

ETWALL AREA MEETING

14th April 2004

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Whyman, M.B.E. (Chair), Councillor Mrs. Walton (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Ford and Martin.

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

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Mrs. M. Littlejohn.

Member of Parliament

Mark Todd, M.P.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Parish Council Representatives

C. Prince (Church Broughton Parish Council), N. Ireland (Etwall Parish Council), L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council) and G. Banton (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

A. Anderson, S. Avery, B. Chell, M. Cramp, A. Crossley, J. Dove, C. Gerrard, G. Green, H. Hague, D. Hill, R. Hill, R. Hosking, D. James, R. Matthews, R. Mitchell, J. Newton, B. Payton, V. Rodgers, B. Smedley, I. Smith, C. Thurman, J. Tombs, G. Wale, J. Way and P. Woolrich.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Hood, Mrs. Hood and Lemmon (South Derbyshire District Council), Inspector Fairbrother, (Derbyshire Constabulary), B. Cowley (Egginton Parish Council), D. Parkinson (Etwall Parish Council) R. Buxton (Hatton Parish Council), L. Kolkman (Hilton Parish Council), P. Hickinbotham and S. Smith.

EA/25. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Meeting held on 4th February 2004 were noted. Councillor Ford reported that he had received the requested feedback from Sergeant Wright of the Derbyshire Constabulary regarding mobile speed cameras.

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

County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn explained that problems were being experienced with the V2 Villager bus service provided by Trent Buses and this was being pursued by Derbyshire County Council. Residents wishing to submit complaints could contact the bus company's customer services team on 01773 712265.

The Chair advised that he was experiencing problems with his personal computer, due to a virus. He apologised if anyone had been attempting to contact him by e-mail.

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

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and reported the progress made. County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn was invited to give an update on the safety concerns at the Egginton rail crossing. She confirmed that Derbyshire County Council had undertaken a planned survey and new warning signs were to be erected. It would not be possible to widen this rail crossing or the adjoining road. Sergeant Wright would provide accident statistics to County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn after the Meeting, but he confirmed that this area was not an “accident hotspot”.

An update was given about problems with a riparian ditch in Hilton and the Vice-Chair confirmed that an additional ditch had been provided. County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn noted that planting works for the new ditch were yet to be undertaken. She would also continue to pursue the additional street lamp column for Egginton.

The Chair provided an update on the safety concerns at the A38 junction with the NYK Logistics depot. Correspondence had been received from Amcott, the agency responsible for this section of the A38 and from NYK Logistics. The contents of those letters were reported and they were then passed to Councillor Ford in order that this matter could be pursued locally, as appropriate. Councillor Ford understood that closure of the fuel depot on this site was imminent and this should be reduce the number of vehicles using the site.

With regard to the improvement works in Main Street, Hilton, public consultation was planned in the near future. The Vice-Chair gave an outline of the problems experienced due to the current road surface and the disruption caused by heavy commercial vehicles travelling through the Village. Ian Reid, the Council’s Deputy Chief Executive understood that the improvement scheme would seek to make the route less attractive to heavy commercial vehicles and more appropriate for local traffic.

At the last Meeting, an enquiry had been made about the East Midlands Airport Community Grant Scheme. It was noted that Hilton was outside the 10 mile radius from the Airport, used as the cut off point for grants. The Chair confirmed that he had pursued this matter but unfortunately had been unsuccessful. There was a discussion about aircraft noise. The Chair commented on the revised flight paths used and the resultant complaints from areas where none had previously been received. He confirmed that East Midlands Airport had control over outgoing aircraft, but pilots had discretion for safety reasons when approaching the Airport. Conflicting views were expressed regarding the likely altitude of aircraft over parishes near the Airport. In view of the noise problems for people in the North Western Parishes, it was agreed to write to East Midlands Airport, requesting an extension to the 10 mile radius used for the Community Grant Scheme. The Member of Parliament suggested inviting representatives of the Airport to attend the next Area Meeting, in order that the reported problems could be discussed further. It was agreed that this be done.

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

Mrs. B. Chell of the Hatton Action Group reminded those present of the traffic problems through Hatton. She spoke of the Action Group's efforts, liaison with Derbyshire County Council and the traffic surveys undertaken. It was understood that an existing weight limit was due to be removed, once the new Hilton Link Road had been opened. She also commented on the planned JCB development, the likely impact for the area and the additional traffic that would be generated. The Chair sought clarification about the removal of the weight limit on the A516. The Member of Parliament also understood that this was proposed. It was agreed to write to Derbyshire County Council seeking clarification on this issue and the Clerk was asked to circulate the response to Mr. Mark Todd, M.P., County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn, the Hatton Parish Council and Mrs. Chell.

The Chair advised that Peter Leigh, the Area Traffic Manager at Derbyshire County Council had attended a Hatton Parish Council Meeting some months ago. The Chair was concerned that residents' expectations would have been raised by suggestions that a weight limit could be imposed along Station Road in Hatton or that this section of the A511 could be reclassified. This had proved to be the case as the neighbouring Staffordshire County Council was now undertaking its own surveys on the likely impact that such a weight restriction would have. It was likely that little progress would be made until Staffordshire County Council had determined its position. It was agreed to request Derbyshire County Council to provide an update about the proposed weight limit, the reclassification of Station Road and the likely timescale before the community would be informed on this matter.

A resident of Scropton Road reported similar traffic problems and the fact that heavy commercial vehicles were abusing a weight limit. Sergeant Wright explained that monitoring did take place and P.C. Featherstone had been at this location earlier in the day. A number of formal cautions had been issued. The resident acknowledged that access was required to some local businesses. The Chair requested feedback from Sergeant Wright at the next Meeting on the monitoring of this area.

Mrs. Newton explained the difficulties she had experienced in finding the Civic Amenity Site in Newhall. Improved signage was sought and it was agreed to write to Derbyshire County Council suggesting additional signs from the A511 and within Newhall. County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn was also asked to pursue this matter.

A resident of Oaklands Road in Etwall explained the problems being caused by heavy commercial vehicles in this area. Derbyshire County Council had been asked to consider resurfacing the road or to impose a weight restriction. In Willington Road, the grass verge had been destroyed by heavy commercial vehicles. It was noted that some of the vehicles were accessing a local wholesaler. County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn commented that there was a programme of highway improvement works throughout the County. She requested that local residents submit a petition in order that she could seek to gain some priority for these works. The Chair suggested that any correspondence be circulated to the Member of Parliament in order that he could lend his support to this matter. Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn was asked to submit a progress report to the next Meeting.

Mr. Wale requested that a report be submitted to the next Meeting about the implementation of the enhanced kerbside collection scheme. He wondered whether some residents were unaware of the targets faced by the Council and the potential penalties that could be levied. The Chair commented that recycling initiatives were publicised frequently in his Hatton Ward. He spoke about the environmental benefits of recycling, that the landfill of waste could not be continued and confirmed that the Council was on target for a number recycling targets. He also compared this Council's recycling performance to neighbouring authorities in Staffordshire. The Deputy Chief Executive was willing to submit a report to the next round of Area Meetings. He spoke about the recent launch of the revised scheme and commented that more detailed feedback was now available, which would enable officers to target those areas where it seemed the scheme had not been taken up. Councillor Ford commented on the proportion of waste recycled at the Civic Amenity Site in Newhall. Mrs. Chell suggested the production of a leaflet to give periodic reminders to residents. The Council was considering promotional literature and it did provide such documents to those residents participating in the compost scheme.

The Chair referred to the comments made previously about the fortnightly collection of domestic refuse from properties participating in the compost scheme. The Council formed a Working Panel to look at this issue and it had compared the scheme operated by this Council to that delivered by Lichfield and East Staffordshire Borough Councils. In view of the costs and the probable reduction in the amount of waste recycled, it was highly unlikely that a weekly collection of refuse would be reintroduced. Ian Reid, responded to a question from Mr. Ireland about the safe weight limit for the emptying of a wheeled bin.

Mr. Ireland then referred to parking problems in Willington Road, Etwall. This issue had been raised with the police previously. Sergeant Wright sought further information and recalled that some research had been undertaken by the local Beat Officer. He agreed to speak to W.P.C. Frost on this issue and to submit a report to the next Area Meeting. Residents provided some additional information and were concerned that a serious road traffic accident would occur unless some action was taken. The Chair asked Sergeant Wright how local residents could assist. He was mindful of the need for all incidents to be reported to the Constabulary, to ensure that accurate statistics were maintained. The Officer confirmed the need for each incident to be reported and explained that this assisted the Constabulary to target resources.

Mr. Smith felt that the parking problems stemmed from a gap in planning regulations. He explained that providing additional parking provision was a requirement for commercial or residential development. However, no such requirement was placed upon schools and he referred to the potential expansion of the John Port School within the Village. Concerns were also voiced about vehicles parking on a cycle lane in the vicinity of the School. It was questioned whether this constituted an offence, but some residents noted that enforcement action, to keep the cycle lane clear would add to the parking congestion in this area. Sergeant Wright agreed to research this matter and to submit a report to the next Area Meeting.

Mark Todd, M.P. reported on discussions with Mr. Crane, the Head Teacher at the John Port School about the planned development. Additional parking

would be provided and he gave an outline of the other measures which the School took to seek to alleviate local parking problems. A possible option might be to seek a subsidised school transport scheme for students aged over 16. However, this would not take into account students' choice in the means of transport used. The Chair was also Chair of the John Port School Governors and he offered to reinforce the issues raised by the Member of Parliament with the Head Teacher. He also suggested that the planning regulations be researched to see if additional parking could be required as part of school developments. A resident commented about the different tiers of planning guidance in place and the recent changes in parking space requirements associated with residential developments. The Government was seeking to reduce reliance on the private motor vehicle.

It had recently been announced that Rolls Royce plc had won a major contract with Boeing to supply aircraft engines. The company was yet to determine where the engines would be built. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Company seeking an assurance that the contract would be delivered from its Derby plant, given the history of aero engine building within the City and to ensure continued employment for many South Derbyshire residents.

It was reported that the District Council had been involved in the clearance of a ditch at Watery Lane, Scropton. Heavy commercial vehicles using this lane were pushing soil and other debris into the ditch and this matter had been pursued with Derbyshire County Council. Measures were sought to protect the ditch and it was suggested that a 120 metre section, that was most susceptible to damage, should be converted into a culvert. It was agreed to write to Derbyshire County Council on this issue and in view of the number of highway issues reported at the Meeting, to invite County Councillor Lucas, the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment, to attend the next Area Meeting.

Mr. Ireland was concerned about the reduction in Beat Officer cover for the Etwall area. Sergeant Wright explained that the geographic areas covered by Beat Officers were not set locally. He understood that they were set divisionally or even at a force level, based on the geographic area and the calls for service in each area. Inspector Fairbrother was intent on reviewing Beat Officer provision for the South Derbyshire area and he requested that the Inspector be given time to undertake this review. Mrs. Dove felt that this was an example of rural deprivation. Rural areas had smaller populations but the cover should take account of the larger geographical area. She also praised the former Beat Officer. The Chair advised that a Meeting was being scheduled with senior Police Officers, the Member of Parliament, parish councils and the Crime and Disorder Team, to raise issues such as those reported. The Meeting would take place before the next Area Meeting. The Chair commented that Officers such as P.C. Featherstone had a massive geographic area to cover. Mark Todd, M.P. felt that use could be made of the Rural Police Unit. There were means of integrating their activities with those of other police services. The Chair added that consideration could also be given to the use of Community Wardens and Special Constables.

Mr. Ireland understood that the District Council was to have powers under new legislation to help resolve hedge disputes. He suggested that a report be submitted to the next Area Meeting outlining the Council's planned approach in implementing this legislation. He also sought an update on the provision

of new leisure facilities at the Etwall Leisure Centre. The Chair explained that there was nothing further to report at this time. The Council was awaiting potential funding sources, possibly through planning gain monies, to enable a scheme to proceed. Mrs. Dove reported that she was a member of the Community Group. She feared that the new leisure provision would be much reduced in scale. She appealed to neighbouring parish council representatives that more priority be given to the Leisure Centre and that it was not seen as a facility for Etwall residents alone. The Chair added that improvements to the leisure facilities were likely to be provided on an incremental basis.

County Councillor Mrs. Littlejohn requested additional grass cutting of a bank on Egginton Road, Etwall prior to the Well Dressing weekend on 15th May 2004. The Deputy Chief Executive agreed to look at this matter.

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

The date of the next Etwall Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

B. WHYMAN

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 9.20 p.m.