

ETWALL AREA MEETING

30th April 2002

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Whyman (Chair), Councillor Hood (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Lemmon and Mrs. Walton.

I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn.

Derbyshire Constabulary

PC R. Frost.

Parish Council Representatives

H. Thornton (Burnaston Parish Council), N. Ireland and Mrs. J. Newton (Etwall Parish Council), J. Chisnall and Mrs. L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), C. Woodward (Foston and Scropton Parish Council) and J. Cumpstone (Hilton Parish Council).

South Derbyshire CVS

D. Rider and L. Williams.

Members of the Public

S. Avery, S. Bell, W.P. Black, B. Cowley, A. Crossley, J. Dove, R. Grimmett, D. Parkinson, J. Smith, I. Smith, S. Salt and G. Wale.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Inspector Hargreaves (Derbyshire Constabulary), Mrs. H. Hague and Mrs. B. Smedley.

EA/25. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 30th January 2002 were noted.

EA/26. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair gave an update on the Lottery funding being sought to provide new leisure facilities in Etwall. Following recent press articles, it was confirmed that the amount of Lottery funding from any successful application was unlikely to meet the costs of building a new Leisure Centre. This information had been reported to the Council's Community Services Committee, the Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee and its Community Group. The news had been met with disappointment and these views were shared by the Chair, County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn and others present at the Meeting. Mr. Rider felt there was a lack of co-ordination between the different Lottery funding groups.

Ian Reid commented that South Derbyshire compared favourably to some other East Midlands areas in terms of the Lottery funding that it received. However, Lottery funding for sports facility provision had been reduced and re-allocated

for such things as the New Opportunities Fund and specific projects including the new National Stadium. Being realistic, it would be necessary for the Leisure Centre's funding partners to provide significant additional resources and then to seek supplementary funding from Sport England for the new Leisure Centre. He gave a broad outline of a possible way forward in the longer term, recognised the need to maintain the existing facility and to retain community support for the project.

The Chair reiterated his concerns and felt that South Derbyshire received a relatively low proportion of Lottery funding. He spoke about rural deprivation, urged parish council representatives to raise this matter at their respective councils and to lobby the National Lottery over its lack of support.

EA/27. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and explained the progress made in each case. A further letter had been sent to the Highways Agency to seek the requested noise measurement information. A response had still not been received, despite numerous requests and it was not proposed to pursue this matter further.

A detailed response had been sent to Etwall Parish Council following the issues raised at the last Meeting about public toilet provision. At that Meeting issues had also been raised on behalf of Hilton Parish Council. Letters had been sent to the Environmental Services Department at Derbyshire County Council on priorities for winter maintenance and road surfacing/repair in Back Lane, Hilton. A response had been received, setting out proposed road repairs for the summer months. Some repair works had already taken place, but these were considered unsatisfactory and the Parish Council was pursuing this with the Environmental Services Department. County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn agreed to pursue this matter also. A response was awaited on the priorities for winter maintenance.

An update was given on the problems experienced with litter in the vicinity of Park Farm, Etwall. Ian Reid explained that the "Clean Team" had been involved in removing refuse from the area and following a recent inspection, the situation appeared to have improved. Mr. Smith, the owner of Park Farm addressed the Meeting and voiced his concerns. Mr. Reid explained that there was at present a dispute between Mr. Smith and the Council and it was inappropriate for this matter to be discussed further at a public Area Meeting. The Chair endorsed that this was not an appropriate forum and closed the discussion.

EA/28. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Prior to the Meeting, Mrs. Smedley had sought clarification on revisions to the composting scheme. Ian Reid explained that the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was undertaking a review and that the Environment Agency regulated composting schemes Nationally. Discussions had been held with Biffa Waste and it had been agreed to exclude paper and cardboard from the compostible materials collected. Notification had been given to residents of this review.

Subsequently, the Environment Agency had revisited this issue and agreed to allow cardboard in the compostible materials. Ian Reid apologised for the

confusion caused and hoped that residents would continue to participate in the composting scheme. He commented on the good quality of compostible materials received, particularly from the Etwall area. Biffa Waste had commented on the lower quality of compostible materials received from some neighbouring authority's areas.

There was some criticism of the methods used to notify residents of this review. Given the confusion caused, it was proposed to write to all households participating in the composting scheme to clarify the situation. The recycling of cardboard was discussed. It was questioned whether collection points could be provided, or use made of the vehicle which collected paper through the "blue bag" scheme. Mr. Reid explained that a proportion of cardboard was already recycled and there were limited opportunities for its re-use. Complaints were made about the "blue bag" paper recycling scheme, that some collections were missed. For the future, residents were urged to report missed collections as the contractor was obliged to return and collect the bag. Other reported problems arose through empty bags not being secured correctly and litter problems when the waste paper was not deposited properly in the vehicle used for the scheme.

A resident of Hilton commented about the poor condition of a path through the new development to Peacroft Lane. The Chair shared these concerns but understood that proposals were in hand to resolve this in the future.

Mrs Avery of Age Concern sought the support of the Area Meeting for bus shelters to be provided in the vicinity of a doctor's surgery in Hilton. Ian Reid explained that a letter had recently been received from the Primary Care Trust making such a request. He explained that the County Council operated a scheme which would meet 50% of the costs of new bus shelters. He suggested that the Primary Care Trust and Surgery might consider meeting the other half of this cost. Whilst the District Council had no budget to provide new bus shelters, it would maintain them in the future. County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn pledged the sum of £500 from her community budget towards this initiative. There appeared to be some concerns as to whether Trent Buses would alter their current routes to make an additional stop at the proposed new shelter. Etwall Parish Council had written to the Company seeking its co-operation, but Trent Buses had advised that it did not consider the route amendments strategically viable. It was agreed to write to Trent Buses to seek their co-operation in this matter.

Mrs. Nash of Findern Parish Council explained the problems being experienced with the new playing field in that Village. A replacement playing field had been provided following construction of the A50 trunk road. Upon its completion, problems were identified, particularly with poor drainage on the site. The assistance of the District Council had been sought and some drainage works had recently been completed. The Parish Council had not completed the formal lease documentation to assume maintenance liability for the new playing field, but Mrs. Nash advised that it was now in a position to do so. The Chair read a letter explaining the works to be undertaken to complete the site improvements and make it usable. The Vice-Chair gave further detail following his discussions with Officers at the District Council.

Mr. Woodward reported on problems experienced with traveller encampments in the Foston and Scropton areas. He referred to the recent occupation of an area of privately owned land, where the police had refused to take action. The landowner had incurred costs of £3,000 in employing bailiffs to enforce the

eviction of the travellers. He commented on the timescales taken for eviction of travellers and the refuse left afterwards, which the owner had further costs in tidying up. Some landowners were now taking extreme measures to prevent unauthorised access to their land.

Mr. Woodward understood that the Environment Agency had powers to prosecute travellers for such things as unlicensed waste transfer, but seemed reluctant to enforce these powers. Mr. Reid gave an outline of the powers available to the Environment Agency and the need for witness statements to enable prosecutions to take place. The Environment Agency had a free telephone “hotline” on which incidents could be reported (telephone 0800 807060). It was agreed to circulate this telephone number to all Parish Clerks and Chairmen of Parish Meetings. The Chair spoke about the powers available to the Derbyshire Constabulary, but noted that these powers were not always exercised. It was agreed to write to the Chief Constable expressing the concerns raised.

A resident commented on the removal of abandoned vehicles, referring to a vehicle abandoned in the Belfield Road area of Etwall. Mr. Reid outlined Government proposals to assist local authorities in removing such vehicles more speedily, dependent upon their condition and possible value. The Chair explained the responsibilities of the Police and those of the District Council.

Enquiries were submitted about the frequencies of channel sweeping and gully emptying. Mr. Reid gave an outline of the service provided by a contractor appointed by the District Council, on behalf of the County Council. The role of the Parish lengthsmen was also discussed. Councillor Hood agreed to provide further information to Findern Parish Council.

EA/29. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next Etwall Area Meeting would be held on Wednesday 24th July 2002 at 7.00 p.m. at the Hatton Centre, Station Road, Hatton.

EA/30. **COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES – OUTREACH WORK**

David Rider gave a presentation on the outreach work of the Council for Voluntary Services. At present, an information point was provided in the Etwall Library each Wednesday morning between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon. A further information point would be launched at the Hatton Centre on 1st May 2002 and it would provide a weekly drop-in centre on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. The CVS operated a Village Hall Forum for those involved in running village halls. It met on a quarterly basis and was next due to meet in Rosliston in July. Mr. Rider gave a brief outline of the Social Car Scheme which the CVS operated. This was funded by the Primary Care Trust and further information was available on request.

Lesley Williams reported on the project being undertaken in the north-western parishes to assist people who had suffered as a result of the foot and mouth outbreak last year. The project had been funded by the East Midlands Development Agency and would operate for a period of twelve months. The project sought to identify the need for support services in the rural areas and to “signpost” specialist services. Initially, it was proposed to build a knowledge base and to determine the problems in each area. Meetings were being held with various agencies and the CVS would provide information and advice

services in the rural areas. Consideration was being given to establishing access points, possibly in local shops or public houses and it was hoped to establish surgeries or drop-in centres. Volunteer village contacts were being sought who would hold basic information on the services available and training would be given to any person interested in fulfilling this role. The aims of the project were to identify the needs for communities and to begin to address them. It was hoped to recruit the necessary village contacts, identify gaps in provision and seek funding or ways to address them. Feedback was sought on the proposals.

The Chair praised the remarkable work of the Council for Voluntary Services and the support that it gave vulnerable people in South Derbyshire. He thanked David and Lesley for the presentation.

EA/31. **CONDITION OF PROPERTIES – NEW ROAD, HILTON**

Following the issues raised at the last Meeting on behalf of Hilton Parish Council, a survey had been undertaken of New Road, Hilton. There appeared to be ten properties in the road which were in need of some maintenance work. Typical problems reported were overgrown front gardens, fencing with broken panels and properties in need of repair and/or decoration. There were three Council properties amongst those identified and instructions had been placed to remedy those problems. Representatives of the Parish Council voiced their appreciation for the feedback.

B. WHYMAN

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.