

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

27th July 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Richards (Chairman) and Councillors Bambrick, Dunn and Mrs. Mead.

M. Alfalt (Director of Operations), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

In Attendance

Councillor M. Mulgrew.

Derbyshire County Council Representative

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant J. Thompson and PCSO K. Bottomley.

Members of the Public

P. Bambrick, K. Dicken, H. Foy, P. Foy, S. Garland, C. Gillespie, R. House, M. Lunn, C. Maddock, J. Pallett, O. Pallet, K. Parker, M. Richards and B. Woods

NA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

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

NA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Pearson and Wilkins, Mr. & Mrs. Dunn and Mr. Parker.

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

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

NA/4. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Thompson reported on current crime figures within the Newhall and Midway area. He confirmed that, compared to the same period last year,

crime had reduced overall. Included within the reduction was violent crimes, robbery, sexual offences, dwelling burglary, theft of motor vehicles and criminal damage. Sergeant Thompson also gave an overview of the crime detection rate figures.

He confirmed that priorities for the area had been set at the last Safer Neighbourhood Meeting, and included dealing with nuisance youths on Windsor Road and problems with motorbikes on Park Road.

Sergeant Thompson also responded to issues that were raised at the last Area Forum. With regard to the Land Rover, which was parked outside the William Allitt School, this had been checked and no oil or petrol was found on the road. In addition, the Police had been proactive in contacting the owners of lorries parked outside Wrekin Construction, and believed that this situation had also been resolved.

With regards to vehicles for sale parked on the road, the Forum Liaison Officer added that he would be passing further information to Trading Standards. In addition, the Chairman reported that he would be following this up to see if the District Council could take any further action.

A resident reported that an advertising hoarding had been left adjacent to the roundabout on the A444 Cadley Hill roundabout, which was causing a distraction to motorists.

The Director of Operations agreed that the Planning Department at the District Council would be asked to look into this issue.

It was reported that there had been an attempted theft from the oil tank at Newhall Church, and asked that the Police be aware of this when on patrol.

It was asked if there had been any calls to the Police regarding anti-social behaviour at Market Place, Newhall, as one flat in particular seemed to be causing major noise problems. Sergeant Thompson responded that the Police did respond to all calls for service. However, it was pointed out that noise nuisance would be dealt with by the District Council. It was requested that the resident leave full details, which would enable the District Council to investigate further.

It was pointed out that there were many travellers in the District collecting scrap, and asked if the Police checked vehicles, as they appeared to be in poor condition. Sergeant Thompson responded that they did spot checks on these vehicles and checked their Waste Trade Licence and insurance etc. He added that this was becoming a nationwide issue.

It was pointed out that there was a lead theft problem in the area and asked if scrap merchants could be contacted to ask if they had been offered these items. Sergeant Thompson replied that generally merchants took scrap out of the area where it was more difficult to trace. He encouraged residents to report incidents immediately, as there was more chance of detecting a crime if it was reported very quickly after it had taken place.

It was asked if anything could be done within Eureka Park, as there were individuals who were drinking persistently and becoming abusive. Sergeant Thompson replied that it had been quiet in this area until the last couple of weeks. However, the Police were aware of this and were taking action. He also asked again that residents report any incidents, so that the Police could respond immediately.

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

The Director of Operations gave an overview of planning events across the District, where residents were able to talk about planning in the local area. South Derbyshire District Council was working jointly with Amber Valley Borough and Derby City Councils, and was seeking views on how much housing would be needed over the whole area over the next 15 years and what the strategy should be for locating it. Views were being sought 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, villages and locations throughout the Derby Housing Market Area. Details of drop-in events were provided to all present.

NA/6. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Forum held on 2nd February 2011, were noted.

NA/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.

The Forum Liaison Officer provided an update on the street lighting consultation, which was currently being carried out with parish councils and within the community in un-parished areas.

It was requested that progress on the footpath at the Horse and Jockey Public House remained as an item on the report back. The Forum Liaison Officer reported that objections had been received during the 42-day public notice period for the Modification Order. As a result of this, the case would be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration.

It was agreed that an update be provided at the next Meeting.

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

A resident pointed out that he felt that Newhall Park was very uninviting, and asked if this area could be improved. The Director of Operations responded that there were some improvements completed recently, however this was a different park to both Eureka and Maurice Lea Parks, as it was primarily to be used for sport. He added that if the resident had any suggestions for improvements, they be passed to the District Council for consideration. The Chairman reported that Newhall was a recreation ground rather than a park and therefore the use was different.

It was noted that many of the islands in the locality had been very attractively planted.

The Director of Operation agreed to forward this compliment onto the Grounds Maintenance staff.

It was pointed out that there was play equipment missing from the Chestnut Recreation Fields and the shelter had been damaged and not repaired.

The Director of Operations agreed to look into this matter.

A resident expressed disappointment that no County Councillors had either attended or put in their apologies for this Area Forum.

NA/9. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chairman reported that there was due to be a consultation on the review of Area Forum boundaries. Following the recent electoral review of the Ward boundaries in South Derbyshire by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the Council was now proposing amendments to the Area Forum boundaries. The Council was consulting on these proposals, which provided that each Ward was situated in one area only, rather than the current arrangements where some Wards were spread across up to three areas. The County Council Electoral Divisions area still divided across different areas, which could not be avoided, as these were not coterminous with the District boundaries.

The proposed arrangements for the un-parished urban core were also confirmed. The main change to these areas was the transfer of the Woodville Ward to the Swadlincote Area (Woodville Ward was currently in the Repton Area).

It was proposed that these new boundaries would also apply to the existing Safer Neighbourhood Meetings. Therefore these meetings and the Area Forums could be held on the same evening at the same venue. It was felt that this arrangement would avoid duplication and achieve savings, as well as avoid the need for residents to attend 2 meetings on separate evenings.

The proposed revised boundaries were the subject of a consultation process and any comments were requested by Monday, 12th September 2011. A report would then be considered by the Council on Thursday, 29th September 2011 with a view to implementing any new arrangements shortly after. Full details could be found on the Council's website along with an email link for any comments.

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

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

K. RICHARDS

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.