

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

10th August 2006

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Harrington (Chair), Councillors Southerd and Tilley.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), G. Hague (Head of Planning), F. Powell (Democratic Services Officer) and B. Jones [Help Desk].

**Derbyshire County Council Representative**

Councillor Southerd and K. McIntyre (Democratic Services).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Acting Sergeant Proudler.

**Members of the Public**

M. E. Barsby, M. Lunn, Mr. and Mrs. Causer, J. Williamson, D. Simpkins, T. Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Key, J. Eaton, G. Farrington, [Swadlincote and District 50+ Forum], E. Hill, B. Wright, S. P. Robinet, D. Baines, A. D. Pitcher, S. M. Pitcher, D. Pitcher, J. Tomlinson, M. Hudson, C. Horridge, S. Horridge, M. Palmer, J. Jackson, B. Dolman and J. Lummis.

SA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was noted that Councillor Harrington had been appointed Chair of the Swadlincote Area Meeting for the Municipal Year 2006/07 at the Annual Council Meeting.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Lane, R. Lane, County Councillor Mrs. K. Lauro, Mr. D. Tysoe (County Secretary Derbyshire County Council), T. Harvey and D. Staley.

SA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

**It was agreed that Councillor Southerd be appointed as Vice Chair of the Swadlincote Area Meeting for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2006/07.**

SA/3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 8th May 2006 were noted, subject to an amendment to page 3, in respect of a correction to the spelling of Maurice Lea Park.

SA/4. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Councillor Southerd gave a verbal report to the Meeting in respect of the Zebra Crossing at Church Gresley, he advised that as there was no history of

pedestrian or traffic accidents at the site, it was not feasible to upgrade the Crossing. Councillor Southerd referred to the Crossing in Linton Road, he confirmed that Derbyshire County Council did intend to upgrade this to a Pedestrian or Puffin Crossing when resources were available to do so.

**The Meeting agreed to note the information provided by Councillor Southerd in respect of the Zebra Crossing at Church Gresley and the Crossing at Linton Road.**

Councillor Southerd gave a verbal report to the Meeting on concerns relating to obstructions caused by parking outside Tesco Express, Church Street, Church Gresley. It was confirmed that there were now sufficient bollards in place to prevent vehicles from mounting the kerb or parking directly outside the store or on the footway immediately adjacent to it. Derbyshire County Council had authorised a Bus Stop Clearway for the bus stop opposite the store, which would prohibit any vehicle, other than a bus from parking or waiting at the site. It was confirmed that no further measures were proposed at this time.

**The Area Meeting agreed to note the information provided by Councillor Southerd in respect of concerns relating to parking outside Tesco Express, Church Street, Church Gresley.**

The Meeting considered a report and received a verbal update on the concerns relating to a visual obstruction caused by an over-grown bush at the Common Side Roundabout. An Officer from the County Council advised that the bush had been cut back and was not now causing a visual obstruction.

Mr. Causer advised that he considered that the bush still prevented an adequate view through the visibility splay and requested that it be removed.

**The Area Meeting agreed to request that Officers from the County Council and the District Council investigate the ownership of the site so that action could be taken to remove the bush at the Common Side Roundabout.**

The Meeting considered a report and received a verbal update on the condition of the surface way at Bank Passage, Swadlincote and the condition of the fencing of properties immediately adjacent to the site. Following the health and safety concerns expressed at the last Meeting, repair work to the most severe ruts/depressions on the surface way at Bank Passage had been undertaken.

Responding to a question from Mrs. Farrington, the Chief Executive advised that the legal responsibility for the site rested with Derbyshire County Council, repairs would be undertaken over the next ten days. Repairs to the fences to the private properties adjacent to the site would be considered as part of the proposals for the redevelopment of the area.

**The Meeting agreed to note the information provided in respect of the repair work to the surface way of Bank Passage, Swadlincote and that repairs to the fences of the private properties adjacent to the site would be considered as part of the proposals for the redevelopment of the area.**

The Meeting received a report on the provision of, “Dogs on Lead” and “Don’t let your dog foul” signs in Maurice Lea Park, Church Gresley. It was confirmed that the signs had not yet been displayed in Maurice Lea Park. A resident requested that the above signs also be provided in the Eureka Park.

**It was agreed that District Council Officers be requested to report back to the next Area Meeting to advise when the Dogs on Lead/Dog Fouling signs would be displayed at the Maurice Lea Park, Church Gresley and whether similar signs could be provided in the Eureka Park, Swadlincote.**

SA/5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A number of residents at the Meeting expressed concern about the parking of vehicles by the occupant of 228 Hearthcote Road, Swadlincote and the obstruction this caused. Councillor Southerd outlined the background to the matter and the work already undertaken by Derbyshire County Council. It was confirmed that the vehicles were parked on County Council owned land. Acting Sergeant Proudler advised the Meeting of the role of the Police in such cases.

**It was agreed that Officers from the County Council and the Police be requested to investigate jointly the obstruction caused by the parking of vehicles on County Council owned land adjacent to 228 Hearthcote Road, Swadlincote to establish what action could be taken and that a report on this matter be submitted to the next Area Meeting.**

A resident requested that in future the start time for District Council Meetings be included in the details circulated with Area Meeting papers.

**It was agreed that in future the information included on Area Meeting Agendas on the dates for District Council Meetings include the start time for each meeting.**

A resident expressed concern regarding the condition of a piece of rough ground adjacent to the Tesco store, Hearthcote Road, he advised that the site had knott weed and could attract vermin.

**The Area Meeting agreed that Officers from the District Council be requested to investigate the condition of the rough ground adjacent to the Tesco store site, Hearthcote Road, Swadlincote and that a report on this matter be submitted to the next Area Meeting.**

Mrs. Eaton of 5 Park Road, Castle Gresley requested that action be taken to remove the 5 Poplar trees in front of her house on Gresley Common.

**It was agreed that Officers from the District Council investigate the concerns expressed by Mrs. Eaton in respect of the 5 Poplar trees in front of her property on Gresley Common and that a report on the matter be submitted to the next Area Meeting.**

Responding to a question from a resident, the Chief Executive advised that the Council did have powers to require landowners to remove litter and rubbish from their land. It was confirmed that proposals were under consideration to enable private finance to be used to improve the condition of jitties in the area.

There then followed a series of questions on environmental issues:

- Are fast food outlets charged for the litter generated by their premises?
- Is it an offence to urinate in a public place?
- What was a Green Machine?

- Concern about the effectiveness of the Councils work to remove weeds using a spray gun system.

**Following discussions, the Area Meeting agreed:**

- **That officers from the District Council be requested to investigate the arrangements for the removal of weeds by a spraying method and that Mr. Williams be advised accordingly.**
- **That it be noted that the District Council would request local food retailers to display notices asking people not to drop litter.**

Responding to a question from a resident, it was confirmed that consideration would be given to locking the main gates at Maurice Lea Park, Church Gresley if vandalism at the Park increased.

Mr. Robinet reiterated the concerns he expressed at the last Area Meeting. Responding to the statement about parking problems outside the Tesco Express site, Acting Sergeant Proudler requested that the registration numbers of vehicles parked regularly in the no parking area be forwarded to the Police so that action could be taken.

A resident expressed concern at the time taken by the Police to reply to non-emergency calls on their help line.

**The Area Meeting noted that Acting Sergeant Proudler had agreed to discuss in detail the concerns expressed relating to the time taken by the Police to respond to non-emergency calls with the resident who had raised the matter at the end of the Meeting.**

**(At this point, Councillor Southerd left the meeting at 8.25 p.m. The Meeting became inquorate and accordingly proceeded on an informal and informative basis only).**

SA/6. **HOW WE DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS - PRESENTATION BY HEAD OF PLANNING**

A copy of the Head of Planning's presentation was circulated to all Members of the public present at the Meeting.

The Area Meeting was advised that once a planning application was submitted and validated the time period started for the Government's target period for determining applications, eight weeks for most applications and thirteen weeks for major ones.

The presentation provided detailed information on the procedure for planning applications, particularly:

- The Consultation Process
- Determination of applications either by an Officer under a delegated power or by the Development Control Committee.
- Planning legislation and reasonableness in the decision making process for applications.

A number of residents made comments about the layout of car parking if a development similar to Tesco Express was proposed in future. Concern was

expressed by a number of residents regarding the increased volume of traffic on Hearthcote Road and the opportunity missed to link through to William Nadin Way.

**The Area Meeting noted the presentation on the procedures followed by the District Council when determining planning applications.**

SA/7. **CONSULTATION- GETTING YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION**

The Meeting received a brief presentation from the Chief Executive on the District Council's proposals for the public consultation arrangements for the next Corporate Plan.

The Chief Executive said that the purpose of the consultation leaflet was to seek ideas for improvements to the Council's services from the local community. Everyone present at the meeting was requested to complete the form and return it to the Council so that residents' comments could be fed into the Council's corporate and budget planning process.

**The Area Meeting agreed to note the presentation on Getting your ideas into action.**

SA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Democratic Services Officer advised that the next Area Meeting would be held in November 2006 on a date to be discussed and agreed with the Chair.

K. HARRINGTON

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.45 p.m.