

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

15th May 2012

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman) and Councillors Frost, Jones and Mrs. Hall.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations) and P. Spencer (Democratic Services)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

County Councillors Jones and Lacey.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

A. Waldie and R. Mackie.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

S. Jackson, J. Pallett, O. Pallet and C. Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council), W. Wadsworth (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), J. Powell (Linton Parish Council), J. Nicklin and T Nicklin (Netherseal Parish Council) and M. Horne (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

S. Bulloch and D. Bird.

LA/20. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from H. Wheeler M.P., S. Jones and Mr. & Mrs. Taylor.

LA/21. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Jones be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Linton Area Forum for the remainder of the Municipal year.

LA/22. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that a brief recycling survey had been placed on the chairs and he asked those present to complete and return this to the Clerk.

LA/23. DERBYSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – DOMESTIC SPRINKLER CAMPAIGN

The Chairman welcomed Deputy Chief Fire Officer Andy Waldie and Station Manager Rob Mackie. A short film and Powerpoint presentation was provided on the initiative by the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service for domestic sprinklers. It sought to ensure that these were fitted in all new domestic properties and retrospectively installed in existing properties. The presentation was particularly timely given the recent tragedy in Derby. The presentation provided statistics on the number of people that had died or been injured in fires in Great Britain and in the County. Derbyshire Fire Service had the sum of £200,000 for match funding for the installation of sprinkler systems. Comparative data was shown on the number of fire related fatalities in the County and with the incident the previous week, Derbyshire now had the highest statistic in the Country. It was recognised that the population in the County and in particular the ageing population, was increasing. Further slides included photographs showing how sprinklers minimised the damage caused by fire, but more importantly enabling residents to escape from the property.

It was questioned whether the Fire and Rescue Service was in dialogue with major developers of sites such as that proposed for Drakelow. It was also noted that the installation of sprinkler systems was not a planning requirement, but was more concerned with building regulations. One mechanism to ensure that sprinkler systems were fitted to all new properties was to bring about a legislative change and an e-petition was publicised. Local authorities were also being encouraged to promote the installation of sprinklers. Developers could easily accommodate them in the design stage through using wider gauge water supply pipes. Mr. Mackie explained endeavours to engage registered social landlords and other developers, together with providing advice on how systems could be installed retrospectively. The representatives of the Fire Service were thanked for their presentation.

LA/24. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Linton Area Forum held on 3rd November 2011 and of the informal Meeting held on 1st February 2012 were noted.

LA/25. REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman referred those present to the report circulated with the Agenda and he highlighted the progress made to date. With regard to the Drakelow development, a resident provided further clarification on the highways issues raised at the last Meeting. This concerned access from Walton Village to the new road network and the difficulties that would be caused for local residents. Related to this, there was discussion about the location of the new traffic islands and the decision not to install traffic lights instead. It was noted that such concerns were raised at every Meeting of the Drakelow Development Liaison Committee. A local Member added that there was ongoing research by County Council officers on this issue.

With regard to the loose manhole covers, it was confirmed that those reported had been attended to. Further problems were identified and these had been referred to Severn Trent Water for attention.

LA/26. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

There was discussion about recycling costs and whether these were likely to increase with the introduction of plastic recycling. The aim was to achieve savings of about £100,000 per year under a revised contract and the Council was charged for each tonne of waste that went to landfill. Questions were responded to about the measures used to encourage people to recycle and why staff checked bin contents to ensure, for example, that compostable materials were not contaminated.

An update was sought on the action taken to deter people from parking vehicles for sale on grass verges. It was confirmed that the District Council's Chief Executive had written to Derbyshire County Council and a response was awaited. The Forum Liaison Officer added that this had been passed to the relevant Maintenance Manager, who was seeking legal advice before responding.

LA/27. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next Linton Area Forum would be held on Wednesday 18th July 2012 at Overseal Village Hall.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.