

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

Wednesday, June 13th, 2018 at Walton Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council representatives

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

Claire Rawlins – Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

Kevin Stackhouse – Strategic Director (Corporate Resources).

Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Pat Murray.

Derbyshire Police representatives

PC Paul Russell.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Mary Horne (Walton Parish Council), Sheila Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Carole Knight (Overseal Parish Council), Alan Lees (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Philip McGibbon (Netherseal Parish Council), Steve Sharpe (Overseal Parish Council), Carol Talbot (Walton Parish Council).

Members of the public

Chris Beebee, Jane Beebee, Tim Bidder, Eddie Bisknell (Derby Telegraph), Gwen Cooper, Tony Cooper, Katy Fieldhouse, Cheryl Gamble, Jane Grant, Mandy Hodson-Walker, Rob Hodson-Walker, Julie Hemus, Paul Hemus, Mark Hunt (CVS), Keren Iqbal, Linda Kinston, Claire Llewellyn, Emma Robey, Michele Skinner (CVS), Lynda Smout, Rob Talbot, Joanna Troonson, Brian Wilson, Gwen Wilson.

LA/1

Open meeting

a. Introductions and apologies

Karen Mitchell, Heather Wheeler MP, Stephanie Marbrow, Carol Wright.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

None.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

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

LA/2

Safer Neighbourhood report

PC Paul Russell reported that:

- There had been a spike in crime linked to events at the Catton Hall estate.
- A high number of dwelling burglaries had occurred around the Overseal area in March. Two arrests had been made. Another man had been arrested the previous day and charged with 10 burglaries and PC Russell was expecting further admissions and TICs (taken into consideration).
- A prolific offender had been arrested for stealing a bike in the Rosliston area. Had a history around auto crime and burglary. Was remanded and had been sentenced.
- A suspect was waiting to be interviewed for offences at Linton Primary School.
- A ram raid had taken place at Bayley's Agricultural in Rosliston.
- Horse trailers had been stolen at Walton.
- An ATV (all terrain vehicle) had been stolen at Church Flatts Farm outside Coton in the Elms.
- There had been a burglary at Catton Chapel.
- An unusual tactic had been used to raid a house at Coton in the Elms. The offender used a blowtorch to melt the sills of uPVC windows and gain entry to the house. PC Russell told residents to be mindful and use locks.
- There had been drug arrests in Castle Gresley after a report of a cannabis smell. A substantial amount of drugs was recovered.
- A vulnerable male in Linton had been targeted with anti-social behaviour. His house had been sprayed with paint causing substantial damage to the property.

A resident asked if there had been any knife crime in the area since the previous meeting. PC Russell replied that it was a topical subject in the media and there had been some concerns in town centres, but there was nothing to suggest it was an issue in the area.

A member of the public thanked the police for responding to boy racers causing problems at Rider Close, Castle Gresley. PC Russell replied that a dog officer away from his usual duties had responded to the issue.

A resident complained about drivers jumping the red lights on the Bailey Bridge at Walton. CCTV cameras would help. PC Russell replied that the problem was an officer being at the location when the issue occurred.

Councillor John Grant reported that Netherseal residents were angry at the lack of a police response to a smallholder being intimidated into selling his land back to a traveller who had owned it previously. PC Russell replied that efforts had been made and CCTV installed but it didn't assist in the case. He was unaware that the land had been sold. An eye had been kept on the area at the time. A member of the public added that retrospective planning permission had been entered for what was an illegal traveller encampment. How would it be dealt with? Kevin Stackhouse said he'd have to report back. Councillor Grant said that SDDC Planning Enforcement was aware of the situation with a septic tank too close to the Mease and its Site of Special Scientific Interest. It was a question of how rigorously planning conditions were enforced.

ACTION: Kevin Stackhouse to liaise with SDDC Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health on Netherseal site

A resident raised cars parked on Hillside Road, Linton, limiting visibility for drivers coming out of Coton Park. PC Russell confirmed that the cars were parked legally at the location and there was nothing he could do to stop it. A mail drop from the parish council could perhaps be effective.

LA/3 **Communities update**

Claire Rawlins reported that:

- The Community Partnership Scheme, a new £250,000 fund for capital projects in South Derbyshire, had been launched. Projects seeking funding needed to show how they would impact on SDDC's Corporate Plan and Community Strategy. They also had to be for a minimum of £1,000 out of an overall spend of £4,000. Grants were for a maximum of £25,000. Ian Hey (Community Partnership Officer) was available to help with advice for projects and potential applications.
- Safer and Stronger Neighbourhood Grants were still available, with all six areas in South Derbyshire receiving £4,000 per year. Projects which had an impact on community safety were encouraged, but a broad view

was taken on what was eligible. A resident asked if schools were eligible. Councillor Bob Wheeler replied that as a county council organisation they weren't. Another resident asked if S-Gates at Walton to prevent motorbikes from using the pavement across the Bailey Bridge would be a suitable project. Councillor Pat Murray replied that due to illness he had been unable to follow up the request, which had been made previously. Now he was recovering he would pursue the issue at County Hall.

- SDDC had produced an Adult Activities Brochure.

Michelle Skinner (CVS) reported that:

- A self-help grant fund had been set up.
- DCC had just launched its own Action Grants for up to £10,000.
- East Midlands Airport had a community fund which bidders could apply to for money.
- The CVS was undertaking loneliness and isolation work and an event was taking place in Chesterfield in July.

Mark Hunt (CVS) explained what the Safer Homes Scheme was and how it allowed the over-60s and vulnerable members of society free security upgrades to their properties.

LA/4

Local authority issues & public questions

A resident asked if there was to be an improvement in the broadband service offered in rural South Derbyshire. Mr Stackhouse replied that it was a timely question, with DCC about to revisit the district to improve services as part of its Digital Derbyshire programme.

ACTION: Kevin Stackhouse to circulate information to meeting attendees

A resident asked if there was any progress on the third River Trent crossing at Walton to relieve the Bailey Bridge and traffic in Burton. Councillor Wheeler said he kept asking the question himself. He hoped there would be an announcement soon. Mr Stackhouse added that SDDC Chief Executive Frank McArdle was having some detailed discussions on an ongoing basis with the developer involved. The issue was that £10-12m was needed to bridge a funding gap. A resident said that a lot of work had already been completed at the location and a meadow cleared. Councillor Wheeler speculated it could be due to a planning permission deadline.

Councillor Murray reported on speeding between Ladsgrave Cottage and Coton in the Elms. Police had recorded no incidents in the area but had visited and found no one driving in excess of the limit. Despite this, any incidents should still be reported to police.

A resident said they wanted to set up a Community Speed Watch in their area. Councillor Murray said to speak to PC Russell. Another resident asked if it was true whether 'offenders' caught by such schemes only received a warning letter. Councillor Murray confirmed that was the case for first and second offences. A third offence would result in a visit from a police officer. PC Russell added that a committed group of volunteers was needed. The job could be unpleasant in the cold and rain. Larger schemes tended to be more successful.

Councillor Murray reported that:

- DCC was looking for people from the community to take over the running of its libraries..
- An improvement had been seen in the repair of potholes. A resident replied that the road between Overseal and Netherseal was still badly affected by potholes. Councillor Murray said he would report it. Another resident said that the pothole team had completely missed the worst one between Acresford and Netherseal when the area was treated, while other repairs were failing. Did DCC pay out for damage to a car? It was asked whether pothole teams only repaired the ones they had been directed to or whether they used their initiative. Councillor Murray said if they spotted a pothole they were supposed to repair it.
- Drivers would be looking for rat-runs while Burton Bridge was under repair so people with young children in particular should exercise care.

A resident complained that when events at Catton Hall were on they couldn't leave their farm due to traffic. Were the transport links good enough to host sizeable events? PC Russell replied that he'd had contact with Catton Hall and a potential solution was a better events management company who would manage traffic around the site more effectively.

LA/5 **Presentation on local community initiative**

None.

LA/6 **Summary of any agreed priorities / actions**

- Kevin Stackhouse to liaise with SDDC Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health on Netherseal site.
- Kevin Stackhouse to circulate information around Digital Derbyshire to meeting attendees.
- The meeting requested parking on pavements, speeding and traffic be set as the area's priorities. PC Russell replied that in his 25 years as an officer they had been issues. What the police couldn't do was change people's attitudes.

LA/7 **Close and date of next meeting**

Thursday, October 18th, 2018.

Councillor Pat Murray
Chair

The meeting terminated at 8.05pm.