OPEN

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
SWADLINCOTE

6th November 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives
Councillor Taylor (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Lane, Lane, Rhind and Tilley (Vice-Chairman)

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative
P. Jamieson (Forum Liaison Officer) and M. Evans (Policy Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary
Sergeant S. Wright.

Members of the Public

M. Barsby, M. Brotherhood, R. Causer, M. Causer, S. Horridge, C. Horridge, Mrs. Key, C. Rose, J. Williamson and W. Jackson.

SA/7. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lauro and Southerd and M. Hudson.

SA/8. **POLICE ISSUES**

It was requested that arrangements for the Remembrance Parade at Church Gresley be the same as last year, as Market Street was closed, and a police presence slowed the traffic down. Sergeant Wright confirmed that, although he was not sure of the arrangements, he would discuss this further with the individual concerned, outside the Meeting. He added that normal arrangements should be that interested parties complete a form, to which the police would respond as appropriate.

A resident asked if the police produced a local newsletter. Sergeant Wright responded that details of all local police officers were provided on the Helpdesk, and that the police in conjunction with the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership also produced a newsletter. He also announced the date of the next Safer Neighbourhoods Meeting.

It was asked if the police could take action with regard to cyclists riding on the pavement with no lights. Sergeant Wright responded that if the police were around when this happened, they would stop them, however, enforcement was difficult as they were not easy to catch. It was reported that there was a particular problem with this around the Granville School area and Sergeant Wright agreed to pass this information to the local Beat Officer.

It was asked when the new Parking Enforcement Officers would be in place. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that they should have started at the end of November, however, the Department of Transport had delayed this by a minimum of two months.

SA/9. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that the Meeting had been renamed from Swadlincote Area Meeting to South Derbyshire Area Forum – Swadlincote. He added that the crest of the District Council appeared on the cover alongside those of the County Council and Derbyshire Constabulary, to indicate that these were joint meetings for the area. He added that, in future there would be greater involvement from the County Council in responding to questions on the functions they were responsible for.

In addition, the police were continuing to be represented at these Meetings. However, their main role was to discuss partnership issues that concerned both themselves and other agencies. He reminded those present that the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings would continue and that these were the main forum for police issues.

SA/10. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Meeting held on 4th June 2008 were noted, subject to the amendment of Minute No. SA/5, bullet point 2, on page 2, which should read 'recycling point at Church Gresley'.

SA/11. **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.

With regard to Item 4 – Travellers on Penkridge Road, Church Gresley, a resident requested that an officer from South Derbyshire District Council contact him to discuss this matter further.
It was agreed that an officer be requested to contact the resident following the Meeting.

With regard to Item 5 – Newsagent on Alexandra Road/Hastings Road, Councillor Mrs. Lane confirmed that the owners had been interviewed and cautioned about this site, and Enforcement Officers were continuing to pursue this matter.
It was requested that this item remain on the agenda and a further report back with any updates be provided to the next Meeting.

With regard to Item 9 – Swadlincote Pond, the response to this item was queried, and it was asked where the off-road parking was that which ran alongside Eureka Park.
It was agreed that a response to this matter be provided to the next Meeting.

SA/12. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was asked why, following completed work on the highways, signs were left for a considerable amount of time. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that signs should only be left for a short period of time following work, and he would arrange collection of the one reported on West Street.

A resident asked if the District Council had invested in any Icelandic banks. The Director of Corporate Services responded that the District Council had not invested in any foreign banks.

It was asked if no-smoking signs could be put up inside the bus shelters in Swadlincote.
The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

It was asked that an update on the proposed golf course on Nadins Way be given to the next Meeting.
The District Council would provide an update on the proposed development at Nadins Way at the next Area Forum.

A resident asked, as Phase 1 of the Swadlincote Regeneration Route was open, an update could be given on any future work. The Chairman responded that this area came within the Local Development Framework, as an Area Action Plan. He added that it was a key target to complete the relief road, and agreed to report back on this issue at the next meeting.
It was requested that further information be given at the next Meeting.

With regard to the Regeneration Route, it was asked where HGV's were being directed. The Forum Liaison Officer advised the Meeting that Derbyshire County Council was in the process of changing some direction signage to encourage drivers to use the new link road.

A resident queried whose responsibility it was to choose the name of a new road. The Chairman responded that this was completed by the District Council's Building Control section, who liaised with both the Post Office, developers and in certain areas, Parish Councillors. It was asked who Dennis Barsby was, as a recent road had been named after him. There had also been a promise by the District Council to name a road after Josiah Ford, and it was requested that an update be passed back to the Area Forum.
The District Council agreed to provide an update on this item at the next Meeting.

SA/13. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – "TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRIORITIES"**

M. Evans addressed the Meeting and explained that the purpose of this presentation and consultation was to understand local priorities, to help shape future priorities, and understand what action could be taken, either by organisations, communities or individuals to achieve them. It was important to get a sense of priority at a local level and the County Council was attempting to find out if anything was missing, and what things were important in ensuring a good quality of life. A questionnaire was distributed, with 19 priorities and residents were asked to complete this with their top 5 priorities and also to identify any items that were not a priority.

SA/14. **ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

The Chairman reported that a new Environmental Forum for South Derbyshire was being set up for local environmental groups, parish councils and individuals who wanted to share ideas about environmental projects. These were being supported by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and South Derbyshire District Council. The Forum would involve a networking group to which groups and individuals would be invited. Meetings would usually include formal and informal information sharing and consultation, plus a walk or talk by a local group about their area. It was confirmed that the first Meeting had taken place on Tuesday 4th November 2008, and the next Meeting was expected to be in April or May 2009.

SA/15. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dates for future Meetings were confirmed as Wednesday 4th February 2009 at St George and St Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Gresley and 31st March 2009 at the Town Hall in Swadlincote.

It was requested, that the venue for 31st March 2009 be changed from the Town Hall, as the acoustics were very poor and several people were finding it very difficult to hear.
The Democratic Services Officer agreed to consider changing the venue, and would confirm in writing if the venue could be changed.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.