local group about their area.

The first meeting had been held at Repton Village Hall on Tuesday, 4th November at 7.00 p.m. It had been attended by approximately 40 people including representatives from Parish Councils, District and County Councils and various other interested groups. The District Council's Open Space Development Officer, Zoe Sewter, had been in attendance and provided useful advice. Parish Council representatives had sought advice on the formation of particular groups and other organisations had been keen to share their knowledge with those wishing to form new groups.

It was questioned whether information could be retrieved from an Environmental Forum website. The Forum currently had its own page on the District Council's website, although it could ultimately run an independent site in the future. It was clarified that, although the Forum was unable to deal with specific issues, it would always be able to direct issues to an appropriate organisation. A local Ward Member congratulated the Officer on the success of the inaugural meeting and suggested that the enthusiasm shown would only escalate.

A reply slip was attached to the agenda and it was requested that this be returned by all those interested in being involved with the Forum.

RA/18. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dates of future Meetings were confirmed as Tuesday, 27th January 2009 at Repton Village Hall and Monday, 20th April 2009 at Woodville Infants School.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.