OPEN

REPTON AREA MEETING

8th August 2001

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives
Councillor Taylor (Chair) and Councillors Bell, Evens, Sherratt and Mrs. Wheeler.
F. B. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Cook (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives
Councillor Alan Jones and L. Partington (Emergency Planning).

Parish Council Representatives
Mr. R. Shadrack (Hartshorne Parish Council), D. Oatley (Woodville Parish Council), Shirley M. Smith (Woodville Parish Council), A. Atkin (Newton Solney Parish Council), A. Gifford (Willington Parish Council), M. Coxon (Willington Parish Council), A. Skipper (Repton Parish Council), S. Evans (Repton Parish Council) and D. Adams (Hartshorne Parish Council).

Members of the Public
Mr. and Mrs. Cownie, A. Gillespie, R.G. Fairbrother, H.D. Harrison, L.E. Lakin, P. Pearson, S.E. Smythe, A.B. Kimber, J. Short (Repton Parish Council), J. Deboo, P.R. Smythe, S. Ellis, Mr. Vincent, C. Kitching, P. Rainey, J. Parker, D. Tagg, G. Varty, C. Manifold, P. Booth, R. Russian (Repton Parish Council), R. Lulham, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rauf, Mr. and Mrs. Heath, S. Fearn, B. Bowman and D. Roberts.

RA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

The Meeting noted the appointment of Councillor Taylor as Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

RA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mr. D. E. Jenkinson, Mrs. J. Stamford, Mr. B. Morrow, Mrs. R. Booth, A. Webster and the local Police.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was agreed that Councillor A. Jones (Derbyshire County Council) be appointed Vice-Chair of the Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

RA/3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2001 were noted.

Further to Minute No. RA/26 it was noted that there had been a limited night flight ban in place for a number of years at Heathrow Airport due to generated aircraft noise.

RA/4. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair advised that presentations on Recycling and the Youth Information Shop would be made to a future meeting.

RA/5. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

It was noted that issues raised at the last Meeting, due for report back were both on the Agenda for this Meeting.

RA/6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. A. Gifford of Willington advised that in November 2000 Willington had seen an exceptional amount of saturated ground, the river had been very high following major storms. The village centre had flooded twice since then not due to saturated ground above the village or high levels in the Trent below as was claimed for the November 2000 floods. Mr. Gifford reported that the previous week the Sands Brook, Repton Road was brim-high after a brief storm and the Doctors' Surgery car park and the Repton Road bridges were both flooded. Parishioners had heard (third hand) that the Toyota reservoir was not working properly and that too much water was being discharged into the Brook and the village was suffering as a consequence.

Mr. Gifford reported that in the past the village had flooded only after exceptional weather and when the river Trent levels were high. Mr. Gifford stated that Sands Brook was not usually a problem but now the area could be considered to be a flood risk. Mr. Gifford suggested that changes had occurred (such as the construction of Toyota and the A50) and subsequently water was being discharged onto the village. He stated that actions to minimise the problem had been promised in the past by Derbyshire County Council and South Derbyshire District Council and asked what had been done. He expressed concern that a Flooding Liaison Meeting was not taking place until 25th September 2001 by which time further problems might be experienced.

Further to Minute No. RA/21 of the Meeting held on 20th February 2001 Diane Oatley reported that the Woodville Workshop on the local plan had taken place. It had been a successful evening and the results of the process were awaited.

A member of the public raised the question of aircraft noise and was advised that this matter was to be considered by the Council at its Meeting on 9th August 2001 and a report back on this issue would be made to the next meeting accordingly. Concern was expressed that there was an increasing amount of aircraft noise and that action was required regarding freighters operating at night. It was reported that East Midlands Airport was the only airport in the Country which allowed night flights. Councillor Evens referred to a presentation made by representatives of East Midlands Airport to a Meeting of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee where he was assured that noise in Repton/Willington should be minimal. He advised that he could not accept the view of East Midlands Airport that residents should not be disturbed by such noise. As a result of the general debate it was

agreed to write to the East Midlands Airport expressing concern and asking them to attend a future Area Meeting.

A resident expressed concern regarding the ongoing problems regarding the "ford/bridleway" on Ford Lane, Willington. Councillor Jones advised that the County Council had agreed to treat this matter as a matter of priority. He suggested that the resident expressing concern write to Derbyshire County Council indicating that they had walked this particular path for a number of years. Councillor Evens explained his understanding of the situation with regard to this particular footpath/bridleway in that he understood that if a claim was made prior to the path being obstructed, it was for the County Council to defend it. South Derbyshire District Council had been asked to monitor whether there had been a change of use of the land. It was noted that householders had a right to lodge an appeal against planning applications affecting this particular area. Councillor Evens suggested that this item should be the subject of a Public Meeting. The Chief Executive explained the danger of straying into discussing individual planning matters and advised that a Public Meeting would have to be "steered" so as not to discuss individual cases, however, it was agreed that a Public Meeting to address this issue would be pursued.

Councillor Wheeler advised that during the previous weekend helicopters had been flying over Bretby reportedly checking electricity pylons. These low flying aircraft had worried sheep and caused other problems and she asked that officers investigate the matter.

Mr. A. Gifford of Willington queried the current situation with regard to the Willington Power Station and the Chief Executive advised that the Council hoped that the new draft Local Plan would be available for public comment towards the end of the year. The Plan would allocate sites for new housing and other development for the period up to 2011. The Council had far more sites put to it by owners and developers for inclusion in the Plan than it needed to allocate. Government guidance stated that Council's had to give priority to bringing back into beneficial use previously developed land and buildings before allocating green field sites. The Council knew that the Power Station was no longer required for power generating activities (although the sub-station and hence the power lines would remain) and there was a demolition contract in place. Before allocating sites the Council had to be satisfied that it could physically be developed and therefore there was a lot of background survey work and discussions undertaken before decisions were taken on any sites. At this point in time background research was still being undertaken. Any large site that was allocated in the new Plan would be the subject of a development brief to ensure the needs of new residents (open space, education, etc.) were met without placing additional pressure on existing services and facilities. The Chief Executive urged members of the public to comment on the Council's Local Plan.

RA/7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the date of the next Repton Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

RA/8. **COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN FOR CIVIL EMERGENCIES**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Liz Partington of Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning Division. She explained that increasingly, the public expected a proactive response to emergencies, irrespective of legal obligations and potential costs. The County Council was seeking to raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies and to highlight the potential for a new partnership approach where the community could help to protect themselves and each other during an incident. The document had been produced in conjunction with the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils and the County's Emergency Services. The document would be made available to town and parish councils throughout Derbyshire to provide guidance on dealing with emergency incidents and the collation of local information.

It was stressed that the emergency services should always be contacted and details were provided of the County Council resources available to respond to incidents. Potential hazards and threats for Derbyshire included road and rail accidents, air disasters and terrorist attacks. There were a number of companies throughout Derbyshire which handled potentially dangerous chemicals and details were provided of those statutory and non-statutory hazardous sites throughout the County. The potential for football stadia disasters and incidents resulting from large organised events such as open air concerts was also recognised.

Questions were submitted on the practical operation of the emergency plan and it was questioned whether the document could be adapted to provide an emergency plan for a local school. S. Smith of Woodville Parish Council expressed support for the document and indicated that she was concerned about what lorries travelling on the A511 were carrying. Following last year's flooding problems, Mrs. Partington also advised that a flood defence fayre was to be held at the Bakewell Agricultural Business Centre on Tuesday 18th September 2001. The Chair thanked Mrs. Partington for the informative presentation.

RA/9. **BEST VALUE**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Frank McArdle, Chief Executive at the District Council. Information had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting to provide a summary of the Best Value process. Mr. McArdle gave an outline of the requirements placed on local councils by Best Value, the need to publish a Best Value Performance Plan and to establish a Best Value Review Programme to examine all services over a five year period. Details were provided of those reviews completed in year one of the Programme and those proposed for the current year which were either underway or due to start shortly. Each service would be subject to an inspection by an independent assessor appointed by the Audit Commission. The inspector would make a judgement on how good the service was and whether it would improve in the future. For South Derbyshire, the two services inspected to date were the Development Control function and Sheltered Housing and the results of both reviews were reported. Information was provided on the community consultation requirements for the Best Value Process.

RA/10. **CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON THE MODERNISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Two documents had been circulated prior to the Meeting to provide information on this subject. Frank McArdle, Chief Executive at the District Council explained the options available to the Council in implementing the Government's Modernising Agenda. There had been widespread consultation through the publication "Which Way, Have Your Say". Some 32,000 copies of this document had been circulated through the local free newspapers. Consultation had also been undertaken with parish councils and details were provided of the responses to the consultation exercise.

Since that time a modernised committee structure had been introduced and information was provided on the key features of this structure. There was increased notice of meetings and new rights for the public including a question time slot at all meetings. Mr. McArdle also explained the roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The new structure would provide for open and transparent local government.

RA/11. **REPTON TO WILLINGTON ROAD SPEED LIMIT**

Mr. Deboo expressed concern that he had received a letter from Derbyshire County Council refusing to alter the speed limit for this particular stretch of road. He expressed concern that on parts of this road there were no verges for pedestrians to use and he referred to other similar roads and speed limits which he believed set a precedent for reducing the speed limit on this road. He also stated that the road traffic police had not been in consultation with Derbyshire County Council on this matter. A general discussion took place with regard to various traffic calming measures which could be used on such stretches of road and the Chair suggested that a future presentation on this issue be made by a representative of the Traffic Division, Derbyshire County Council. It was also agreed to invite the Police to discuss this particular matter.

Mr. A. Gifford stated that the Repton to Willington road was dangerous and that part of the path was obscured by vegetation. Accordingly, it was agreed to ask officers to arrange to clear this particular stretch of road.

RA/12. **MOBILE TELEPHONE MASTS**

The Committee received an information item on this particular matter which was duly noted. Parish Council Representatives asked to be kept informed on this matter.

The Chair thanked all for attending and declared the Meeting closed.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.55 p.m.