

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

February 16, 2016 at Stenson Fields Community Primary School

PRESENT:-

District Council representatives

Councillor Peter Smith (Chair), Councillor Martyn Ford, Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Michael Stanton.

Kevin Stackhouse (Director of Finance and Corporate Services), Tom Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Martyn Ford.

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Charlie Fellows (Stenson Fields Parish Council), Mary Goodall (Findern Parish Council), Richard Lisewski (Stenson Fields Parish Council), Trevor Skeith (Repton Parish Council).

Members of the public

Larissa Atwal, Petra Barlow, Heather Hall, John Orme, Stuart Orme, Roger Paulson.

RA/19 **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Manjit Chahal, Mrs Griffiths, Councillor Andy MacPherson, Councillor Rob Davison. Councillor Davison reported that he was unable to attend meetings held on the second Tuesday in the month.

RA/20 **Declarations of interest**

None.

RA/21 **Chairman's announcements**

Councillor Peter Smith announced the forthcoming Parish and Member Briefings being held by South Derbyshire District Council.

RA/22 **The minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2015**

Councillor David Shepherd proposed the minutes and Councillor Martyn Ford seconded them.

RA/23 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

Bretby Lane, Bretby – drainage issues

Paul Jameson (AFLO) reported that it was a long-standing issue. His report contained a summary of the site's history. The AFLO had received an email from maintenance manager Simon Tilley and it appeared as though some positive talks had taken place with Severn Trent. Further updates on any progress made would be provided to the forum when available.

Beech Avenue, Willington – defective streetlight

A straightforward issue which had been resolved.

Repton Road, Willington – pedestrian safety on river bridge

The AFLO reported that concerns had been raised over how flush the pavement was with the carriageway. A resident said the lack of a raised area meant there was nothing to stop a vehicle entering the pedestrian area and suggestions had been made to paint the kerb edge to delineate the footway from the carriageway. The AFLO reported that white edge of carriageway markings were already in place, visually separating the footway and carriageway, and said safety measures were unlikely given the good safety record at the location.

Repton Road junction, Nether Hall Road, Hartshorne

The pothole in question had been attended to by Derbyshire County Council's Rapid Response Team.

Himalayan Balsam

The AFLO reported that Himalayan Balsam was not a noxious weed and so there was no legal requirement for DCC to control it. Councillor Michael Stanton said that presumably there was no onus on someone to stop it encroaching on someone else's land. The AFLO assumed that to be the case.

RA/24 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident asked if a central refuge could be built in Stenson Road. The AFLO said that residents primarily wanted to cross at the junction with Pilgrims Way, where most of the local amenities were situated, and there was a tactile dropped crossing point here. DCC had previously investigated a request for a

pedestrian refuge but there was insufficient carriageway width to accommodate a refuge, while maintaining adequate running lane width on either side.

A resident said that if anything contaminated was put in a recycling bin it would be not be collected. He asked if fines were planned for the future. Councillor Smith said that in South Derbyshire an educational approach was preferred. He said SDDC wanted to help people get their recycling right rather than punish them. He doubted if fines would ever be introduced.

A member of the public said that what South Derbyshire had been doing stood out in the rest of the county. He said waste was being sorted for the contractor who recycled it rather than getting them to do it. His view was that waste should be piled into bins and then sorted by the company paid to process it. Councillor Smith replied that he understood the resident's viewpoint. He also said it was the contractor's business and they would take measures for it to be as efficient as possible.

A resident raised the issue of window envelopes and the problem they posed for recycling. He asked if envelopes were put in recycling at all because of the glue on their flaps. Kevin Stackhouse replied that SDDC had an excellent animated video on its website which provided guidance on what could and couldn't be recycled.

A resident reported that he had discovered that waste from south of the River Trent went to Wilshee's in Burton while waste from north of the river went to Raynesway in Derby. He wondered what Wilshee's was doing with the waste. Councillor Smith said he couldn't possibly comment on something he knew nothing about.

A member of the public asked if plans were afoot to use the new incinerator being planned for Derby. Mr Stackhouse replied that no plans existed to use it.

A resident reported that potholes he had flagged up 18 months previously in Askew Grove, Repton, had not been repaired to a satisfactory standard. He reported them again on January 12 but they were still there. He asked if he was wasting his time reporting them. The AFLO responded that potholes were categorised by the class of road they were on and levels of traffic passing over them. He said a response was usually made within five working days for higher priority defects.

ACTION: AFLO to review the situation at Askew Grove with the pothole centre

A resident reported another faulty street light in Willington, next to the one in Beech Avenue which had been recently fixed. This one was on 24 hours a day. The resident also reported a street light on 24 hours a day between St Michael's Close and Hall Lane. He claimed to have reported them in January but nothing had been done. The AFLO said he was unsure if there were still full-time light

inspectors employed by DCC. Councillor Ford asked if the area could be inspected.

ACTION: AFLO to check on progress of repairs

A member of the public again raised the issue of a crossing in Pilgrims Way, Stenson Fields. They said the only response ever received from DCC was that it would be reviewed at the end of the housing development. The AFLO said that DCC's stance had not changed. A certain level of pedestrian activity was needed before a crossing was built. The figure was not being met and DCC would wait until the development was complete to act further. The resident replied that the tests were carried out at 11am and asked if they could be revisited at a busier time of day when schoolchildren were travelling to or from school. Councillor Shepherd said a comprehensive response had been provided at a previous meeting and the stance of DCC had been consistent. He said when the development was complete, it would be revisited.

Councillor Ford asked for a streetlight to be provided at the new development in Milton Road, Repton.

ACTION: AFLO to report back on whether a street light could be provided

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton asked for a streetlight to be provided at Bladon House School near Newton Solney. She said the speed of traffic made the area dangerous for parents and pupils and had forwarded a petition to DCC's Cabinet. The AFLO replied that legal processes have to be followed for a petition.

A resident said that Repton Road, Willington, rapidly got a crossing when the old doctor's surgery opened. He asked why Stenson Road could not get one so quickly. Councillor Ford replied that money was found for the crossing at the time. Councillor Shepherd said he had quoted the area in the past when requesting crossings, citing the fact that the road had two crossings in place. A Willington resident said that the village had a population of 3,000 and four crossings within a few hundred yards, illustrating how dangerous it was.

Councillor Ford said speeding in Heath Lane, Findern, in the direction of the A50 was a problem. A resident said the parish council had money ready to spend on speed-activated signage. The AFLO replied that the traffic and safety team had a significant workload and its response time was not as fast as it would like. He was confident the issue was being dealt with.

ACTION: AFLO to provide a report outlining the progress at Heath Lane

Councillor Ford reported that a consultation over parking charges at Willington was ongoing.

Councillor Mrs Chilton raised the issue of Swarkestone Causeway and said should it ever fail, it would badly damage investment into South Derbyshire. The AFLO replied that a bypass at Swarkestone remained in DCC's Local Transport Plan as a major scheme, which the authority supported in principle. From memory, the feasibility study carried out some years ago estimated the cost of a bypass in the region of £15m. Such amounts were well beyond the funds available to DCC and, if a bypass were to come to fruition, external funding sources would be required.

RA/26 **District Council issues**

Local Plan

Kevin Stackhouse reported that Part 1 of the South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan was nearing completion, with only the Government Planning Inspector's decision awaited. Part 2 of the plan was being consulted upon.

Open Space, Sporting and Community Facilities Strategy

Mr Stackhouse told the meeting the strategy related to which facilities would be needed in the district in the coming years. The strategy needed local clubs and community facilities to come forward to ensure they received their share of Section 106 money from developers.

Budget

Mr Stackhouse reported that once again the landscape was changing for local authorities across the country. In 2010 the council had to go through savings in its budget, but achieved these without impacting on frontline services. In the last two years the authority's financial position had stabilised and was currently in a healthy state. However, another round of reductions had been passed down from central government to all authorities. Before Christmas, SDDC got its settlement from Central Government and in three years' time there would be a 14-15% cut in the grant, a figure in the region of £1.5m. One bright spot was that local authorities would be allowed to keep a greater proportion of the Business Rates they gathered. Currently, 50% went to central government and in South Derbyshire £10m a year was gathered in Business Rates. A greater share of that money staying in the district would help to offset the loss in grant. The situation would be a challenge for SDDC but one that the authority would meet head on. Regarding Council Tax, for the past five years it had been frozen by SDDC. Now, central government was expecting councils to raise it. County councils are allowed to raise their share by 4% and districts or boroughs by up to 2%. SDDC had, subject to full approval, decided to raise Council Tax by 1.95%.

RA/27 **Date of next meeting**

To be announced in due course.

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30pm.