

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Thursday, July 7, 2016 at St George and St Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Gresley

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Gordon Rhind (Chair), Councillor Stuart Swann, Councillor Neil Tilley.

Stuart Batchelor – Director of Community and Planning Services.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton.

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council / Meeting Representatives

Alan Jones (Hartshorne Parish Council), Don Redfern (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Christine Allen, Michael Barsby, Chris Bowley, Colin Dobson, Iain Hambling, Ron Lane, Mick Lunn, M Shepherd, R Thomas, Jon Whiten.

SA/1 **APOLOGIES**

Jenny Burley, Councillor Mrs Kim Coe, Councillor Robert Coe, Ken Dicken, Councillor Paul Dunn, Councillor Mrs Gill Farrington, Dot Shuttleworth, Councillor Trevor Southerd, Councillor Steve Taylor, Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt.

SA/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

SA/3 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Gordon Rhind announced that Part One of the Local Plan had been adopted. Part Two was now under consultation.

SA/4 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

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

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

No Cycling signs

A resident had asked when 'no cycling' signs were taken down from Swadlincote High Street. Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer) reported that the signs in place were legally enforceable. There were no signs specifically for cyclists, but there was a no entry sign which a cyclist should not pass. DCC was unsure what signs had existed in the area. The resident replied that there used to be signs at the west end of High Street, by Birds, outside Peacocks and near to the Santander Bank. Currently, he said, few if any cyclists dismounted at the no entry signs. Another member of the public added that far more concerning was motorised vehicles coming through the area. Councillor Gordon Rhind said the issue had recently been discussed at a DCC meeting. Mr Jameson added that only the police could enforce drivers going past no entry signs. He would flag the issue up with police himself.

Resurfacing of Moira Road, Woodville

Mr Jameson reported that surface dressing would be carried out in the 2016-17 capital programme. A resident replied that it had been done and asked if the yellow lines along the road could be replaced. Mr Jameson said they would be repainted. The resident also added that the surface of a footpath from Moira Road into Tunnel Close was in a poor state and needed repairing.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to provide a report into state of footpath at Tunnel Close

Pedestrian Activity at St George's Primary School (from November, 2015)

DCC had been asked to extend the guard rail outside the school two meetings previously. Mr Jameson reported that unfortunately the pavement was not wide enough to allow such work.

Flooding in Occupation Lane, Woodville

Mr Jameson confirmed that some drain improvements would take place. A letter had been sent to Leicestershire County Council urging them to carry out preventative work on their side of the border. The letter had been sent in May and a response was still awaited. A resident added that there had been 18in of water lying in the road a few days previously.

Noise monitoring at Woodville Road scrap yard

Stuart Batchelor (SDDC Director of Community and Planning Services) confirmed that the Environment Agency was the responsible authority for the Donald Ward site. SDDC's Environmental Health Manager was happy to carry out further noise testing if residents got in touch.

Moira Road recycling

A resident had asked if waste collections could be made away from school entry times. SDDC had confirmed that contractors had been asked to visit at an alternative time.

Scrap metal pile heights at Woodville Road scrap yard

The Environment Agency had been asked for clarity on how high scrap metal could be piled at the yard. A resident stated that only that day five workers at a scrap metal yard in Birmingham had been killed by falling debris. Mr Batchelor reiterated that it was an Environment Agency matter.

Broomy Farm Section 106 funding

Mr Batchelor confirmed that the funding was for community use and could not just be spent in a specific area. The money had been split into two separate projects. A resident asked how enforceable the Section 106 funding was. Mr Batchelor replied that it was a legal agreement to pay after the sale of so many houses.

SA/6

PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

A resident asked if Section 106 funding could be sought for cemeteries. Mr Batchelor replied that cemeteries did not score that highly for funding, with developers not keen on providing space for burial as it had no commercial value for them. SDDC was seeking space within the urban core for burials.

A member of the public reported that vegetation from Coppice Side / Morrisons Island to the petrol station near Morrisons was overgrown. Trees had reached 20ft in height and bushes 10ft. DCC had promised, they said, to keep everything to 3ft in height. The growth meant that in Coppice Side oncoming traffic was obscured.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to provide a report back on the growth

A resident complained about the state of the Delph, which they said had deteriorated “since day one”. They claimed the road had been poorly resurfaced. They also complained about the quality of resurfacing in Civic Way. Councillor Rhind said that when Civic Way was done, it was one of the hottest days of the year and the new surface had churned up in the heat.

ACTION: Stuart Batchelor to provide a report back on the state of the surface in the Delph

A member of the public asked who prioritised works on the roads. Mr Jameson replied that DCC Highways Maintenance officers reviewed the condition of the county’s roads. It could appear that a road in good condition had been repaired, but often there could be structural issues underneath the top surface. A total of £23m would be spent on surface dressing and patching over a three-year period to prolong the life of roads by 10 to 15 years.

A resident asked what had happened to the ‘jet patcher’. Mr Jameson replied that DCC did not own the machines but hired them out periodically.

A member of the public asked how the £6.20 rebate from the previous year’s Council Tax bill would be paid. Councillor Rhind replied that it was deducted from this year’s bill.

A resident complained about vegetation growing in Chapel Street, Woodville, outside rented properties. It was knee-high along much of the street and was growing out of the kerb as well. Two council workers had previously been to cut it back.

ACTION: Stuart Batchelor to report state of Chapel Street to appropriate SDDC department

A member of the public asked if cabinets for bicycles at Green Bank Leisure Centre had been paid for by SDDC. Mr Batchelor replied that they were part of the £1m redevelopment of the leisure centre. The aim was to encourage people to commute by bicycle, reducing the number of cars on the road. Long-term, the lockers would recoup the initial outlay in terms of increased usage of bicycles and a reduction in car usage. Mr Batchelor also thanked the community for turning out for the Women’s Tour of Britain cycle race which passed through the area in June.

A resident asked what the situation was regarding the adoption of Castleton Park by DCC. Mr Jameson said he had met with Councillor Trevor Southerd at the beginning of the year and it seemed to be fairly close back then.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to contact DCC Clerk of Works to ascertain adoption situation

A resident asked if Excelsior Drive, Victory Close and Reliant Close had been adopted.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to report back on whether the three streets had been adopted

A member of the public asked where recent large planning applications sat in relation to Part One of the Local Plan. Mr Batchelor replied that major developments not in the plan would be rejected – but the developer could then appeal to the Government Planning Inspector, who could potentially overturn SDDC's decision. The resident asked what would happen if a development was proposed on a site not in Part Two of the plan. Councillor Rhind replied that until Part Two was adopted it was hard to reject an application. It would be easier once the plan was in place.

A resident complained that in Local Plan documentation, Woodville did not have its own page and was included with Swadlincote. Mr Batchelor replied that there would be no advantage or disadvantage in how the maps had been presented.

SA/7 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None.

SA/8 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Mr Batchelor reported that a £1m refurbishment of the Grove Hall – with £500,000 from Sport England and £500,000 from SDDC reserves – was completed and had opened. The climbing facilities were unique in the Midlands. It was hoped the centre would end up hosting 200-300 climbers a day instead of the limited number of squash players who used the old facilities, bringing a lot more people into the town.

SA/9 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was to be announced.

**Councillor Gordon Rhind
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.30pm.