

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

7th February 2006

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Richards (Chair), Councillor Mrs Mead (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mulgrew and Wilkins.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), S. Knight (Head of Policy and Regeneration), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Lorraine Neave and Karen Ashley (Waste Management Officers).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Bambrick and Jones.

G. Duckworth (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Members of the Public

P. Bambrick, M. Broad, L.R. Compter, I.A. Fern, P.J. Foy, E.A. Foy, L. Gadsby, R. House, R. Holden, R. Hughes, J. Leach, C. Maddock, D. Mansfield, B. Marsden, K.J. Parker, W. Parker, M. Perry, M. Richards, B. Woods.

NA/17. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mrs M. Dunn, C. Gillespie and G. Hall.

NA/18. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 1st November 2005 were noted.

NA/19. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting and handed over to the Chief Executive who gave a brief up-date on the current situation with regard to the fire at B & Q. He confirmed that the wind had carried low-grade asbestos particles into the air following this fire, some of which had been found in Newhall. An Emergency Planning Meeting had taken place with a result that the following day a leaflet drop would be completed, radio announcements and a press release would take place and all schools would be contacted. He confirmed that it was most important not to touch any of this debris.

NA/20. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made in each case.

With regard to the junction adjacent to the Lamb Inn at Newhall, it was confirmed that an additional report from Derbyshire County Council had

been issued prior to the meeting. Discussion took place regarding this issue and it was considered that this junction was dangerous.

The Chair assured the Meeting that this would continue to be monitored.

With regard to the illegal parking on Orchard Street/High Street, Sergeant Wright confirmed that PC Richard Proudler had issued penalty notices relating to obstruction. The Police had received no further complaints from residents in the area. Residents confirmed that this did continue to cause problems, and requested that police monitoring continue.

Sergeant Wright suggested that residents ring and report this matter to the police when an obstruction was taking place. He agreed to continue monitoring the situation.

A discussion ensued with regard general parking and obstruction problems within the area. An example was Sunnyside Court where it was perceived that members of staff from the local school were parking on the main road, causing problems with access and obstruction.

Sergeant Wright requested that these problems of obstruction be reported to the police.

Councillor Bambrick reported that with regard to the alignments on the highway at the A444, Park Road, Stanton, a Highways Inspector had visited this site and judged that currently the safest option was to leave the lines as existed.

The noise problems from Bison Concrete were discussed. It was confirmed that there were still issues with regard noise from weekend working at this site, as recently as the previous weekend (4th and 5th February 2006).

It was agreed that this be reported to the relevant Officer within Environmental Health.

A resident raised the issue of low-level noise within the District. The Chair confirmed that both himself and Councillor Bambrick were currently discussing this with Environmental Health. They were gathering evidence in order to raise the issue and hoped to be able to forward this to the M.P. with the support of both the County and District Councils. The resident affected was asked to leave his name and address with the Helpdesk so he could be contacted to discuss this further.

The Chair then asked that with permission of the Meeting he would like to amend the order of business. This was agreed.

NA/21. **BUDGET OVERVIEW AND CORPORATE PLAN - CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS**

The Chair introduced this item, explaining that the community's feedback was sought on priorities, to determine where Council resources were spent. Frank McArdle, Chief Executive at the District Council, gave a presentation, initially on the Draft Corporate Plan for the period 2006 to 2009. An outline was given of the consultation undertaken as part of this process. The Council's top three priorities were reported as reducing crime and the fear of crime, tackling the causes and effects of anti-social behaviour and providing efficient and effective customer services. There were a number of action areas, ranked under various themes. Additional action areas were reported

as, developing the capacity of the community and voluntary sector and preventing floods and other emergencies. Providing opportunities to take part in physical activity and working in partnership to promote healthy lifestyles were further action areas, together with addressing environmental issues within rural communities and promoting citizenship. A further slide showed the proposed way forward in developing the plan.

Residents views were sought by participating in an exercise to highlight priorities on a series of charts displayed around the venue. The Chair reinforced the main messages from this presentation and referred to the “long list” of Service Development Proposals.

Following the exercise, the Chief Executive continued with a presentation on the budget overview and forecast financial position for 2006 - 2009. In terms of revenue, the overall position was forecast to remain relatively healthy for the period to 2009. The Government had provided information on the financial settlement for South Derbyshire for the next two years. For 2006/07 the settlement was 7% or £400,000 in cash terms. For 2007/08, a 6% settlement had been awarded, which was a further £375,000 in cash terms. Additionally, money would be provided to introduce a free travel scheme for the over 60s within the District. With this revenue funding, it should be possible to maintain a sufficient level of general reserves as a contingency. There would be £1.4m of additional revenue resources available over the next three-year period.

The position on capital was much tighter. There might be a need to review the current 5-year planned programme and there was a forecast shortfall in resources of approximately £350,000. There was a need to identify resources to finance any new proposals. With regard to the Council Tax levels, the current financial plans had been based on assumed increases of 4.5% for the next three years. This was under review and would be determined by the Council at its Meeting on 2nd March 2006, together with the final budget for 2006/07. The Chair added that the Council Tax figures were indicative, were not yet fixed and would be set at a realistic, sensible level.

NA/22. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Concern was expressed at the use of an area of land by people with motorbikes and quad bikes. Residents requested that the entrance to this site be blocked. The Chair responded that as this was privately owned land the District Council was not able to carry this out.

Sergeant Wright responded that he was aware of this issue and the police would continue to monitor and take appropriate action where necessary.

A resident sought an update about a property on Oversetts Road. The Chief Executive confirmed that legal action was pending. In addition a nearby footpath was in a very untidy state.

Councillor Bambrick agreed to take up this issue.

A resident of Sunnyside reported problems with rainwater gathering outside their property.

G Duckworth of Derbyshire County Council agreed to look into this.

It was reported that road sweeping was not taking place in this area, leaving a surplus of litter and fallen leaves. In addition the bins outside the school were overflowing and the recycling bins were not emptied frequently enough.

The Chair responded that for individual issues residents could call the Clean Team. However, he agreed that the extent of this problem would be investigated.

It was pointed out that there were currently no litter bins at the bottom of Sunnyside, and it was requested that additional provision be considered.

It was agreed that this concern would be forwarded to a relevant Officer.

Concern was also expressed about the untidy state of the former entrance to Newhall United Football Club off Oversetts Road. The Chair confirmed that although South Derbyshire District Council had a Right of Way it did not own this land.

The Chief Executive agreed to contact relevant Officers in order to co-ordinate a cleaning effort in this area.

It was reported that the residents refuse bins on Briar Close were not being emptied properly.

It was agreed that the relevant officer would be contacted and asked to look into this.

Councillor Mrs. Mead pointed out that although there were recycling facilities at the Village Hall, there were currently none in the Manor Road area. It was confirmed that these were mainly sited on private land, so if a site could be identified, the recycling team could consider providing additional recycling bins in this area.

Concern was expressed that the sign for the Bretby Crematorium on Geary Lane might need to be re-sited.

Derbyshire County Council agreed to consider this.

It was requested that highway drainage on South Drive, next to the bus stop be examined. When it rained, water gathered, with the result that people waiting at the bus stop were sprayed with water by passing cars.

It was requested that Derbyshire County Council be asked to look into this matter.

It was confirmed that there had recently been works carried out in Newhall by the Severn Trent Water Co., and complaints were made about the poor reinstatement. A specific example of problems experienced was given as outside Council-owned garages, off St Catherines Drive, where the land had been left in an unacceptable condition.

The Chief Executive confirmed that this would be investigated.

A resident expressed concern at the lack of available parking spaces for the District Council Offices and Green Bank Leisure Centre. It was very difficult to park, to access the Leisure Centre, especially around 4 p.m. for children's swimming lessons. The Chief Executive confirmed that many people used this car park when visiting the Leisure Centre. He was aware of potential developments and the additional parking spaces that were required. He also pointed out that car-parking was free in the Town Centre. Council staff were requested to park in the Depot wherever possible.

Concerns were reported about the lack of finger posts and way markers on public rights of way in the Newhall area and on Nadins Way.

The Chief Executive agreed to pursue this issue with the Footpaths Officer.

A resident of The Rise asked why grit bins were no longer in existence in this area.

It was agreed that this would be referred to the relevant Officer to consider.

Concern was expressed that current planning applications did not seem to be advertised within the local newspaper, specifically the Burton Mail. Councillor Dunn confirmed that this was also his perception of the current situation.

The Chief Executive agreed to look into this.

It was considered that the traffic calming measures within Newhall were too severe. It was requested that these be reduced in height.

G Duckworth of Derbyshire County Council agreed to establish if the existing devices complied with the relevant traffic regulations.

NA/23. **RECYCLING AND LITTER**

The Chair introduced Lorraine Neave and Karen Ashley from the Waste Management Department of the District Council.

A presentation was delivered during which they clarified their existing responsibilities, including; street cleansing, the clean team, channel cleaning, gulley cleansing, litter picking, fly tipping, recycling, green box/blue bag scheme, composting, kerbside collection, refuse, waste minimisation and promoting “real” nappies. The Team were also currently working with schools, promoting the Cleaner Neighbourhood Act. A discussion then ensued regarding the perception of overflowing recycling centres, for example at the Sainsburys site. It was confirmed that most rubbish left outside these recycling centres was non-recyclable and therefore constituted fly tipping. As part of a programme to try and arrest this trend the recycling site at Sainsburys, Newhall is due to be re-sited closer to the main road, making visibility higher.

Questions were then asked regarding the “real” nappy scheme and it was confirmed that a “real” nappy network was currently trying to raise awareness within the community. In addition an Officer went out to various groups and organisations, in order to promote “real” nappies.

Those present were also advised that the Council offered reduced price home composting bins. Information was provided on the helpdesk. There were three sizes available and prices ranged from £4.00 to £15.00. Further discussion then took place with regard to the causes of litter and fly tipping.

The Chief Executive thanked Lorraine and Karen for an interesting and informative presentation.

K.J. RICHARDS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 9.05 p.m.

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