

ETWALL AREA MEETING

24th January 2006

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Whyman M.B.E. (Chair), Councillor Bale (Vice Chair) and Councillors Ford, Mrs. Hood, Hood, Mrs. Littlejohn and Mrs. Walton.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), M. Greenway (Policy) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillors Ford and Hood.

G. Duckworth (Democratic Services).

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

H. Thornton (Burnaston Parish Council), N. Ireland and B. Payton (Etwall Parish Council), S. Bell and L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), R. Buxton and C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council) and G. Banton and L. Kolkman (Hilton Parish Council).

**Derbyshire Fire Service**

S. Frayne (Assistant Chief Fire Officer) and R. Dring (Kingsway Station Manager).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

P.C. E. Porter

**Members of the Public**

M. Adcock, F. Baston, K. Baston, D. Bayley, G. Bilbie, P. Black, B. Chell, J. Dove, B. Elliott, J. Ellis, S. Ellis, J. Grant, G. Green, K. James, P. Laughlin, R. Mathews, B. McGibbon, D. Oliver, J. Orme, B. Penlington, J. Redfern, L. Render, S. Render, A. Smedley, V. Smedley, S. Tong, G. Wale, J. Walton, M. Walton, T. Whiting and M. Whiting.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Lemmon, Mrs. S. Avery, Mrs. B. Cowley, M. Cramp, Mr. Gerrard, Mrs. H. Hague, D. Parkinson, Mrs. B. Smedley, Mrs. S. Smith and Mrs. D. Strain.

EA/16. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Meeting held on 27th October 2005 were noted.

EA/17. **MATTERS ARISING**

Further to Minute No. EA/10, Mr. Thurman reported that Hatton Parish Council now had funding for the vehicle activated speed warning sign. Details were awaited from Derbyshire County Council on the provision of this signage. Under Minute No. EA/11, a resident referred to the reported problems with mini motorcycles and questioned whether parents could be encouraged to buy jointly a suitable site for an off road facility. With regard to Minute No. EA/12, there was a discussion on the outcome of a recent planning appeal.

EA/18. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last meeting and he provided an update. Staff from the Clean Team had contacted Mr. Ireland to clarify highway maintenance responsibilities in the Etwall area and to ensure that any outstanding problems were dealt with. The Chair then read extracts of a report from Derbyshire County Council about consultation on a weight restriction for Station Road in Hatton. In response, Mrs. Chell referred to a recent press article about industrial development in the area and associated traffic implications. She made reference to the expansion of the Nestlé Factory and questioned whether vehicles from this factory could be re-routed. Recent traffic surveys showed a further increase in vehicle numbers. Mr. Buxton also referred to industrial development and the traffic impact for the area. **The representative of Derbyshire County Council was asked to report these views back to the appropriate Cabinet Member, so that this could be taken into consideration as part of the consultation.**

EA/19. **BUDGET OVERVIEW AND CORPORATE PLAN - CONSULATION ON PROPOSALS**

The Chair sought the approval of those present to vary the agenda order. He introduced this item, explaining that the community's feedback was sought on priorities, to determine where Council resources were spent. Jayne Jones, Director of Corporate Services 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 on 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 Director of Corporate Services continued with a presentation on the budget overview and forecasted 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 forecasted 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.

Mr. Thurman referred to the concessionary travel scheme and he questioned whether it could be used by passengers wishing to travel outside of the District. The Chair explained that this was a scheme for within South Derbyshire and he recognised the implications for passengers wishing to travel outside the District or indeed the County. The District Council was not content with the current arrangements and was looking at the cost issues and implications. Discussions were taking place with both the County Council and bus companies to see how this could be resolved. Further issues raised were the application of this scheme in Nottinghamshire, the lack of available bus services within South Derbyshire and whether the funding allocation could be re-utilised if the scheme proved impracticable.

EA/20. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident referred to the parking problems in the vicinity of Hilton Primary School. There was recognition of the actions taken by Hilton Parish Council and the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). The Chair introduced Elaine Porter, one of the PCSOs for the area. Mrs. Porter spoke on this issue and she explained proposals for street lining to deter parents from parking improperly. She submitted apologies for the other Officers who had hoped to be present at the meeting. **The representative of Derbyshire County Council was asked to seek information on when the street lining works would be undertaken and to provide details to the clerk and the school's headteacher.**

County Councillor Hood reported on the site meeting that had taken place on the parking problems and several proposals were currently being pursued. **Councillor Hood was asked to assist the County's Officer, to pursue the provision of street lining. It was also agreed to report problems caused by a congested narrow pavement at the school entrance.** Mrs. Kolkman explained that there were two rows of fencing at this point and outlined a proposal to remove one section of the fencing, which would effectively double

the width of the footpath and should address this problem. A further suggestion submitted was to have a teacher present outside the school at the start and end of the school day. Councillor Mrs. Walton referred to discussions with the headteacher and was happy to continue to pursue the reported problems. Councillor Hood explained that work was ongoing between the District and County Councils to pursue improvement of the Greenway.

There was a discussion about the school's expansion and the provision of a second access from Avon Way, which should also help to alleviate the current problems. It was noted that some parents arrived very early at the start and end of the school day to drop off and collect their children.

A resident referred to recent problems in Findern and praised the local Beat Officer, PC Martin, for the support provided.

Mr. Render complained about noise problems from the vehicle depot in Hilton. This issue had been raised at the Area Meeting one year ago and he outlined the problems experienced for residents, particularly since a new access had been created to the depot. He explained that noise monitoring which had taken place and advised those present that the Traffic Commissioner, in determining a licence application had recently found in residents' favour, because of the noise problems. Planning issues were also touched upon. The Chair was mindful of the Council's previous efforts to assist with this issue. There were difficulties in discussing planning matters in the Area Meeting forum. **It was agreed to arrange a meeting with residents and possibly the Member of Parliament, if there was fresh evidence to be considered about noise problems from the vehicle depot in Hilton.** The resident was asked to speak to the clerk after the meeting to pursue this matter.

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

It was reported that the next Etwall Area Meeting would be held on 11th May 2006 and details of the venue would be confirmed.

EA/22. **PRESENTATION BY DERBYSHIRE FIRE SERVICE**

The Chair introduced Sean Frayne and Ray Dring of Derbyshire Fire Service. Mr Frayne thanked residents for the opportunity to give this presentation. He spoke of the changes taking place to the Fire Service and the need for public feedback on the services being delivered. Mr. Dring gave an outline of the services provided through a powerpoint and video presentation. He explained the cost of the Fire Service and the pride of its Officers in delivering the service. The Fire Service was seeking to change its approach, as the majority of work was currently reactive. It was hoped to provide a more proactive, preventative service. He spoke of the consultation arrangements to date and outlined the various plans and strategies which cascaded from an area strategy, a community safety plan and ultimately to individual fire station plans. He then referred to community fire safety and home risk assessments, as the majority of problems occurred in domestic properties. Mr. Dring touched on the educational visits undertaken and particularly the fire safe counselling, for which Derbyshire was the national leader on this initiative. Other areas of work were to educate young offenders on fire safety issues, to give talks to community groups and he touched on the other

publicity undertaken. As an example, where a fire occurred, the service would now contact residents in the vicinity, in the hope of avoiding similar incidents. Maps were displayed showing the location of fire incidents in the whole Derby south area and those within the Etwall Area Division.

The Officer publicised the free home risk assessment service. Anyone wishing to arrange an assessment could contact the Fire Service on (01332) 345440. Mr. Dring repeated that the majority of fire related deaths occurred in domestic property.

The Officer then demonstrated various smoke detector devices including those for people with special needs. He displayed publicity leaflets and materials and urged those present to take a copy. The Chair thanked the Fire Officers for the presentation, which was applauded by those present.

EA/23. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Ford spoke about the Council's new newspaper, which was currently being circulated to residents. As a member of its editorial working panel, he sought feedback on this first issue, if possible in time for the next working panel meeting, the following day. Councillor Mrs. Walton praised this publication and felt that the vibrant photographs would encourage people to read the newspaper.

B. WHYMAN M.B.E.

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.