

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
NEWHALL

25th February 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Chairman) and Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chairman), Richards and Wilkins.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Bambrick and Jones.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer), Trisha Hill (Principle Area Manager – Libraries Service) and M. Hawkins (Traffic and Safety).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Members of the Public

M. Biddle, T. Biddle, K. Bowler, D. Budworth, Mrs. Garland, C. Dolman, G. Hall, R. Holden, R. House, R. Hughes, M. Lacey, Mr. & Mrs. McNamara, G. Myatt, J. Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), O. Pallett, K. Parker, T. Poyner, M. Richards, E. Tagg, E. Tunnicliff, K. Wedgeworth, C. Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council),

NA/12. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from M. Todd, M.P., B. Parker and B. Woods.

NA/13. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Wright gave a brief update on issues affecting Derbyshire Constabulary. He advised that the Derbyshire Constabulary website now had crime maps and crime statistics on it, which were updated regularly. He also pointed out that South Derbyshire had seen a reduction in crime of 6.7% over the previous year. He added that the Police had been proactive in their attempts to reduce crime, with many test purchase operations taking place. He added that the Safer Neighbourhood Team was now fully staffed and 2 new Police Community Support Officers would be starting soon within the District. In addition, graffiti removal kits were still available, and if organisations required one, they should contact Sergeant Wright on 01283 595894. In addition, he advised that parking enforcement was now a responsibility of the County Council, and Parking Enforcement Officers were now in post.

A resident asked if laws regarding parking on pavements had been relaxed, as it now seemed acceptable for this to take place. Sergeant Wright responded that the Police would still take action if the vehicle was causing an obstruction.

A clarification of the law with regard to parking within 10 yards of a junction was requested.

Sergeant Wright agreed to clarify this and report back to the next Meeting.

NA/14. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that a leaflet had been distributed relating to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy that was being consulted upon. Consultees and members of the public were being asked about their ideas and the main issues the Council should be taking into account. Responses were required by 3rd April 2009. The leaflet also provided details about where people could find out more information and submit comments.

NA/15. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Forum held on 15th October 2008, were noted.

Further clarification was requested on an item within the Minutes, concerning the public footpath adjacent to the former Horse and Jockey Public House. The Forum Liaison Officer gave a response, and also reported that this matter may be put out for further consultation. A resident confirmed that this had been a public right of way for 175 years, and they were dismayed at the response from the County Council. A local Councillor confirmed that he had correspondence from 2004, which confirmed that this was a public right of way, and agreed to follow this up with the County Council.

It was agreed that this matter be followed up by Derbyshire County Council and reported back to the next Meeting.

A further update was also given on the media studies students at William Allitt School, allegedly viewing films being suitable for persons over 18 years of age. It was reported that the County Council had dealt with this matter.

NA/16. **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 Chairman also gave an update from the Leisure Services Manager, regarding youths congregating near to Newhall Park. He advised that this was an open site with a great many points of access and egress, and it was impossible to prevent access by people on motorbikes, whilst at the same time retaining access for people with electric buggies and double push-chairs. An Officer had visited this site and was concerned that there was an entrance (Parliament Street), where a motor vehicle could gain access. A new gate had now been installed, which now prevented this.

NA/17. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident asked how many vans the District Council had. The Chief Executive responded that the District Council had a fleet of vehicles for many different purposes, which were well maintained, and assisted the District Council in achieving excellent response rates.

A resident reported that litter on an area of land adjacent to Sunnyside and Bretby Road, was still causing concern.

It was agreed that the District Council look into this matter and respond at the following Meeting.

A resident reported that they were very pleased with the way the District Council had dealt with the roads in the recent adverse weather conditions. However, it was asked if there was a store of salt for residents to use in bad weather. The Chief Executive responded that those residents requiring salt, should inform the District Council of the difficulty they were facing, and the location, and this matter would be addressed.

A number of areas were reported where the road surface was considered unsuitable. These were opposite Newhall Wood on Park Road and the surface surrounding the island at the bottom of Bretby Road. Members of the public were asked to ring 'Call Derbyshire', who would respond very quickly to problems such as "pot holes".

It was also reported that the car park on Higgins Road had a very unsuitable surface. Councillor Bambrick responded that this car park was adjacent to the Scout Hut, and the Head of Leisure Services was currently carrying out further investigation into this site.

It was agreed that the District Council report back on this item at the next Meeting.

It was noted that the bus stop on Bretby Road had recently been repositioned, however it was felt that this was more dangerous as it was now outside the School.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

Adjacent to the footpath near to the Stanhope Public House, a fence had recently been erected, which had denied access to members of the public. It was asked if a proper access could be provided, as residents were now having to go via an area adjacent to the pond, which was very steep.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

It was reported that many people were parking on the grass verge on Bretby Road opposite the Thorntree Public House. This was making it very unsightly.

It was agreed that the County Council look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

It was asked if anything could be done about Park Road, Newhall, where speeding was becoming a problem. Mike Hawkins (Derbyshire County Council Traffic and Safety Department) reported that they had carried out speed surveys on Park Road, and it was found that the majority of drivers were very sensible. However, a skid survey had also been completed and a resurface was required. This would be done after April 2009.

It was reported that the footpath adjacent to Rosetree Lane, was very sludgy and littered. It was suggested that a post be installed to stop cars going down and the top layer of mud taken off the road.

Derbyshire County Council agreed to look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

NA/18. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – PRESENTATION BY THE LIBRAIRIES SERVICE**

The Area Forum received a presentation from Trisha Hill (Principal Area Manager, Libraries Service), on the role of the Derbyshire Library Service. The County Council was seeking residents feedback on how the service could be improved to encourage greater use. She provided statistics on the number of visits to libraries both nationally and within the County of Derbyshire. She explained the current range of services provided, which included free broadband, the free hire of books, the availability of other media and online facilities. She also explained how library facilities were provided through a range of venues, referred to the awards the service had received and its Charter Mark status. There was a home library service, which delivered materials to residents and items such as publications in Braille, prescription books, the School Libraries Service and work with Surestart.

Residents complimented the mobile library service and added that the staff were very helpful.

It was pointed out that certain residents did not like renewing their books via a call centre on an 0845 number. The Principal Area Manager responded that residents could access and renew books 24 hours a day using the internet.

Further questions were asked with regard to the reading tables and computers available in the children's section of Swadlincote library.

Paul Jameson publicised the Trusted Trader scheme. This was an initiative from Adult Social Services, to respond to the concerns of certain service providers that had led to the compilation of a database of different skilled trades people. Those involved in the scheme had been through rigorous checks and a leaflet and card were available providing further details on how to access this service. He also explained how trades people could join the scheme.

NA/19. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES - DISTRICT PRIORITIES – PROGRESS ON COUNCIL PROPERTIES**

The Area Forum received a presentation from the Chief Executive on the Council's priorities and budget for the period 2009/14. This covered the new Corporate Plan, with details of the consultation undertaken and the top priorities identified. He referred to the services delivered by South Derbyshire, and the cost of provision of these services.

NA/20. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as 26th March 2009 at William Allitt School, Newhall.

G. FARRINGTON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.