

REPTON AREA MEETING

10th May 2006

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chair) and Councillors Bell, Bladen (Vice-Chair) Mrs. Hood, Isham and Mrs Wheeler.

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

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

County Councillor A. Jones and A. Bond (Democratic Services Officer).

District Council/County Council's Representative

Councillor M. Ford.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant S. Thandi.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

C. J. Bailey (Woodville Parish Council), D. Buchanan (Newton Solney Parish Council), D. Roberts (Repton Parish Council), R. Paulson (Repton Parish Council), A. Parker (Newton Solney Parish Council) D. Adams (Hartshorne Parish Council), A. Topliss (Newton Solney Parish Council) and P. Ricketts (Willington Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Mr. and Mrs. J. Cownie, A. D. Gillespie, S. M. Smith, J. Stamford, G. Varty, P. Pearson, I. Parker, J. Smith, C. Manifold, A. Kimber.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from County Councillor Southerd, Mr R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council), Mr Cumming, Mr P. Yates and Mr Vincent.

RA/16. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 1st February 2006 were received and noted.

RA/17. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Committee considered a report on issues raised at the last Area Meeting on 1st February 2006.

Item 1 – Cars and HGV vehicles parked illegally between the Antique Shop and the War Memorial, High Street, Woodville

The Area Meeting was advised that the police had agreed to continue to monitor any cars and HGV vehicles parked illegally in the area between the

antique shop and the War Memorial in High Street, Woodville. It was confirmed that Traffic Wardens had visited the area but that the parking signs displayed were not legally enforceable, this matter had been raised with Highway Officers at Derbyshire County Council and a response was awaited.

The police advised that enforcement action against drivers parking on the pavement could only be taken where an actual obstruction was caused or a vehicle was seen driving on the pavement, action would be taken on this matter but it could not be dealt with as priority issue on a day to day basis.

Sergeant S. Thandi requested that any member of the public who continued to experience problems in respect of the parking of cars and or HGV vehicles in the area between the antique shop and the War Memorial in High Street, Woodville should contact her to discuss the detail of their concerns.

It was agreed that the information set out in the report in respect of the parking of cars and HGV vehicles illegally between the antique shop and the War Memorial in High Street, Woodville be noted.

Item 2 – Parking of Lorries in Lay-bys in and around the A50 particularly in the Findern and Littleover areas

Councillor Ford advised the Meeting that action was being taken in respect of the parking of lorries in lay-bys in and around the A50 and that an Enforcement Notice had been issued recently in respect of a caravan. Councillor Ford advised that given the locations in question he would raise this matter at the next Etwall Area Meeting.

It was agreed that the information provided by Councillor Ford in respect of the parking of lorries in lay-bys in and around the A50, particularly in the Findern and Littleover areas be noted and that the matter would be raised at the next Etwall Area Meeting for its consideration.

Item 3 – Road surface and traffic calming measures in Newton Solney

The Meeting was advised that a site visit had taken place in Newton Solney on 24th February 2006 involving Councillor Ford, Members of Newton Solney Parish Council and Highways Officers from Derbyshire County Council. The following issues were discussed at the site visit:

- Condition of the road surface on Repton Road and Main Street, Members were advised that unfortunately due to the absence of adequate funding there is little chance of any repairs in the immediate future.
- Potholes, verge erosion/drainage problems on Blacksmith Lane and Trent Lane, these matters will be investigated by the County Council Area Care Manager.
- Concerns about the general speed of traffic on Repton Road and Main Street. The Meeting was advised that the County Council would be arranging speed surveys in May 2006 to see if there was a major problem particularly in relation to the time of day the problem arose. The results of the speed surveys would be forwarded to the police for any action where considered necessary and Newton Solney Parish Council would be advised of the results of the surveys.

Mr Buchanan said that in respect of the condition of the road surface on Repton Road and Main Street he thought the comments in the report were slightly pessimistic, as he had been advised that funding might be available in the new financial year.

It was agreed that the information set out in the report in respect of the road surface and traffic calming measures in Newton Solney be noted.

Item 4 – Traffic congestion and road safety issues in and around Woodville, traffic signs and enforcement of traffic regulations and parking conditions in and around Woodville

The Area Meeting was advised that the issues of traffic congestion, road safety, traffic signage, enforcement of traffic regulations and parking conditions in and around Woodville was discussed at a Public Meeting held in Woodville on 13th March 2006 and that this matter would be the subject of a separate verbal report later in the Meeting.

Item 5 – Information on the Woodville – Swadlincote Town Centre Area Action Plan

The Meeting was advised that a presentation on the Woodville-Swadlincote Town Centre Area Action Plan was given by the Head of Planning Services from the District Council to both the Public Meeting held in Woodville on the 13th March 2006 and the meeting of the Woodville Parish Council on 14th March 2006.

The Meeting was informed that groundwork consultants were undertaking a telephone survey of businesses in the area and that a wider employment land study was shortly to be completed. Targeted consultation and options would be undertaken in June 2006 as programmed in the Local Development Scheme. It was confirmed that the Area Meeting and the Woodville Parish Council would be kept informed on progress with the Area Action Plan.

It was agreed that the information provided in respect of the Woodville – Swadlincote Town Centre Area Action Plan be noted.

Item 6 – Concern relating to the speed of police vehicles travelling through Repton when responding to emergencies

The Meeting was advised that the police had confirmed that concerns relating to the speed of police vehicles travelling through Repton when responding to emergencies was a regular complaint which had been answered previously. Police vehicles have and would in the future need to travel through Repton to emergency calls as this was often the most direct route to respond to many locations. The police advised if a specific complaint about the standard of police driving was received it would be investigated accordingly.

A number of residents at the Meeting advised that there was a problem with speeding traffic in Main Street, Repton and requested that a police camera be located in the Main Street in Repton to monitor the speed of cars in the area, so that any appropriate action could be taken.

It was agreed that:

- (1) The information provided by the police in respect of the speed of police vehicles travelling through Repton when responding to emergencies be noted.**
- (2) That the police be requested to place a speed traffic camera in Main Street, Repton to monitor the speed of traffic in the area.**

Item 7 – Request that the police disclose the appropriate section of results from recent traffic speed surveys to all Parish Councils from the boundary of the Area Meeting

The Meeting was advised that a copy of the most recent traffic speed check in respect of Repton had been provided to the Repton Parish Council on 20th February 2006.

It was agreed that the information contained in the report in respect of the disclosure of appropriate sections of results from recent traffic speed surveys to all Parish Councils within the boundary of the Area Meeting be noted.

RA/18. **HIGHWAY/PLANNING ISSUES WOODVILLE**

The Meeting was advised that following the concerns expressed at the last Area Meeting and the Public Meeting on 13th March 2006, Derbyshire County Council had provided the following highway/planning information in respect of Woodville:

Moira Road, Woodville – traffic calming

Consultation with residents and statutory bodies had confirmed that the majority were in favour of a road hump scheme in Moira Road, Woodville, the Public Notice procedure would be followed and subject to the responses received, it was hoped that Tapton estates would be asked to forward the necessary funding to the County Council before any further action was taken.

Waiting Restrictions – Woodville

It was confirmed that the objections lodged for the proposed amendments to the waiting restrictions in Woodville had been overruled at a recent meeting of the County Council's Cabinet and that a new Order would be made to come into operation in the next month.

Enforcing speed limits on any road in Woodville

The Meeting was advised that the enforcement of speed limits on any road in Woodville was a power exclusive to the police, the existence of speed limits was set at an appropriate and realistic level and that no changes were proposed.

Woodville Infant School Signs

The Meeting was advised that arrangements were being made to provide improved warning signs for the Woodville Infant school site, signs to be in place within the next few weeks.

Highway/Planning Issues – Woodville

The County Council confirmed that the concerns of local residents and others in respect of a cumulative impact of traffic generated by new development in and around Woodville was acknowledged and understood, however the development control process was governed by national policy and guidance which did not lend itself to the assessment of cumulative impact of relatively small proposals. It was considered that the refusal of planning permission for a development that did not, in isolation, result in a demonstratively material increase in traffic and consequential harm would not be defensible in the event of an appeal.

It was agreed that the information provided by Derbyshire County Council in respect of the highway/planning issues in respect of Woodville be noted.

RA/19. **PRESENTATION BY DERBYSHIRE FIRE SERVICE**

The Chairman welcomed Station Manager Mr Chris Smith to the meeting who was in attendance to give a presentation on the work of the Derbyshire Fire Service. Mr Smith advised the Meeting that there were three elements to the work of the Fire and Rescue Service namely:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Intervention

Mr. Smith said that the Fire Service was seeking to develop a more proactive service, and detailed the various strategies and plans, including area plans, community fire safety plans and home risk assessments. The Meeting was advised of the education and community group work undertaken by the fire service to promote fire safety awareness within the community, particularly schools.

Mr. Smith concluded his presentation with details of the Fire Services free home risk assessment service.

Responding to questions from the members of the public, Mr. Smith said the Fire Service tried to prevent fires at schools such as the recent ones at Sinfin and Pingle schools and that consideration was being given to the introduction of sprinklers in schools. He said that the design of schools was a crucial factor, some of the school building stock was particularly vulnerable to fires due to its age and layout.

There then followed a brief discussion about the recent building of gated communities in Repton and how the Fire Service gained access to such sites. Mr. Smith confirmed that he believed that the properties in question did have a built in sprinkler system, but if the Fire Service did need emergency access to the sites it would take whatever action was necessary to obtain it.

Following the conclusion of the presentation it was noted that although the introduction of sprinklers at schools could in particular circumstances save buildings and costs they could also damage school premises.

Concern was expressed regarding the need for Care in the Community facilities in the South Derbyshire area which provided premises for vulnerable adults to have a sprinkler system and that any action that the Fire Service could take to pursue this matter with the relevant Planning Authority would be welcomed.

The Chair on behalf of the Meeting thanked Mr. Smith for a relevant and informative presentation.

RA/20. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Toyota Roundabout – Road Traffic Accident

Mr. Paulson advised the Meeting that a serious road traffic accident had occurred in the area adjacent to the Toyota roundabout on 9th May 2006 when a lorry had gone into a house in Willington Road. Mr. Paulson said that residents had in the past requested the installation of traffic lights at the roundabout as a measure to try to alleviate some of the traffic problems and it was crucial that traffic lights were provided.

Councillor Ford advised that work to improve the Toyota roundabout would commence in June 2006 and that traffic lights were an ideal solution, but funding was not available at the present time. The Meeting was advised that the Highways Agency was the relevant authority responsible for the Highway Network.

It was agreed that the information provided by both Mr. Paulson in respect of the recent road traffic accident and Councillor Ford in respect of improvement works in the area adjacent to the Toyota roundabout be noted.

Planning Issues

There was a general discussion regarding to what extent the views of Parish Councils were taken into account when planning applications were considered by both the District and County Councils. The Meeting was reminded that Area Meetings should not discuss particular planning applications as this could amount to pre-consideration and prevent Elected Members from participating in any subsequent decisions of the Council's Development Control Committee.

The Meeting was informed that the comments and concerns of Parish Councils in respect of Planning Applications were taken into account and referred to in reports when the District Council was considering applications. It was suggested that it would be appropriate for the next round of Area Meetings to receive a presentation on how the District Council deals with Planning Applications, how decisions are arrived at, and the policies and methodology used in the planning process.

It was agreed that the next Area Meeting receive a presentation on the process for dealing with planning applications - the policies and methodologies used and how decisions are arrived at.

Parking Issues in Woodville High Street

Mrs Smith expressed her disappointment at the information contained in the report back on issues raised at the last Area Meeting relating to the parking issues in High Street, Woodville. Mrs Smith said that the response from the County Council was not satisfactory.

It was agreed that an Officer from Derbyshire County Council contact Mrs Smith direct to discuss in detail the parking problem in High Street, Woodville and the action taken by the County Council.

District Council - Responses to Complaints

Responding to a question from the member of the public the Chief Executive, Mr F. McArdle advised the Area Meeting that complaints submitted to the District Council should be answered by Officers within ten working days.

RA/21. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Democratic Services Officer advised that the date of the next meeting was yet to be arranged but it was likely to be held in August 2006.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.