

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

23rd September 2014

at Sharpe's Pottery Museum, Swadlincote

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Rhind (Chairman) and Councillors Mulgrew, Murray, Smith, Southerd, Stuart, Taylor, Tilley.

F McArdle (Chief Executive), S Winfield (Service Assistant), K Allies (Environmental Development Manager).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Chilton.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

J Burley, M Mycock, K Coe, C Dobson (Hartshorne Parish Council).

Members of the Public

G Tubey; G Walker; J Seaton; S Squires; V Musson; J Davies; R Coe; D Redfern; D Sharpe; L Sargent; R Causer; C Smith; M Shepherd; R Thomas; M Mitchell; J Mitchell; K White; R Shepherd; R Lane; R Dixey; S Fell; D Foster; A Lintin; C Horridge; S Horridge; D Condliffe; J Griffiths; C Pidgeon

Councillor Rhind, welcomed everyone to the meeting and an introduction was made from the panel.

SA/13 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillor Heath

SA/14 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

SA/15 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

Chief Executive reminded the group that at a previous meeting he discussed linking in with arts and culture in Derby and bringing these into Swadlincote. He introduced Adam Buss (Quad CEO) who informed the group that the Quad was

currently working at the Brewhouse in Burton. The Quad opened in 2008, being a key arts base in the UK. Every 2 years the centre organises a renowned photography festival which takes place in March, with a host of international artists. They already work closely with Burton & South Derbyshire College. The Quad also runs the Derby Film Festival every year with attendees including John Hurt. The centre would like to get South Derbyshire involved. The Chief Executive confirmed that Swadlincote is fast growing and welcomes progress in the future.

SA/16 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 17th June 2014 were noted.

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

Forum Liaison Officer discussed the Report Back on issues raised at the last meeting.

Sandcliffe Road

Following the requests for additional signage, Central Government have instructed all highway authorities to reduce the amount of street clutter on their roads, including the removal of redundant or superfluous signs which detract from the key road safety message we are trying to convey. Essentially, we need very good road safety reasons for introducing new signs and, roughly speaking, must look to remove two signs for every new one we introduce. Resident raised that the speed sign hadn't been present on Sandcliffe Road for a year. Forum Liaison Officer advised that the VAS is shared between 2-3 other sites. DCC were looking at the rota system to see if the signs could be rotated between sites on a more frequent cycle. Resident requested that speed limits were reduced but this had been refused by DCC. An email had suggested that the Parish Council couldn't fund/maintain a camera. Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that the good road safety record (no personal injury collisions in last 3 years) means that there is no justification to allocate funds for an improvement scheme.

Parking on Goseley Avenue

Resident raised that congestion occurs at the shop and vehicles have to reverse back onto the main road, parking at the junction is the issue.

ACTION: Forum Liaison Officer to feed back at a future meeting

Broomy Farm

A planning application has been submitted. DCC has been consulted and will respond in due course. Developer's client will carry out a traffic assessment and this will be submitted to DCC for consideration.

Speed limit on Hartshorne Road

Following a review 5 years ago, the speed limit towards Clock Island was reduced to 30 mph. There are no plans to reduce the limit on this road. Resident raised that traffic speeds from the roundabout are excessive. Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that DCC's primary remit is to reduce the numbers of people being killed or injured on the roads. Funds must be targeted to sites where people are being injured.

Footpath at Hartshorne Primary School

There are no plans for improving this footpath at present.

Land at Black Shed island at Gresley

Resident thanked Cllr Stuart for his assistance in this issue. The area has now been cleared and the Housing Association have now accepted responsibility.

Morrison's roundabout.

Contractors for Morrisons are no longer maintaining the island. Forum Liaison Officer was awaiting the go ahead from DCC's Area Maintenance to write to the contractors, requesting that they remove trees/shrubs and cut the grass before handing it back to DCC. DCC will then pass to SDDC to include on the grass cutting schedule.

SA/18 **UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING**

Two new projects from SDDC – The first is the Swadlincote Townscape. SDDC and DCC have applied for £400K to restore and conserve buildings in Swadlincote Town Centre. If successful this will provide activities such as guided walks and talks around the town for the public to find out more about heritage in Swadlincote. SDDC need to know what the public want to do. Also part of the project is the Diana Memorial Garden. A proportion of the grant money would be allocated to do something creative with the garden and how it wants to be used. Various uses have been suggested. A questionnaire about the garden was available to take away from the meeting and complete as the consultation was extended until Friday for the Swadlincote Forum's views.

The Chief Executive stated that heritage grants have changed the shop fronts in the town and improved the appearance of many buildings

Resident asked if the shops opposite the Town Hall would be improved as they look shabby. Environmental Education Manager confirmed that it was necessary to write to the people who own the buildings and ask if they are interested in the grants.

The second project is the Environmental Volunteering Project. The Environmental Forum is a network of groups and individuals who are interested in improving the environment in their local area. They try and match up projects

which need doing with businesses' volunteers. Over the next 3 weeks they will be working with 40 members of Rolls Royce to do a full day's volunteering on different environmental projects. A template is available for people to complete, which is then shared with businesses wanting to volunteer.

SA/19 **UPDATE ON FLOODING ISSUES IN WOODVILLE**

Nigel Brailsford, County Manager, Derbyshire for Severn Trent Water discussed surface water issues and flooding on Hartshorne Road, Woodville. STW are looking at this and a number of other areas with issues with a view to funding remedial works. Pre-feasibility work will be carried out until Christmas to establish which schemes will be put forward into their 5 year plan. STW stressed that it was important to report flooding issues for them to log as an area to look at. Councillor Smith asked whether the proposed Broomy Farm development would be taken into account. STW confirmed that central teams look at predicted growth in an area but were only a consultee in planning. Councillor Taylor thanked STW for attending the meeting. He stressed that residents' experience over the last 2 years had been unacceptable as they had been inundated with water and not sure of its source. Residents had rung on many occasions and the response had been mixed. STW confirmed that one drain was not chartered, which they became aware of in July 2013 and accept it is frustrating when calling in flooding issues but all incidents need to be rung through as this drives investment in specific areas based on risk and a number of other priorities. Councillor Taylor discussed the Blueberry Way development and whether the surface water system was sufficient. A generic "we're looking at it" was very unacceptable, they are very old ceramic sewers, which have tried to be lined, are misaligned and not coping with water, proving unacceptable. STW confirmed that the way they are funded means they have to prioritise how that money is invested, which is based on various reasons such as the amount of people affected, the nature of the flooding and other issues. Sewerage infrastructure is not always sized to cope with significant rainfall. STW confirmed that one sewer is not up to capacity but has had repair work and is being monitored.

Councillor Taylor asked Councillor Southerd as the County Council representative to investigate flooding issues, to help constituents

ACTION – Councillor Southerd to raise this issue with the County Council

STW confirmed that the highway drainage was not their responsibility, whereas waste and surface water is.

Nigel Brailsford and Councillor Taylor to liaise outside of the meeting. He confirmed that he could not give timescales for repairs to pipework in Hartshorne Road, but again urged residents to ring in issues. Councillor Taylor requested that STW should recognise and accept their responsibilities regarding personal liability issues.

SA/20 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Resident of South Street discussed issues in the street following the development of Dovedale Park. Chief Executive identified that the replacement of a fence would resolve the issue.

ACTION: Chief Executive to make enquiries into a replacement fence between South Street and Dovedale Park

Resident raised that the waiting area/reception at SDDC was utter chaos when trying to make payments and results in people walking out. Chief Executive confirmed that the waiting area had been trialled. In an attempt to relieve traffic, SDDC will be asking clients what they want and offer alternative ways such as more officers on cash desk, altering reception. Issues are noted.

Resident raised that an awful smell of sewerage emanates from the brook off Hartshorne Road. STW confirmed that their team had been out and this was part of an ongoing investigation into people illegally connecting into surface water sewer drainage. A number of properties have been visited as part of on-street investigations but no illegal connections were identified. The team also visited the water source, where nothing untoward was seen, but will be re-visiting. If properties were misconnected then STW works with them to get them connected properly.

Resident raised that the litter bins in Eureka Park are overflowing, from McDonalds and Belmont Street into the park. Resident claimed it was a regular occurrence.

ACTION : Chief Executive to raise this with SDDC.

Resident asked when traffic calming measures would commence in Moira Road. Forum Liaison Officer confirmed this had been issued to contractors but unaware of dates. Councillor Taylor confirmed this issue stood still for 4 years, but the scheme had restarted following Councillor Dunn's involvement and money will be spent on this issue.

ACTION: Forum Liaison Officer to enquire and report back at a future meeting.

SA/21 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None

SA/22 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

None

SA/23 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting is 27th January 2015 at Swadlincote Town Hall

G RHIND

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 pm