

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
NEWHALL

15th October 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Mead, Richards, Mrs. Wheeler and Wilkins.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Jones.

A. Bond (Democratic Services Officer), R. Taylor and D. Meredith-Wood (Policy Officers).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant M. Sisman.

Members of the Public

D. Budworth, L. Catler, D. Feltham, P. Foy, R. Holden, R. House, A. Jenkins, M. Lacey, C. Maddock, G. Myatt, K. Parker, M. Richards, K. Sherratt, D. Tagg, R. Tagg, E. Tunnicliffe, R. Ward, B. Wood and C. Wright.

NA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Mrs. Farrington had been appointed Chairman of the Newhall Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting.

NA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Bambrick, Dunn and Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Bambrick and Mrs. Dunn.

NA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Mead be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Newhall Area Forum for the ensuing year.

NA/4. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Mike Sisman addressed the Meeting, giving an update on staffing and particularly the Police Community Support Officers. He spoke of the priorities for the area, particularly targeting anti-social behaviour and problems with motorcycles. He gave a brief outline of the powers available to the Constabulary and recalled that the problems of noise from motorcycles

had been raised at a number of Meetings. He explained the difficulties associated with noise monitoring and the tenacity of some young people who seemed to modify their motorcycles persistently, between cautions.

There was a general discussion about the problems caused by young people on motorcycles, particularly the noise nuisance, the intimidation caused by people congregating in certain areas and issues relating to unlicensed and uninsured motorcycles for other motorists. The Police Officer responded to the issues raised and publicised the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, where these issues could also be discussed.

There was further discussion about the noise problems and it was felt that a successful prosecution, linked to appropriate publicity would provide a deterrent. The Constabulary did undertake extensive exercises to target such problems.

The Officer then responded to concerns about people parking on verges, particularly on the A444 road junction with Piddock Road. It was explained that a report was due to be submitted to a District Council Committee shortly on the powers available to deal with this issue and was understood that powers were available under the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Act.

There was a discussion about the former toilet facilities in High Street, Newhall that had been converted to provide a facility for the Police. This building was owned by the Old Post Association and leased to the Constabulary. Questions were submitted about the purpose and use of these premises, to which the Police Officer responded.

Related to the discussions on motorcycles, a resident was concerned that youths congregating near to the Newhall Park were causing intimidation for those visiting the local Scout Hut. **It was requested that a periodic police officer presence be provided in this area to monitor this issue. The Director of Community Services was aware of motorcycles gaining access to the park itself. The access arrangements would be reviewed.**

A further problem reported with motorcycles concerned their use on a site off Park Road, Newhall. The problems associated with noisy cars were also reported.

A comment was made about the willingness of children to help the Constabulary, to address issues like bullying. Councillor Mrs. Mead offered to raise this issue at a School Liaison Forum. Concerns were then reported about travellers occupying the car park of the Gate Public House in Stanton.

In closing the discussion on police issues, Sergeant Sisman confirmed that crime statistics were still falling, but the fear of crime was acknowledged. He sought the community's feedback to help the police in their work. Mr. Woods congratulated the police, particularly on the reduction in burglary numbers. It was confirmed that the next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting would be held at the Old Post Centre in Newhall, on Wednesday 3rd December 2008.

NA/5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported on the renaming of these public meetings from 'Newhall Area Meeting' to 'South Derbyshire Area Forum - Newhall'. She

added that the crest of the District Council appeared on the Agenda cover alongside those of the County Council and Derbyshire Constabulary, to indicate that these were joint meetings for the area. In future there would be greater involvement from the County Council to respond to questions on the functions that it was responsible for. In addition, the Police were continuing to be represented at these Meetings. However, their main role was to discuss partnership issues that concerned the police and other agencies. The Safer Neighbourhood Meetings would continue and these were the main forum for police issues.

NA/6. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Meeting held on 15th May 2008 were noted.

NA/7. **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 and this was noted.

NA/8. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident referred to the closure of a public footpath adjacent to the former Horse and Jockey Public House. This matter would be considered by the County Council's Cabinet shortly and a public right of way might be reinstated. The resident was concerned that planning matters determined by the District Council subsequently had to be referred to Derbyshire County Council. Officers gave an explanation of the different functions and responsibilities of the District and County Councils. General advice was then provided about public rights of way and the temporary closure of them to enable development to take place.

A resident spoke about promoting the name Swadlincote rather than "Swad" as it was known locally. It was questioned if an eco-town was being built at Drakelow, with reference being made to a recent press article. It was explained that the submission of a planning application for this site was imminent, which meant that its discussion at the Area Forum could not be permitted. A resident asked whether Swadlincote Lane would be re-opened, once the current development works were completed. As this was not the case, it was felt signage was required. **It was agreed that this matter be pursued by Derbyshire County Council.**

Reference was made to the formation of a parish council for Newhall and Stanton. A resident questioned whether Clare Orme, who was promoting this idea was present or had attended the Area Forum previously. The resident asked for the Council's stance on this proposal. General guidance was provided on the requirements for forming a parish council or parish meeting. A District Councillor questioned where the Newhall and Stanton parish boundaries lay and then spoke about the functions of parish councils, their ability to raise precepts from local tax payers and their potential to be a pro-active forum for the local area.

A resident spoke with concern about the media studies provided as part of the curriculum at the William Allitt School. Students viewed some films rated as being suitable for persons over 18 years of age, and she questioned whether the County Council could provide guidance to the School. This

issue was noted by the Chairman of the Governors at the School, Councillor Mrs. Mead.

NA/9. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – “TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRIORITIES”**

Donna Meredith-Wood introduced this item, speaking of the partnership work of Derbyshire County Council. Surveys had been undertaken, which had helped the County Council to formulate 19 key priorities. Officers were now attending some 41 forums across the County to discuss these perceived priorities with local people and to seek their feedback. Documents had been circulated prior to the Meeting and residents were asked to express their priorities and to highlight further local issues.

The Meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes to enable residents to complete the questionnaires and then there was a feedback session, which highlighted the views of those present. It showed that the top five issues related to highways, reducing crime, better recycling, cleaner streets and activities for children and young people. There was then a general discussion on the feedback, with residents expressing their views and raising a number of local problems. In particular, this concerned providing facilities for young people and a specific site was mentioned for facilities in Stanton. On highways, a particular problem was reported at the junction of Orchard Street and Parliament Street, regarding the condition of the road surface. Residents also raised a number of other specific local issues.

NA/10. **ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Kate Allies (Environmental Development Manager) advised that a new Environmental Forum for South Derbyshire was being established, involving local environmental groups, parish councils and individuals, who wanted to share ideas about environmental projects. These were being supported by the Local Strategic Partnership and South Derbyshire District Council.

The Forum would involve a networking group, to which groups and individuals would be invited. Meetings would usually include formal and informal information sharing and consultation, plus a walk or talk by a local group about their area.

It was confirmed that the first meeting would be held at Repton Village Hall on Tuesday, 4th November at 7.00 p.m. A reply slip was attached to the agenda and people were requested to return this, if they were interested in being involved with the Forum.

There was discussion about the former Nadins Open Cast site, the wildlife on the site presently and the subsequent plans for creation of a golf course on this land. This was an issue that could be raised at the Environmental Forum and would then be referred to the appropriate sections of the District and County Council for attention.

NA/11. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dates for future Meetings were confirmed as 2nd February 2009 at the Old Post Centre, Newhall and 26th March 2009 at the William Allitt School in Newhall.

MRS. G. FARRINGTON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated 8.25 p.m.