

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

3rd February 2015 at Findern Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Smith (Chairman); Councillor Ford; Councillor Shepherd and Councillor Stanton.

F McArdle (Chief Executive); M McKeon (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Davidson.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

C Fellows (Stenson Fields Parish Council); F Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council); R Lisewski (Stenson Fields Parish Council); L Nash (Findern Parish Council).

Members of the Public

A Evans; H Hall; J Orme; C Pidgeon and S Toone.

RA/22 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from P Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer); Alan Gifford; Councillor Chahal; Councillor Mrs Hood; and Councillor Mrs L Chilton.

RA/23 **Declarations of Interest.**

None.

RA/24 **Chairman's Announcements.**

The **Local Plan** – The Chair gave an overview at to the current position of the Local Plan saying it has been through its Examination in Public which started in November 2014. It lasted for 6 days covering all aspects of the Local Plan. Following the examination, the appointed Inspector has asked the Council to undertake some further work around housing, viability and infrastructure on strategic sites. This work when complete will be submitted to the Inspector who will then decide on the next steps.

The **Community Partnership Grant Scheme** – The Char said this has now been re-launched with a total pot of £300,000. The monies are available for:-

- Capital funding only available;
- Non-profit groups and Parish Council's in South Derbyshire can apply;
- Will require a minimum of 50% matched funding;
- Minimum Grant £1,000 - maximum £25,000.

Full details can be found at www.south-derbys.gov.uk or by contacting Ian Hay, Community Partnership Officer at South Derbyshire District Council ian.hey@south-derbys.gov.uk / Tel: 01283 228741.

RA/25 **To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September 2014**

The minutes were noted as a true and accurate record.

RA/26 **Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting**

1. Newton Lane, Newton Solney : Road Closure

Work has now been completed. Councillor Hill from Newton Solney Parish Council said he would like to thank Derbyshire County Council for all their work and effort put in to replace the wall.

Action: Chair requested SDDC send a thank you to Derbyshire County Council.

2. Bretby Lane, Bretby : Drainage Issues

Further works are scheduled to commence around 6-8 weeks' time.

3. Grampian Way, Stenson Fields: Request for VAS

Councillor Shepherd reported he will be submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act for data on all VAS within South Derbyshire. He will be raising the issue again in the near future, looking at areas that have VAS and very few accidents and areas that have accidents.

4. Hall Lane, Willington : Visibility Concerns at Junction

A resident confirmed that Forum Liaison Officer is correct in his report that there is a 'Stop' sign on Hall Lane junction but this junction very quickly trumpets out to a wide junction. The 'Stop' sign appears hidden from oncoming vehicles and is badly worn, yet an integral part of anti-accident set up. The resident requested for a 'Stop' sign to be replaced or repaired as it cannot be read. Councillor Ford said we need to make sure all signage is up to scratch. The resident then went on to say Kingfisher Lane will have a big impact on traffic flow due to 50 new houses being built, along with a new GP surgery. Similarly new Co-op on site of old surgery – he suspects there will be some big traffic accidents in these locations. There is another zebra crossing in place too which is difficult to see and no halo around it to draw attention to it. Councillor Ford said these issues are being looked at and by the time of next meeting should be resolved.

5. Willington Road, Repton: Mirror on the Highway

Noted.

6. Pilgrims Way, Stenson Fields: Parking at Junction

Councillor Shepherd said he is content with answer.

7. Footpath by Trent Avenue – part-time lighting at night.

Councillor Ford said he is still awaiting information from Parish Council regarding any changes they may want to see there; County Council are looking at using dimmed lighting in future.

RA/27 Public questions on issues raised by residents

A resident raised concerns about losing lollipop ladies across the district, especially those who operate on zebra crossings. Local roads can carry 19,000 vehicles per day = 1,200 every hour which equates to one vehicle every three seconds passing by and children would need to negotiate busy junctions without a lollipop lady. This would also have a huge impact due to increased residents from four new developments locally. The Chair echoed those concerns. Councillor Ford said he has invited a cabinet member to come and look for themselves before a decision has been made to lose lollipop lady.

Cheryl Pidgeon raised a concern saying there were significant reductions in the fire service across the whole of South Derbyshire, particularly during the night as the nearest fire engine will come from Kings Way in Derby. People should be aware of what is happening and she strongly encouraged those within the forum to make representations of their concerns saying this is not just affecting the fire service but RTAs too and time delays could cause significant concerns. Cheryl invited people to take a leaflet.

Councillor Hill informed the forum that there will be a meeting at Newton Solney Parish Council meeting a week Friday and a Union representative will be coming along to make a presentation on what the reduction of the Fire Service is likely to mean to the area. Details will be published in the Parish Council newsletter/magazine.

Resident raised a question regarding street light dimming policy especially around Beaufort Road. All lights on this road seem to only have one bank of lights activated. He said he thought the idea of LED lighting was to reduce energy used but have a similar brightness in lighting. Councillor Davison replied that he reported the issue of these lights not producing enough light and he received a response acknowledging they are unsuitable and new equipment is being ordered as a replacement. Derbyshire County Council is working on a combined procurement with Leicestershire. Cllr Davidson forwarded an email to the clerk and reported on it verbally at last meeting.

Action: Cllr Davidson to resend the email.

A resident asked who pot holes should be reported to. The Chair replied Derbyshire County Council who may be contacted by phone or internet.

Councillor Shepherd said complaints were made by residents that there is a stretch of road on the eastern side, facing on to Stenson Road with no barrier between the road and the grass area. Residents are worried of the dangers where children are concerned. Councillor Shepherd was told a fence would be provided by 8 December and is not aware this has been done yet. Main developers are Miller Homes.

Action: Chief Executive will look into whether this has been done and if not contact the developers directly

A resident asked what the reality is and what is involved in a combined authority. The Chief Executive said he was heavily involved with working on this. It is an opportunity for to come together and attract funding on a regional basis. It will be a combination of effort to have a more strategic approach to Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and obtain the funding that the government will release.

RA/28 **County Council issues.**

Councillor Shepherd raised a Highways issue regarding the development of a new estate on Stenson Road with 500 plus houses, saying facilities to serve will be accessed via Stenson Road on Pilgrims Way by newsagents, café, chip shop etc. A request was made for a traffic light controlled pedestrian control crossing to be put in place but this was refused due to technical reasons. Councillor Shepherd and others did some investigations to see if a pedestrian refuge could be introduced and contacted Highways Department with their findings. No response has been received to date and Councillor Shepherd asked for a response from County to be forthcoming.

Councillor Davison said after the December surgery he went out with a tape measure and undertook his own investigations and submitted them to the Highways Department, he is also awaiting a response. He said Dean Collins, new cabinet member covering Highways, contacted all members of the County Council and asked for proposals or suggestions for the Highways Capital Programme. Councillor Davidson put in 4 or 5 proposals... one of which was to have a crossing with a refuge on Stenson Road near Pilgrims Way and combined with a bus layby and make the temporary bus stop a permanent one.

Councillor Stanton asked whether a survey could be carried out by the County Council to look at footpaths within Ingleby Village, which are in need of maintenance. He said there are lots of people that walk through the village and there are no footpaths in places. Also there are three out of the four street lights not working. The lights have been reported to the authority on two previous occasions. Can County Council please action.

Councillor Davison said the County Council have had to make cuts. There will always difficult choices to make. Regarding the 'lollipop people' the original proposals are being significantly altered. A budget will be set tomorrow, there are challenges and there will be cuts.

Councillor Ford said there has been a generous offer from a local benefactor which could result around £30,000 to help restore the cross.

RA/29 **District Council issues.**

The Chief Executive updated the forum on the budget and financial position. Key points being:-

- A balanced budget for this year and next (2014/15 and 2015/16);
- Increase in new Homes Bonus (£170k) – from residential development;
- Derbyshire wide Business Rates Pool approved – it will pay no levy all future

growth receipts remain in the County and we get a share;

- An increase of 2% or more would need to be subsequently ratified through a local referendum (current Band D is £150);
- Rate of Council Tax for 2015/16 subject to Council approval on 2 March – a freeze has been proposed;
- Increase in Concurrent Functions of 2.3% (total budget around £330k per year);
- Increase in grants paid to voluntary bodies also 2.3% (total budget around £1/4m per year).

RA/30 **Date of Next Meeting.**

To be confirmed in due course.

P SMITH

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 pm