

JOINT HIGHWAYS FORUM

26th June 2008

PRESENT:-

Representatives of South Derbyshire District Council

Councillors Bladen (Chairman), Hewlett, Lane, Rhind and Mrs. Wheeler.

Representatives of Derbyshire County Council

Councillors Hood, Mrs. Lauro and Jones.

Officers

South Derbyshire District Council

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), P. Evans (Direct Services Manager), C. Payne (Senior Engineering Technician) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council

J. Waite (Area Network Manager – Southern Area).

Parish Council Representatives

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), K. Slater (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Camwell (Burnaston Parish Council), J. Pallett and S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), W. Wadsworth (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), B. Cowley (Egginton Parish Council), W. Lythgoe and H. Coyle (Elvaston Parish Council), N. Ireland and J. Patten (Etwall Parish Council), A. Luckhurst and S. Bell (Findern Parish Council), M. Cramp and C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council), L. Kolkman (Hilton Parish Council), R. Paulson (Repton Parish Council) and C. Fellows (Stenson Fields Parish Council).

JHF/1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from M. Todd, M.P., Councillor Dunn (South Derbyshire District Council), L. Brown (Egginton Parish Council), B. Wheat (Stanton-by-Bridge Parish Council) and C. Gow (Willington Parish Council).

JHF/2. **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

J. Waite introduced himself as Derbyshire County Council's Area Network Manager for the South Eastern area, which covered South Derbyshire. Within the County Council he was responsible for staff within the Traffic Safety and Control, Highways Maintenance, Schemes Design and Development Control areas. A presentation was then delivered, which outlined current funding, explanations of how work was prioritised, current problems that were encountered and changes that were expected within the next year.

J. Waite confirmed that there was £23 million allocated to the County for capital works, and gave a further breakdown on the scope of these works in the following categories:-

- Primary route network.
- Non-primary route network.
- Bridges and structures.
- Congestion.
- Safety.
- Accessibility.
- Air quality.
- Derby Joint Local Transport Plan.

In addition, he confirmed that the countywide revenue budget was £24.3 million. Major revenue work consisted largely of the surface dressing programme, and routine maintenance work which covered such items as retaining walls, dangerous defects, carriageway and footway patching, drainage works, cattle grids, fences, barriers, walls and rights of way. In addition, this budget also covered winter maintenance, street lighting maintenance, signs maintenance, bridges and footpaths maintenance and traffic management.

An overview was also given of the prioritisation of work.

JHF/3. **QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A representative from Castle Gresley Parish Council reported that, as work on the new river crossing at Walton-on-Trent was imminent, it was important that HGV's were not allowed to use unauthorised access roads as a shortcut, as the current road structure between the A444 and A38 was unsatisfactory. J. Waite responded that he had been involved with the consideration of the road structure around this area and there had been some work to try and minimise problems. However, no further major work was planned at this area.

A representative from Elvaston Parish Council reported that they were experiencing problems with the Highways Agency with regard to the A6 spur off the A50.

J. Waite agreed to speak to Mr. Lythgoe following the Meeting.

A representative from Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council advised that while construction work was ongoing in their area, they were experiencing many lorry movements and would like additional signage indicating where there was no access for lorries.

J. Waite confirmed that access to site issues should have been dealt with at the planning stage. However, he agreed to investigate providing further signage and would liaise with Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council following the Meeting.

Councillor Hood reported that speed humps had been installed in Hilton in an attempt to encourage people to use the relief road, but this was still not being used sufficiently. He asked if traffic could be encouraged further to bypass the village centre.

J. Waite responded that an officer from Derbyshire County Council had been involved with this problem. He was not aware of any further work

that could be done to encourage drivers to use the relief road. However, he agreed to ask officers to re-consider this once again.

A representative from Egginton Parish Council reported that the edging stones adjacent to the Hilton Waters development were cracked and required attention.

J. Waite agreed to investigate this issue.

It was asked if there were plans for a bypass at Hatton. Councillor Mrs. Wheeler responded that a feasibility study was planned from “growth point” funds.

J. Waite agreed to investigate this and report back to the next Meeting.

Councillor Mrs. Patten asked if consultation had been completed with regard to a possible third traffic-calming hump in Hilton. In addition, she felt further signage would encourage drivers to use the relief road. She added that there were too many signs in the area that had been erected by local building companies, and she also asked about patching on the road, a gully at Hilton, street lights and manhole covers.

J. Waite responded that he would obtain further details of any consultation that had taken place with regard to the third traffic-calming hump in Hilton and report back to the next Meeting. He added that with regard to builders’ signs, this was being pursued as part of a response to a query at an Area Meeting. He agreed to investigate the issues regarding patching outside the meeting in conjunction with Councillor Mrs. Patten. The County Council was currently considering the use of low energy bulbs. With regard to sunken manhole covers, he reported that these were inspected when they had been reported, and if they fell outside acceptable levels, they would be repaired within 24 hours. However, it was advised that many manhole covers did not belong to Derbyshire County Council, and these were then reported to the relevant bodies.

C. Payne also responded that the over-flowing manhole chamber on the public surface water sewer that Councillor Mrs. Patten referred to at Egginton Road, had been caused by the adjacent watercourse being unable to deal with high volumes of water within the sewer from Mulberry Way. The District Council had already carried out clearing works to the watercourse, but it required regrading to improve its capacity. The District Council was currently in discussions with Severn Trent Water in an attempt to resolve this situation.

Hatton Parish Council reported that the drains outside Nos. 61 to 79 Station Road, Hatton were flooding when it rained and although the gullies were jetted out, they weren’t unblocked. There were also problems with the gully adjacent to the Salt Box crossing.

J. Waite agreed to pursue these issues following the Meeting.

A representative from Etwall Parish Council asked how the Parish Council could assist the County Council in identifying areas of road where there were consistent accidents. J. Waite responded that where accidents had happened consistently in an area, if there was no injury and they weren’t

reported to the police, the County Council would be unaware of them. It would be useful if the Parish Council, being aware of these problems, could feed back to the County Council.

Hilton Parish Council raised an issue with a particular road that was currently unadopted.

J. Waite agreed to pursue this particular matter outside the Meeting.

Findern Parish Council advised that they had sent correspondence to the County Council with regard to a problem with a pavement.

J. Waite agreed to respond directly to the Parish Council on this issue.

Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council raised points concerning the County Council's programme of works, Village Plans and a tree blocking the view of traffic on Deepdale Road.

J. Waite responded that the programme of works was normally completed by October. This was then submitted for approval by Christmas. If a parish wished to influence this, they should do it via an approach to their County Councillor, preferably during September. In relation to the question regarding Village Plans, he explained the process whereby the County Council considered the Village Plan, where relevant. With regard to the tree on Deepdale Road, he was unaware of the ownership details and advised the Parish Council to contact the County Council on this matter.

A representative from Egginton Parish Council asked that a hedge be cut back adjacent to the A5132 crossroads at Egginton.

J. Waite agreed to pursue this issue.

Councillor Lane pointed out that the Meeting had not covered Derbyshire County Council's Strategic Level Response to the Regional Spatial Strategy. He also felt that he had received an unsatisfactory response from the County Council with regard to where repairs were going to be completed.

J. Waite advised that the County Council's response to the Regional Spatial Strategy may be included on the agenda for the next Meeting. In addition, the County Council did have plans for future maintenance, and would discuss this with Councillor Lane outside the Meeting.

Stenson Fields Parish Council advised that a weight limit sign was required for vehicles accessing Barrow-on-Trent from Stenson Fields.

J. Waite agreed to pursue this following the Meeting.

The Chairman then confirmed the following items for future discussion:-

- County Council response to the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Road infrastructure.
- Developments surrounding Findern.

It was also requested that at the next Meeting, parishes should refrain from raising individual issues and that the Meeting should concentrate on strategic items.

JHF/4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 12.25 p.m.