

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL – AREA 5

Wednesday 5th June 2019 at Newhall Old Post Centre

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Paul Dunn (Chair), Councillor Sean Bambrick (Vice Chair),
Councillor Kevin Richards, Councillor Linda Stuart

Allison Thomas – Strategic Director, Service Delivery
Chris Smith – Communities Manager
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Sean Bambrick, Councillor Gary Musson

Derbyshire Police representatives

PCSO Karen Coldicott
PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Jim Seaton (Hartshorne Parish Council)
Cathy Miles (South Derbyshire CVS)

Members of the public

Pat Bambrick, Ian Bottrill, Lucy Felthouse, Pam Foy, Jill Goodall, Ian Haynes, Paul Hedges, Alan Hillier, Richard House, David James, Mary Richards, Barry Woods, Joan Woods

NA/1 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Councillor David Angliss, Councillor Mick Mulgrew, Councillor Robert Pearson

b. Declarations of interest

None

c. Chair's announcements

Councillor Paul Dunn proposed Councillor Sean Bambrick as Vice Chair, all were in favour.

The new Summer Activities leaflet has been launched to promote Active South Derbyshire's summer holiday programme.

The Festival of Leisure 2019 takes place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June at Maurice Lea Park.

Heritage Trail pavement plaques – Kate Allies from Rosliston Forestry Centre has updated that the Council is still awaiting the permit from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) but have been advised informally that the plaques have been approved in principle.

If people have other ideas about celebrating their local heritage we are happy to assist them to develop further funding applications.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

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

e. Matters arising from last minutes

Councillor Sean Bambrick updated that Scott Clayton was hoping to try and obtain funding to turn the land opposite Chrysanthemum Court into a community garden so that the residents could take ownership of it. Chris Smith advised that the response from DCC is that the land in question is currently included in the Homes England programme as a site suitable for affordable housing so there is reluctance for too big a project to be situated there.

NA/2 Police Safer Neighbourhood report

PCSO Karen Coldicott reported: -

- PCSO John Beard who previously covered the Newhall Area had left the police force two weeks ago.

- ASB reports at Midway Community Centre were lower than the last Area Forum meeting.
- Nuisance motorbikes have been an issue throughout the District – operation BRENCO had been set up in order to try and tackle the problem. Members of the Public are encouraged to get in touch with Crime Stoppers and a £1000 reward is on offer for information which leads to a successful conviction. The campaign also invites motorists to upload dash-cam footage of nuisance motorbikes to the Derbyshire capture website (<https://snap.derbyshire.police.uk/>).
- There had been a couple of reported burglaries in the area during recent weeks.
- Hate and knife crime talks had been going on in secondary schools across the District.
- Most anti-social behaviour is currently located in the Swadlincote Town Centre vicinity.
- There had been x10 Community Protection Notice Warnings (CPNW's) issued in the last week in order to try and tackle ASB behaviour.
- There was a Bike Marking & Van Alarm event due to be held at Sainsbury's in Swadlincote on Saturday 15th June 2019 at 10:00am.
- There was a Safer Together event planned for Thursday 27th June 2019 between 10:00am – 1:00pm to be held at The Delph in Swadlincote.
- There had been a few secondary fires in the local area recently. Fire awareness talks were happening in partnership with the Fire Service at local schools to educate young people about the dangers of fires.

Councillor Sean Bambrick enquired about a Community Speedwatch scheme that was mentioned during the last Area Forum meeting. PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite advised that the Police were in the process of recruiting a dedicated Community Speedwatch Coordinator and that she would get in touch with Councillor Sean Bambrick when everything has been finalised.

A member of the public asked whether the Police had any powers to ticket a vehicle which has been parked half and half on the pavement/ road on the corner of Bramblewood and Alma Road when it doesn't possess a valid MOT. PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite advised that this would only become a Police matter if the car was being driven on the road without an MOT but the driver of the vehicle would need to be caught in the act.

Councillor Jim Seaton raised the ongoing issue of excessive speeding on Sandcliffe Road. He was struggling to generate enough interest through local

Volunteers to organise a Community Speedwatch and asked whether the Police could provide a presence and start doing some random checks.

Councillor Jim Seaton also mentioned that the portable speed sign that flashes when you are approaching too fast has now moved back to Ticknall as there is only one in circulation.

PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite advised that speeding should be reported to CREST via its website as the more reports received the more chance there is of something being done about it.

A member of the public asked whether there was a Facebook Group for the area which may assist in getting the word out regarding Community Speedwatch and possibly increase the number of volunteers.

PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite advised that it isn't something that the Police would set up but would be a good idea if residents wanted to set something up themselves.

Councillor Paul Dunn said that he would get in touch with Councillor Robert Pearson in connection to Community Speedwatch to see if there was anything that he could do to assist. Councillor Kevin Richards also suggested that a solution may be to get volunteers from different wards together and operate at various hot spot locations on a rotational basis.

ACTION: Councillor Paul Dunn to speak with Councillor Robert Pearson regarding pooling volunteer resource in respect to Community Speedwatch and report back.

Chris Smith added that he would also raise the issue of excessive speeding on Sandcliffe Road again with DCC Highways.

ACTION: Chris Smith to raise the ongoing issue of excessive speeding on Sandcliffe Road with DCC Highways and report back.

Cathy Miles expressed an interest in the discussion around a joined up approach and would welcome the opportunity to help explore this suggestion further.

A member of the public raised concerns in respect to dangerous parking at the corner of Willow Drive and Bretby Road. Vehicles are being parked on the verge/ pavement which seriously obscures the view on the approach to Wood Lane. Another member of the public mentioned that it is a particular issue when the schools come out.

PCSO Karen Coldicott advised that the Police has limited powers in respect to parking since it was decriminalised but would make a note to look into it and distribute warning leaflets on offending vehicles.

Another member of the public raised concerns in regard to the building works currently going on at the end of The Lees. Numerous building lorries are reportedly parked up at any one time and are causing a dangerous obstruction when trying to pull around the corner.

ACTION: PCSO Karen Coldicott to investigate obstructive parking issues at the corner of Willow Drive/ Bretby Road and also at the bottom of The Leys.

ACTION: Chris Smith to take up issues raised in respect to dangerous parking with Matt Holford as this is a civil enforcement issue.

A member of the public asked if the Police could give a talk at 1st Newhall Scout Group.

PCSO Karen Coldicott advised that yes this is something that could be arranged.

NA/3 **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership update and Safer Neighbourhood grants**

Chris Smith provided the following update: -

- The contacts page had now been reintroduced in the Area Forum Agenda Packs and contained lots of useful contact information including that of CREST (to report speeding).
- 'Your Choice' events had been taking place in secondary schools across the District, coordinated by Derbyshire Police. Talks around gangs and knife crime are given by Jason Farmer who was on the verge getting into gang related trouble as a youngster in Liverpool and had since joined the Police and Dr Manny Barot who is a hate crime expert and had previously worked with right-wing extremists. These events had been well received by the schools involved.
- Safer Homes scheme – South Derbyshire Community Voluntary Sector (CVS) provide this valuable service and can carry out home checks free of charge. Leaflets are available if this is of interest. You can also self-refer.
- A Fire & Ambulance Station Open Day was planned for Saturday 22nd June between 11:00am - 3:00pm.

- Safer Neighbourhood Grants – £4000 was available for the community to spend on projects which help to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area. People Express had made an application for £2500 to provide a continuation of an existing arts project for an additional 26 week duration to be held at Midway Community Centre. All were in favour of approving this project.
- Chris Smith provided a brief explanation about what the Communities Team does and how it has a dual responsibility around community safety and anti-social behaviour working together with the Police and other partners in order to help reduce crime. The Team also work closely with CVS on community development.

Councillor Sean Bambrick enquired as to whether there would be any funding available in respect to the purchase of equipment for the Army Cadets for people that are less fortunate and cannot afford to buy it themselves.

Chris Smith advised that he would look into possible funding schemes and Allison Thomas added that there may be funding available via alternative channels such as Youth Action Grants offered by DCC.

ACTION: Chris Smith to look into what funding might be available in respect to the purchase of necessary equipment for use by the Army Cadets and report back.

A member of the public wanted to extend their thanks to Safer Neighbourhoods for funding received during the last financial year in respect to security doors for Newhall Scout Group.

NA/4 Local authority issues

Allison Thomas provided the following SDDC update: -

SDDC had appointed a new Community Safety Enforcement Officer (CSEO) with specific responsibilities and duties for Swadlincote Town Centre and the surrounding area, making a four strong Team. This would allow the other three wardens to focus on issues reported across the rest of the District.

Green Space Strategy – The Council had just submitted a Local Green Spaces Plan for examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Local Green Spaces are areas of land that are of value to the local community; they can be located in rural or built up areas. Once allocated, a local green space would have a policy designation similar to that of green belt, and therefore would restrict future development. The examination is expected to take place in the late summer/ autumn time.

Litter bins in Newhall Park – a comprehensive review had been completed. Bins to be replaced/ removed/ installed were as follows: -

1. To replace a small bin in the play area with a larger capacity bin
2. To remove two small green rusty bins next to the fencing adjacent to Orchard Street car park
3. To install a new large capacity black bin next to the notice board by Orchard Street car park entrance
4. To replace a vandalised black bin by the skate park
5. To install a new large capacity black bin adjacent to the nearest bench on the footpath adjacent to the older children's play area

It was expected to take 4-5 weeks in which to complete the above works after which time the situation will be monitored over the summer. Feedback was welcomed.

Summer Activities programme and South Derbyshire Active Communities Directory – leaflets are available if of any interest.

Allison Thomas reminded people that there is now a nice 9 hole golf course available in Swadlincote and that the Council was expecting an application for an Adventurous golf facility by the end of June. There were also plans underway to open an Urban/ Forest park for the Town as part of that major development.

Councillor Paul Dunn suggested that a good idea for the land opposite Chrysanthemum Court would be to include it in the Local Green Spaces Plan and turn it into a community orchard.

Allison Thomas responded to say that DCC had said it's a no at the moment due to the land in question being on the list for development for affordable housing.

A member of the public added that the site in question is currently subject to lots of fly-tipping and not just from Chrysanthemum Court residents.

Another member of the public asked whether there would be access to the proposed Country Park from Newhall side or would it just be from Swadlincote side.

Allison Thomas explained that there are two elements; the Urban park (to be maintained by SDDC) and the Forest park (which the developer will be responsible for as part of the Golf Course complex). In terms of Forest park,

there will be footpaths and bridges constructed to further encourage sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling.

Councillor Sean Bambrick added that the footpaths are now under construction with access from Newhall round to the Country (Forest) park. Councillor Kevin Richards reiterated that the people of Newhall will have access and that it will not be restricted for anyone.

A member of the public responded to say that many of the existing footpaths are not being maintained and are overgrown. Allison Thomas advised that overgrown footpaths should be reported directly to Peter White, Public Footpaths Officer at DCC.

A member of the public raised an issue regarding a badly damaged bin situated outside of Wellwood Stores located on Wellwood Road, Newhall and queried whether SDDC would maintain the bin in question.

Councillor Sean Bambrick also mentioned a bin that is not adequate in size and is constantly overflowing situated outside of Kang's Mini-Market located on Orchard Street, Newhall. Allison Thomas advised that the bins in question need to be reported so that the Council.

A member of the public asked who the best person was to report overflowing bins to. Allison Thomas advised that overflowing bins etc. should be reported to waste.cleansing@southderbyshire.gov.uk via email or the Council's website.

A member of the public advised that there used to be three bins situated in the alleyway between Bretby Road (opposite the entrance to Sunnyside) leading through to Hawthorne Rise and on to High Street and now there are none which has led to a significant increase in littering. Another member of the public added that the alleyway in question is also becoming very overgrown and required attention.

ACTION: Chris Smith to visit alleyway between Hawthorne Rise and on to High Street around bins and overgrown issues.

There was also mention of a jitty between Roseleigh Crescent and Parliament Street which has no bin and is another site prone to excessive littering. Allison Thomas advised that SDDC spend half a million pounds each year on litter collection and that the CEO has written to 1400 businesses across the whole District to try and help combat excessive littering by taking a more concerted and collaborative approach.

Allison Thomas also advised that litter picking equipment/ bags/ gloves are available and can be lent out by the Council should any volunteer groups wish to organise their own community litter picks.

A member of the public mentioned that he has previously taken part in a community litter pick on the footpath that goes around the perimeter of the William Allitt School and generated nine large bags full of rubbish and queried what should be done with the rubbish bags once collected.

Allison Thomas advised that Alan Grist in Operational Services would be the correct person to contact in order to arrange collection of any rubbish collected.

Councillor Paul Dunn advised that he is a Governor at The William Allitt School and would feedback the comments to see what can be done by the school to help improve the situation.

ACTION: Councillor Paul Dunn to put littering issues to Youth Forum at The William Allitt School with a view to setting up a project to promote less littering (Litter Hero Initiative?).

A member of the public relatively new to the area asked whether there is any future intent to publicise what SDDC is doing by way of a quarterly newsletter.

Allison Thomas advised that there were no plans to send out a newsletter by post however as a Council every opportunity to publicise what the Council does is considered through the use of the SDDC website, area forums, community organisations such as CVS, social media (Facebook/ Twitter) and leaflets go out to schools and community groups. Press releases are also prepared to publicise upcoming events and the local media attend Council committee meetings.

Another member of the public suggested email distribution of a newsletter to which Allison Thomas replied that we are in the process of appointing a new Head of Customer Service and that potentially it may form part of their remit to look further into this but couldn't give any commitment at this time.

ACTION: Allison Thomas to raise idea of potential SMS with new Head of Customer Service when appointed.

A member of the public raised issues of sending emails to certain officers at SDDC to which they have received no response.

Allison Thomas advised that she was sorry to hear that and would take a note of the officers in question from the member of the public concerned at the end of the meeting. It was also suggested to copy in a local Councillor on any future emails.

Allison Thomas advised that 110 staff have just completed Customer Care training therefore a response or at the very least a curtesy acknowledgement email should have been provided.

A member of the public raised an issue regarding a 9MB email limit which prevents more than around three photographs being sent to SDDC in one go.

ACTION: Chris Smith to look into the 9MB email limit issue raised with IT and report back.

A member of the public raised a point regarding email to say that not everyone wants or has access to email and that the turn-out to the meeting is very disappointing considering the number of people who live in the area.

NA/5 Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update

Cathy Miles provided an introduction to CVS and the services it offers and explained that there have been some recent organisational changes and funding cuts within CVS. Cathy explained that the CVS was there to help communities to help themselves. If anyone knew of any specific areas that need help or volunteering support to get in touch. More details of the services provided by South Derbyshire CVS can be found on their website.

Councillor Kevin Richards asked where the CVS food drops off points are and whether CVS has a clothing bank. Cathy advised that CVS did not have a clothing bank but Hill Street Baptist Church does which is really successful. Also on a Friday any excess food donations and fresh produce from the Community Fridge is being used to provide a café downstairs at the Hill Street Baptist Church which provides an opportunity to signpost and get to know people a little better.

ACTION: Cathy Miles to circulate a list of foodbank drop off points.

A member of public asked whether The Old Post Centre advertises the requirement for foodbank donations and reiterated that a list of drop of points would be useful. Another member of the public asked whether CVS accepted fresh produce.

Cathy advised that it only accepted tins and packets at the food bank drop-off points and that any fresh produce goes into the Community Fridge which is located at CVS Offices, 46 - 48 Grove Street, Swadlincote, Derbyshire. DE11 9DD.

A member of the public registered interest in joining the befriending scheme.

NA/6 **Summary of agreed priorities/ actions**

- Councillor Paul Dunn to speak with Councillor Robert Pearson regarding pooling volunteer resource in respect to Community Speedwatch and report back.
- Chris Smith to raise the ongoing issue of excessive speeding on Sandcliffe Road with DCC Highways and report back.
- PCSO Karen Coldicott to investigate obstructive parking issues at the corner of Willow Drive/ Bretby Road and also at the bottom of The Leys.
- Chris Smith to take up issues raised in respect to dangerous parking with Matt Holford as this is a civil enforcement issue.
- Chris Smith to look into what funding might be available in respect to the purchase of necessary equipment for use by the Army Cadets and report back.
- Chris Smith to visit alleyway between Hawthorne Rise and on to High Street around bins and overgrown issues.
- Councillor Paul Dunn to put littering issues to Youth Forum at The William Allitt School with a view to setting up a project to promote less littering (Litter Hero Initiative).
- Allison Thomas to raise idea of potential SMS with new Head of Customer Service when appointed.
- Chris Smith to look into the 9MB email limit issue raised with IT and report back.
- Cathy Miles to circulate a list of foodbank drop-off points.

NA/7 **Close and date of next meeting**

Wednesday 23rd October 2019

Councillor Paul Dunn
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8:00pm