

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

AREA 1 – ETWALL

Monday, June 12th, 2017 at Hilton Village Hall

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Andy Billings (Chair), Councillor David Muller, Councillor Mrs Amy Plenderleith, Councillor Andy Roberts.

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.

Dennis Bateman – Senior Safer Neighbourhood Warden.

Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council representatives

None.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Leslie Carter (Foston & Scropton Parish Council), Steve Cooper (Hilton Parish Council), Phil Coultas (Dalbury Lees Parish Council), Norman Ireland (Etwall Parish Council), David Neal (Etwall Parish Council).

Members of the public

Geoff Allen (Burnaston Neighbourhood Watch), Jo Bagley (South Derbyshire CVS), Barbara Beer, Bill Beer, Helena Coney, Mark Coney, Roger Hyland (Egginton Neighbourhood Watch), Sue Jolly, Bryan Myring (Etwall Neighbourhood Watch), Martin Payne, GM Wale, Emma Watson, Cynthia Warren.

EA/1 **Apologies**

Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown, Councillor Martyn Ford and Councillor Mrs Julie Patten

EA/2 **Declarations of interest**

None.

EA/3 **Election of vice-chair**

Councillor Mrs Amy Plenderleith nominated Councillor David Muller to be vice-chair. Councillor Andy Billings seconded the nomination and Councillor Muller was unanimously voted in by the councillors present.

EA/4 **Chair's announcements**

Dennis Bateman gave a presentation on the work being done by his team to combat environmental offences such as fly-tipping, litter, dog fouling and abandoned vehicles. A total of 65 litter-related Fixed Penalty Notices had been handed out in 2016-17 and a lot of them centred on fly-tipping at the Hatton tip. Councillor Mrs Plenderleith asked if similar enforcement action could be undertaken in Hilton. Mr Bateman replied that six such tickets had recently been issued in Hilton. A resident asked if fly-tipping offences included private land. Mr Bateman confirmed that they did. A resident asked if a Community Protection Notice (CPN) warning could be applied to someone with an overgrown garden that reduced the value of neighbouring properties. Mr Bateman replied that there were no hard and fast rules about what the legislation covered.

EA/5 **To note the minutes of the meeting held on January 30th, 2017 (copy attached)**

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

EA/6 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

Street light repairs in Hatton

A resident claimed that Derbyshire County Council used to have three workers who travelled the county checking lights and a further three carrying out repairs. Now, they claimed, there was only one person doing both jobs. They had counted 10 faulty lights in Main Street, Hatton, but only five of them had been repaired. Why?

ACTION: Tom Sloan to ask Derbyshire County Council for clarity on street light repairs

Councillor Andy Roberts asked for the meeting to write to DCC and ask for representation at Area Forums following the arrival of a new administration.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to write a letter on behalf of Etwall Area Forum asking for Derbyshire County Council officer representation

EA/7 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A member of the public raised four issues.

1. A-frames for road signs remained in place long after the sign itself was removed by DCC. There was one left at Seven Wells in Etwall, for example. Who was responsible for them?

ACTION: Tom Sloan to pursue issue with Derbyshire County Council

2. Weeds growing in gutters around Etwall were getting out of control. Had South Derbyshire District Council given up removing them. Frank McArdle replied that the works were still carried out by SDDC under contract from DCC, who specified the number of cuts carried out each year.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to ask Derbyshire County Council for clarity on the number of gully clearing operations carried out each year

3. An Etwall resident had her green bin rejected because it contained an egg box. Previously they had been recyclable. Mr McArdle replied that the contractor had taken it upon themselves to make the distinction and he had asked for a meeting with them and the head of SDDC's Depot to discuss the situation. SDDC should have been notified of the change so residents could be alerted.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to report back on the outcome of a meeting with Palm Recycling

4. Contractors' signs at Bridge Bank had become overgrown. Could they be cleared? Councillor David Muller replied that he was attending a liaison meeting with the contractor and he would raise the issue.

A Dalbury Lees resident asked if the grass cutting budget could be devolved to the parish to better manage the work, including the collection of grass cuttings. Mr McArdle replied that there were 84,000 acres to cut in South Derbyshire and it wasn't possible to provide what the resident wanted. He was investigating alternative possibilities to the current service. Breaking up and devolving a service like grass cutting may be problematic, but would be investigated.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to provide a report back into possible options to improve the grass cutting service

A resident reported the flouting of a 7.5 tonne weight limit in Derby Road, Hilton. Was there any chance of getting improved signage from DCC? Councillor Billings said Councillor Mrs Patten had got an officer out from DCC to look at the problem and the question was in hand.

A resident asked if the speed limits in Hilton could be reviewed, with both 40mph sections at either end of the village reduced to 30mph.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report request to Derbyshire County Council for a report back

A parish councillor stated that their organisation had been asked for a contribution from SDDC towards routine maintenance of a climbing frame at the King George V playing fields in Etwall. Was this correct?

ACTION: Frank McArdle to report back to Etwall Parish Council on the relevant policy

EA/8 **County council issues**

None.

EA/9 **District council issues**

There were issues around car parking at Etwall Leisure Centre that Mr McArdle was aware of and solutions were being sought. Councillor Mrs Plenderleith added that a car park to be used needed surfacing.

Mr McArdle was working with development company Tophat Industries Ltd at Foston on their plans for a 118,000 sq ft factory and 200 jobs.

At the recent General Election, 76,000 people were eligible to vote in South Derbyshire and 52,000 did, of whom 11,000 were postal voters. It represented a turnout of 69%.

A resident expressed concern with the rapid growth of villages like Etwall, with new housing estates not matched by improvements in infrastructure. Mr McArdle replied that South Derbyshire was a fast-growing area and he had great confidence in his authority's Planning department.

A member of the public said they believed a developer was contracted to pay for the building of a school upon completion of the 150th house on its site in the Etwall area. What was SDDC doing to help build schools in the area? Mr McArdle replied that his authority's planners took advice from statutory consultees, including the education authority, before awarding planning permission. If no objection was lodged from them, there was no legal basis for rejection on the grounds of a lack of school places.

EA/10 **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course.

**Councillor Andy Billings
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.45pm.