

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

30th January 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Mrs. Lauro and Southerd, D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and K. MacIntyre (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant Sisman and C. Lilley (PCSO).

Members of the Public

M.G. Brotherhood, R. Causer, E. Hill, C. R. Horridge, S. Horridge, J. Howell, M. Hudson, W. Jackson, M. Jones, E. Key, M. Lunn, C. Wagstaff, B. Wright,

SA/10. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Meeting held on 7th November 2007 were noted.

SA/11. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised the Meeting of two emergency planning test events, which were due to be run in 2008. The outcome of these events would improve the response should a real emergency occur.

The Chairman referred to the review of Area Meeting boundaries, discussed at the last Meeting. He advised that following consultation, the Council had decided to retain the status quo at this time.

SA/12. **CONSULTATION ON THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE BUDGET**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Frank McArdle, Chief Executive at the District Council. He explained the purpose of this consultation, to inform and consult on the draft key priorities and actions within the 2008/11 Corporate Plan and the Council's financial position and budget proposals for 2008/09. A copy of the Corporate Plan had been circulated, together with a questionnaire to seek feedback and he urged residents to complete this and return it by 10th February 2008. Presentation slides had also been circulated. He explained the Council's Vision and the six Corporate Plan themes, which emerged from extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders. Each year, the Council developed

Corporate Plan priorities and actions for each of the themes and feedback was sought on this area.

The presentation then addressed the Council's budget proposals, with information provided on Council Tax and the sources of funding. He spoke about the proportion of Council Tax that was used to deliver District Council services. The Chief Executive explained how resources were spent on Environmental Services, Community Services and Corporate Services. He then touched on the budget proposals for 2008/09, the cost pressures the Council was facing and the overall positive financial position of the District Council. Reference was made to the Council's improved Use of Resources rating and the open committee process on the budget, which the public could attend. He spoke about the ongoing efficiency savings being made by the Authority and the year-on-year improvements. The Council had a minimal amount of debt and its investments were earning interest. He closed by commending the Corporate Plan and sought residents' feedback on this consultation.

The Chairman commented that although a significant amount of work had been completed within Swadlincote, it was important that Swadlincote should continue to prosper and grow. The Chief Executive responded that Swadlincote was a growing town and therefore change must take place, along with an influx of new investment. He added that Members and Officers were aware that Swadlincote should not change its integral character. Good quality, precise development was being sought, that balanced the Town and was different and complimentary.

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

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

With regards to parking at the junction of Church Street and Thorpedown Road, Church Gresley, Sergeant Sisman reported that Officers had visited this area, but had not observed any further problems. He also confirmed that there had been no further incidents reported. Councillor Southerd added that this problem had diminished, however there were still occasions when cars were parked, causing a possible obstruction. It was also observed that a security van was still parking inconsiderately. Sergeant Sisman responded that the PCSO had spoken to Tesco, however to prevent robberies, the security van would always park to minimise a possible threat. He added that Derbyshire Police were made aware of all 'cash-in-transit' deliveries. A resident confirmed that the security van still parked at the same time on a regular basis, and asked if this could be monitored.

Sergeant Sisman agreed to provide further patrols to this area monitoring parking and the security vans.

A further question was raised with regard to lighting at The Delph and the locations of the lights owned by Derbyshire County Council.

Derbyshire County Council agreed to look into the provision of lighting on The Delph and would report back to the next Meeting.

With regard to the Remembrance Day Parade at Church Gresley, Councillor Southerd passed on his gratitude to the Police for their assistance in this matter. It was requested that a police presence be provided and the traffic

stopped every year. It was suggested that a representative contact the Police in advance of the Parade to request that this be done.

The Chairman reported that he had received correspondence, which included very positive comments about certain developments around Swadlincote Town Centre. However, in addition it was pointed out that certain works had been very disruptive, specifically around Church Street. Councillor Taylor responded that contractors were working in many different areas around the Town Centre and unfortunately this did occasionally result in slightly disruptive work patterns.

SA/14. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident pointed out that there seemed to be many young people in the area on motorbikes that emitted a great deal of noise. Sergeant Sisman responded that the Constabulary was very proactive on this issue and the Road Traffic Act was used regularly to issue warnings. He asked that residents continued to report any incidents and assured those present that they would be followed up. He confirmed that a newsletter had been left on the Helpdesk with contact numbers for members of the public to use when reporting these incidents. Councillor Southerd asked, what could actually be done within the law, about the noise emitting from motorcycles.

Sergeant Sisman agreed to speak to the traffic department and would report back to the next meeting.

A resident raised the issue of litter in Swadlincote Town Centre, specifically referring to Pot Bank Passage and an area adjacent to Morrison's, where the gulleys were full of cans. It was asked if businesses had an obligation to keep the area outside their premises clean and tidy.

The Chief Executive agreed to follow up this issue and to report back to the next meeting.

It was also asked if food outlets had been contacted with regards to litter outside their premises. The Chief Executive responded that outlets had been contacted previously and the District Council had enforcement powers in this area.

It was agreed that further details on these powers be provided at the next Meeting.

It was reported that the perimeter railings at Maurice Lea Memorial Park, opposite No. 72 Common Side, were damaged last year. It was asked whether these would be repaired.

The Chief Executive agreed to look into this issue and report back to the next meeting.

It was reported that a lamp outside St George's School (Lamp No 76688), had not been working for approximately three months. The Chairman responded that residents could report such problems direct to Derbyshire County Council by telephoning 0845 605858.

Derbyshire County Council agreed to deal with this issue.

A resident asked where the proposed new relief road was to be sited in Swadlincote. The Chief Executive responded that this was currently the

subject of consultation. A preferred route was emerging, but this was not yet agreed and all comments would be taken into consideration and fully explored.

It was requested that an item be put on the agenda for the next Meeting giving an update on the new route.

It was reported that a small triangle of land adjacent to Maurice Lea Memorial Park had no perimeter railings and it was asked if this could be completed.

The Chief Executive agreed to provide an update for the next Meeting.

SA/15. **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 8.10 p.m.