

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

27th January 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Bladen (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Murray and Mrs. Wheeler.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), P. White (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

District and County Council Representative

Councillor Ford (Vice-Chairman).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Jones

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer), C. Brooks (Operations Manager, Cultural and Community Services) and T. Hill (Ilkeston Library).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Buchanan and S. Ellis (Newton Solney Parish Council), R. Paulson (Repton Parish Council) and K. Overton (Willington Parish Council).

Outside Bodies Representatives

A. Mayger (Repton Neighbourhood Help Scheme) and L. Ramsay (South Derbyshire CVS).

Members of the Public

Jill Cownie, Jim Cownie, A. Gifford, A. Gillespie, I. Gillespie, M. Groom, J. Orme, P. Pearson, P. Smythe, J. Stamford, G. Varty and A. Webster.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Mrs. Hood and Taylor, M. Todd, M.P., Mr. Adams, J. Burley and N. Cumming.

RA/19. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant A. Wright addressed the Meeting, giving an update on police issues. He advised that crime statistics could now be viewed on the Derbyshire Constabulary and District Council websites. He also reported that South Derbyshire had seen a reduction in crime of 6.7% over the previous year.

Reference was made to the availability of graffiti removal kits for parishes. A local Ward Member requested replacement parts for a kit previously obtained and it was agreed to discuss this matter further outside of the Meeting. The police had been proactive with regard to test purchases in relation to underage alcohol sales and a number of penalty tickets had been issued to some proprietors within South Derbyshire. A meeting would be held within the next week to agree the remit for the continuation of the Speedwatch Scheme within South Derbyshire. Parish councils would be informed of progress with this matter. The Safer Neighbourhood Police Team was currently up to strength and there would be two additional PCSOs from March/April 2009.

An issue was raised by a local resident concerning motor cyclists travelling on the main road through Willington village towards Hall Lane. An additional issue was raised regarding the inappropriate use of the pathways linking The Pastures to Mitre Drive, Repton by a number of youths. It was noted that a fence had been taken down in this vicinity.

It was agreed to refer these matters to the local officer, PC Fearn, for further investigation.

RA/20. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that a leaflet had been distributed relating to a planning document called the Local Development Framework Core Strategy that would ultimately set out policies and major sites for development in South Derbyshire up to 2026. Consultation on the document would commence in approximately two weeks and the main consultation booklet and questionnaire referred to in the leaflet would appear on the Council's website.

RA/21. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Meeting held on 11th November 2008 were noted, subject to the references in Minute Nos. RA/12, paragraph 5; RA/14, paragraph 4 and RA/15 being amended to read "Willington" rather than Woodville; Minute No. RA/12, paragraph 7 being amended to read "Findern" rather than Hartshorne and Minute No. RA/14, paragraph 8 being amended to read "A resident of Willington.....".

RA/22. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the agenda, which provided an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting.

Feedback was sought with regard to the erection of additional "new speed limit" signs along the new 30 MPH stretch of the A514 at Hartshorne Road, Woodville. The County Council's Forum Liaison Officer advised of the reasons why such a proposal could not be undertaken. However, alternative traffic calming measures would be undertaken, including the improvement of the chevron signs; consideration of the siting of a vehicle activated sign and the monitoring of speed limits on vehicles entering the Village.

In considering this matter, the local Ward Member made reference to the erection of temporary road safety campaign signs along the A514, designed by pupils of Hartshorne Primary School. These had now been removed and it was asked whether signs could be re-erected.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council investigate the matter.

With regard to the requested extension of the 30MPH speed limit through Newton Solney beyond the Newton Park Hotel, towards Burton-on-Trent, concern was raised that a meeting proposed between representatives of the Police, the County Council and Newton Solney Parish Council had not been undertaken. It was intended to refer the matter to the Chief Constable. Councillor Ford advised that he had discussed the matter with County Councillor Brian Lucas and Chief Superintendent Lynn Harris (Operations Division), as he also wished to attend this meeting and he agreed to report back to the next Area Forum.

It was noted that the Forum Liaison Officer was currently in discussion with Councillor Murray, with regard to traffic orders for a one-way street off Moira Road, Woodville.

There was further discussion about the provision of traffic signals and pedestrian crossing facilities at the junction of Findern Lane/Etwall Road, Willington.

With regard to the proposal to remove all parking restrictions in Repton, concern was raised that the Parish Council had not been consulted. Local Ward Members, Parish Council representatives and residents of Repton voiced their concerns regarding the proposals. They raised additional parking issues and suggested possible remedial action for consideration by the County Council.

The District Council was requested to write to Derbyshire County Council to advise that its proposals regarding the removal of all parking restrictions in Repton were not welcomed and urging further consultation with the Parish Council with regard to this matter.

There was further discussion about the concerns raised previously, relating to the links between overhead power lines and childhood leukaemia. In particular, reference was made to proposals for a social centre at Willington. The District Council was required to determine all planning applications in accordance with legislation and there was currently no requirement to restrict development under power lines. When planning applications were received for sites in close proximity to power lines, the District Council was obliged to consult with the National Grid, Transco and Eon. It was noted that the proposed social centre was linked to a development that had been refused by government inspectors. Therefore, this was no longer a current issue for local residents.

RA/23. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

An issue was raised by the Repton Village Society, about conflicting bookings of Repton Village Hall when this venue was required for use as a polling station. The Village Society used the Hall on a regular basis and had to plan its programme of talks in advance. Having been advised recently of Local Government Elections on the same day as a Village Society meeting, they had been required to reorganise their meeting and incur the cost of reprinting of literature. It was requested that the District Council provide the booking clerks of polling station venues with as much notice as possible of any elections, in order to eliminate any possible clash of bookings. A similar point was made about the use of Willington Village Hall as a polling station.

The District Council's Director of Corporate Services advised that the date of the forthcoming Local Government Elections had been provided by the Government and **it was agreed to investigate this request further.**

A local resident raised an issue with a district councillor about a political questionnaire. The Chairman advised that it was not within the remit of the Area Forum to discuss this matter further and the Member agreed to discuss the issue with the resident outside of the Meeting.

A local Ward Member raised concerns regarding building contractors causing damage to a grass verge whilst undertaking residential development to replace the demolished South Lodge older people's home at Salisbury Drive, Midway.

Derbyshire County Council agreed to investigate this matter further, with a view to reinstating the grass verges.

Concern was raised by a local resident about dog fouling in Askew Grove, Repton, particularly as this was part of the walking route of local schoolchildren to the Repton swimming pool.

It was agreed to refer this matter to the District Council's Clean Team for further investigation.

In view of the current economic climate, assurances were sought regarding the District Council's financial position. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Council was very prudent with its finances and did not invest in any Icelandic or other foreign banks. Further information regarding this matter would be reported later in the Meeting as part of the "Progress on District Council Priorities" item.

Reference was made to the forthcoming community event to be held at Toyota on 4th February 2009. Prior to attending the meeting, advice had been sought by a resident from the County Council's website on issues to be raised. A number of anomalies had been found whilst viewing the community area profile summary for Repton, particularly with regard to education and library services and additional queries were raised. The Chairman encouraged parish council representatives and local residents to attend the event at Toyota. The Community Transport representative advised that the organisation would be providing transportation to the meeting.

Derbyshire County Council agreed to investigate this matter further and correct any anomalies.

It was questioned whether there was anything further to report following the railway company's timetable changes in relation to Willington Station. It was noted that the County Council was currently in consultation with East Midlands Trains and Arriva on this matter.

RA/24. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

(a) Libraries Presentation

The Area Forum received a presentation on the role of the Derbyshire Libraries Service. The County Council was seeking residents' feedback on how the service could be improved, to encourage greater use. Statistics were provided on the number of visits to libraries both nationally and within Derbyshire. The current range of services was outlined, including free Broadband, the free hire of books and availability of other media and online facilities. It was explained that library facilities were provided through a range of venues. Reference was made to the awards the service had received, including its Charter Mark status. It was noted that the home library service delivered materials to residents. There were publications in Braille, prescription books, the school libraries service and work with Surestart. An information sheet inviting comments had been circulated and it was requested that these be completed and returned to the County Council.

A number of questions were raised. In particular, reference was made to residents in Repton being rated as low library users in a County Council publication. It was pointed out that these figures were skewed due to the closure of Repton Library. In the light of this, further information was sought as to when the library in Repton could be re-opened. It was noted that there were no current plans for it to re-open, although consideration could be given to the improvement of mobile services in the Repton area.

(b) Trusted Trader Scheme

The Forum Liaison Officer publicised the Trusted Trader Scheme. An initiative with Social Services to respond to concerns about certain service providers had led to the compilation of a database of trades people offering a variety of skills. Those involved in the scheme had been through rigorous checks and a leaflet and card were available providing further details on accessing the service. It was also explained how trades people could join the scheme.

RA/25. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES – PROGRESS ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

The Area Forum received a presentation from the Director of Corporate Services on the Council's priorities and budget for the period 2009/14. Initially, this covered the new Corporate Plan and evidence base, with details of the consultation undertaken and the top priorities identified. Particular issues were highlighted, including the impact on the District of the current

economic position, as compared to the rest of the region. It was noted that consultation exercises were undertaken with a variety of outside bodies representing residents' views in compiling the Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan would be submitted for approval to the Council at the end of March 2009.

Reference was made to the budget for 2009/14 and the District Council's portion of the Council Tax and services provided were explained. Further information was provided regarding the 2009/10 Draft Budget Plan and issues for the following five years. It was stressed that the Council had plans to close a future deficit and that the Council did not invest in foreign banks.

Once approved, the revised Corporate Plan would be submitted to the next Area Forum. It was noted that various documents were available on the District Council's website, including the 2007/8 Annual Report and the 2008/13 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Arising from this presentation, a number of questions were asked and responses provided. In particular, these concerned the reduction in public transport services; the level of income relating to the reduction in submission of planning applications, the provision of affordable housing and public health issues.

It was agreed that a representative from the Derbyshire Primary Care Trust be invited to attend a future area forum to provide information on the services it provided in the local area.

RA/26. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 20th April 2009 at Woodville Infants School.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.