

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018 at Newhall Old Post Centre

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Sean Bambrick (Chair), Councillor Paul Dunn, Councillor Kevin Richards, Councillor Mrs Linda Stuart, Councillor John Wilkins.

Kevin Stackhouse (Strategic Director – Corporate Resources).
Kate Allies (Environmental Development Manager).
Claire Rawlins (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer).
Tom Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Sean Bambrick, Councillor Gary Musson.

Scott Clayton (Thriving Communities).

Derbyshire Police representatives

PC John Anwar, PCSO John Beard, PCSO Karen Coldicott.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

None.

Members of the public

Chris Baldwin (William Allitt School), Ros Baker (SDDC Housing), Pat Bambrick, Mark Boam, G Britten, Stella Brooks, Rev Patrick Douglas, H Foy, Pamela Foy, A Hillier, Christine Hobson, Hedley Hobson, Richard House, Ron Hughes, Mark Hunt (CVS), Alan Jones, Mike Lacey, Colin Maddock, M Richards, P Salt, Moira Taylor, R Trim, Pam Wood (CVS), Barry Woods (Friends of Newhall Park), Joan Woods.

NA/8

Open meeting

a. Introductions and apologies

Alan Argent, Colin Dobson, Bill Parker, Councillor Robert Pearson.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Councillor Sean Bambrick reported that:

- Recycling and waste collection calendars would start to be distributed to all households in South Derbyshire during October.
- SDDC's Environmental Education Project, supported by the National Forest, was giving away free trees, with up to six allowed per household.
- A Halloween event was being held at Swadlincote Woodlands.
- Swadlincote's Christmas lights were being switched on during the evening of Friday, November 30th.
- A draft version of the Local Green Spaces Development Plan Document would be published for consultation on October 8th for a six-week period.

d. Minutes of the meeting held on June 27th

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

NA/9

Safer Neighbourhood report

PCSO John Beard reported that anti-social behaviour had increased significantly, particularly around Newhall Park and Midway Community Centre. PCSO Karen Coldicott had visited both parks to put notices up.

A resident who lived near Midway Community Centre said that they had reported anti-social behaviour (ASB) on several occasions but Police response times had been very slow to what was low-level behaviour such as noise nuisance. PCSO Beard replied that calls to the 101 non-emergency line took time to filter through so officers could not always be there straight away. PC John Anwar reiterated the importance of reporting incidents to ensure Police stayed informed of what was happening. Claire Rawlins added that she could give out diary logs for residents to report ASB. She had previously issued warnings connected with youths at the community centre.

Councillor Kevin Richards asked what had been done about the foul language emanating from Sunday League footballers who used the centre.

Mrs Rawlins replied that a letter had been written to the FA and football teams had been reminded of their responsibilities.

A resident reported a group of screaming young girls aged 8-9 being menacingly pursued by a teenage boy in Newhall Park. He had rang 999 but Police took longer than he expected to arrive. PCSO Coldicott replied that by the time Police responded to the call the girls were no longer in any danger. PCSO Beard added that someone should have told the resident that the girls were safe. A name had been passed to Police at the time, but the individual was actually in prison and could not have been involved. Enquiries had been made and someone spoken to.

PCSO Beard reported that Police had been busy across the Swadlincote area dealing with uninsured vehicles. At least 60 had been seized and three disqualified drivers discovered.

Regarding drugs, four cannabis grows had been discovered in Newhall since the previous meeting and those responsible dealt with. Three people had been arrested for supplying a Class A drug and one of those was in possession of Mamba.

A resident complained that a day after flowers had been planted at Newhall Park they were trampled and destroyed by someone.

NA/10 **Communities update**

Claire Rawlins reported that People Express had applied for £2,000 to run the Creative Communities project for young people at Midway Community Centre. The project, which ran on Tuesdays, had been a success earlier in the year with 30-40 children attending every week. The new project would run on a weekly basis for 26 weeks. Councillor Paul Dunn backed the project and said he had been to its first meeting and confirmed that it was very well-attended. A resident said a lot of those attending hung around outside. Councillor Bambrick said he would ask for better marshalling. The funding bid was approved.

Chris Baldwin gave a presentation on the ways William Allitt School was interacting with the community, including:

School events

- OAP bingo and Christmas dinner.
- Choir performance at Christmas lights switch-on.
- Liberation Day.
- Summer and Christmas concerts.
- Annual school show.

- Year 7 show.
- Year 7 Love Your Local Market.
- Friends of Newhall Park.
- Tree planting, litter picking and alcohol awareness.

Transition activities

- Science and engineering with Rosliston and Newhall
- Antarctica microbiology grant.
- Dance in the Forest.
- Summer School.

Employability skills

- Sainsbury's Waste Less Save More.
- Mock interviews.
- Work experience.
- Dementia Friends.
- Charity projects.

Facilities

- Martial arts.
- Theatre cats.
- Music centre.
- Sunday football team.

Pam Wood updated the meeting on activities the CVS was undertaking in the Swadlincote area. She reported that the Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group had threatened to cut its funding to the CVS but after pressure the decision was reversed. The cuts which had taken place to the CVS budget could be managed.

NA/11 **Local authority issues & public questions**

A resident again asked about public footpaths around the new golf course between Newhall and William Nadin Way. Kevin Stackhouse replied that there was a temporary footpath operational but the old footpath across the location was closed. He had a map showing rights of way which he would share with the resident after the meeting.

A member of the public reported that a footpath from Leawood Road to Sandcliffe Road, Midway, was around 50% overgrown with weeds including nettles. He believed that SDDC had a maintenance duty but he suspected the path was too narrow for a mower to access and the job needed a worker with a hand strimmer.

ACTION: Tom Sloan report overgrown footpath to SDDC Depot

A resident brought up the state of 1, Main Street, Newhall which he said had stood empty for 20 years and was owned locally. He believed that SDDC had paid for the property to be renovated. No one lived in the house. Was there anything SDDC could do to make the owner pay property tax? Kevin Stackhouse replied that if a property stood empty for more than two years, 50% was added to the Council Tax bill. He also confirmed that no money from SDDC had gone into the property as criteria for a grant were not met. Action could be taken if the building was in a dangerous state, but he did not believe it was. Councillor Bambrick added that he believed there was not much which could be done from an SDDC perspective.

NA/12 **Presentation on local community initiative**

Preservation of tram poles in Newhall

Kate Allies presented information and options regarding the potential preservation of the remaining tram poles in Newhall which dated back to the 1920s. One option was to leave them, more or less, in their current state. The poles were cast iron and protected by a layer of surface rust. They posed no danger to the public. Alternatively, they could be shot blasted in situ and primed with red oxide primer before being glossed in their correct original colour. The meeting agreed to restore the poles. Councillor Bambrick added that he felt it was an excellent project.

NA/13 **Summary of any agreed priorities / actions**

Tom Sloan report overgrown footpath to SDDC Depot

NA/14 **Close and date of next meeting**

Tuesday, January 22nd, 6.30pm at Newhall Day Centre.

Councillor Sean Bambrick
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7.50pm.