

NEWHALL AREA MEETING

23rd January 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Chairman) and Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chairman), Richards and Wilkins.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Bambrick and Jones.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Members of the Public

P. Ball, P. Bambrick, L. Carter, Mrs. Foy, Mrs. Hilton, R. Holden, R. Hughes, Mrs. Myatt, J. Pallett, K. Parker, M. Richards, M. Vardy, Mrs. Tagg, E. Tunncliffe, B. Woods and C. M. Wright.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Mrs. Gillespie, Derbyshire County Council Representatives A. Bond and D. Tysoe and Mrs. Dunn, G. Hall and R. House.

NA/9. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Meeting held on 6th November 2007 were noted.

NA/10. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman provided an update with regards to the new 'In vessel' brown bin composting scheme which had been introduced within South Derbyshire. Details of the scheme were given, including the villages to be included in the conversion, and which materials could be put into the brown bin. In addition, material had been circulated detailing dates, and further information that would be available at exhibitions to be held throughout the District. Councillor Dunn commented that residents living within the Urban Core should be given further opportunity to attend these exhibitions as there was only one, in Swadlincote. The Chief Executive responded that this location was central to the Urban Core. However, he assured Councillor Dunn that this comment would be considered for future events.

The Chairman advised the Meeting of two Emergency Planning Test events, which were due to be run in 2008. The outcome of these events would improve the response should a real emergency occur.

The Chairman referred to the review of Area Meeting boundaries, discussed at the last Meeting. He advised that following consultation, the Council had decided to retain the status quo at this time.

The Chief Executive gave an update on the current position with regard to land on Nadins Way in Swadlincote. He advised that a golf course might still be constructed on the site, and negotiations were taking place for a 'pay and play' facility. He assured those present that although land adjacent was currently up for sale, no land that had been earmarked for leisure facilities had been put up for sale. Following questions, the Chief Executive also confirmed that land adjacent to this area had been designated for industrial development. However, the land in question continued to be designated as a leisure site. A question was also raised as to whether a school could be built on the Nadins site.

It was agreed that although a response had been given from the County Council with regard to educational facilities within the District, a further response on this particular issue be provided for the next Meeting.

NA/11. **CONSULTATION ON THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE BUDGET**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Frank McArdle, Chief Executive at the District Council. He explained the purpose of this consultation, to inform and consult on the draft key priorities and actions within the 2008/11 Corporate Plan and the Council's financial position and budget proposals for 2008/09. A copy of the Corporate Plan had been circulated, together with a questionnaire to seek feedback and he urged residents to complete this and return it by 10th February 2008. Presentation slides had also been circulated. He explained the Council's Vision and the six Corporate Plan themes, which emerged from extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders. Each year, the Council developed Corporate Plan priorities and actions for each of the themes and feedback was sought on this area.

The presentation then addressed the Council's budget proposals, with information provided on Council Tax and the sources of funding. He spoke about the proportion of Council Tax that was used to deliver District Council services. The Chief Executive explained how resources were spent on Environmental Services, Community Services and Corporate Services. He then touched on the budget proposals for 2008/09, the cost pressures the Council was facing and the overall positive financial position of the District Council. Reference was made to the Council's improved Use of Resources rating and the open committee process on the budget, which the public could attend. He spoke about the ongoing efficiency savings being made by the Authority and the year-on-year improvements. The Council had a minimal amount of debt and its investments were earning interest. He closed by commending the Corporate Plan and sought residents' feedback on this consultation.

Further to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that the District Council did apply for lottery funding for certain projects. However, these were capital projects not ongoing revenue projects. £6.2 million had been raised from external funding.

A member of the public asked about the future position with regard to the Green Bank Leisure Centre. Many new people were coming to the District and it was felt that this facility required updating. The Chief Executive responded that this leisure facility had served its purpose over a number of years, at a very low cost. However, it was accepted that it was approaching the end of its life, and a better quality facility was required. The District Council was considering this and was close to being able to come forward with a proposal. However, this could not be discussed at the present time.

A question was asked with regard to the proposed Grove Wood Estate. The Chief Executive responded that currently it was not possible to comment, as this project was not under consideration at the current time.

NA/12. **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 rubbish being dumped near Bisons, it was reported that this was currently being dealt with by the District Council's Enforcement Officer.

An update was also given with regard to the public right of way adjacent to the former Horse and Jockey public house. It was confirmed that Derbyshire County Council was dealing with a Wildlife and Countryside Act claim for the footpath from Meadow Lane to Church Street, Newhall, which crossed the car park of the former Horse and Jockey pub and was now a development site. The next stage of this procedure was to report to the County Council's regulatory Licensing and Appeals Committee, which would take place in the next few months. If a legal order was made, there would be an opportunity for the public to object, which might result in the matter being determined at a local public inquiry.

With regard to antisocial behaviour issues around Meadow Lane/Almond Grove, a resident confirmed that a group of youths had recently moved on to Newhall Park car park, and Tudor Way. Sergeant Wright agreed to pass this further information to the local Beat Officer.

With regard to litter on Sunnyside, Mr. Tunnicliffe advised that the area between Sunnyside and Bretby Road was heavily littered with tins and bottles. He added that this location was within school grounds, adjacent to the car park, between the iron railings and fence.

The Chief Executive agreed to write to the school regarding this issue. Councillor Mrs. Mead confirmed that as she was a Governor at the School she would also follow up this issue.

It was also confirmed that free newspapers were still occasionally being dumped at the bottom of Oversetts Road.

It was agreed that the District Council write to the Burton Trader raising awareness of this ongoing problem.

NA/13. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Residents reported that a traffic light on the corner of the A444 and Park Road, Newhall had no amber bulb.

It was agreed that this be reported to Derbyshire County Council.

Difficulties were reported for elderly residents to get plastic items to their local recycling area. The Chief Executive responded that the District Council was in the process of putting the refuse collection and recycling service out to tender. The collection of plastics from homes would be considered at this time.

A resident asked which authority was responsible for checking drains, as many of these were causing problems when there was a period of heavy rain, culminating in flash flooding. Councillor Jones responded that the County Council was responsible for road drains, although this was sub-contracted to the District Council. It was acknowledged that service standards might be insufficient, and a Committee within the County Council was currently considering this problem with a view to sourcing a solution. In the meantime he requested that if people had knowledge of a particular problem they should report it to the County Council.

A resident asked if a parish council could be formed within the Urban Core. The Chief Executive responded that currently only Woodville was parished. Any resident wishing to pursue this could contact the Chief Executive who would supply details, although it was pointed out that this would entail a lengthy process.

It was asked if the indoor market in Swadlincote was currently being used. The Chief Executive responded that it had been closed for approximately three months, and the market had been moved onto the Delph, which was proving very popular.

It was asked if the football changing facilities at the bottom of Oversetts Road could have some fencing erected around them to provide extra security, as they had become a target for vandals. The Chief Executive replied that this was a good example of an issue that could be included in the consultation and response for the Corporate Plan.

It was reported that in the Park Road/Stanton Road area, vehicles accessing the tip were approaching with trailers. However, rubbish that was not secured was causing a litter problem. It was also requested that additional signage be introduced advising of fines for dropping litter.

The Chief Executive agreed to look into litter signage.

An issue was raised about a local supermarket weighing a product then adding packaging and charging for packaging.

The Chairman agreed to follow this up with the supermarket concerned.

It was asked if compostable sacks were only available from the Council, as it was considered that they were quite expensive. It was also noted that a resident had purchased alternative sacks, however they had not been taken with the refuse as the operatives were unsure as to whether they were biodegradable.

It was agreed that this be followed up and a response provided to the next Meeting.

Mr. Tunncliffe raised the issue of a disturbance that had recently taken place at the top of Sunnyside. Sergeant Wright agreed to speak to Mr. Tunncliffe following the Meeting and report back to him direct.

NA/14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue of the next Newhall Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

G. FARRINGTON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.