

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at Midway Community Centre

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Sean Bambrick (Chair), Councillor Paul Dunn, Councillor Mrs Linda Stuart, Councillor John Wilkins.

Frank McArdle (Chief Executive), Tom Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Sean Bambrick, Councillor Paul Dunn.

Scott Clayton (Policy Unit).

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

None.

Members of the public

J Allsopp, A Argent, A Birch, Kerrie Fletcher (CVS), H Foy, P Foy, Richard House, M Lacey, Colin Maddock, B Mulgrew, Mick Mulgrew, M Ross, R Trim.

NA/19 **Apologies for absence**

Pat Bambrick, Colin Dobson, Mr Hall, Paul Jameson, Councillor Robert Pearson, Councillor Kevin Richards, Barry Woods.

NA/20 **Declarations of interest**

None.

NA/21 **Chairman's announcements**

Councillor Sean Bambrick had no announcements to make.

NA/22 **The minutes of the meeting held on October 12, 2016**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

NA/23 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

MUGA at Midway Community Centre

A resident praised the fantastic facility in which the meeting was being held. However, he said it wasn't what the public had been promised viz a viz a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) for older children. The play area in place put toddlers, middle-aged children between six and 11 and teenagers in the same area. A like for like replacement had been promised, with 10 pieces of equipment for toddlers. He had attended every meeting since 2002 and at no point was he told there was no money for a MUGA. The situation needed sorting as there was confrontation between parents and teenagers. SDDC Chief Executive Frank McArdle said it was important to recognise that an excellent community facility had been built which had paid for itself. It had been the area of open space in South Derbyshire surrounded by the most houses and the most people which had the least facilities in the district. Former Councillor Bill Dunn had tried for 40 years to get a community centre built. What was needed was not to say the facility was not fit for purpose, but to say that it needed to be better. Mr McArdle suggested organising a further meeting at the centre for all the community to attend. A team would attend from the Community and Planning Directorate and discussions would be held to see what could be achieved to improve the facilities.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to get a letter sent out to residents with a choice of dates for a meeting at Midway Community Centre

A member of the public reported that a hearing loop had not been installed in the building.

Paul Jameson

Mr McArdle reported that DCC Area Forum Liaison Officer Paul Jameson would no longer be attending the meetings. He offered his thanks to Mr Jameson for his attendance and professionalism at the meetings. DCC had taken the view that Mr Jameson's role was in transport and his skills were better used there than at Area Forums. Any concerns would be communicated back to DCC by Service Assistant Tom Sloan and a response provided. However, there would be no DCC officer at the meetings as a matter of course.

Rose Tree Lane junction, Bretby Road, Newhall: damaged tactile paving

Councillor Bambrick reported that the paving had now been replaced. A resident said it was cars as well as lorries which were causing the damage. Could a permanent 'no parking' sign be installed?

ACTION: Request to be sent to DCC to discover if a sign could be installed

NA/24 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident reported that bins needed emptying opposite the Thorntree in Bretby Road and in Orchard Street outside Kangs. They asked for extra bins for dog mess, especially on the path between Meadow Lane and William Nadin Way, where bags of dog dirt were strewn in the field. Mr McArdle said that people had been prosecuted for dog fouling but SDDC relied on witnesses coming forward and supporting the Council. What could be useful would be the resident bringing a plan of the area with extant bins marked to decide where new bins would be best placed.

A resident of the Chestnut Avenue area said they had a problem with dog walkers not even picking up the mess. Mr McArdle reiterated that he would still need evidence of fouling taking place to secure a prosecution.

A resident said that a tenant on the Fairway, Newhall, never picked up the mess created by his dog. They had a name and address of the resident in question.

ACTION: Details of the resident to be passed onto SDDC Senior Neighbourhood Warden Dennis Bateman

A resident asked how people would know when the MUGA meeting was. When the community centre had opened they didn't know about it and had not received a leaflet. Mr McArdle apologised but said the future meeting would be advertised.

A member of the public asked about potential housing developments in Park Road, Newhall, opposite the lakes. Mr McArdle replied that there were three sites identified for housing around the golf course. Money raised by the development could be used to improve Meadow Lane playing fields.

A resident asked if solar panels were still going to be installed at the back of the Clondyke area. Councillor Bambrick replied that currently there was nothing in terms of a planning application.

A member of the public reported problems with rubbish in the Fairway, Newhall. Brown bins had not been collected because other residents had put general waste into them. The situation was a mess. Councillor Linda Stuart

said she had spoken to Linda Roberts at SDDC and been assured that the brown bins would be sorted.

ACTION: Issue to be reported to relevant SDDC department

NA/25 **County council issues**

A resident asked why half of the streetlights in Fairfield Crescent, Newhall, were not on at night. Also, lights appeared to be switched off on the A444 at night. Councillor Paul Dunn said his inbox at County was full of complaints about the subject. DCC was going to replace 98 per cent of lights with LEDs which would cut costs and maintenance. He understood residents' fears but DCC was short of resources, with only five people to look after the whole county network. To help them out, it would be useful if the serial number of faulty lights could be provided via local Members.

A resident complained about a leaking drain outside their back door which had been that way for 14 years. They had been passed from pillar to post by DCC and Severn Trent. Could something please be done?

ACTION: Issue to be reported to DCC and Severn Trent and clarity sought

NA/26 **District council issues**

Mr McArdle reported that the Council Tax levied by SDDC would be decided upon on March 1 at a meeting of Full Council. The Council was in a healthy position this year and next but after that there were challenges which would be faced. There would be a 15% reduction in Government funding and it would disappear altogether by 2019. The only revenue for SDDC would be Council Tax, Business Rates and the New Homes Bonus. However, the latter would be 'top sliced' to help fund adult social care delivered by DCC. Efficiency savings would be sought and there were a few areas where the Council could charge for services. Council Tax could only rise by a maximum of 2% annually or a referendum was needed that cost more to organise than the extra money the rise would bring in. It was also important to note that on an average Band D property, SDDC took only 11% of the total Council Tax bill to carry out a wide range of services. The district council's ability to do more with less was vital and ways were constantly sought of working with partners to cut costs. A total of £800,000 savings were needed or an extra £800,000 of income generated. Mr McArdle was confident his Council would rise to the challenge.

Despite the current climate, an extra 1% was going to be given to the voluntary sector. Kerrie Fletcher from the CVS said the support of the District Council was appreciated.

Scott Clayton from DCC's Thriving Communities Project introduced himself to the meeting. He asked anyone interested in his work to get in touch.

NA/27 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on a date to be announced.

Councillor Sean Bambrick
CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 8.40pm.