

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at Sharpe's Pottery

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Gordon Rhind (Chair), Councillor Kim Coe, Councillor Robert Coe, Councillor Trevor Southerd, Councillor Stuart Swann, Councillor Steve Taylor, Councillor Neil Tilley.

Kevin Stackhouse – Director of Finance and Corporate Services.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Paul Dunn, Councillor Trevor Southerd.

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council / Meeting Representatives

Malc Gee (Woodville Parish Council), Alan Jones (Hartshorne Parish Council), Don Redfern (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Malcolm Barsby, Ron Causer, Alan Clarke, Colin Dobson, Kerrie Fletcher (South Derbyshire CVS), Robert Helliwell (Burton Mail), Mick Lunn (Swadlincote Neighbourhood Watch), Councillor Pat Murray.

SA/21 **APOLOGIES**

Jenny Burley, Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Ken Dicken, Councillor Mrs Gill Farrington, Ron Lane, Heather Wheeler MP, Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt.

SA/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

SA/23 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

SA/24 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

SA/25 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Derbyshire County Council Issues

Castleton Park adoption issues

Paul Jameson (AFLO) reported that a site visit had been conducted in Brunel Way. Councillor Trevor Southerd and the area Clerk of Works attended. The meeting was in mid-morning so it was difficult to gauge what the exact situation was regarding traffic and parking in the evening. An agreement was made to further investigate the situation. Councillor Southerd said that when the estate was designed it was envisaged that Brunel Way would be a clearway and there wasn't a problem until new builders got involved. He was confident that issues around parking would be addressed.

South Derbyshire District Council Issues

Map showing boundaries of Area Forums

Councillor Gordon Rhind reported that a map illustrating the boundaries of the various Area Forums had been requested for the past two years. A member of the public told the meeting he had unsuccessfully requested a copy of the map from SDDC on several occasions. Instead, he found the map himself on a police website. The map could be found at:

<https://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DS04/> for Area 4.

<https://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DS05/> for Area 5.

Councillor Rhind said the information would be useful and would reach a wider audience.

Pennine Way car park lighting

Councillor Rhind passed on a report back which said that numerous sites around the district were being considered for improved lighting and Pennine Way was just one of those.

Recycling plant at Woodville

A member of the public asked if he could have access to noise monitoring data which were gathered from the recycling plant.

ACTION: Kevin Stackhouse to pass on the resident's request to the relevant department at SDDC for a report back to be prepared

SA/26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Councillor Steve Taylor reported a problem in Moira Road, Woodville, with SDDC contractors who emptied recycling bins. He said collections on a Wednesday morning were posing a danger to children due to the narrow width of the road after a row of parked cars was taken into consideration. He asked if the contractors in question could be contacted to see if an alternative collection time could be arranged.

ACTION: Kevin Stackhouse to pass enquiry onto SDDC Waste Department

A resident reported that he had been at a meeting in Moira Road regarding Tunnel Close. He said the pavement in the area was very uneven. A few holes had been patched up, while from the Toll Gate island to New Road the middle of the carriageway was essentially all patches. To his knowledge, the road had not been properly resurfaced in 35 years. Councillor Taylor agreed that the road was in a poor state and was probably worse than when Coal Board lorries used it on a regular basis up until the 1980s. Tunnel Close, he said, was a relatively new development and the developer had done nothing to the pavement. The situation had been checked with SDDC's enforcement officer and nothing could be done as the dropped kerb was already there prior to the development in Tunnel Close. Councillor Taylor said the issue needed taking up by DCC. Councillor Paul Dunn said the same problems with adoption of roads applies to adoption of pavements. He agreed that the state of Moira Road was not great but reported that it was in DCC's capital programme. However, the capital programme was £5m oversubscribed and the works could have to be moved onto next year's programme.

ACTION: Councillor Paul Dunn to advise DCC of the issues in Moira Road

A resident asked if the pedestrian barriers outside St George's Primary School, in Church Gresley, could be extended along the road to meet the pelican crossing. He said it would mean the children could queue safely along the road to get into the school. The AFLO said such works could require a contribution from the school. He added that a planning application was being considered to open up a rear access at the school.

A member of the public asked when 'no cycling' signs were taken down in Swadlincote High Street. He said two of them had been removed. Councillor Southerd agreed that the signs needed replacing.

ACTION: AFLO to report back on replacement signs at the next meeting

A resident brought up the issue of flooding in Occupation Lane, Woodville. Councillor Dunn said that gullies had been cleared and he would get back in touch with DCC engineer Nev Wallace. The resident replied that he owned the

land that one of the troublesome pipes was on and he had not been visited by anyone from DCC. Another resident added that Occupation Lane flooded over Christmas at the turn-off for Arlington Drive. He said that two gullies on the Leicestershire side were also blocked.

A member of the public asked about 30mph stickers for bins in Area 4. The AFLO said the stickers had no legal standing. A 30mph speed limit in a residential area with street lights required no repeater signs. Furthermore, putting up 30mph signs made the limit technically void. Councillor Dunn confirmed that 20mph limits can have repeaters but 30mph limits cannot.

A resident reported that street sweepers on the Goseley Estate had been sweeping half of the pavement and not the whole of it. He asked if it should be going around twice.

A member of the public from Wilmot Road asked if it still had a weight limit after witnessing trucks using it. Councillor Southerd confirmed the road had a 7.5 tonne weight limit.

A resident asked if dog fouling laws applied to footpaths heading into rural areas. The AFLO speculated that if the path is a right of way there was still a legal duty to pick up dog mess.

A Woodville resident reported that scrap metal seemed to be getting piled higher at Ward Recycling. He asked how tall it could get. Councillor Southerd said there was a limit to the height scrap could get. Councillor Taylor said part of the site was not regulated but it was about time the stack heights were looked at in the regulated areas. Councillor Southerd stated that it was a planning issue.

SA/27 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None.

SA/28 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Local Plan

Kevin Stackhouse reported that Part 1 of the South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan was nearing completion, with only the Government Planning Inspector's decision awaited. Part 2 of the plan was being consulted upon.

Open Space, Sporting and Community Facilities Strategy

Mr Stackhouse told the meeting the strategy related to which facilities would be needed in the district in the coming years. The strategy needed local clubs and community facilities to come forward to ensure they received their share of Section 106 money from developers.

Budget

Mr Stackhouse reported that once again the landscape was changing for local authorities across the country. In 2010 the council had to go through savings in its budget, but achieved these without impacting on frontline services. In the last two years the authority's financial position had stabilised and was currently in a healthy state. However, another round of reductions had been passed down from central government to all authorities. Before Christmas, SDDC got its settlement from Central Government and in three years' time there would be a 14-15% cut in the grant, a figure in the region of £1.5m. One bright spot was that local authorities would be allowed to keep a greater proportion of the Business Rates they gathered. Currently, 50% went to central government and in South Derbyshire £10m a year was gathered in Business Rates. A greater share of that money staying in the district would help to offset the loss in grant. The situation would be a challenge for SDDC but one that the authority would meet head on. Regarding Council Tax, for the past five years it had been frozen by SDDC. Now, central government was expecting councils to raise it. County councils are allowed to raise their share by 4% and districts or boroughs by up to 2%. SDDC had, subject to full approval, decided to raise Council Tax by 1.95%.

Councillor Southerd said even with a 4% rise, there would be a black hole in DCC's finances. It would raise £5m but £7-8m was needed.

A resident asked how the Council Tax rises would affect parish councils. Mr Stackhouse answered that parish councils were not directly affected by the changes and could do as they pleased regarding their precept.

A member of the public – a governor at Granville School – said that Section 106 monies from the Broomy Farm development were not going to the school despite the need for facilities. Instead, they had gone to a different project and the school was bewildered as to why.

ACTION: Kevin Stackhouse to provide a report back into why the project was allegedly overlooked for Section 106 money

Councillor Dunn expanded on why DCC needed to raise Council Tax, with adult care needed to be paid for after a £13m reduction in Government funding. Councillor Taylor said it was a shame that Heather Wheeler MP was not at the meeting to explain the Government's decision. He also said it was bizarre that SDDC gave a Council Tax rebate to the public in 2015, incurring a £40,000 administration cost in doing so, when there was the possibility of a Council Tax increase in the future.

SA/29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was to be announced.

**Councillor Gordon Rhind
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.30pm.