

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

14th July 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Ford (Chairman) and Councillors Bell, Smith and Wheeler.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Mrs. Farrington and Ford.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant S. Todd.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D.E. Jenkinson, A. Jones, J. Orme and P. Yates (Hartshorne Parish Council), G. Tulley, D. Smith and F.J. Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council), J. Short (Repton Parish Council), K. Overton (Willington Parish Council), F.G. Fairbrother and C. Gillespie (Woodville Parish Council), H.D. Harrison and D. Bordoh.

RA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Ford had been appointed Chairman of the Repton Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting.

RA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Dunn, Mrs. Hood, Pearson, Taylor and Wilkins, County Councillor Lacey, R. Statham and A. Gifford.

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

It was agreed that Councillor Smith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Repton Area Forum for the ensuing year.

RA/4. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Todd reported that the area had experienced eight years of crime reduction. He gave further statistics on vehicle interference, robbery, assaults, and also reported that there had been an increased detection rate of drugs offences.

He advised Members that the police were currently planning a vehicle operation in Repton, and that 'Speedwatch' was also active around the area. The Chairman requested that the Officer contact the Bursar at Repton School to discuss speedwatch in Repton. Sergeant Todd handed out further information on the community messaging service.

Councillor Ford reported that a Police Officer had expressed an interest in going on a countryside crime awareness course and requested that the Inspector be informed that the Area Forum supported this proposal.

It was reported that there had been an increase in the number of heavy vehicles going through Willington and Repton. Sergeant Todd responded that he was currently trialling a project in another area, which involved residents trying to combat this issue, and it might be possible to support this in other areas. He requested that the resident contact him outside the meeting to arrange a further discussion on this matter. In addition, the Forum Liaison Officer advised that Trading Standards had a weight restriction monitoring form, which could be submitted to them.

It was agreed that the Forum Liaison Officer forward an email link of this form to all Parish Clerks in the Repton Area Forum area.

It was reported that parking problems continued in Repton. This was a major problem in the evening, causing access problems, safety issues and obstruction. Sergeant Todd responded that parking enforcement was now dealt with by Derbyshire County Council. The Chairman agreed to ask an Officer from Derbyshire County Council to investigate the problems in Repton and would also invite Parish Councillor Short to this meeting. The Forum Liaison Officer added that enforcement officers could only enforce contraventions of waiting restrictions. The Police must enforce obstruction, etc.

It was reported that people collecting scrap had been seen in the area recently and asked if they should have a licence to do this. Sergeant Todd responded that scrap merchants must have a waste carrier licence. Environmental Services Officers would be able to confirm if one was held. The Police spot checked these vehicles, and looked at the state of the vehicle, tax, insurance and the licence of the driver.

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

The Chairman advised that earlier this year, the Council held 13 drop-in events across the District to talk about planning in the local area. Prior to this, in

January 2010, the Council consulted on a number of major development options. South Derbyshire District Council, working jointly with Amber Valley Borough and Derby City Councils were now able to seek views on how much housing would be needed across the whole area over the next 15 years or so, and what the strategy should be for locating it. This was being done as it was expected that the Government would scrap the existing regional building targets before Local Plans were formally published. Amongst other things, the public's views on how much housing growth should be planned for, and the extent to which growth should be concentrated around the edges of Derby or dispersed to other towns within locations throughout the Derby housing market area were sought. Drop-in events were being held across the District between 12th July and 4th August to find out more and share views. Details of the drop-in events and the consultation itself were distributed to those present at the Meeting.

In addition, the Chief Executive reported that there would be some additional events, which would be advertised in the press.

RA/6. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Forum held on 25th January 2011 were noted.

RA/7. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reviewed those items raised at the last meeting and reported the progress made in each case.

With regard to flooding on Woodville High Street, it was reported that during the previous week's flash flood, water was still coming out of the drains. In addition, the top surface of the road in this area was breaking up.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to get the exact location from the resident and investigate this further.

With regard to this area, it was reported that the road surface at High Street, particularly around Clock Island was very poor. Councillor Mrs. Farrington reported that Tollgate was due to be resurfaced and an attempt was being made to extend the area to be done. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that a highway maintenance scheme was planned, and expected to be completed during this financial year.

With regard to the 'Snow Patrol' initiative, the Forum Liaison Officer reported that this scheme had been reviewed and enhanced. Further invitations for parish councils to participate would be sent out shortly.

With regard to the Woodville pedestrian crossing on Burton Road, Woodville, the Forum Liaison Officer reported that the developer should have provided funding for the crossing. However, this had not been received. A Legal Officer was pursuing the funding. However, currently the situation remained unchanged.

The Chairman requested that the Forum Liaison Officer report any developments directly to Willington Parish Council.

With regard to a response that there was no work planned at Repton Cross, the overall view was that this was very disappointing, as this roundabout was in a very poor state.

The Chairman requested that a letter be sent to Councillor Lewer at Derbyshire County Council expressing disappointment that work was not currently planned for this site, and pointing out that a scheme had already been drawn up by the Conservation Officer.

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

Councillor Mrs. Farrington reported that a lot of work had been done following the Pitt Report at Derbyshire County Council and it was asked if the Forum wished for a presentation to be delivered by Severn Trent on drainage and flooding.

It was agreed that Severn Trent be invited to a future Area Forum. Councillor Mrs. Farrington would be contacted with the date of the next Meeting when known.

It was reported that Repton Brook needed dredging. The Environment Agency had said that the work had been delayed for 12 months.

The Chief Executive agreed that an Officer from the District Council would follow this up with the Environment Agency and send a copy of any response to the Clerk of Repton Parish Council and report back to the next Meeting.

A resident expressed concern that he understood that parished areas of the District encountered double taxation, compared to unparished areas and felt that this was unfair. The Chief Executive responded that the parish didn't have to request a precept and pointed out that unparished areas within the urban core did not have the same service provision as parished areas. However, unparished areas did carry out many self-funding projects.

It was asked if parking restrictions could be considered outside the village hall at Newton Solney.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this and to report back to a future Meeting.

RA/9. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Councillor Wheeler advised those present that the Area Forums had been established some time ago. Since then there had been a number of boundary reviews. In addition, Safer Neighbourhood meetings now also took place, and issues sometimes got duplicated. The District Council had proposed that consultation took place that future meetings might be held on the same evening, one after the other, with a small gap in-between. He added that chairmanship of

these meetings would remain as current. The Chief Executive added that there would be press coverage advising residents of any geographical changes to the area forums.

RA/10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Details of the date and venue for the next meeting would be circulated in due course.

M. FORD

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:05 p.m.