

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

Monday, February 6th, 2017 at Coton in the Elms Community Centre

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

Kevin Stackhouse – Director of Finance and Corporate Services.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Kath Lauro.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

Claire Bradford (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Karen Bradford (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Mary Horne (Walton Parish Council), Alan Lees (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Stephanie Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council), WP Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council), PJ McGibbon (Netherseal Parish Council), Janice Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Oliver Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Emma Simpson (Rural Action Derbyshire), Brian Wilson, Gwen Wilson.

LA/19 **APOLOGIES**

Sheila Jackson, Paul Jameson, Carole Knight, John Powell, Carol Wright.

LA/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

LA/21 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Pat Murray had no announcements to make. Emma Simpson from Rural Action Derbyshire gave a presentation on the benefits of a community oil

and gas buying initiative run by the charity she worked for. She also detailed a scheme where funding was available to replace faulty or aging boilers.

Empty House at Stanley Close, Netherseal

Councillor Murray updated the meeting that the son of the former owner had visited the property and, in light of its condition, decided to sell it. Arrangements were being made to obtain valuations from local estate agents.

Paul Jameson

Kevin Stackhouse reported that Derbyshire County Council Area Forum Liaison Officer Paul Jameson would no longer attend any Area Forums. He was still contactable at County Hall, and any issues raised would be fed back to him through Service Assistant Tom Sloan. Mr Stackhouse put on the record South Derbyshire District Council's thanks to Mr Jameson for the excellent work he had done for South Derbyshire.

ACTION: Letter to be written thanking Paul Jameson for his efforts at South Derbyshire Area Forums

LA/22 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 31, 2016**

The minutes were moved with one addition – Councillor Kath Lauro to be added to the list of attendees.

LA/23 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

South Derbyshire District Council issues

Vegetation at Blacksmiths Close, Netherseal

Mr Stackhouse reported that SDDC had intervened and issued a formal notice to the developer on January 21 regarding the vegetation encroaching onto the footway of Dog Lane. The developer had 28 days to answer.

Sunken manhole on the A514

A manhole had been reported as sunken, but a DCC inspection did not identify any problems. Councillor Bob Wheeler said a manhole was either sunken or it wasn't! A resident said there were quite a few manholes opposite Ryder Close had been repaired but they kept on sinking periodically. Councillor Mrs Kath Lauro asked if they were in a bad state again. The resident confirmed that they were and a survey was needed to discover why they kept sinking.

ACTION: Issue to be reported to Derbyshire County Council Highways

Ivy encroaching onto the footway in Hillside Road, Linton

Councillor Wheeler thanked DCC for the work done on the issue, which had been a running sore for as long as he had been a district councillor.

LA/24 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident asked for an update on the Walton bypass. Councillor Wheeler reported that the D2N2 Infrastructure and Investment Board had approved the plan for the bridge in December, subject to a further agreement. The bridge was desperately needed and Drakelow Developments said that as soon as it was done the building of new homes could begin. The bridge was not thought to be a big job and could be done in a calendar year. Councillor Mrs Lauro said she had met with Jim Seymour at DCC, who was involved in the project. The issue was making the funds used for the project secure.

An Overseal resident said that traffic up Lullington Road was travelling at speed, mounting the pavement and generally being a menace. The situation was about to get worse with the building of new housing in Valley Road. Councillor Murray said that DCC didn't see any issues at all. He drove there every day and the worst part of the journey was going from Valley Road to Lullington Road to the Robin Hood. The problem was at a particular corner and DCC's attitude was to get a resident to reduce the size of a bush to 3-4ft. However, he felt the problem was vehicles parked on the bend. Councillor Mrs Beth Hall added that she had been forced to drive on the pavement as a result of the parking and a bus coming the other way. A resident said they were disgusted with DCC Highways and it was time to bombard them with photographic evidence or even set up a petition. Councillor Murray said efforts still needed to be made, especially in light of two fatal accidents on the A444.

A resident asked if contractors working in Valley Road, Overseal, were signed up to the Considerate Constructors' Scheme? Councillor Murray said they weren't.

LA/25 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

Councillor Mrs Lauro reported that DCC was due to set its budget. Anyone interested could go online and read the reports.

LA/26 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Mr Stackhouse reported that SDDC would set the Council Tax at a meeting of Full Council on March 1. The financial position of SDDC was quite healthy but there were challenges ahead. Some funding from Central Government would go

and the impact would be felt in 2018-19. It was a challenge that the council would meet like it had done before, with spending closely examined. Regarding the Council Tax itself, the proposal set down was to increase it by 1.95%, which would be a rise of around £3 per year on a Band D property. That would be debated and a rise agreed on March 1. As part of the budget, it had been recommended to increase funding to voluntary organisations such as the CVS and CAB by 1%.

DCC, like other county councils, had been allowed to increase its Council Tax by more than 2% – without the need for a referendum – to help fund adult social care. Meanwhile, parish councils in South Derbyshire were also allowed to increase their share of the Council Tax bill by more than 2% without a cap being enforced.

Councillor John Grant clarified that there were many facets to the overall Council Tax bill and they all rose at different rates. Mr Stackhouse said the biggest proportion of the bill was taken up by county councils, who took around 75 to 80% of the total. They were the biggest service provider, with education and social services in their remit. SDDC and the police took around the same figure.

LA/27 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

**Councillor Pat Murray
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.17pm.