

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

Wednesday, July 20th, 2016 at Walton on Trent Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Pat Murray (Chair), Councillor John Grant, Councillor Mrs Beth Hall, Councillor Bob Wheeler.

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

Mary Horne (Walton Parish Council), Sue Jones (Overseal Parish Council), Carole Knight (Overseal Parish Council), Alan Lees (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), PJ McGibbon (Netherseal Parish Council), John Powell (Linton Parish Council), Janice Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Oliver Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Tony Stone (Netherseal Parish Council), Carole Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Lynda Smart, Victoria Smart, Mr Wilson, Mrs Wilson.

LA/1 **APOLOGIES**

Claire Bradford, Karen Bradford, Sheila Jackson.

LA/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

LA/3 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Pat Murray updated the meeting on the status of Part Two of the South Derbyshire Local Plan, which was being consulted upon ahead of a hearing with a Government Planning Inspector.

LA/4 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2016**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

LA/5 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Derbyshire County Council issues

Sunken manhole covers

The area affected had been repaired by DCC.

South Derbyshire District Council issues

Empty house in Stanley Close, Netherseal

A resident asked if there was anything further SDDC could add to what was contained in the report back, which stated that SDDC's Private Sector Housing Team was working towards a solution with all parties entangled in probate. The resident said the property was a blight on the area and wanted assurances SDDC was doing everything in its power to end the situation. Frank McArdle (SDDC Chief Executive) replied that there was nothing to add and that Environmental Health Manager Matt Holford was a dedicated officer who would not let the issue go.

ACTION: Matt Holford to update the next Area Forum on the situation in Stanley Close, Netherseal

LA/6 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A member of the public raised the issue of a lack of 7.5 tonne signage entering Walton from the county border with Staffordshire. Paul Jameson (DCC Area Forum Liaison Officer) said he was aware of a potential issue in Staffordshire. There should have been one sign on the Staffordshire side of the rail bridge (in Station Lane) and there was an obligation to place a sign at the start of an area weight restriction. DCC's weight restriction team was following up on the issue. Mr Jameson asked for photographs of the offending vehicles and for any vehicles flouting the weight limit to be reported to DCC.

A resident asked who owned the footpath from Walton to Catton along the river bank.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to report back on whether it is a designated public footpath

A member of the public reported that signage at Rosliston Road South near Stapenhill had been removed when a development started on the Staffordshire side of the border. A temporary give way sign was still in place.

Councillor Mrs Beth Hall thanked DCC for improving the “appalling” state of the roads in the Seales. However, there were still many minor roads badly affected by potholes. Roads were in a poor state outside Netherseal Post Office, in Main Street, and at Burton Road, Coton in the Elms, near the junction of Elmslea Avenue. DCC had previously sent an inspector around the county to review the roads – was that still the case? Mr Jameson confirmed it was. Councillor Mrs Hall also asked where the cats eyes from the A444 had gone. Mr Jameson replied that they were removed for surface dressing and would be replaced in due course.

A resident asked whether a county council was liable for damage to a vehicle caused by a pothole which had been reported but not repaired within 48 hours. Mr Jameson replied that each case would be dealt with on its merits. There was an audit trail of complaints, but the timescale of repair depended on the class of the road involved.

A member of the public complained about loose stone chippings left on pavements along the A444, weeks after surface dressing had taken place. They asked whether DCC would clear the debris. Mr Jameson replied that it was not a clean process and it relied on vehicles bedding the chippings into the road. After 24 hours and then after seven days, a sweeper attended the scene to collect any loose chippings.

A resident reported 10mph signs left lying on the Green in Coton in the Elms. Mr Jameson replied that they would be collected.

An Overseal resident complained about the level of provocation from an applicant for planning permission in Burton Road, with works allegedly started without permission. Mr McArdle replied that he was unable to comment on a live planning application. He suggested the resident contact an enforcement officer at SDDC.

A member of the public asked if there had been any progress with the Walton bypass and new river crossing. Councillor Bob Wheeler said he had been told in January that work would start in April. SDDC was keen for the project to proceed and there was a limit to what could be built at Drakelow until the Walton bypass was completed. Mr McArdle said that there was absolutely nothing more his local members or officers could have done regarding the Walton bypass. The project was now in the hands of other bodies and there was nothing more SDDC could do except face the public, meeting after meeting, and answer the same questions in the same way. Councillor Wheeler added that DCC was of a different opinion to Drakelow Developments in terms of the paperwork being completed for the bypass.

A resident asked if the 30mph limit in Walton could be extended out towards Drakelow on Main Street. They claimed the drop to 30mph was too close to the built-up area of the village. Mr Jameson replied that he knew the area well and after a review it had not been considered suitable for a change of speed limit. There were national guidelines on limits and a 30mph limit should not be too far outside of a built-up area, with sporadic developments not counting. There was also a warning in place on the approach to the 30mph limit.

LA/7 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None.

LA/8 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Mr McArdle reported that the National Forest had reached the 25-year mark. Eight million trees had been planted in that time and there were substantial plans to take the project forward in the next 10 years. The National Forest had reinforced a tremendous pace of change in South Derbyshire. Plans for the future were exciting for the forest. It already employed 4,300 people directly and indirectly and its success was thanks to the whole community of the district.

Mr McArdle informed the meeting of Community Governance Reviews under way in two areas of South Derbyshire – one in Newhall and Stanton and one in Barrow on Trent, Stenson Fields and the unparished areas of Twyford and Stenson.

LA/9 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was to be advised in due course.

Councillor Pat Murray
Chair

The meeting terminated at 8.05pm.