

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON – AREA 6

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at Linton Brick Room

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Amy Wheelton (Chair), Councillor Andrew Brady (Vice Chair),
Councillor Melanie Bridgen, Councillor Dan Pegg

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive Officer
Mary Bagley – Head of Cultural and Community Services
Ian Hey – Community Partnership Officer
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Pat Murray

Derbyshire Police representatives

PCSO Dave McMillan

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Sheila Jackson, Councillor Janice Pallett, Councillor Oliver Pallett
(Castle Gresley Parish Council), Councillor Karen Bradford (Coton in the Elms
Parish Council), Councillor John Powell, Councillor Jane Summers, Councillor
Kevin Tizzard (Linton Parish Council), Councillor David Savory, Councillor John
Taylor (Netherseal Parish Council), Councillor Steve Sharpe (Overseal Parish
Council), Councillor Paul Marbrow, Councillor Stephanie Marbrow (Rosliston
Parish Council), Councillor Andrea Barnes (Walton on Trent Parish Council)

Stella Collishaw – South Derbyshire CVS

Members of the public

Olivea Allegrini-Jones, Gwen & Robert Beginn, Tim Bidder, Pat Brown, S.
Bullock, Mac Cummings, Katy Fieldhouse, John Grant, Mandy & Rob Hodson
Walker, Ali Husain, Helen Kreft, Mervyn John, Margaret Leech, Becky Lees,
Iain Liston-Brown, Clare Morton, Rosemary Palmer, Jane Summers, Josh
Vause, Dave Williams, Paul Woolaway, Geoff Wright

LA/15 **Open meeting**

- **Introductions and apologies**

None.

- **Declarations of interest**

None.

- **Chair's announcements**

Community Partnership Grants

The Community & Environment Partnership Scheme offers the chance for community groups, charities and volunteer organisations to apply to receive funding.

This is available for a wide variety of organisations and projects, from parish councils and sporting groups to arts, heritage and environmental schemes. In the past, the scheme has helped with the cost of new buildings and supported improvements to community spaces.

Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 will be awarded as matched funding to support capital projects with a value of £4,000 and above. Those applying must demonstrate that being awarded the funding would improve the quality of life of residents in South Derbyshire.

The Sunflower Scheme

Anyone with a hidden disability (or their carer) can wear a Sunflower lanyard or pin, and organisations that recognise the scheme train their staff to look out for the Sunflower sign and how to offer additional help to those who wear it.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of adopting the Sunflower scheme. As a result, the Council will be rolling out training to staff and members this spring and the lanyards will be available to pick up from the Council's reception from February 2020.

Sign Live

Sign Live is a solution that offers customers British Sign Language (BSL) translation 'on-the-go'. Users of BSL can use a mobile device to access an interpreter who will translate what they are saying to the service provider and sign back any responses.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of trialling Sign Live with our customers to see if it is well used and easy to use, before rolling it out wider.

Job Opportunities Day

There is a Job Opportunities Day taking place in Burton on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 for those seeking jobs, training and other support for their

future career. The next one due to be held in Swadlincote will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 3pm until 6pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum.

Thinking of Starting a Business

A 'Thinking of Starting a Business' session will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 5.30pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for any budding entrepreneurs!

- **To receive the minutes of the last meeting**

Councillor Amy Wheelton provided a verbal update on behalf Richard Kay, Managing Director of the Drakelow Park Group in respect to the Walton bypass bridge as follows: -

"We are aware of the importance of the bridge to the local community and the wider area.

During the last 18 months significant effort has been made into exploring different configurations for the Drakelow site in order to overcome some of the obstacles that we have faced and thus enable the bridge and development works to get started. South Derbyshire District Council, Derbyshire County Council, Staffordshire County Council, Homes England, and a number of investors/ developers have been all been involved in this process.

We are working to a solution that would enable commencement of works on the site and, in turn, commencement of the works on the bridge, albeit at this time it is too early to confirm timescales.

We will update you with more information as and when we are in a position to do so.

As always with these projects there are a lot of hurdles to get over and the team at Drakelow is working hard to progress things"

A Walton resident asked what SDDC's policy is for granting future planning permission.

Frank McArdle responded to say that SDDC's planning policy remains the same and that planning applications are taken at their face value and unless there is a good reason to refuse then providing the application meets the relevant criteria then there is nothing to stop future development plans from being submitted and approved.

A member of the public queried whether DCC plan to make wear and tear repairs to the existing bridge?

Councillor Pat Murray responded to say that there is no provision at this point in time but would take the matter back to DCC Highways for further investigation.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to follow-up with DCC the request for maintenance repairs to be made to the existing Bailey bridge.

A Drakelow resident added that the improvement of the Walton bypass bridge seems to be focused only on the Drakelow development and challenged that it also affects the quality of life of both Walton and Rosliston residents and that this should also be taken into consideration.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to write to DCC regarding the installation of a new Walton bypass bridge.

A Netherseal resident raised ongoing concerns about the 7.5 tonne weight limit signage situated by the junction off the A444 towards Netherseal and proposed that a more substantial sign clearly indicating 'Unsuitable for HGVs' should be erected which would be more impactful than another 7.5 tonne weight limit sign which appear to be largely ignored.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to follow-up with DCC Highways the request for an 'Unsuitable for HGV's' sign and report back.

Councillor Dan Pegg raised concerns regarding a recent incident in Castle Gresley whereby some heavy metal parts came loose from a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) travelling through a restricted 7.5 tonne weigh limit area.

Councillor Pat Murray responded to say that DCC cannot be held responsible for parts dropping off passing lorries.

Councillor Janice Pallet of Castle Gresley Parish Council suggested that the 7.5 tonne weight limit sign currently situated at the bottom Mount Pleasant Road be moved to either Linton Road or moved further forward to just as you exit from the A444 just off the Toon's roundabout.

A member of the public suggested that Richard Hanbury should be invited to the next meeting.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to follow up with DCC Highways a request to move an existing 7.5 tonne weight limit restriction sign situated at the bottom of Mount Pleasant Road and report back.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to invite Richard Hanbury to the next meeting.

A resident suggested that the police should act and set-up a Protection, Observation, Support and Arrest (POSA) check station regarding the HGVs and other safety concerns raised in the local area.

ACTION: Communities Team to pass on the POSA check station request to the Police.

LA/16 **Police Safer Neighbourhood report**

PCSO Dave McMillan provided the following update: -

- Inspector Kate Bateman will be retiring mid-February and will be replaced by Chris Thornhill.
- Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Sgt Tarj Nizzer is now responsible for areas 4, 5 and 6 (Swadlincote, Newhall and Linton)
- There was a successful warrant at Cadley for Class C drugs
- A cannabis grow was uncovered at Station Street, Castle Gresley
- Tool marking and van security events have been held at The Beehive Honey Pot Tearoom (Rosliston) and Screwfix (Swadlincote).
- Cuppa with a Coppa event held at Linton Village Hall – to which nobody turned up.
- PC Joanna Saddington is now covering areas 4, 5 and 6 (Swadlincote, Newhall and Linton)
- A Crime Action Group (CAG) team has been set up to focus specifically on following up drug related intelligence.

Councillor Jane Summers queried why there is no longer a police presence at Parish Council meetings.

PCSO Dave McMillan responded to say that no invites had been received to his knowledge but would be happy to attend a future meeting.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding an increase in car thefts in and around Swadlincote.

PCSO Dave McMillan responded to say that the cars which are being stolen are generally high-performance cars with keyless ignitions and encouraged residents who have cars with keyless ignitions to obtain faraday bags which block the signal when not in use. PCSO Dave McMillan further explained that there have been thefts in various locations across the district and that the police cannot predict where will be hit next.

A member of the public asked whether it is local people committing these crimes and whether there would be any additional police resource provided to help address the increasing level of crime in the area.

PCSO McMillan responded to say that most auto related crimes are committed by organised crime groups that are not from this area and updated that there is now a Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Sgt plus ten SNT officers covering the whole of South Derbyshire and that a further two PCSO's and one PC are due to start mid-February time.

A local resident asked whether there was any further update regarding the recent spate of sheep worrying incidents in the area and queried whether stray hounds from the local hunt could be responsible?

PCSO Dave McMillan replied that there were no further leads. Councillor Amy Wheelton added that the local hunt had been contacted and that the times and dates did not tally and therefore could not be held responsible.

Councillor Amy Wheelton raised awareness about an event due to be held on Thursday, February 6, 2010 at 6:30pm at Locko Park near Derby where there will be a speaker from Gosford Police giving a talk about initiatives to tackle poaching and hare coursing which can be linked to cashpoint robberies and is another type of organised crime.

A member of the public raised concerns about County Lines and asked what the police are doing to tackle the problem.

PCSO Dave McMillan advised that the police are pro-actively looking at County Lines but do rely on intelligence received from the public and encouraged residents to report any suspicious activity via 101 or 999 in an emergency. Alternatively matters of concern can also be reported anonymously via CrimeStoppers.

Councillor Melanie Bridgen queried when the next Cuppa with a Coppa event would be held and how the event could be better publicised to improve future attendance.

PCSO Dave McMillan responded to say that a date and venue was still to be set and that events are usually publicised via the Swadlincote SNT Facebook page and Derbyshire Alert. Suggestions were welcomed for a suitable venue for the next event.

Councillor Jane Summers asked how people without internet get to know about things and suggested that events such as Cuppa with a Coppa should be displayed on Parish Council notice boards.

PCSO Dave McMillan agreed that putting a notice up on Parish Council notice boards around the area would be a good idea to reach the wider community and would action prior to future events.

LA/17 South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership update

Ian Hey provided the following update: -

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on Maurice Lea Park

A period of consultation has recently closed which asked for opinions on the Council implementing a Public Space Protection Order on Maurice Lea Park to combat anti-social behaviour (ASB) which became a regular issue during the Summer Holiday period.

Reports were received by both the Council and the Police regarding groups of youths drinking, being abusive to staff and members of the public, smashing glass and littering and causing damage to trees and play equipment.

The PSPO prohibitions will enable Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for anyone caught dropping litter and will give additional powers to both the Police and Council officers to remove individuals off the park for 24 hours and to confiscate alcohol.

The Consultation has received 100% support from those who responded, and a report will be submitted to Committee in March to ask for approval for the order.

Digital MOT

Safer Derbyshire have launched a campaign to invite members of the public to take a quick survey (less than 5 minutes) to see how secure their mobile devices and laptops are and find out how to be safer online.

The Digital MOT is a cyber security assessment tool developed by the Community Safety Unit at DCC, in partnership with the Cybercrime Unit at Derbyshire Constabulary.

Phones, computers, and tablets are now part of everyday life - online banking, shopping, email and social media. But the longer you spend online, the more risks you are exposed to. So, it is more important than ever to take steps to protect your accounts, data and devices from cyber criminals.

To take the MOT please visit the website:
<https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/MOT>

Safer Neighbourhoods and Community Funding

<u>Area 6 - Linton</u>						
Project Name	Ref.	Project Lead	Organisation	Amount Applied for	Total Project Cost	Amount Granted
Stay & Spray	A6:01	Hema Mistry	People Express - Sharpe's Pottery Museum	£2,500.00	£5,000.00	£2,500.00
Community Container	A6:02	Steph Lloyd	Castle Gresley Parish Council	£2,500.00	£5,970.00	£2,500.00
Total				£5,000.00	£10,970.00	£5,000.00

The whole amount allocated to Linton Area Forum has been allocated on two projects that were approved at previous meetings. No additional applications have been received.

Further money (£4000) will be available from April 2020. However, applications can still be received at any time up until the end of March as there is still an underspend on 2019/ 20 money across other parts of the district.

Any ideas contact Chris Smith, Ian Hey or Debbie Ward.

LA/18 **Local authority update**

Frank McArdle provided the following update: -

The Council's income base continues to benefit from increasing numbers of properties and business development. Any extra income generated is now being set aside to meet increased costs of services such as waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. There are no proposed cuts in services.

Overall spending is due to increase by at least inflation. Additional funding has been approved for parishes through concurrent functions to recognise growth. The coming years Council Tax increase proposed at 1.95% (adding £3.17 per year to a band D property). All proposals are still subject to Council ratification on 26.02.20.

There will be no capping for parishes, the government were considering this but are keeping their options open. Generally, the local authorities budget position is good, but we are not complacent and are mindful of future budget pressures including our commitment to climate change.

In the near future waste collection and recycling may also put pressure on budgets for 2021-22. The main concern for many Councils is around the uncertainty regarding government funding beyond 2021. The government is intending to review the distribution system and the amount of money divided between different types of authority and we are keeping a close eye on that. In the meantime, the Councils overall financial position remains sound with a good level of general reserves.

Mary Bagley provided the following update: -

ISO14001

South Derbyshire District Council was awarded the prestigious ISO14001 standard for Environmental Management for the twelfth successive year in December following an extensive four-day audit.

The audit covered all the Council's five main operational centres – Civic Way offices, the depot on the Boardman Estate, Greenbank and Etwall Leisure centres and Rosliston Forestry Centre.

The auditors highlighted a handful of minor non-conformities which are being addressed as well as making over 20 additional observations to help the Council continue to improve its environmental performance.

Mention was made of the environmental, biodiversity, education and well-being programmes at Rosliston. Also, the approach of the Housing, Planning & Economic Development Services to ensure that existing and planned developments are managed with protection of the environment as one of the main pillars.

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign

Between March 20 and April 13 this year there will be a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign and we will be doing a lot of local work linking to this initiative, putting information on our website and encouraging communities to join in.

Keen litter-pickers can get involved with an ever-growing list of clean-up events taking place across the District.

Keep an eye on our usual communication channels for further information.

Green Spaces Plan

The Council is seeking to protect around 150 Local Green Spaces across the District through a Local Green Spaces Plan. Following the hearing in September the Council is preparing to consult on several modifications to the Plan, subject to Committee approval. After this consultation, the Inspector will write her report, which it is hoped will lead to the Plan's adoption by late spring.

Tim Peake Space Sapling lands at Rosliston Forestry Centre

South Derbyshire District Council's Environmental Education Project at Rosliston Forestry Centre is very proud to be a recipient of one of eight young trees from the pips from Isaac Newton's apple tree that were blasted into space with British European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut Tim Peake.

Apple pips from the iconic Newton tree were taken on the Principia mission in 2015 by British astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station. The pips then spent six months floating in micro gravity as part of the 'Pips in Space' project, before returning to Earth in 2016.

A local resident raised an issue about delayed bin collections at Oak Close, Castle Gresley and that it resulted in litter blowing everywhere.

ACTION: Communities Team to feedback the issue reported about delayed bin collections at Oak Close, Castle Gresley to Operational Services.

A member of the public asked whether SDDC could make more use of brown field sites and encourage development by incentivising developers by way of a reduced section 106 agreement or some such.

Frank McArdle responded to say that this would not be possible and that to effectively buy planning permission by way of inducements is highly illegal.

Linton Parish Council raised concerns over flooding in respect to the Woodland Trust and has been reporting instances of severe flooding since March 2019.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to take back the concerns raised regarding the ongoing severe flooding in respect to the Woodland Trust to DCC for further investigation.

A member of the public queried what was the plan for SDDC's reserves and asked what can be done about the major issue of dog fouling in Linton.

Frank McArdle responded to say that there is a district wide public order on dog mess but ultimately it is up to the community of South Derbyshire to report irresponsible dog owners and hot-spot areas. SDDC have previously erected illuminated notices as part of the 'We're Watching You' campaign to try and tackle the problem.

A Netherseal resident raised the issue of the A444 traveller site and asked could we have an indication of how effective SDDC feels the enforcement action has been in respect to the development. It appears that development continues unlawfully. Having gone through the new planning application it appears that the whole contents of the application have been implemented.

Mary Bagley provided an update on the second planning application that is due to be considered and encouraged residents to provide comments by January 31, 2020.

A member of the public raised awareness about a traveller site in Aston that was approved and went to appeal and queried why SDDC are not using an existing accommodation assessment covering Derbyshire/ Derby/ Peak District and East Staffordshire. The same member of the public also raised that there is a South Derbyshire Allocation Development Plan due to be completed by November 2021 and queried whether that means that any appeal between now and then will be overturned because we cannot show that we have a five-year supply of pitches?

Frank McArdle responded to say that on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at the Environment and Development Services (EDS) Committee we are about to launch that consultation so that we can better protect ourselves in future and urged anyone that was interested to visit the SDDC website for more details.

An Overseal resident raised highway resurfacing issues in the area, as they are not fit for purpose.

Councillor Pat Murray replied to say that a full report has been done by DCC Highways regarding this matter which has been sent to Overseal Parish Council Clerk, John White.

A copy of the action plan in respect to the report was subsequently requested.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to request an action plan from Richard Handbury following a DCC Highways report that was written in response to concerns raised over highways in the Overseal area being unfit for purpose.

Netherseal Parish Council raised that they are still awaiting a response from Councillor Pat Murray following their September 2019 parish meeting.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murry to provide a response to Netherseal Parish Council following a Parish Council meeting held back in September 2019 where it was agreed that Richard Handbury would attend the next meeting.

Frank McArdle raised awareness about setting up a Parish meeting following an expression of interest received from a Drakelow resident. For more information, please contact Frank McArdle's office.

Frank McArdle responded to concerns raised by residents of the new Drakelow housing development in respect to the absence of dog fouling bins and explained that it is the responsibility of the developer to install the bins in the first instance. However, SDDC officers have requested these today on behalf of Drakelow residents so hopefully they will be installed by the developer very soon.

LA/19 **Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update**

Stella Collishaw, Development Officer for South Derbyshire CVS provided a brief overview of the services that CVS offer which include the Food Bank, Public Community Fridge and Safer Homes South Derbyshire.

For more information regarding South Derbyshire CVS, you can get in touch by calling 01283 550163 or visit their website (sdcvs.org.uk). Alternatively, you can contact Stella direct on 01283 219761 or email: StellaC@sdcvs.org.uk

LA/20 **Summary of agreed actions**

- Councillor Pat Murray to follow-up with DCC the request for maintenance repairs to be made to the existing Bailey bridge.
- Frank McArdle to write to DCC regarding the installation of a new Walton bypass bridge.
- Councillor Pat Murray to follow-up with DCC Highways the request for an 'Unsuitable for HGV's' sign and report back.
- Councillor Pat Murray to follow up with DCC Highways a request to move an existing 7.5 tonne weight limit restriction sign situated at the bottom of Mount Pleasant Road and report back.
- Councillor Pat Murray to invite Richard Hanbury to the next meeting.
- Communities Team to pass on the POSA check station request to the Police.

- Communities Team to feedback the issue reported about delayed bin collections at Oak Close, Castle Gresley to Operational Services.
- Councillor Pat Murray to take back the concerns raised regarding the ongoing severe flooding in respect to the Woodland Trust to DCC for further investigation.
- Councillor Pat Murray to request an action plan from Richard Handbury following a DCC Highways report that was written in response to concerns raised over highways in the Overseal area being unfit for purpose.
- Councillor Pat Murry to provide a response to Netherseal Parish Council following a Parish Council meeting held back in September 2019 where it was agreed that Richard Handbury would attend the next meeting.

LA/21 **Close and date of next meeting**

TBC

Councillor Amy Wheelton
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7:54pm