

REPTON AREA MEETING

15th November 2006

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Taylor (Chair), Councillor Bladen (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bell, Mrs. Hood, Jones and Mrs. Wheeler.

I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), F. Powell (Democratic Services Officer) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representative**

D. Tysoe (County Secretary).

**District Council/County Council's Representative**

Councillor M. Ford.

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Sergeant A. Wright.

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

D. Roberts (Repton Parish Council), D. Adams (Hartshorne Parish Council), R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council) and K. Overton (Willington Parish Council) .

**Members of the Public**

P.Rainey (Repton Village Society), A. Gifford, J. Orme, N.Cumming, A.D.Gillespie, A.Gillespie, S.M.Smith and Mr and Mrs Key (Swadlincote and District 50+ Forum)

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Venning, County Councillors A. Jones, Southerd, Mr Atkin, Mr. and Mrs. Cownie and Mrs. Stamford.

RA/10. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 21st August 2006 were received and noted.

RA/11. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chair advised the Meeting that declaration of interests had been included on all Area Meeting Agendas to remind County, District and Parish Councillors of the need to declare interests on any items on Area Meeting Agendas or discussed at Area Meetings.

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

RA/12. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lottery Funding: Rosliston Pagestry Centre

The Chair advised the Meeting that a telephone poll was taking place on BBC television in respect of applications for Lottery funding and that Rosliston Forestry Centre was applying to obtain funding for a large open area to provide various entertainment facilities. The Chair urged everyone present to support the Rosliston Forestry Centre application by telephoning the BBC contact number.

RA/13. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Committee considered a report on issues raised at the last Area Meeting on 21st August 2006:

**Item 1 – Traffic Calming: Newton Solney/Repton**

At the last Area Meeting, Derbyshire County Council and the Police were requested to investigate jointly the concerns of Parish Council representatives relating to excessive speeds of traffic travelling through Newton Solney and Repton. The Police and the County Council were requested to attend meetings at Newton Solney and Repton Parish Council to discuss possible traffic calming measures.

The Police had provided a response to this request at the Safer Neighbourhood meeting on 10th October 2006 and both Parish Councils had been requested to write to Derbyshire County Council Highways Department to pursue the matter.

Mr. Roberts of Repton Parish Council advised the Meeting that the Parish Council had requested an additional speed platform in Repton and that this matter as well as the reinstatement of the rumble strips at either end of Repton be considered by Derbyshire County Council to enable the necessary budget provision to be provided.

Councillor Ford asked that he be advised of the results of any speed checks undertaken recently in Hatton.

**It was agreed:-**

- (1) That Derbyshire County Council consult the Repton Parish Council on the provision of a speed-platform in Repton and that this request and the reinstatement of the rumble strips in Repton be included as part of the County Council's budget provision to enable the works to be undertaken as soon as possible.**
- (2) That the Police be requested to forward to Councillor Ford the results of the recent speed checks taken by the Police in Hatton.**

**Item 2 – Unclassified Findern/Willington Road**

Derbyshire County Council was requested to investigate the unclassified section on the Findern/Willington Road between just west of the A50 flyover at Findern as far as the Derby/Crewe railway crossing at Willington to establish whether a pedestrian footpath could be provided.

Derbyshire County Council was undertaking the following action:

- Investigating the possibility of providing a short length of footway on Willington Road, as would be an extension to the footway that already existed on the south side of Findern (to the south of the A50) which would extend in a south-westerly direction to link with a Potlocks path. Investigations were continuing into the possible provision of a footpath.
- Regarding the issue of warning signs on Findern Lane, a site inspection had revealed that suitable signs were in place (no footway for 550 yards) on Findern Lane for both directions on the south side of the level crossing. However, to the north of the level crossing on Willington Road, there were no similar signs present despite a lack of footpath. The County Council's Traffic Section was considering rationalising the existing signage along the road in this area so that it better reflected the existing situation.

Mr. Orme, who had raised this matter at the last Area Meeting expressed his thanks to both Derbyshire County Council and the Area Meeting for the action taken

**It was agreed that the action taken by Derbyshire County Council in respect of the unclassified Findern/Willington Road, Willington be noted.**

Item 3 – Bulls Head Public House, Repton

Following the concerns expressed at the last Meeting, the condition of the recycling facilities at the Bulls Head Public House, Repton and the land adjacent to the site had been investigated. The District Council's Waste Manager had visited the site in September 2006 and advised that both the car park and the recycling centre had been tidied and were now in a satisfactory condition.

**It was agreed that the information provided in respect of the condition of the recycling centre and the car park at the Bulls Head Public House, Repton be noted.**

Item 4 – Resurfacing Works, Monsom Lane, Repton

Following a request at the last Meeting that the resurfacing works at Monsom Lane, Repton, particularly the reinstatement of the road markings and clearing-up works be completed, the matter was investigated by Derbyshire County Council's contractors and the lane was added to the routine sweeping list to be completed by 29th August 2006.

**It was agreed that the information in respect of the re-surfacing works at Monsom Lane, Repton and the works undertaken by Derbyshire County Council's contractors be noted.**

Item 5 – Repton Road to Willington

Following the concern of residents at the last Meeting regarding the quality of road surface dressing on the Repton Road to Willington, it was confirmed that Derbyshire County Council had inspected the road and there was a small area showing loss of road chippings. Unfortunately, due to the time of year and other area's programmes, no remedial work would be carried out until next year. The site would, however be monitored over the winter.

A resident expressed concern that the footpath on the Bridge over Repton Road had no pavement and asked that the matter be investigated so that there was an appropriate differentiation between the roadway and the pavement.

**It was agreed:-**

- (1) That the content of the report on the quality of the surface dressing on the Repton Road to Willington be noted.**
- (2) That Derbyshire County Council be requested to investigate the condition of the footpath on the bridge over Repton Road, Willington( the main bridge over the River Trent) with a view to a pavement being provided as a clear delineation between the highway and the footway.**

Item 6 – Alcohol Free Zones

Following the request at the last Meeting, the introduction of alcohol free zones in parks and open spaces in South Derbyshire had been investigated by the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership. An investigation on the possibility of the introduction of an alcohol free zone in Castle Gresley was being undertaken.

It was confirmed that this information had been forwarded to Woodville Parish Council.

**It was agreed that the information provided in respect of the introduction of alcohol free zones in parks and open spaces in South Derbyshire be noted.**

Item 7 – Toyota Roundabout, Willington

Following a request at the last Area Meeting, the Highway Agency was requested to provide information on when the road works in the area of the Toyota roundabout, Willington would be completed and when an assessment as to their effectiveness would take place.

The Highways Agency had advised that its post completion scheme process would undertake two fatal injury accident reviews at one and three years as part of the post completion safety audit process. It was likely that these would be completed in the summers of 2008 and 2010. The finding of these reviews, particularly that in the summer of 2010 would determine whether a more detailed investigation was necessary.

A number of residents expressed concern that lorries having left the A38 were travelling into Willington and that drivers did not seem aware of the route to leave the village. Concern was also expressed that damage had been caused to the Railway Bridge over the Repton Road/ Willington Road, Willington by lorries hitting it.

**It was agreed that the following action be requested:-**

- That appropriate traffic signage/ road markings be requested from both the Highways Agency and Derbyshire County Council to indicate the routes in and out of Willington and that NYK Associates be requested to display notices/ provide information to**

**their drivers to help prevent any mistaken and unnecessary journeys through Willington.**

RA/14. **IDEAS INTO ACTION**

The Area Meeting considered a report on Ideas into Action. Following the Council's consultation on its Corporate Plan, an Ideas into Action campaign, requesting ideas had been undertaken. 64 ideas had been received, which included:-

- specific complaints about issues such as untidy land
- requests for improved services to the whole District such as collecting plastics for recycling
- ideas for local initiatives that required funding other or support to launch the idea
- suggestions where the Council had little influence, such as dismantling electricity pylons and laying the cables underground.

All the ideas received had been acknowledged by letter and would receive a detailed response when the appropriate course of action to be undertaken had been decided.

Ideas for improving services across the District or developing local initiatives which had budgetary implications would be considered in the Council's budget cycle later this year. Where there was no cost this would be investigated and if the idea could be implemented, it would. Where the Council was not responsible for provision of a service, the suggestion would be forwarded to the relevant body or partner.

An analysis had been undertaken of the ideas received. The most popular suggestions included:-

- Litter/cleanliness
- graffiti
- better recycling facilities collection
- untidy sites
- more trees, flowers and spring bulbs
- highway maintenance and improvement
- support for Neighbourhood Watch
- better facilities for children and young people

Councillor Ford felt that it was now time for the District Council to review the financial contribution made by Willington Parish Council to the upkeep of the public toilets in Willington.

**It was agreed:-**

- (1) That the content of the report "Ideas into Action" be noted.**
- (2) That the comments of Councillor Ford in respect of a review by the District Council of the financial contribution made by Willington Parish Council towards the upkeep of the public toilets in Willington be noted.**

RA/15. **COMMUNITY SCRUTINY NEEDS YOU**

The Area Meeting considered a report on the work of the District Council's Community Scrutiny Committee which invited contributions from the public to participate in the Committee's projects. The Council had appointed two scrutiny committees and an Overview Committee. The purpose of the scrutiny committees was to improve the Council's performance by monitoring, questioning and making recommendations on the way services were provided and decisions taken. A short guide to the membership, dates of meetings and work of the three scrutiny committees was circulated.

It was confirmed that the Community Scrutiny Committee's remit focused on community and environmental issues, culture, leisure, arts, housing, economic development and land use.

The Community Scrutiny Committee had completed the following four projects:-

- Housing repairs and maintenance services
- Homelessness services
- Waste management services
- Planning application services

The above four scrutiny reviews would contribute to the Council's delivery of better, more efficient and effective services to residents and would ensure continued best value for money. During the period to May 2007, the Community Scrutiny Committee would be investigating the following projects:-

- The future of post offices
- How health services will be delivered by the new Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust
- Street Scene review
- Cleaner neighbourhoods

**It was agreed that the content of the report "Community Scrutiny Needs You" be noted.**

RA/16. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS****Promotion of Tourism in South Derbyshire**

A resident advised the Meeting that he was a trustee of the Heage Windmill Trust and felt that it was important to promote tourism in South Derbyshire. The Chair advised that the District Council had a significant involvement and was vocal in the promotion of a tourist strategy for South Derbyshire which was pursued actively with its partners.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that both public and private sector funding was available through the Destination Management Partnership for the promotion of tourism in the District and the District Council had representation on this group. The Meeting was advised that action was being taken to ensure that the National Forest and South Derbyshire received finance to support the promotion of tourism in South Derbyshire.



Concern was expressed by a resident that it was important to ensure that key sites in South Derbyshire such as the Elvaston Castle and garden site did not deteriorate and were available as tourist promotion sites for the District. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the District Council and its partners were actively promoting tourism and the associated employment and wealth creation in South Derbyshire.

**It was agreed:-**

- (1) That an article promoting tourism in South Derbyshire be prepared for inclusion in the next edition of the District Council Newspaper and that tourist information and promotion leaflets, particularly those relating to local walks be made available at the next cycle of Area Meetings.**
- (2) That a presentation on promoting tourism in South Derbyshire be given at the next Repton Area Meeting.**

Planning Applications- E-mail Copies

Concern was expressed by a number of parish council representatives and members of the public regarding the electronic transmission of minor planning applications by email to parish councils. The view was expressed that this could create problems for a number of parish councils.

**It was agreed that e-mailing of minor planning applications by the District Council to Parish Councils and the process followed be investigated by the Deputy Chief Executive and a report on this matter be submitted to the next Repton Area Meeting.**

Regional Spatial Strategy

Mr. Orme advised the meeting of proposals that were set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy document. Mr. Orme referred to two maps relating to the movement of people to their work outside the District and employment in the District.

Mr. Orme felt that the District was largely dormitory, with people leaving to work throughout Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. He advised that the Regional Spatial document set out possible proposals for the creation of 25,000 new houses in the area. He expressed concern that as such development could create massive traffic problems in Willington, it was important that Derbyshire County Council looked at a complete system to provide a good infrastructure network to support any additional houses. He added that Willington already had very serious traffic problems and that the proposals in the Regional Strategy would only make matters worse.

The Chair advised the meeting that the Regional Spatial Strategy document had been considered at a meeting earlier today. The Council's formal response would be considered at a Special Meeting of the Council in December 2006.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that he considered that the proposals within the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands would proceed over the next 25 years and could involve a development of approximately 16,000 houses. This growth would involve significant issues in respect of

infrastructure management. He advised that a Special Meeting of the South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership would be held on 7th December 2006 to consider the Regional Spatial Strategy. The public were welcome to attend that Meeting to ask questions and gain further information on the matter.

**It was agreed that the information provided and the concerns expressed by members of the public in respect of the Regional Spatial Strategy be noted.**

Repton Area Meeting – Geographical Area Covered

Mr. Orme advised the Meeting that he was concerned that the geographical make-up of the Repton Area Meeting excluded Willington from Findern and queried why Findern could not be included in the location covered by this Area Meeting.

The Chair acknowledged Mr. Orme's concerns and advised that a decision had been taken to continue with the former County Council Electoral Division boundaries.

**It was agreed that the comments in respect of the geographical make-up of the Repton Area Meeting be noted.**

Flood Plain Methodology

Mr. Gifford asked whether it would be possible for the Environment Agency to give a presentation to a future Area Meeting on the changing methodology used for the assessment of flooding risk in the South Derbyshire area. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that he would try to arrange a meeting separate to the Area Meeting process and request that the Environment Agency give a presentation on developments relating to its flood plain methodology.

**It was agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to arrange a meeting separate to the Area Meeting process to which the Environment Agency would give a presentation on developments relating to its flood plain methodology used for the assessment of flooding risk in the South Derbyshire area.**

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.