

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

16th November 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Bladen (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Hood, Taylor and Mrs. Wheeler.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. White (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

District and County Council Representative

Councillor Murray.

Derbyshire County Council Representative

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Sutherland.

South Derbyshire Partnership

J. Smith.

Money Spider Credit Union

J. Swindall.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

R. Bell, D. Jenkinson and A. Jones (Hartshorne Parish Council), S. Ellis and F. Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council), R. Paulson (Repton Parish Council), P. Ricketts (Willington Parish Council) and R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

R. Fairbrother, A. Gifford, C. Manifold, J. Orme, P. Pearson, G. Varty, J. Ward and C. Warner.

L. Hollinshead and D. Hopkinson from North East Derbyshire District Council were also present as observers.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District and County Councillors Ford (Vice-Chairman) and Mrs. Farrington, District Councillor Stanton, D. Buchanan, A. Gillespie and J. Stamford.

RA/13. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sutherland addressed the Meeting, giving an update on police issues. He advised that he had taken up a new position of Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant for the Mercia Region, which covered Derby and South Derbyshire. It was advised that crime statistics were published on the internet on a quarterly basis. During the period July to September 2009, a low figure of 44 crimes per month had been recorded. During September 2009, 57 crimes had been recorded, which was quite a high figure. In general, serious crimes had decreased and the majority of crimes occurring, related to minor assaults and damage to cars. During October 2009, there was a total of 57 recorded crimes. It was noted that this figure had been skewed by the occurrence of one overnight incident involving damage to cars, which had resulted in fourteen separate recorded incidents being logged.

Reference was made to the three priorities set for the area at the last Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting. These related to anti-social behaviour at Hillside, Findern; Broomhills Close, Repton and Pilgrims Way, Stenson Fields. At the latter site, following incidents of youths kicking footballs against cars, it was noted that an additional police presence would be provided.

Negotiations would be ongoing during the next few months with regard to the possible provision of a local police office in Repton, offered by Repton School. PC Fearn would be attending Surgeries at the Marina Tea Rooms on 2nd December 2009 and 11th January 2010 from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

With regard to the problems associated with youth activities on the Mitre Field at Repton raised at the previous meeting, it was advised that there had been no recent calls for police service in respect of this matter. Following safety concerns raised in connection with vandalism at Willington Station, the only report received had related to criminal damage of a sign. Likewise, no recent calls for police service had been received in respect of the previously reported obstruction to footway users by vehicles parking on pavements in Trent Avenue and Twyford Road, Willington.

A number of questions were asked of Sergeant Sutherland by those present at the meeting. Potential closures of local police offices were queried and it was advised that there was a possibility that offices at Goseley and Newhall could be closed in the future, due to their very high running costs. It was noted that the potential Repton office would be provided at no cost to the Police. A District Councillor wished it to be noted that, should any offices close, he would be very

unhappy with this decision. It was, therefore, questioned whether the Police would give consideration to the acquisition of alternative accommodation at no cost, particularly in the Woodville area.

It was questioned whether police officers patrolled Willington and it was advised that PC Chris Fearn and PCSO Holly McConnaughie worked in this area. Further issues in Willington included anti-social behaviour in Hall Lane and the siting of a Police video surveillance van in Twyford Road. It was advised that the van was the mobile police office, which had been left overnight as a deterrent, following reports of a nuisance in the area. It was noted that the mobile office, covering the whole division, was generally based in Melbourne.

Awareness of car crime was promoted during the run up to Christmas and advice was given to avoid leaving valuable items on show.

RA/14. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Forum held on 20th July 2009 were noted, subject to A. Gifford being included as a member of the public, rather than a Parish Council representative, under the list of apologies (Minute No.RA/2).

Arising from Minute No. RA/8, regarding comparison between reducing costs of providing public toilets and increased charges levied to Willington Parish Council for public toilet provision, concern was raised that the Minutes did not contain clarification of the response provided. (It was noted that it had been agreed that this matter would be addressed).

RA/15. **PRESENTATION BY MONEY SPIDER CREDIT UNION**

Jane Swindall, Development Officer for Money Spider Credit Union Limited, gave a presentation. She advised 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. The co-operative currently had approximately 350 members, including junior savers and the membership was increasing on a weekly basis. The Board consisted entirely of volunteers from the community and the aim was to help those who could not access mainstream financial services, avoiding the necessity to approach door-to-door sales lenders for high interest loans.

Further literature was provided, including contact details: Email: jswindall@southderbyshirecab.org.uk tel: 07960 322104.

RA/16. **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP: NEW SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Jo Smith, Vice-Chairman of the South Derbyshire Partnership (formerly Local Strategic Partnership) provided 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 explaining how the Strategy had been developed, its background and future aims. Details were provided of the Partnership's vision, followed by explanations of each of its priority areas: safer communities, healthy communities, vibrant communities, sustainable development and children and young people. Details were also provided about the measurement of achievement and associated indicators. A number of action plans were being delivered and would be monitored by the South Derbyshire Partnership Board.

A number of queries were raised arising from this presentation, which included the financial cost of the Strategy; improvements to local services; flood prevention and reduction of mortality on roads, including appropriate traffic calming measures. Detailed responses were provided.

Jo Smith was thanked for the presentation.

RA/17. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the agenda, which provided an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting.

With regard to concern raised about the condition of the road traffic island adjacent to the Clock Garage, Woodville, the County Council's Forum Liaison Officer provided additional information. The County Council's Traffic and Safety Officer had advised that alterations to the island should be undertaken early in the new-year and that double height kerbs would be used and the bricks removed. Concern was raised that the use of high kerbs caused problems for side-loading lorries and it was also advised that the Parish Council had requested the laying of a concrete base on the island. Problems with drainage underneath the island caused by a blockage had also been noted.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate these matters further and report back to the next Meeting.

With regard to progress with the Swadlincote Regeneration Route, the Forum Liaison Officer advised that the County Council was currently investigating sources of external funding. Councillor Taylor re-emphasised the importance of this issue and requested an update as early as possible.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to continue to pursue this matter and report back any progress to the next Meeting.

Further information was provided on the installation of a vehicle speed activated warning sign in Newton Solney. It was anticipated that site works would commence in one to two weeks.

Whilst discussing traffic calming measures under Minute No. RA/16, it had been advised that the school safety zone in Main Street, Newton Solney would be operational in approximately two months.

A further update was provided with regard to Section 106 planning agreement works in association with the Hammer Homes development at Lincoln Way, Woodville. A crossing facility was to be provided at Granville School. The County Council's Legal Services Department was currently in negotiations with the developer with regard to the provision of this facility. It was noted that the developer currently had limited assets due to the downturn in the housing market. Councillors Murray and Taylor expressed their concern that this matter had been ongoing for a long period of time and requested a further report to the next Meeting to update on progress in this matter. Concern was raised that Section 106 planning agreement works at the Moira Road, Woodville development were also still outstanding, although the reasons for the delay set out in the report had been noted.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to continue to pursue these matters and report back on progress to the next Meeting.

Arising from a presentation on the consultation on the Waste and Mineral Core Strategy Plans at a previous Meeting, it was queried whether the consultation had commenced. Reference was made to a meeting held at the County Council offices approximately three months ago, as part of the procedure. Comments made at this meeting were to be compiled and forwarded to all consultees.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate whether this course of action had been undertaken.

The provision of a waste facility at Sinfin Lane was questioned. This had previously been denied, but there was concern that such a facility could still be provided in the future. The transportation of waste over Willington Bridge to Derby causing traffic problems on the level crossing leaving the Village during the morning was discussed.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate this matter further and report back to the next Meeting.

RA/18. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of local repair facilities for hearing aids. The Derby Royal Infirmary had advised that this service had now been redirected to either Swadlincote or Burton-on-Trent (following a doctor's referral) and it was considered that this would cause difficulties for residents without transport. It was a particular problem since the repair of tubes in hearing aids was a service required regularly. The contents of a response from the Chairman of the Derbyshire Primary Care Trust to Mark Todd, M.P. on this subject, were read out at the Meeting.

It was agreed to advise the Chairman of Derbyshire Primary Care Trust of the Area Forum's concerns with regard to the redirection of this service.

It was noted that villages without public transport were particularly cut off from the administrative centre of the District Council in Swadlincote. Although detailed

information on the Council's services was made available on its website, not all residents had access to a computer.

An issue was raised concerning the erection of a speed-activated sign by the County Highways Authority at Sandcliffe Road, Midway. Works had commenced in April 2009 but had not been completed. It was noted that works to erect similar signs had been completed in Melbourne, Newton Solney and Repton.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.

Further to comments made at the previous Meeting regarding Area Forum boundaries (Minute No. RA/8 refers), it was requested that, when considering the matter in the future, the criteria used included identification with the local community and improvement of relevant services.

RA/19. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUE: ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

A presentation was made by Frank McArdle, Chief Executive of the District Council, 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.

It was explained that South Derbyshire was the sixth fastest growing area in the Country.

A resident queried the possibility of providing parish councils within urban areas and was advised that unparished areas being changed to parished areas could not be undertaken at the same time as the current Review. This course of action required the submission of a petition by more than 10% of the population. Funding from the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils was available to assist non-parished areas in becoming parished. It was noted that urban areas could be warded only as part of the current Review.

It was questioned whether a representative from the Boundary Committee could attend the next Woodville Parish Council meeting to give further advice on the Review. However, it was noted that representatives of the Boundary Committee had already addressed all parish councils on 7th October 2009.

Following a query, it was confirmed that the District Council's website contained a link to the Boundary Committee for England's website which provided statistics as a base for information relating to the Review.

RA/20. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was reported that future Repton Area Forum Meetings would be held on Wednesday, 27th January 2010 at Woodville Infants School and on Wednesday, 7th April 2010 at Goseley Community Centre.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.