

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Monday, October 3, 2016 at Sharpe's Pottery, Swadlincote

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Gordon Rhind (Chair), Councillor Mrs Kim Coe, Councillor Robert Coe, Councillor Kevin Richards, Councillor Trevor Southerd, Councillor Steve Taylor, Councillor Neil Tilley.

Stuart Batchelor – Director of Community and Planning Services.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Paul Dunn, Councillor Trevor Southerd.

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council / Meeting Representatives

Alan Jones (Hartshorne Parish Council), Don Redfern (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Alan Clarke, Carli Colley, Colin Dobson, Alan Jones, Mick Lunn, M Shepherd, R Thomas, Jon Whiten, Michelle Skinner (CVS).

SA/10 **APOLOGIES**

Councillor Mrs Gill Farrington, Chris Horridge, Shirley Horridge, Ron Lane, Councillor Stuart Swann, Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt.

SA/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

SA/12 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Gordon Rhind had no announcements to make.

SA/13 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JULY 7, 2016**

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

SA/14 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Derbyshire County Council issues:

High Street, Swadlincote: Contravention of ‘no entry’ signs

Paul Jameson confirmed it was a moving traffic offence which only the police could tackle.

Resurfacing of Moira Road, Woodville

Mr Jameson reported ongoing issues regarding access to Tunnel Close. Councillor Steve Taylor said he had pointed out previously to the planning team that the area in question was in the red line of the development of Tunnel Close. The developer had chosen not to do the footpath. Councillor Taylor's view was that it should have been done as part of the development. There needed to be liaison at Derbyshire County Council in terms of enforcement from them and the issue justified further investigation. A resident confirmed it needed work doing on it.

Overgrown vegetation in Sir Herbert Wragg, Swadlincote

Stuart Batchelor confirmed that there had been grass cutting conducted recently in the area. A resident replied that there had not been enough trimming of vegetation. Another member of the public asked if the tree opposite the petrol station could be pruned as branches were hanging over a street light.

Adoption of Castleton Park

Mr Jameson confirmed that Brunel Way, the main spine road, had been adopted. He understood that Edinburgh Road was soon to be surfaced before adoption. Councillor Paul Dunn added that he had a map showing which roads had been adopted and which were in abeyance. Councillor Trevor Southerd said the adoption was a burning issue for the estate.

Adoption of Excelsior Drive, Victory Close and Reliant Close

Mr Jameson confirmed the specified streets had been adopted.

South Derbyshire District Council issues:

Poor surface of the Delph

Mr Batchelor confirmed the Delph was still being monitored on a regular basis. There were some cracks in the surface but if it could be repaired it would be.

Overgrown vegetation in Chapel Street, Woodville

Mr Batchelor said the area in question had been cut on a regular basis since the previous meeting. However, SDDC would welcome any reports from residents on damage to the surface. A resident said he couldn't understand why the area in Chapel Street had been reported. He thought the member of public meant an area of vegetation between Chapel Street and Excelsior Drive which was overgrown. He wasn't sure whose responsibility the area was. Councillor Taylor replied that he thought it was SDDC's land.

SA/15 PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Councillor Southerd reported that Rink Way Road was in a shocking state and as it was the responsibility of SDDC, something needed to be done about it. New speed bumps had been put in and they were effective but the road surface itself was deplorable. As the only road in the district SDDC was responsible for, it did not look good on the authority to be in the state it was.

ACTION: Stuart Batchelor to ask for a report back on Rink Way Road

Councillor Taylor reported a fence which had recently been constructed by First Fence in Woodhouse Street, Woodville. It was causing difficulties for pedestrians crossing the road in the direction of Swadlincote as they couldn't see traffic coming from Woodville.

ACTION: Stuart Batchelor to report issue to planning enforcement team

A resident asked what the situation was regarding the site of the former Snooty Fox pub in Hartshorne. Since its demolition, the site had been protected by a bund. The resident asked how long it was acceptable to have a mound of rubble and not a proper fence to protect the site. There had also been an advertising board on the site. Councillor Mrs Kim Coe confirmed that the rubble had in the past been used for anti-social behaviour.

ACTION: Stuart Batchelor to report issue to planning enforcement team

A member of the public asked whether a speed bump could be put on the roundabout in Sir Herbert Wragg Way to combat the speed of vehicles entering Coppice Side. Mr Jameson replied that it was not appropriate to locate speed bumps on roundabouts and, furthermore, should be introduced as part of a system of bumps and not in isolation. Any speeding problems in the area were a police issue.

A resident stated that the Tollgate Island at Woodville was becoming an eyesore, with flower beds next to the old police station overgrown and full of rubbish. He asked who was responsible for maintaining these beds. There was also Japanese Knotweed growing around the Donald Ward site and it needed sorting. Councillor Taylor agreed regarding the state of the Tollgate Island and said SDDC needed to identify if it was responsible for the flower beds – or if it was DCC.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to ascertain if flower beds were SDDC's responsibility

A member of the public asked what was happening with works on the chimney at the Hepworth Retail Park. Councillor Rhind replied that a lid was being put on to stop water coming in. Mr Batchelor added that it was Morrisons' responsibility.

A resident asked if there was any chance of traffic lights or a yellow box at the Tollgate Island. Mr Jameson replied that studies had shown it wasn't feasible. There wasn't the space and a yellow box wasn't considered suitable.

SA/16 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

Councillor Paul Dunn said a meeting had been set up by SDDC to discuss the Woodville Regeneration Route, specifically the western end near to the Ski Centre. Opinions would be sought from members before it went out to public exhibition.

SA/17 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Mr Batchelor reported that the Local Plan Part II consultation responses could now be viewed. The document would go out for further consultation in the next two months. The target for its submission was January, ahead of a planned adoption in the summer.

Regarding Council Tax, Mr Batchelor said a law where parishes – or town councils – setting a rise of more than 2% on a £5 million budget would need to hold a referendum was unlikely to affect South Derbyshire at present.

The district had just adopted a new strategy with a focus of business skills and infrastructure. It was available to view at the Civic Offices or online.

An international food and drink festival was being held in Swadlincote on October 14 and 15. It had proven popular in previous years.

SA/18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was to be announced.

**Councillor Gordon Rhind
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.30pm.