

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

8th May 2002

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Rose (Chair), Councillor Harrington (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Rose and Southerd.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Southerd.

Members of the Public

P. Bailey, E. Bird, R. Causer, A. Coleman, M. Forbes, N. Forbes, B. Hardwick, R. Harvey, T. Harvey, R. Lane, M. Lunn, A. Sheriff, D. Sutton, G. Sutton and J. Williamson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from M. Barsby and D. Staley.

SA/29. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 5th February 2002 were noted.

SA/30. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Following the discussion at the last Meeting about the occupation of land by travellers, a fact sheet had been circulated to give residents more information. It was not proposed to discuss the subject further at this Meeting. The presentation on the work of the Derbyshire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team had been postponed but it was hoped that Lynne Milburn, co-ordinator of the Team would be able to make the presentation to the next Area Meeting. The Chair publicised the achievements of the "Clean Team" which, in its first four months of operation had responded to over 400 incidents of fly-tipping, litter and dog fouling. She urged residents to report problems through the free telephone hot-line (0800 587 2349) and explained that a prize draw was to take place to encourage people to report problems.

SA/31. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and explained the progress made in each case. County Councillor Southerd gave an update on the traffic problems being experienced in Belmont Street, Swadlincote. There had been some confusion over how this matter would be progressed, but Councillor Southerd intended to pursue the matters reported. He commented on a recent press article following a road traffic accident adjacent to the Belmont Street School. Councillor Southerd explained the works that had been undertaken to install conspicuous signage and road markings in this area and those works to be completed in the near future.

Councillor Mrs. Rose spoke of her own endeavours since 1997 to address the traffic concerns in this area. She referred to traffic surveys undertaken and read extracts of a response from the Derbyshire Constabulary, which indicated that few vehicles exceeded the current speed limits.

There was a discussion about the MacDonalds restaurant in Belmont Street and residents questioned why this location had been chosen. Mr. McArdle, Chief Executive of the District Council, outlined the efforts made to assist MacDonalds in identifying a suitable site for the Restaurant. Some eight possible sites had been suggested and the Company had decided to purchase the privately owned site in Belmont Street. Mr. McArdle outlined the Council's role as a planning authority and the determination of planning applications in consultation with other bodies. Residents complained about the problems being experienced, referring particularly to smell problems from the Restaurant. They were urged to contact the Environmental Health Department if there was perceived smell nuisance. Other related issues raised were the replacement of the "access only" signs at the Civic Way end of Belmont Street and the installation of traffic calming measures on Church Street, Swadlincote.

The report back from the last Meeting identified the costs of tidying Church Gresley Common after its occupation by travellers in February. These works had cost £186. Mr. Forbes referred to a subsequent occupation of the Gresley Common and he requested that the costs of tidying up after that occupation be reported to the next Area Meeting.

During public question time at the last Meeting, there had been a discussion about the problems caused through vehicles parking at road junctions in the vicinity of two shops in Church Gresley. The Chair had pursued these issues with Inspector Hargreaves. Monitoring continued to take place, but enforcement of the "no waiting" restrictions was proving difficult, as there was a shortage of local traffic wardens.

The problem was highlighted by delivery vehicles parking in front of the "One Stop Shop". This caused an obstruction and impaired the visibility of other road users at the entrance to the Thorpe Downs Estate. It was understood that deliveries should be made to the rear of the premises. A resident suggested the installation of railings which gave visibility for road users, whilst discouraging parking in the vicinity of the road junction. Residents perceived that little monitoring had taken place since the issue had been raised at the last Area Meeting. County Councillor Southerd agreed to submit the proposal for the installation of railings to officers at the County Council. He felt that a successful prosecution with appropriate publicity would provide a greater deterrent.

Councillor Rose gave an update on the necessary maintenance works to the Church Gresley War Memorial. Quotations had been received, but there was currently no budget to undertake improvements to the War Memorial. It was intended to submit a service development proposal for resources to do these works in 2003/04. Councillor Rose had received correspondence from a "Friends of Memorials" group and these letters were available for public inspection. The suggestion for the Memorial to be adopted by a local school had been pursued. However, given the busy school curriculum, it appeared unlikely that this option would be feasible. Councillor Southerd had been

approached by a local builder to nominate a site for the installation of a bench. He had proposed the replacement of a broken seat at the War Memorial site and had referred the matter to officers at the District Council. Frank McArdle suggested other options for the future maintenance of the Memorial Grounds. He spoke of the works undertaken by Groundwork Erewash Valley and the possibility of community service through the Sudbury Prison's outreach work.

SA/32. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident questioned the decision to spend £800,000 on repairs to a bridge at Swains Park. County Councillor Southerd explained that this former railway bridge was in a poor state of repair and might collapse. There was an objective to reintroduce the Ivanhoe Line and the retention of the bridge was important to that scheme. Derbyshire County Council had received funding from the Government of £80m for road improvements over a five year period. Part of this allocation had been used to fund the bridge repairs.

An update was sought on the provision of a BMX cycling track for the area. Mr. McArdle explained that discussions were ongoing, that the provision of BMX cycling facility was high on Members' agendas and he offered to submit a further report to the next Meeting.

Information was sought about the possible transfer of an area of open space adjacent to Dunsmore Way, Midway to the District Council. Frank McArdle confirmed that Hartshorne Parish Council had made a formal request for the transfer of this land and a meeting would be held with the Parish Council to discuss this further.

Mr. Harvey asked whether the MacDonalds Restaurant development had been the subject of a Section 106 planning agreement, together with funds for use in the local area. Mr. McArdle explained that there were some 34 conditions attached to the permission for this development, but no formal planning agreement. The Company had made funds available for a number of specified projects.

A complaint was made about young people skateboarding on the Bus Station car park. No police enforcement had taken place and there was a recognised lack of alternate facilities. It was hoped that any proposals for a BMX cycling facility would also include provision for skateboarding.

Mr. Forbes referred to the Tram Stand near the Church Gresley War Memorial. He understood that this was the last Tram Stand in the area and had observed that a white cross had been painted on it. He asked if there were plans to demolish or restore the Tram Stand but was advised that there were no known plans. County Councillor Southerd agreed to investigate this matter and to report back to the next Meeting.

There was a discussion about the residential development taking place in the urban area and concerns were voiced over the need for additional schools and doctors' surgeries to be provided. It was confirmed that South Derbyshire was the fastest growing district in Derbyshire. The need for "joined-up thinking" was recognised, to include educational and health needs when considering new developments. Mr. McArdle explained that the

Council's Head of Community Services had met the previous day with the new Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust. The benefits of partnership working were recognised and the Council would be taking a pivotal role in the formation of a local strategic partnership later this year.

Proposals to extend the Swadlincote Clinic in Civic Way were also discussed. County Councillor Southerd explained that it was proposed to extend into the former ambulance station site and he outlined the additional services planned to be delivered from the Clinic.

SA/33. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Swadlincote Area Meeting would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 6th August 2002 at the St. George and St. Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Street, Church Gresley.

MRS. M. ROSE

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 7.55 p.m.