

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

4th June 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Lane, Rhind and Tilley.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Mrs. Lauro.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant Wright.

Members of the Public

M. Brotherhood, J. Grew, T. Harvey, C. Horridge, K. Hough, M. Hudson, S. Jackson, W. Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Key, J. Pallett, J. Pitcher, A. Pitcher, D. Ryder, S. Saddal, A. C. Sheriff J. Williamson and C. Wright.

SA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Taylor had been appointed Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Meeting at the Annual Council Meeting held on 22nd May 2008.

SA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Southerd, M. Lunn and S. Horridge.

SA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Tilley be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

SA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Meeting held on 30th January 2008 were noted.

SA/5. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

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

With regard to noise emitting from motorbikes/mopeds, Sergeant Wright gave a further update. He advised the Meeting that noise issues were dealt with by Road Traffic Police, who were pro-active in this matter. He added that, in the previous three weeks, seven illegal bikes had been seized. In addition, the police were following leads provided by members of the public, on other illegal activities. He encouraged residents to continue to report incidents, as the police were taking this issue very seriously.

With regard to litter issues in Swadlincote, several instances were given where litter was still a problem. These were detailed as:-

- Pot Bank Passage – it was reported that smokers were continuing to cause problems in this area (behind Ashley Adams).
- Outside Mario's café - smokers were again causing unnecessary litter.
- At the recycling point at Castle Gresley, there was an ongoing problem of fly tipping.
- At the recycling point at Sainsbury's, Swadlincote, it was noted that again fly tipping was taking place.

It was also noted that residents had attempted to report that the recycling receptacles were full. However, when trying to contact the District Council, the only response was from an answering machine.

The Director of Community Services replied that the recycling of waste within the District had increased, which was considered a great success. However, it was accepted that the recycling containers did become full at certain times.

The Director of Community Services agreed to forward all issues detailed above to the District Council's Waste and Cleansing Manager and a response would be provided to the next Meeting.

The Director of Community Services gave an update on the Swadlincote regeneration route and advised that phase 1 of this route, connecting the A511 at Butt Lane to Occupation Lane was currently under construction and expected to be completed shortly.

Initial feasibility work on the possible alignment of phase 2, connecting Occupation Lane to Woodhouse Street/Swadlincote Road, was being undertaken by the Scott Wilson Consultancy on behalf of Derbyshire County Council. This included the investigation of ground conditions, identification of environmental constraints, the establishment of design criteria and the preparation of cost estimates.

Public consultation on the main issues and options was undertaken in the spring of 2007, Atkins Consultancy would shortly suggest a more detailed, preferred option to the Council, having considered the outcome of the consultation and undertaken a review of land use and technical constraints in the area.

The District Council and the County Council would review the advice received. It was expected that the work necessary to progress the funding and construction of the regeneration route would be identified in more detail and incorporated into the next stages of public consultation.

A discussion ensued, and residents commented that many large vehicles were currently using the route as a shortcut between the M1 and M6. It was asked if this was being monitored by the County Council. Members assured

those residents present that this issue would be raised at the inaugural meeting of the Highways Forum, to be held in June 2008.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to report back to the next Meeting on the monitoring of traffic in this area.

SA/6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident asked if the District Council had plans to plant containers in Swadlincote with floral displays.

It was agreed that a response be provided at the next Meeting.

It was reported that a resident had nearly been hit on numerous occasions by cars driving too fast in the Morrisons car park. It was believed that this was exacerbated by the dangerous lay out of the car park, as it had four separate entrances.

The Director of Community Services responded that the District Council would write to Morrisons advising them of this concern.

It was reported that travellers had been moved from an illegal encampment adjacent to Penkridge Road, Church Gresley. However, the gates had only been re-secured as prior to the encampment. Councillor Rhind reported that the District Council was aware of this problem, and was looking for alternative ways of securing this site.

The Director of Community Services agreed to look into this issue and report back to the next Meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the litter that was left behind when travellers vacated a site. It was confirmed that travellers would be fined if sufficient evidence had been gathered.

It was reported that there were problems with rats at The Glade, which, residents believed, were being disturbed as construction was taking place on an adjacent site. The Director of Community Services responded that current legislation required landowners to keep their property clear of rats, mice and vermin and it should be reported to the District Council if the problem persisted.

A resident asked for an update on a site, which was previously a newsagents shop on Alexandra Road. The Director of Community Services responded that the District Council was currently looking at this site in an attempt to resolve the issues.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services make further investigation as to whether this site could be classed as an untidy site, and the property boarded up.

A site at Wood Street, Church Gresley adjacent to the St Johns Ambulance Brigade building was considered to be an untidy area. It was reported that the fence had been broken, and fly tipping had taken place.

The Director of Community Services responded that the District Council would look into this and to report back to the next Meeting.

It was reported that a footpath adjacent to Alexandra Road and Stanhope Road was in a very untidy state. A fence had been knocked down and the area subject to fly tipping.

The Director of Community Services agreed to look into this and report back to the next Meeting.

A resident reported that some time ago, they had been asked to cut back hedges adjacent to the footpath between the Town Centre and Cleveland Close, as the area was due to be resurfaced. No further action had been taken.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to follow this up with the County Council and would provide a response to the next Meeting.

It was asked if there were plans to provide a small theatre in Swadlincote. The Director of Community Services responded that the District Council had been looking into this, and West Street Chapel had been considered. However, this proposal had fallen through. He added that an alternative site was currently under consideration.

It was asked if plans for a golf course in Swadlincote were progressing. The Chairman responded that negotiations were ongoing.

A representative from Swadlincote Angling Association advised the Meeting that they currently had over 300 members. However, they were having difficulty parking adjacent to Swadlincote pond, as there was only room for approximately 5 cars. He asked if the District Council could help in resolving this problem.

The Director of Community Services responded that the District Council would look into this to see if a solution could be found.

SA/7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

S. TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.55 p.m.