

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at Egginton Memorial Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown (Chair), Councillor Andy Billings, Councillor David Muller, Councillor Mrs Julie Patten, Councillor Andy Roberts.

Stuart Batchelor – Director of Communities and Planning.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Julie Patten.

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer), Kerry Bailey (Digital Derbyshire), Robert Rowan (Digital Derbyshire).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

Olga Bottomley (Burnaston Parish Council), Robert Brookes (Hatton Parish Council), Barry Payton (Etwall Parish Council), Angela Holgate (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), Norman Ireland (Etwall Parish Council), Nikki Lawton (Egginton Parish Council), Pat Riley (Horticultural Association and Egginton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Jean Griffiths, RD Hyland, Jim Riley, Judith Watson, Dianne Willis, Barry Willis, Clive Gerrard, G Wake.

EA/21 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Martyn Ford, Brian Myring, Miles Nesbitt and Councillor Mrs Amy Plenderleith.

EA/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

EA/23 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown reported that the Railfreight project near East Midlands Airport was given consent by the Secretary of State, overturning a number of recommendations from the Planning Inspectorate. Forty seven per cent of warehousing proposed would not be rail connected as the project currently stood. The project appeared to underline the Government growth agenda, Councillor Mrs Brown said.

Digital Derbyshire

Robert Rowan, Programme Manager, and Kerry Bailey, Engagement Officer, gave a presentation on Derbyshire County Council's Digital Derbyshire programme which was working in partnership with BT to lay hundreds of miles of fibre optic cable, bringing better, faster broadband to parts of the county, particularly in rural areas.

It was a multi-million pound project funded by the EU, the County Council, BT, the Local Enterprise Partnership and Broadband Delivery UK. The Digital Derbyshire targets (as set by Central Government) were for every Derbyshire premise to be able to receive a download speed of 2Mbps and for 95% of premises to receive download speeds of 24Mbps by the end of 2018. Currently, 349 'cabinets' out of 433 in the county were fibre enabled and 74,000 premises could now order fibre broadband from an internet service provider of their choice.

The project was focusing on areas which had not been catered for by the commercial operators. Mr Rowan said the Etwall area was a mix of commercial and Digital Derbyshire 'roll out'. Furthermore, some very remote areas with poor connection could benefit from the Government satellite scheme.

Councillor David Muller reported that a lot of residents were having serious trouble getting broadband access in rural areas near Etwall. He also questioned how cost effective a satellite link-up is for accessing the internet.

Mr Rowan said the focus was on getting fibre optic broadband to as much of the county as possible, but should this not be possible, then areas with sub-2Mbps connections could be eligible for a satellite solution up to the value of £350 for installation and commissioning, with consumer packages starting at £29.99 a month for 10GB of data. Consumers would need to fully understand the packages and costs before making a decision as some data packages could contain an insufficient amount to stream media content. Once the data allowance was passed, the cost would go through the roof or usage would be capped.

A resident asked if broadband speeds were a priority with the rapid development of mobile technology. Mr Rowan said that 5G for mobile phones was on the way but that fixed infrastructure was still required as not all areas benefit from mobile coverage.

Councillor Muller asked how the UK compares with the rest of the EU for broadband. Mr Rowan said the situation had improved, with the UK now third or fourth in Europe and not down in 10th position as was previously the case.

A member of the public asked if BT had brought local exchanges up to date. Mr Rowan replied that the programme was purely about fibre optic installation and not the exchanges.

Ms Bailey summed up by saying she was available to attend parish council meetings to give presentations.

Councillor Mrs Brown thanked the Digital Derbyshire duo for their presentation.

EA/24 **TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 11, 2015 (COPY ATTACHED)**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

EA/25 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Recycling in Etwall

An Etwall resident stated that he wanted clear pictorial guidelines as to what could and could not be recycled. It followed an incident at the Almshouses when a recycling bin was not emptied due to uncompliant contents. Councillor Mrs Brown said there was a problem with some elements of recycling. She explained that under the terms of a contract with Palm Recycling, hard plastic boxes could not be taken (for example boxes which contain Christmas sweets). The situation had been explained and publicised. The reason for the change (away from recycling black plastic) was a systemic change in the recycling industry, with China no longer taking certain types of plastic to recycle. Black plastic contaminates the other plastics and that was why it was no longer collected. The resident said that surely the contractor could not just change the terms of what it collects. Councillor Mrs Brown agreed that it was an annoying situation. At the next area forum, she had asked for the head of service to come and answer the questions in person on a very complicated situation. On a positive note, Councillor Mrs Brown said that South Derbyshire District Council was well ahead of Government targets on recycling. Stuart Batchelor, South Derbyshire District Council Director of Community and Planning, added that the terms of a contract were not changed unless there were very good reasons. A resident said the situation was confusing and there was nowhere to take the plastic in question, save for an environmentally unfriendly 20-minute journey to Burton tip.

ACTION: SDDC Director of Housing and Environmental Services Mike Haynes to be asked to attend the next area forum

New House Farm

A resident reported that he had written to South Derbyshire District Council's head of planning and had enquired about costs attached to the New House Farm planning appeal. Mr Batchelor said a submission of costs had been entered over the appeal and the council was challenging that. The final figure which was paid out would probably be in the public arena.

EA/26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

A member of the public said that the recent flooding seen in the north of England had engendered a debate regarding models used to calculate run off from developments. With several thousand new homes proposed in the Etwall ward creating run off into the Brook, what plans were in place to deal with flooding? Mr Batchelor said developments took into account impact on local watercourses, with Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency consulted during the planning process.

EA/27 COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

In response to a question regarding budget cuts, the AFLO told the meeting how around £40 million needs to be saved by Derbyshire County Council in the next year as part of the £157m savings required in the five-year period to 2018.

A member of the public asked if school crossing patrols were under threat.

The AFLO said that, given the severity of the cuts, DCC had had to consider reducing services which were previously considered unthinkable. Initially, it appeared that it would have to end the School Crossing Patrol service entirely, but funding was identified which allowed it to retain a large proportion of the service. Following extensive public consultation, a number of patrols had been withdrawn as of December last year. DCC had applied national guidelines on the consideration of SCPs and, where these guidelines had not been met, withdrawn the service. For example, this could be at locations where a formalised crossing facility – such as a puffin crossing – was already provided for pedestrians. The withdrawal of SCPs is something DCC had not wanted to do and it would happily work with local schools and businesses if alternative funding could be identified for a patrol to continue at sites where the existing criteria was not met. A resident asked how much a crossing would cost to install. The AFLO advised that the costs would vary from location to location but, typically, a zebra could incur costs in excess of £20,000 and light-controlled crossings even more. As part of the consideration process, DCC uses the PV2 formula as a guidance, which compares traffic flow against pedestrian activity. A member of the public asked if volunteers could be sought for crossing patrols. Mr Batchelor said a service would have to be guaranteed for parents to accept volunteers. Councillor Mrs Brown added that there could also be legal implications.

EA/28 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Local Plan

Mr Batchelor reported that Part 1 of the Local Plan (for strategic sites in the district) had gone through for its final examination. It was hoped that the Planning Inspector signs the plan off so it could be adopted by the district council. Part 2 (for non-strategic sites in the district of fewer than 100 houses) was currently being consulted on. A total of 600 houses needed to be built under Part 2 by 2028. A resident asked if issues with Amber Valley's plan affected South Derbyshire. Mr Batchelor said they wouldn't. Another resident asked if development could take place outside of settlement boundaries. Mr Batchelor stated that would not be the case unless there was a very good reason for it.

Open Spaces

Mr Batchelor reported that South Derbyshire District Council had produced a draft Open Space, Sport and Community Facilities strategy. He urged those present to let the council know of any potential projects so they could attract Section 106 money. Councillor Mrs Brown reiterated how important it was to get a project in the plan to ensure it did not miss out on available funding.

Finances

Mr Batchelor told the meeting that the council budget was going to the finance and management committee before Full Council. The council's financial position had stabilised over the past two years, he said, with an underspend on the budget this year because of the income from the planning department. A surplus was expected in 2016-17 but the following year there would be a significant change. Shire districts were facing big cuts compared to metropolitan and urban areas. South Derbyshire District Council's Government grant had been cut by 14%, meaning a £1.5 million budget reduction in 2018. Mr Batchelor reiterated that budgets would be reduced and not services. Councillor Mrs Brown added that South Derbyshire District Council is a well-run council with a very good chief finance officer in Kevin Stackhouse.

EA/30 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course.

**Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.35pm.