

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE – AREA 4

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at Sharpe's Pottery Museum

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Steve Taylor (Chair), Councillor Malcolm Gee, Councillor Jane Perry, Councillor Trevor Southard, Councillor Steve Taylor, Councillor Neil Tilley

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive Officer
Mary Bagley – Head of Cultural and Community Services
Chris Smith – Communities Manager
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Linda Chilton, Councillor Gary Musson

Derbyshire Police representatives

Sgt David Walker, PC Kim Wheeldon, PCSO Reece Beattie, PCSO Jamie Gutberlet

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Jenny Burley (Hartshorne Parish Council), Maureen Mycock (Hartshorne Parish Council), Eric Parker (Woodville Parish Council)
Stella Collishaw (South Derbyshire CVS)

Members of the public

Christine Allen, Eddie Bisknell, Ron Causer, Alan Clarke, Colin Dobson, M. Hine, P. Pollard, Yvonne Pollard, Rhea Turner

SA/8 **Open meeting**

• **Introductions and apologies**

Kate Allies, Councillor Mike Dawson, Councillor Vonnie Heath, Councillor Mick Mulgrew, Councillor Gordon Rhind

- **Declarations of interest**

None.

- **Chair's announcements**

New waste and recycling calendar booklets are currently in production and will be delivered in the next few weeks.

New payment machines

From January 1, 2020 it will no longer be possible to make payments using cash at the Civic Offices in Swadlincote.

Alternative cash payment facilities are available through Post Offices. The "Pay Point" network, featuring a variety of independent local retailers, is also established and already well used by other people making payments to the Council. There are 10 of these locations within one mile of the Civic Offices.

Payment by cheque will still be allowed – but they must be submitted by post, not over the counter. Anyone requiring a receipt must include a stamped addressed envelope with their cheque.

Free Tree Scheme

Both residents of South Derbyshire District and organisations with a South Derbyshire address are eligible to apply.

Applications are welcomed between Tuesday, September 24, 2019 and Monday, October 21, 2019 (5pm) by visiting www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/freetreescheme or by calling Customer Services on 01283 595795. Households can apply for up to two trees per household and organisations can apply for up to ten trees.

This year's tree choices are; Cherry Plum, Hazel, Crab Apple and Holly and all trees will be around two years old.

Heritage Trails

SDDC has a new webpage to showcase heritage trails for the different parts of the District. See www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/heritagetrails

There is a Heritage Trail 'home' page which can be used to share heritage trails from around the District. If you would like your village/ town trails or leaflets about your local heritage to feature on the website please send a link to: communications@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Swadlincote and Newhall Heritage Trail

The current project is now completed, achievements include -

- The installation of four lecterns which look very impressive: two are located at Maurice Lea Memorial Park, one at The Delph and one at the Pipework's Retail Park. They are designed to give information about the town centre as well as heritage information.
- The schools programme has enabled lots of local children to be inspired by past successes and design their own plaque and career plan
- The final pavement plaques went in at the end of September. Locations of the plaques can be found on the council website.

Leaflets with details of the trails including wall and pavement plaques and the new lecterns are at www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/heritagetrails

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

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

- **Matters arising from last minutes/ comments from report back**

A resident responded to comments from the report back regarding Dinnis's clock to advised that the clock is in fact the same one from over 100 years ago and has the original winder inside (i.e. it is not electronically operated). Also, the bracket, whilst not imminently dangerous could become a danger in the future if not properly maintained and reiterated that the clock it is an iconic feature of the town. The suggestion was also made that perhaps the clock could be moved if the current owners of the building do not want it.

Frank McArdle advised that as the clock is attached to private property there is little reassurance that can be given at this time but would take back the comments made.

Following on from the issue raised during the last meeting in respect to the newly installed LED street lighting on New Road, a resident queried in what instances would street lights be dimmed or turned off altogether and suggested that the street lighting on New Road already looks to be permanently dimmed and do not provide the same level of light as previous lighting.

Councillor Gary Musson responded to say that street lighting levels are determined based on the type of road it is and in the case of New Road is set up to be operational from dusk till dawn and that DCC have confirmed that the

lighting is as it should be. However, the difference with LED lighting is that it is a more focused light and therefore will result in more dark spots.

ACTION: Councillor Musson to report back dim lighting on New Road, Woodville to DCC.

SA/9 **Police Safer Neighbourhood report**

PCSO Jamie Gutberlet introduced the new members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT); Sergeant Dave Walker, PCSO Reece Beattie and PC Kim Wheeldon and explained that since the last meeting there has been a large increase in staff in the SNT resulting in a total of x7 PC's and x12 PCSO's to cover the South Derbyshire District.

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has increased over the Summer holidays. There have been issues at Maurice Lea Park which have been dealt with by issuing CPNW's
- Bike Marking events have been taking place throughout the district
- Social Media is continuing to be used to engage with local communities
- Shoplifting has increased since the last meeting
- County lines activity has started to increase over recent weeks
- The team attended on several occasions Whaley Bridge to assist with patrols and road closures
- In July a 17 year old male was arrested in Church Gresley for possession with intent to supply found with a large amount of cannabis and cash.
- In August a Male was arrested following a burglary at a barber shop in Swadlincote and is currently in prison.

The additional Police resource was welcomed by CEO Frank McArdle.

Councillor Steve Taylor added that the additional resource is welcomed, and that the community of Woodville was very appreciative of the action that was taken as a result of the issues raised during the last meeting.

Councillor Malcolm Gee also extended thanks to the Police and PCSO Harriet Dunn in particular for their help in resolving the matters raised at the previous meeting in respect to Woodville Recreation Ground.

Councillor Taylor raised concerns on behalf of Parish Councillors in Hartshorne regarding youths on bikes causing a nuisance around the Goseley Estate area. Brookdale Road and Hartshill Road are particular hotspots.

A local resident added that there is still a problem at Woodville Recreation Ground with youths congregating on bikes at night time.

ACTION: Sgt Walker to take back issues raised regarding nuisance cyclists around Goseley and Woodville Recreation Ground to SNT to investigate and report back.

A local resident raised concerns regarding people flagrantly parking on the white zig zag lines outside of the schools and asked whether any authority can be given to either the schools or crossing attendants to act for themselves.

Sgt Dave Walker responded to say that the SNT would continue to carry out patrols and monitor the situation as this is a problem not only at Belmont school but also at many other schools in the area.

Chris Smith added that there is also a Derbyshire Community Road Safety Partnership who work with schools to look at schemes to help with the sorts of issues raised. Derbyshire County Council Civil Enforcement Officers can also enforce zig zag lines.

ACTION: Councillor Musson to make enquires with DCC regarding whether there is anything more that can be done to help with parking issues at schools.

A resident raised an issue regarding footballers openly urinating up trees at Woodville Recreation Ground during football matches.

Councillor Taylor acknowledged that this matter has already been raised with Woodville Parish Council but is yet to be discussed. However, if the issue is relating to indecent exposure then the matter needs to be raised directly with the Police.

Sgt Walker responded to say that urinating in a park and indecent exposure are two very different things however it is certainly anti-social and suggested that in the first instance the Police could write a letter to the secretaries of the football clubs in question to say that the issue has been brought to their attention and monitor.

ACTION: Sgt Dave Walker to write a letter to the secretaries of the football clubs involved and monitor.

A Hartshorne resident raised concerns regarding speeding along Hartshorne Road and asked whether the Police could carry out some checks in the area.

Sgt Walker advised that speeding concerns should be reported directly to CREST via their website and explained that the more reports that are made the more chance there is of something being done about it. Sgt Walker also suggested that if there is enough interest there is an option for volunteers to come forward and form their own Community Speedwatch group.

ACTION: SNT to conduct a speed check on Hartshorne Road when time allows.

SA/10 **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership update and Safer Neighbourhood grants**

Chris Smith provided the following update: -

- National Hate Crime Awareness Week takes place between the 12th and 19th October. Activities taking place include a poster competition in Primary schools, Stop Hate reporting packs being issued to Private Hire Operators, a social media campaign and two public engagement events: -

Stenson Fields Community Centre, Mere Vale Way on Monday, October 14, 2019 between 5:30 - 7:30pm

Swadlincote Market Place, on Friday, October 18, 2019 between 11:00am - 1:00pm

- Swadlincote Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) has now been extended for a further 3 years.
- In July the Council were successful in obtaining a 5 year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) on a prolific street drinker and shop lifter, Daniel Singleton.
- Faraday Bags Campaign - to date, over 300 Faraday bags have been given away to help combat keyless car thefts in the district. The bags block the signal which means that the relay systems the thieves use will not work and so they cannot steal the cars.
- ASB Tasking Meeting - we have reintroduced the ASB Tasking meetings involving Schools, Multi Agency Team (MAT), Police and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to discuss young people who are causing concern in school and outside in the community.
- Safer Neighbourhoods Funding – Projects funded to date 2019/20: -

Project Name	Ref.	Project Lead	Organisation	Amount Applied for	Total Project Cost	Amount Granted
Anti-loitering Mosquito Alarms	A4:01	Bob Ellis	Gresley Old Hall	£950	£1275.99	£950

			Community Welfare Centre			
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There is still £3,050 left to spend. Any ideas contact Chris Smith or Debbie Ward.

SA/11 **Local authority update**

Chris Smith and Mary Bagley gave the following update: -

In spring and early summer 2019, SDDC ran two environmental awareness campaigns aimed at helping residents positively influence their local environmental standards.

The **We're Watching You** campaign was delivered in the District's parks and open spaces to encourage responsible owners to pick up after their dog and to apply peer pressure to less responsible owners.

The campaign used glow in the dark signs to promote a positive message to all dog walkers about picking up after their animal. It was supported by an active social media campaign over the two months. The campaign was based on behavioural research by the Keep Britain Tidy Group which shows that a minority of dog owners act irresponsibly when they think they are not being watched.

The social media campaign resulted in over 62,000 residents seeing the content on Facebook and Twitter and nearly 4,000 residents engaging with the content. As a result of feedback, the Council have published a new Frequently Asked Questions webpage which deals with the many queries on dog control. Dog fouling complaints reduced by 35% during the campaign compared to previous years.

The **Great British Spring Clean** event was delivered to help enthusiastic members of our local communities come together to clear up litter.

The Council hosted a town centre spring clean on 2nd April to link in to the Great Britain Spring Clean campaign as well as supporting a weekend event in Castleton Park which was organised by members of the local community. 90 bags of litter were collected by 70 volunteers.

Any community organisations who want to run their own litter collection event can sign up on the Keep Britain Tidy website and can contact the Councils Operational Services team at waste.cleansing@southderbyshire.gov.uk to request support such as provision of litter pickers and other equipment or ring the Council's Customer Services Team on 01283 595795.

Climate change

In August 2018, the Council set up an Environmental Sustainability Group. The purpose of the Group is to develop and implement measures that demonstrably improve the Council's environmental performance and to respond to the Council declaring a Climate Emergency on June 27th, 2019 to:

“Strive to make South Derbyshire District Council carbon neutral by 2030 and achieve Carbon Neutrality before the Government target of 2050”.

The Group has a number of work streams to improve the Council's environmental performance, namely:

- To retain its ISO14001 (International Environmental Standard) accreditation;
- To reduce the Council's Energy Consumption;
- To improve the Council's Water Management;
- To focus on reducing Staff Travel – both miles driven by Council vehicles and miles driven on Council business using employee's own transport
- To reduce the waste the Council generates;
- To encourage our suppliers to offer environmental benefits through our Procurement process;
- To enhance biodiversity across the District.

A number of initiatives are currently being worked on to address these issues, for example:

- The Recruitment of a new Environmental Protection Officer
- A Travel Plan for the Council is being developed to encourage staff to walk, cycle and use public transport both to and from work and during the working day.
- A review of the Council's electricity and gas supply framework has been completed
- The Council has had a grant to install its first public Electric Vehicle recharge point on Council land at the Bus Station Car Park in Swadlincote
- The Council is working to improve the energy efficiency of its own properties and Council homes.
- A Biodiversity Working Group has been formed to develop an Action Plan for Nature across the District which will help to improve biodiversity on Council owned land and influence developers to delivery biodiversity improvements through our planning policies.

Wildflower planting pilot

A pilot scheme for pictorial wildflower planting at four locations within the District has been approved. The proposed pilot areas for pictorial meadows are as follows:

Hartshorne Road, Repton
Ticknall Road, Ticknall
The Mease, Hilton
William Nadin Way, Swadlincote

Wildflower planting increases biodiversity and encourages wildlife; pictorial planting enhances the aesthetic appearance of otherwise bland green spaces.

Unlike the current grass cutting arrangements, wildflower plantings require a different management and mowing regime.

The Wild Flower Planting pilot project is one of a series of biodiversity measures currently being piloted by the Council. This pilot will help give the Council a better understanding of the resources, staff and equipment required and to also gauge the public's reaction to cutting the grass less in these places.

Corporate Plan

The Council is currently working on producing its new Corporate Plan for 2020 – 2024.

The Vision for the plan will be – South Derbyshire is a *'Great place to live, visit and invest'*

Ethical Standards/ Values will be – Respect, Honesty, Openness, Accountability, Impartiality, Selflessness, Leadership and Integrity

The Three key priorities of the council will be:

Our Environment – *Keeping a Clean, Green District for future generations*

Our People – *ensuring we deliver high quality services*

Our Future – *growing our District and our skills base*

Further information will be provided at future meetings.

Councillor Linda Chilton queried whether SDDC have liaised with Highways at DCC to ensure that the verges in question will not create visibility issues for drivers.

Mary Bagley responded to say that SDDC have worked very closely with DCC and have obtained a cultivation license and have made a joint decision with DCC over which four verges would be most suitable to trial the pilot scheme. Councillor Chilton added that people should be aware that members of the public can also apply to DCC for a cultivation license to enable them to plant certain bushes etc. on verges.

Following an article printed in the Burton Mail regarding the development of a new Civic Hub a member of the public queried what associated cost would be and whether the Council would look to create a new building or seek to refurbish the existing offices.

Frank McArdle welcomed the interest and stated that in order to decide how to move forward the Council has obtained £100,000 from One Public Estate (OPE) which is an established national programme delivered in partnership by the Office of Government Property (OGP) within the Cabinet Office and the Local Government Association (LGA). The funding received will allow the Council to engage experts such as valuers, surveyors and architects to devise a scheme that will take the site where we are now and look at what is possible in terms of what we might get there in the future with an aim to creating a Civic hub that will be shared by the Council and its partners. There is also an intention to invite commercial activity such as a coffee shop etc. to share the facilities and associated running costs.

A question was also raised about the Council finding smarter ways of working and an example of a situation was given which demonstrated that mistakes appeared to have been made.

Frank McArdle responded to say that any business no matter how successful will make mistakes and encouraged members of the public to complain where expectations are not met as this will allow any issues raised to be dealt with efficiently at source and would also allow the Council to make improvements as a result.

A member of the public welcomed the Wildflower planting pilot scheme and asked whether the Council has any powers to address eyesores on private land.

Frank McArdle advised that the Council does have powers to deal with untidy sites and encouraged members of the public to report issues in the first instance to the Clean Team. Alternatively, there is a section on the SDDC website where an empty property or untidy site can be reported.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the pedestrian access located between Ravioli Drive and Moira Road where trees were planted and are now overgrown and obstructing the pavement.

There is also a problem with nettles between Belvedere Road and Occupation Lane and between Moira Road and the Bretby Farm housing development there is overgrown vegetation causing pedestrians to have to walk on the road in order to get by.

The pavement between Vicarage Road and Occupation Lane was also raised and is overgrown with nettles and brambles.

ACTION: SDDC/ DCC to investigate the overgrown areas mentioned and cut back where appropriate.

A resident raised concerns regarding the height of the football netting located at the Woodville Recreation Ground due to over 10 balls being kicked into their back garden in the space of a week.

Councillor Taylor acknowledged that Woodville Parish Council were in receipt of the letter from the resident concerned and would review in due course.

Frank McArdle added that there should be a maximum height/ width behind the goal posts and that if Councillor Taylor could provide details then our Recreation Team can investigate the matter further.

ACTION: Councillor Taylor to provide details of the complaint received in regard to the height of the football netting located at Woodville Recreation Ground for further investigation by the Cultural Services Team and report back.

A member of the public queried what reason do the Council have for the recent flooding at the William Nadin Way roundabout and what can SDDC/ DCC do to ensure that there isn't a problem in this area with flooding in the future.

Frank McArdle advised that it is a DCC Highway Issue and would be happy to pass on the question to DCC and provide an answer in writing.

ACTION: Councillor Musson to take back the issue raised regarding flooding at the William Nadin Way roundabout to DCC to investigate further and report back.

SA/12 Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update

CVS update

Stella Collishaw provided a brief introduction to South Derbyshire CVS and encouraged organisations to affiliate with the CVS if they haven't already. Stella also updated that the CVS are in the process of developing a couple of new networks around the environment and young people and invited anyone that was interested in these areas to get in touch.

SA/13 Summary of any agreed priorities/ actions

- Councillor Musson to report back dim lighting on New Road, Woodville to DCC.

- Sgt Walker to take back issues raised regarding nuisance cyclists around Goseley and Woodville Recreation Ground to SNT to investigate and report back.
- Councillor Musson to make enquires with DCC regarding whether there is anything more that can be done to help with parking issues at schools.
- Sgt Dave Walker to write a letter to the secretaries of the football clubs involved and monitor.
- SNT to conduct a speed check on Hartshorne Road when time allows.
- SDDC/ DCC to investigate the overgrown areas mentioned and cut back where appropriate.
- Councillor Taylor to provide details of the complaint received in regard to the height of the football netting located at Woodville Recreation Ground for further investigation by the Cultural Services Team and report back.
- Councillor Musson to take back the issue raised regarding flooding at the William Nadin Way roundabout to DCC to investigate further and report back.

SA/14 **Close and date of next meeting**

Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at Oakland Village

Councillor Steve Taylor
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8:00pm