

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

4th November 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bambrick, Richards and Wilkins.
F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Lacey and Murray.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant N. Pitt.

South Derbyshire Partnership

J. Smith

Money Spider

J. Swindall

Members of the Public

P. Bambrick, M. Biddle, T. Biddle, K. Bull, L. Carter, Mr. & Mrs. Docksey, I. Fern, S. Garland, G. Hall, R. Holden, R. House, J. Kinston, C. Maddock, G. Myatt, J. Pallett, K. Parker, M. Richards, E. Tagg, E. Tunnicliffe, C. Wright,

NA/12. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Dunn, Mark Todd M.P., D. Adkins (Footpaths Officer, Derbyshire County Council), D. Budworth, C. Dolman, M. Perry and F. Ridout.

NA/13. **THE OLD POST CENTRE**

A local Member advised that the Old Post Centre had reached the final round of the People's Millions Award. This was for a project based on Communities Against Recession and the Councillor gave an explanation of this project and the arrangements for voting on 25th November 2009. He urged those present to vote for the project.

NA/14. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Pitt gave an update on crime statistics for the area, which were also available via the Derbyshire Constabulary website. He reported reductions in burglary, vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour. He referred to the prosecution of an individual for burglary, who had now admitted numerous other crimes. An update was provided on the recovery of a police officer who had been hit by a motor vehicle and Sergeant Pitt gave some crime prevention advice with the coming Christmas period. He referred to Operation Relentless and related to this, the Chief Executive of the Council spoke of improvements made to the Newhall Park.

Questions were invited and the first concerned wheeled bins being left on pavements. It was recognised that this could cause difficulties for some pedestrians or people using disability scooters. It was requested that refuse loaders be requested to return wheeled bins to within the curtilage of adjacent properties. Related to this, a resident complained that his wheeled bin had been tipped over on a number of occasions. Advice was provided on the service available to residents who were unable to place their wheeled bin at the kerbside.

A resident questioned future plans for the Police Station in High Street, Newhall, which appeared to be unused. Sergeant Pitt confirmed that a review of premises was ongoing and some might be disposed of to achieve budget savings. A local District Councillor asked how the Police could help to address problems caused by the use of fireworks. A particular problem was in the Parliament Street and Plummer Road area of Newhall. As fireworks were not illegal to use, this was more an issue of noise pollution, which should be referred to the District Council.

NA/15. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Forum held on 30th June 2009, were noted.

NA/16. **PRESENTATION BY MONEY SPIDER CREDIT UNION**

Jane Swindall (Development Officer for Money Spider Credit Union Limited) gave a presentation. She confirmed that the Money Spider Credit Union was a 'not for profit' community based financial co-operative which operated across South Derbyshire and Burton-on-Trent. It was run by and for its own members and provided a safe way to save, low cost loans and other services. They currently had approximately 350 members, including junior savers, and this membership was increasing on a weekly basis. The Board was made up entirely of volunteers from the Community and the aim was to help those within the Community who could not access mainstream financial services and were quite often forced to go to door-step lenders for high interest loans.

A question was asked on the interest paid on savings accounts. It was confirmed that this was in the form of dividends and for the previous year had been 1.5%.

Further information was left and contact details for the Money Spider Credit Union Limited were; jswindall@southderbyshirecab.org.uk or 07960 322104.

NA/17. **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP; SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Jo Smith, the Vice-Chairman of the South Derbyshire Partnership (formerly Local Strategic Partnership) gave a presentation on the Sustainable Community Strategy. She explained that the statutory plan for the District linked the various sectors to meet challenges for the future. Information had been circulated, which Jo Smith expanded upon, explaining how the Strategy had been developed, some background and what it aimed to do. She explained the vision of the Partnership, before explaining each of its priority areas; Safer Communities, Healthier Communities, Vibrant Communities, Sustainable Development and Children and Young People. She also spoke about the measurement of achievement and the indicators, which would be used for this. A number of action plans were being delivered and these would be monitored by the South Derbyshire Partnership Board. Jo Smith was thanked for the presentation.

NA/18. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Information had been circulated with the Agenda, which gave an update on the issues raised at the previous Newhall Area Forum. The County Council's Forum Liaison Officer gave additional information on the footpath adjacent to Rosetree Lane, where high-visibility barriers had been re-instated to stop vehicle access and hopefully the related anti-social behaviour. An update was also provided on the right of way adjacent to the former Horse and Jockey public house. Regrettably, there had been no progress since the previous Meeting, but it was anticipated that this matter would be subject to consideration at a County Council Committee. There was a discussion about this footpath, the plans to re-open it, the condition of the footpath and the status of the land in terms of whether it was a permissive or definitive footpath. A resident spoke about recent site visits with the Footpaths Officer on this site and regarding footpaths on the Nadins site. A further concern was reported about the condition of footpaths at the Old Market Place development.

It was agreed that the Forum Liaison Officer refer the concerns raised back to Derbyshire County Council.

NA/19. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident spoke of the lack of facilities for children in Stanton. Specific reference was made to a potential site adjacent to Piddocks Road which could be fenced and facilities provided for young people. Initially, it would be necessary to determine who owned the land in question, before this could be progressed.

Reference was made to the improved condition of the Newhall Park and it was felt that this was an ideal opportunity for the "Community Payback" initiative where work was undertaken by convicted offenders. It was explained that this scheme did operate within South Derbyshire and other residents confirmed the

scheme had been used recently in the Newhall Park. Related to this, a County Councillor spoke of the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Operation Relentless.

It was noted that the Footpaths Officer had been unable to attend this Meeting and requested that he be invited to attend the next Newhall Area Forum.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to request his attendance.

NA/20. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES: ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

A presentation was provided by Frank McArdle, Chief Executive on behalf of the Boundary Committee for England. Copies of presentation slides had been circulated and residents were encouraged to consider and respond to this consultation process. The presentation slides explained why South Derbyshire had been selected for an Electoral Review and the purpose of the review. It gave details of the issues that could be considered by the Boundary Committee, those that were outside the review's scope and the review processes, leading to final recommendations.

The Chief Executive explained that South Derbyshire was the sixth fastest growing area in the Country. A resident questioned whether this increased population could lead to a decrease in levels of Council Tax. The Chief Executive provided a context on the low levels of Council Tax rise and the proportion of Council Tax that was used to provide District Council services. Questions were submitted on how people could be encouraged to vote and details were given of the work through Local Democracy Week to engage those people who would shortly reach voting age. A local District Councillor explained the availability of postal voting and it was confirmed that of South Derbyshire's 70,000 eligible voters, some 8,000 now made use of the postal vote service. Residents wishing to register for a postal vote could contact the Council's Elections Officer on 01283 221000 and a further option was to request a postal vote through the annual Electoral Registration process. There was also a discussion about the location of some polling stations within the Newhall area.

NA/21. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 26th January 2009 at the Council Chamber, Civic Offices.

MRS. G. FARRINGTON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.