

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

26th January 2010

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Taylor (Chairman), Councillor Tilley (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Rhind, Southerd and Mrs. Wheeler.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs. Farrington.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Sergeant N. Pitt.

**Members of the Public**

B. Aldridge, M.E. Barry, K. Dicken, R.K. Henson, C.R. Horridge, S. Horridge, E. Key, M. Lunn, J. McCarthy, E. Mikey, C. Rose, M. Rose, M. Shepherd, A.P. Sheriff, R. Thomas, J. Williams and R. Yates,

SA/18. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mr. & Mrs. Pallett and C. Wright.

SA/19. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Pitt reported that the crime rate in Derbyshire was at its lowest for six years, and there had been a 29% reduction in crime over this time. A local confidence survey had also been completed and 73% of residents felt 'fairly' or 'very' confident with the local police.

He advised that a Section 30 Dispersal Order had been issued for the town centre, and he also gave details on a local resident who had been given an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO), and was now banned from the town centre. In addition, a new Officer, P.C. Dave Walker, would be taking up a position locally within the next month.

A resident asked if details of the person who had been issued with an ASBO could be distributed to local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. Sergeant Pitt responded that he would deal with this directly with the relevant Neighbourhood Watch areas.

A question was raised with regard to Minute No. SA/16 of 20th October 2009. It had been suggested that there should be a dialogue between the District Council and the police to establish a method for people to get an adequate response with regard to noise nuisance.

**The Chief Executive agreed to request that the Director of Community Services investigate and report back to a future Meeting.**

It was asked if the police were aware of problems of anti-social behaviour on the footpath between Burton Road and Harebell Close. The police had been made aware of these problems, and local residents had been advised to complete diary sheets. However, this appeared to be ineffective so far. Sergeant Pitt responded that the police were aware of these issues, but they had a finite amount of resources. It was suggested that residents speak to the Anti Social Behaviour Team at the District Council, as they might have additional resources to help with this problem.

It was pointed out that many motorists were using mobile phones whilst driving and it was asked if the police could address this problem. Sergeant Pitt responded that if residents witnessed a motorist using a mobile phone whilst driving, and were prepared to provide a statement, the police might consider prosecution. It was suggested that volunteers could be used to monitor motorist's mobile phone usage, in the same way that they currently operated the 'Speedwatch' scheme. Sergeant Pitt agreed to forward this suggestion to the Traffic Department.

Concern was raised over highway signage at the roundabout, at the end of Civic Way, opposite Sainsbury's. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that Highways Officers were currently looking at this area and ways in which it might be improved.

It was reported that there were no 'No Cycling' signs on Swadlincote High Street any more.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this and report back to the next Meeting.**

SA/20. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 20th October 2009, were noted.

SA/21. **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 parking on Coppice Side, Members and residents registered their disappointment that an officer from Derbyshire County Council had not attended this Meeting, as invited. Many examples of issues affecting this area were provided.

**The Chief Executive agreed to contact the Chief Executive at Derbyshire County Council requesting a further response from Highways Officers.**

With regard to the response relating to flooding outside the Memorial Club, it was reported that flooding happened in this area continually, and was not due to leaf fall as reported.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to provide a further response to the next Meeting.**

In response to the item on traffic issues in the vicinity of Belmont Street School, the Forum Liaison Officer advised that the current consultation would be completed by the end of January. He added that it would be mid February 2010 before this was considered further, and any proposals would then go before the County Council's Cabinet. A resident responded that she was quite surprised by some of the ideas that had been put forward, and that she had co-ordinated and sent in the petition, but had not been kept updated with progress. It was also reported that this area had been a problem for a number of years and now needed addressing. It was confirmed that consultation letters had been sent to local residents and the School.

SA/22. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was reported that there was a problem with litter and dog fouling on a footpath outside Tesco, Heathcote Road, approaching Chiltern Road.

**The Chief Executive agreed to look into this and respond to the next Meeting.**

With regard to Minute No. SA/16 from the Meeting on 20th October 2009, it was reported that an item which the Director of Community Services had agreed to follow up with regard to the Railway Inn Public House had not been dealt with.

**The Chief Executive agreed to request that this be followed up as soon as possible.**

A resident reported that many potholes had already appeared on the new road surface on Wilmot Road/York Road. He believed that the contractors should be recalled, as it was a new surface that had deteriorated very quickly.

**The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter and respond to the next Meeting.**

A resident expressed concern over reports in the local press that the District Council were working with East Staffordshire Borough Council with a view to providing a joint waste collection service. The Chief Executive responded that both District Councils were exploring each other's service, and would be considering what each currently offered. He added that the service would not be compromised, but options were being explored.

A resident reported that people were fly tipping on a piece of land on the Linton to Rosliston Road.

**The Chief Executive agreed to look into this and respond to the next Meeting.**

An update was requested on the work, which was both currently going ahead and also that planned for Swadlincote Town Centre. The Chief Executive reported that the work on West Street was on target and should be completed

by the end of March, which would then be followed by work on the Delph. He was also confident that work would commence on Market Street shortly.

SA/23. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The County Councillor was asked what residents of South Derbyshire could expect from the County Council in the future. Councillor Mrs. Farrington gave an update on items including refurbishment of the High Street and work which was due to commence on Tollgate at Woodville.

SA/24. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

**YOUR AREA – OPTIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND PLACE SURVEY RESULTS**

The Chief Executive gave an update on the Place Survey results 2008/09. He reported that this was a new statutory survey that all English local authorities were required to carry out every two years. A total of 4,000 questionnaires were mailed out to randomly selected addresses between October and December 2008. 1,616 questionnaires were completed (41%). Results had been analysed by Community Forum Area and the key issues for Swadlincote were included within the presentation. Results were reported under various headings and included satisfaction with the local area, crime, community involvement and satisfaction with the District Council.

The Chief Executive also gave a presentation on the District Council's Core Strategy, which was currently being consulted upon. He advised that the Council's Core Strategy would guide development and investment that would take place in South Derbyshire over the next 20 years. The options looked at how much development should take place in South Derbyshire up to 2026 and where it should be built. A summary leaflet was available to residents and this provided highlights of some of the main points and advised residents how to find out more information. The consultation document was available at the Council's Civic Offices, public libraries and some Post Offices. In addition, it could be downloaded from the Council's website. Residents were reminded that it was important to respond by 31st March 2010.

**PRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET**

A presentation was also given on the District Council's budget for 2010/11. An example of council tax for a Band D property was given and it was also shown how this was split between the County Council, Police, Fire Authority and parishes. The Council's net running costs were confirmed, as were how they were financed and how those funds were used.

It was reported that the 2010/11 initial budget showed a deficit of £484,250, which was to be funded by reserves. This was due to the recession, a review of the Government Grant and also uncertainty of the future. The District Council had accumulated cashable efficiencies to date of £677,000, and they aimed to reduce the deficit and restore reserves, keep Council Tax low and maintain and improve services. The timetable for the budget proposals was set out. It was confirmed that a full copy of the report 'Consolidated Budget

Proposals 2010/11' and the 'Financial Plan to 2015' could be found on the website at [www.south-derbys.gov.uk](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk).

SA/25. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next Meeting would be held on 16th March 2010 at Sharpe's Pottery and Arts Museum, West Street, Swadlincote. It was requested that the following Meeting should be held at Church Gresley.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.