

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

Wednesday, June 27th, 2018 at St John's Church, Newhall

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

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

Kevin Stackhouse (Strategic Director – Corporate Resources).
Kate Allies (Environmental Development Manager).
Claire Rawlins (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer).
Tom Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Gary Musson.

Derbyshire Police representatives

Sgt Graham Summers, PCSO John Beard, PCSO Karen Coldicott.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

None.

Members of the public

Pat Bambrick, Stella Brooks, Rev Patrick Douglas, Stephanie Foster, H Foy, Pamela Foy, C Gillespie, G Hall, A Hillier, Christine Hobson, Hedley Hobson, Richard House, Ron Hughes, Mark Hunt (CVS), Alan Jones, Helen Kreft (Burton Mail), Mike Lacey, G Lloyd, Colin Maddock, Jean Mead, Mick Mulgrew, Richard Murrell (CVS), Angie Musson, M Richards, P Salt, Diana Wakeling, Barry Woods (Friends of Newhall Park).

NA/1 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Scott Clayton (Thriving Communities), Colin Dobson, Councillor Robert Pearson.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Councillor Sean Bambrick reported on the Community Partnership Scheme, where £250,000 of grant funding had been made available for capital projects for non-profit organisations. The minimum grant was £1,000 and maximum £25,000. The minimum project cost was £4,000. Any grant had to be at least 50% match funded.

Councillor Bambrick reported that £4,000 was available to the Newhall area in the form of Safer and Stronger Neighbourhoods Funding. The money could be used on projects that would impact on preventing or reducing crime and anti-social behaviour or to assist with developing new community groups. The maximum grant was £2,500 and match funding was needed over £500. There was one application from Newhall Scouts for £2,500 towards three new uPVC security doors to replace three wooden doors which had been vandalised. The meeting approved the spending.

d. Minutes of the meeting held on January 30th

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

NA/2

Safer Neighbourhood report

PCSO John Beard reported that:

- Police in the Newhall area had been busy with a lot of drug-related crime. Newhall Park was being used to deal drugs. 'County Lines' where drug dealers from other areas moved in and took advantage of being unknown was a problem in Newhall, along with 'Cuckooing', where dealers moved in and took over an addict's property for a brief time to sell drugs. A local task force had been set up and proactive detectives were involved.
- Drug warrants had been carried out in High Street, Parliament Street, Four Lane Ends, Meadow Lane, Howden Close, Chrysanthemum Court and Woodland Road, Stanton. Heroin, crack cocaine, cocaine, cannabis and prescription drugs had been found.

- Dwelling burglaries were down but thefts from insecure vehicles were up, as was vehicle interference. Drivers were urged to make sure their vehicle was locked when unattended.

A resident reported groups of schoolchildren in Newhall Park with older youths under a cloud of cannabis smoke. PCSO Beard replied that Police were getting information from the area but that the bigger sellers were being targeted.

Councillor Bambrick asked for a further explanation of what 'County Lines' was. Sgt Graham Summers said that Police were aware of who all the local drug dealers were but not dealers from cities who were now looking for alternative ways to make money. Regarding 'Cuckooing', Police were having to invest extra resources into tackling it. Different types of officer were now working in the area to combat the problem. Residents may have seen different faces in the area – dealers from London, Birmingham and Nottingham had been arrested but they were foot soldiers of drug gangs from the cities.

Sgt Summers reported that there was greater acquisitive crime in the area, particularly shoplifting. A resident asked whether those arrested would be prosecuted. Sgt Summers confirmed that they would.

Councillor Paul Dunn asked if the ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) system was being used. Sgt Summers confirmed that it was but a lot of vehicles used in crimes had cloned plates which made it very difficult in real time to work out what was happening.

A resident asked if a notice could be put in Newhall Park warning residents about the new crime phenomena. Sgt Summers replied that he was not looking to cause concern and ordinary residents were not going to be directly affected.

Councillor Dunn said there were reports in the local media about violence in Swadlincote town centre. Councillor Bambrick replied that it did not relate to Newhall. Sgt Summers added that Inspector Kate Bateman had said everything which needed saying about the incident in question. However, elements of what had been reported were correct. Two people had been injured and Police were trying to find the assailants. What Police wouldn't tolerate was anarchy breaking out in Swadlincote and a small vigilante group hurting people and turning themselves into criminals. Councillor Dunn said he felt the incidents had been escalated by social media. Sgt Summers said people inciting violence on social media would potentially be committing an offence themselves.

NA/3 **Communities update**

Richard Murrell introduced himself to the meeting as the Networks and Partnerships Manager for the CVS. He explained the role of the CVS in supporting local voluntary groups and organisations.

He also updated the meeting that:

- There was a £500 grant available from the CVS for setting up a community group.
- A tea group in Midway had been formed to tackle isolation and loneliness.
- Youth sessions were being run on a Monday night at Midway Community Centre.
- Transport was provided for those in need for hospital appointments etc.

Mark Hunt (CVS) explained what the Safer Homes Scheme was and how it allowed the over-60s and vulnerable members of society free security upgrades to their properties.

A resident asked if the CVS had anything to do with Newhall Old Post Centre. Mr Murrell confirmed that it did not at present but there had been links in the past.

Councillor Bambrick reported that £26,000 had been spent on new disabled toilet facilities at Newhall Village Hall.

NA/4 **Local authority issues & public questions**

Kevin Stackhouse had nothing specific to update the meeting on from SDDC's perspective.

Kate Allies explained what the South Derbyshire Environmental Forum was. She asked for anyone interested in joining to get in touch.

Claire Rawlins reported that an Adult Activities Brochure had been produced by SDDC.

A resident asked if the grounds team working at Newhall Cemetery could pick up grass cuttings. Councillor Bambrick added that he had written to SDDC Chief Executive Frank McArdle after a tractor made ruts on top of graves.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to provide a report back into possibility of collecting grass cuttings at Newhall Cemetery

A resident asked if there was a chance the public footpath which ran across the new golf course at William Nadin Way could be resurrected. Councillor Bambrick replied that the footpath had been closed but there was supposed to be a new footpath around the perimeter which could be used. The paths had been closed for safety reasons due to golf balls which would be flying across them. Councillor Dunn said that Peter White at Derbyshire County Council might have further information about the process undertaken regarding the paths.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to provide a report back into location of new path from Derbyshire County Council

A resident asked what had happened with the homes which were supposed to be built as part of the golf course development. Councillor Kevin Richards replied that development was due to start imminently. A resident asked how housing could be built in the area due to it being common land. Councillor Bambrick replied that it had never been common land. Mr Stackhouse added that the land had been owned by UK Coal and SDDC had only owned very small parcels of land. Councillor Richards further clarified that the land had never belonged to the public. It had always been in the hands of coal owners.

A resident raised trees at the junction of Dunsmore Way and Burton Road, Midway, which were causing restricted visibility for motorists.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report trees to Derbyshire County Council and provide a report back into remedial action

A resident complained that a dog bin in Wood Lane / Bretby Road near the Thorn Tree put was not being emptied often enough.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report bin to South Derbyshire District Council Depot and request a report back

A resident complained that SDDC had failed to water shrubs around the war memorial in Newhall Park and several had died as a result. Mrs Rawlins replied that the Parks team was aware of the problem and was going to water more often.

Councillor Dunn asked if DCC was going to issue grit bins in future. Councillor Bambrick replied that it was quite easy to get one but the issue was filling them up. A resident asked if having a parish council in the area would be the answer. Councillor Bambrick replied that it was not necessarily the case. Councillor Gary Musson said that his fellow county

councillor, Councillor Stuart Swann, was trying to lead an initiative to get more grit bins. A desire on the part of Area Forums had been presented to DCC and the councillors were waiting to see what happened next.

A resident who had recently started using a scooter complained that pavements in Newhall were just as bad as roads for potholes.

Councillor Richards said a heavy planter could be used to solve the problem of vehicles using the pavement at Orchard Street. There were even residents prepared to put plants in. It would be an economical solution to the situation. Mrs Rawlins said DCC's consent would be needed. She would take the issue back to SDDC and see what the options were.

ACTION: Claire Rawlins to look at planter solution for Orchard Street

A neighbour of Midway Community Centre said she felt let down by SDDC due to the noise emanating from the facility as well as rubbish which was coming from the site. Furthermore, bright lights encouraged youngsters to gather in the centre's car park near to people's homes, plants had died due to a lack of watering and others had been damaged. Mrs Rawlins said she would follow up the issues – she was reliant on people ringing her up to report problems and in turn she was reliant on the Police being reactive to certain reports. A resident added that Police had driven children away from the centre and into surrounding residential areas. Mrs Rawlins confirmed that enforcement action had been taken against several youths and formal warnings had been given to others. There were now new problem youths. Another resident complained about the foul language used by footballers on Sunday mornings. Councillor Richards confirmed the language was very bad. Councillor Dunn said it would take a concerted effort from the Police and SDDC to solve the problems. A management committee would be a good start. He also asked if more mature trees could be planted to offer better protection to neighbours.

ACTION: Claire Rawlins to report issues around Midway Community Centre

NA/5 **Presentation on local community initiative**

Kate Allies delivered an update on the Swadlincote Heritage Trail. Newhall had come out well in points of interest for the trail. Councillor Bambrick and Councillor Musson had both provided funding towards the plaques which were being installed commemorating historic figures and locations in the Swadlincote area. The plaques would celebrate the history and heritage of South Derbyshire as well as providing inspiration for young people in the

area. Some plaques were already up and the rest would follow in the next 12 months.

A resident asked if the plaques were vandal-proof. Ms Allies confirmed that they were. Another resident thanked her for the work and Ms Allies replied that it was a team effort with particular help from the Magic Attic.

A resident raised the repairs being carried out on Burton Bridge and the removal of tram tracks. It had given them the idea to find out more information regarding tram power line poles in Oversetts Road, Newhall. Their contact details were given to Ms Allies.

NA/6 **Summary of any agreed priorities / actions**

ACTION: Tom Sloan to provide a report back into possibility of collecting grass cutting at Newhall Cemetery

ACTION: Tom Sloan to provide a report back into location of new path from Derbyshire County Council

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report trees to Derbyshire County Council and provide a report back into remedial action

ACTION: Claire Rawlins to look at planter solution for Orchard Street

ACTION: Claire Rawlins to report issues around Midway Community Centre

NA/7 **Close and date of next meeting**

Thursday, October 25th, 6.30pm at Newhall Old Post Centre.

Councillor Sean Bambrick
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8pm.