

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

1st December 2004

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Richards (Chair), Councillor Mrs Mead (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Mulgrew and Wilkins.

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

County Council Representative

Councillor W. C. Routledge.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant D. Abbott and PC M. Fearn.

Members of the Public

K. Ainsworth, R. Adcock, V. Adcock, I. Archless, W. Brealey, D. Bruce, R. Bancroft, P. Bambrick, P. Ball, R. Ball, K. Boddice, P. Boddice, W. Carlisle, G. Clements, D. Campbell, R. Campbell, D. Dent, R. Eyre, P. Foy, C. Gillespie, P. Harvey, I. Holden, L. Holden, R. House, R. Hughes, R. Holden, A. Kaiser, L. Kaiser, A. Lester, J. Lester, J. Lunn, C. Maddock, M. Matthews, M. Morton, G. Myatt, V. Martin, L. Mulgrew, B. Marsden, C. Paling, K. Parker, G. Pottinger, I. Pottinger, C. Sankey, T. Sloan, D. Tagg, D. Vail, B. Woods, B. Whotton, S. Whotton, A. Walls, M. Walls.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Dunn, Mr. M. Todd MP, Inspector S. Fairbrother and Sergeant A. Wright (Derbyshire Constabulary) and Mrs. Dunn, L. Gadsby, B. Parker and Mrs. Richards.

NA/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 10th August 2004 were noted.

NA/13. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair invited County Councillor Routledge to make two presentations of cheques from his Community Leadership Fund. Accordingly, County Councillor Routledge made presentations to Mrs. Tagg from Stanton Village Hall towards the provision of a Meeting Room and to District Councillor Mulgrew on behalf of the Midway Residents Association towards general costs.

NA/14. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES PROGRESSED SINCE 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 untidy condition of the

former Horse and Jockey site in Meadow Lane, Newhall it was reported that the Development Control Committee had resolved to institute legal proceedings at its Meeting held on 14th September 2004. It was noted that these proceedings were due to be heard in Court on 4th January 2005.

With regard to parking issues outside the former Horse and Jockey site, R. House reported that although the problem had lessened in recent months, it was currently on the increase. R. House also commented that when this site was ultimately developed, construction vehicles would further exacerbate this problem. South Derbyshire Constabulary confirmed that Fixed Penalty tickets had been issued to cars parked illegally in this area and further reported that the area of double yellow lines was to be extended. On a final note, PC Fearn stated that there was a general parking problem in Newhall.

With regard to footpath repairs in the Newhall area, County Councillor Routledge confirmed that these would be undertaken next year as there was no allowance in the current year's budget.

In response to Mr. Woods queries with regard to street cleansing in Newhall, it was reported that the *Chief Finance Officer* had written to Mr. Woods and the Director of Community Services read out this response to the Meeting. A discussion then ensued and Mr. Woods queried why litter pickers were employed in the Swadlincote area but not in the Newhall area. The Director of Community Services stated that rather than just employing litter pickers to collect rubbish, there was a need for legislation to be put into place which would penalise people for dropping litter. He also thought that there should be legislation which made shops responsible for litter in the area immediately around their premises. A resident queried how such legislation could be enforced and the Director of Community Services stated that there would be Council Officers patrolling the streets in order to enforce this legislation.

NA/15. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

In response to a resident's query with regard to the use of the Nadin's Way site, the Director of Community Services confirmed that currently there had been no applications made for any future use.

County Councillor Routledge advised residents that work on the mini-roundabout to be installed at the junction of Wood Lane/A511 would commence in the middle of February. He also confirmed that traffic lights would be installed outside the Post Office, on the High Street, in the middle of January. A resident queried why a feeder road could not be installed on the A511, for a right turn into Wood Lane. County Councillor Routledge advised that a mini-roundabout was a more cost effective solution but commented that the situation would be monitored for a 1-2 year period. At such time, the suitability of the mini-roundabout would be determined.

In response to a question by a resident, it was confirmed that the Morrisons development in Swadlincote town centre would begin in the Summer of 2005.

Mr Woods commented that the Meadow View playing fields were primarily aimed for usage by older children and as such there were no facilities for younger children at this site. He considered this site to be suitable for play equipment and questioned the possibility of procuring funding for this

purpose. The Director of Community Services stated that a report was currently being produced with regard to play equipment in the District and suggested that the Head of Leisure and Community Development be invited to the next Area Meeting to discuss these issues. It was confirmed that an 'All Weather', floodlit football pitch was available at Pingle School.

Residents expressed concern with regard to dangerous parking at Sunnyside, near the William Allitt School. Residents were also concerned that there had been rumours that this school was to close, in the near future. Councillor Mrs. Mead confirmed that the school was not due for closure, in fact there was to be future development. With regard to the problem of dangerous parking, she expressed the view that the problem was caused by parents taking children to and from the school and that in fact all schools in this area had parking problems.

A resident reported that there was an untidy site behind the former Leaveley filling station on Queen's Drive. The Director of Community Services agreed to report this issue to the Planning Department in order for them to take any necessary action.

Residents complained that inadequate parking in Priory Close was causing obstruction to traffic in this street. The Derbyshire Constabulary agreed to investigate this issue.

In response to a question by a resident, PC Fearn confirmed that the Constabulary would be moving into the new offices in Newhall prior to the Christmas period.

Mrs. Tagg reported that a speed camera which had been installed on the A444 was currently of little use due to the subsequent installation of traffic lights on the same stretch of road. She questioned whether or not this camera could be repositioned a little further down this stretch of road, where there was perceived to be a speeding problem. County Councillor Routledge confirmed that he would raise this matter with the County Council. PC Fearn advised the Meeting that there would need to be a traffic survey prior to any repositioning of this camera.

The Meeting held a lively debate with regard to the proposed siting of a telecommunications mast in the Newhall area. An application for planning permission had previously been made to the Planning Department, and subsequently withdrawn. Councillor Mulgrew stated that he was in receipt of information which confirmed that this application would be re-issued. Residents asked why the proposed site had been chosen in view of its close proximity to three schools and why the District Council had not suggested that the mast be located elsewhere. It was reported that the District Council had no control over the applicant company's decision as to where to site the mast. It was further reported that the District Council would not be able to refuse this application on the grounds of the proximity to the schools. All of the residents were concerned about potential health risks to their children. The Chair sympathised with the residents and confirmed that the District Council shared these concerns. He stated that the Council had requested that mobile phone operators share masts, but confirmed that the Council could only make a request and, in fact, could not make this an enforcement. The Chair advised the Meeting that although there was a very real public fear

that these masts were a risk to health, there was in fact no proof that this was the case.

Some residents mentioned the Stewart Report, a copy of which had been brought to the Meeting, and stated that this report recommended that telecommunication masts should not be located in close proximity to schools. The Chair requested that the residents provide a copy of the relevant section of this report, in order to check specific issues.

It was confirmed that although the application for the siting of the mast could not be rejected due to its location, it could be rejected if the mast did not meet 'street scene' requirements, i.e. poor design, and also that if the mast were to run off a generator and was subsequently noisy, there would be environmental implications to which the District Council could take action.

Councillor Mrs. Mead urged that all residents write to the mobile phone operator, the Government and the landowner stating their concerns. Mr. Woods suggested that the local M.P. also be contacted, as to his knowledge, there had been no comment from M. Todd M.P. to date

District Councillor Mulgrew hoped that the District Council's Legal and Planning Departments were researching this issue in order to determine if there was any possibility of opposing certain sitings of these masts. A resident reported that he had heard that the County of Kent had banned the siting of a telecommunication mast. Councillor Wilkins advised that this ban could only have been enforced if the land in question was owned by the County of Kent.

It was suggested that the Local Plan be a future topic for discussion and that it would be useful if someone from the District Council attend a future Meeting in order to speak on this subject.

District Councillor Wilkins concluded this section of the Meeting by commenting on the number of residents in attendance. He stated that the new attendees were very welcome and hoped that they would attend future Meetings on a regular basis, not just for a specific item.

NA/16. **DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

The Director of Community Services introduced this item and spoke of partnership working within South Derbyshire, particularly through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). He explained that the LSP was drafting a Community Strategy for the area and feedback was being sought from a number of forums on priorities for the area.

The Director of Community Services requested residents to give thorough consideration to the information circulated prior to the Meeting and he urged their feedback through completion and return of the questionnaire. This was an opportunity for local people to shape the priorities for the South Derbyshire area.

NA/17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

K. J. RICHARDS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.