

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at Goseley Community Centre

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe (Chair), Councillor Robert Coe, Councillor Stuart Swann, Councillor Steve Taylor, Councillor Neil Tilley, Councillor Ray Tipping, Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt.

Kevin Stackhouse – Strategic Director.
Kate Allies – Environmental Development Manager.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Gary Musson, Councillor Stuart Swann.

Parish Council / Meeting Representatives

Malc Gee (Woodville Parish Council), Maureen Mycock (Hartshorne Parish Council), Don Redfern (Woodville Parish Council), Richard Smith (Hartshorne Parish Council).

Members of the Public

L Archer, Michael Barsby, Eddie Bisknell (Burton Mail), Chris Bowley, Lia Byatt, Ron Causer, Jane Chapman, Colin Dobson, Kerrie Fletcher (CVS), Geoff Fox, Ruth Frudd, Adam Geddes, Iain Hambling, Mick Hine, Joy Smith, Dot Shuttleworth, N Thornehoe, G Tubey.

SA/20 **Apologies**

Chris Horridge, Shirley Horridge, Ron Lane.

SA/21 **Declarations of interest**

None.

SA/22 **Chairman's announcements**

None.

SA/23 **The minutes of the meeting held on October 4, 2017**

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

SA/24 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

Bollard in High Street, Swadlincote

A resident said that raising the bollard would prevent access to the High Street for the security van delivering cash to HSBC bank. Councillor Mrs Kim Coe replied that the bank would have to communicate with SDDC about delivery times. Councillor Sandra Wyatt claimed the bollard had yet to be raised, contradicting what officers from SDDC's Depot had said.

Broken bollard in Thorn Street, Woodville

Councillor Gary Musson said he would find out whether a replacement bollard would be installed in future.

ACTION: Councillor Gary Musson to provide a report back on bollard

SA/25 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident raised the poor state of the surface of the Delph. They said that a previous meeting had been told that spare stone was available to repair it. When would it happen? How much would it cost and who would pay? The stone had not stood the test of time as it should – surely materials should be supplied free of charge? Councillor Neil Tilley added that he'd raised the issue at SDDC and been told that some of the stones were hollow. The resident complained that substandard materials had been supplied at the Taxpayer's expense and they had disintegrated. Councillor Steve Taylor backed the resident's complaint and said the work should have been done to a better standard. Kevin Stackhouse replied that officers at SDDC were looking into the problem. Hopefully, by the next meeting it would have been resolved.

Councillor Mrs Coe raised the issue of trees in Swadlincote's High Street. They were lifting the surface of the street. A resident added that the trees weren't being properly maintained, which worsened the problem. Councillor Stuart Swann said they were the wrong trees in the wrong place. The resident said a schedule should have been in place to prevent the trees from getting so big. There was a 60ft tree outside the Chinese takeaway, so inevitably roots would damage the street. Councillor Tilley

said no one seemed to take responsibility for them. Councillor Swann said the tree outside the Chinese takeaway was being removed.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to provide a report back into maintenance of the trees in High Street, Swadlincote

Kate Allies reported that her team had undertaken some public consultation and one of the things people asked for was a heritage trail. Ideas had been gathered for what should be included. An application had been lodged with the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to pay for plaques in pavements and walls. The idea was to celebrate the people of Swadlincote.

A resident asked for the times of SDDC meetings to be included in Area Forum agenda packs. Councillor Mrs Coe replied that the time of meetings was always 6pm but that the time would be included in future.

A member of the public raised damaged blockwork outside Lloyd's Bank in High Street, Swadlincote. A dip meant customers were often stood in water to use the cash machine. Councillor Taylor added that the problem was similar to that in the rest of High Street and the Delph. It was about time that Swadlincote got what it deserved in terms of capital expenditure on roads and streets.

A resident asked when barriers at the Tollgate Island were going to be replaced after they were damaged in an road traffic collision. Councillor Musson replied that the work would be undertaken by DCC.

A member of the public reported a manhole cover rocking and making a loud noise outside the Tesco supermarket in Woodville when hit by traffic. A repair had been attempted by DCC Highways but it had failed very quickly.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report damaged manhole cover to DCC

A resident complained about the narrow pavement outside St George's Primary School in Church Gresley. Councillor Swann replied that some work had been done to alleviate issues at the location. Councillor Mrs Coe added that, as a former governor at the school, she could report that there wasn't much more which could be done. The resident asked for traffic calming. Councillor Swann asked to be sent a proposal for the site.

A member of the public raised the Woodville Regeneration Route. They weren't sure if planners had considered how traffic was going to perform once the route was open. They cast doubt on the effectiveness of the proposed new road. Councillor Taylor said he had been involved in the project for many years and traffic impact assessments had been made. He never thought the proposed road would relieve Woodville completely, but

the hope was it would relieve traffic at the Clock Island as vehicles took the new route into Swadlincote. Councillor Musson added that he was curious as to whether future developments had been factored into the analysis when he visited a consultation event. He was told the modelling was robust. A resident said extra traffic would come from Blackfordby as extra houses were being built at the border with South Derbyshire. Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton replied that border developments were consulted upon. Councillor Mrs Coe told residents to make comments on the plans official to ensure their views were heard. Mr Stackhouse said that planning applications were available to view in the Civic Offices and the application in question was currently lodged with SDDC. This was the chance for people to have their say. A resident added that he hoped residents who had bought new houses in Woodville knew they would one day be on a bypass. Councillor Taylor said, for the record, that Clock Island was at full capacity as determined by DCC.

A resident asked for grit bins on the Thorpe Downs estate in Church Gresley to be better maintained. They were either absent, vandalised or empty during a recent cold snap which left the estate treacherous. Why could kerbs not be installed to better protect them? Councillor Swann replied that he was waiting on an answer from DCC on grit bin maintenance. Councillor Musson added that no new bins were being issued by DCC.

ACTION: Councillor Stuart Swann to provide an update from DCC on grit bins

SA/26 **County council issues**

None.

SA/27 **District council issues**

Mr Stackhouse reported that SDDC was looking to set its budget and Council Tax for the next financial year, 2018-19. The financial position continued to be a good one in the short to medium term with a budget surplus in 2017-18. More money was being generated from the New Homes Bonus and from the extra Council Tax being levied by the additional properties being built in the district. Extra services were having to be laid on, including a new refuse collection round, and work was being done to review grounds maintenance around South Derbyshire. With extra properties and associated facilities, there was more which needed maintaining and spending would rise. Extra revenue from new houses wasn't all being spent – some was being held in reserve to secure future services. There was the potential for a budget deficit in two-three years' time but efficiencies were being sought. One thing which could benefit the district was a Government pilot in Derbyshire to allow local authorities to keep 100% of their Business Rates, up from the current 50%.

The proposal was to raise SDDC's precept by 1.95%, a very similar rise to the previous two years. There was the option to put it up by more than that but anything more than a 3% rise or an extra £5 on a Band D property would require a referendum.

Councillors had voted through an extra 2% funding for voluntary bodies and parish councils. A Community Partnership Scheme had also been proposed with additional funding of £250,000. Kerrie Fletcher (CVS) thanked SDDC for the additional funding.

A resident asked how much extra income would come from the re-evaluation of properties which had been extended. Mr Stackhouse replied that he was unsure and would report back.

ACTION: Kevin Stackhouse to report back on re-evaluation of properties

A member of the public asked if there would be a windfall from the sale of SDDC's Depot and associated land. Mr Stackhouse confirmed there would be and it would pay for the new depot which had been created on Boardman Industrial Estate. A resident complained of a stench coming from the former SDDC depot.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report issue to Environmental Health

SA/28 **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be announced in due course. Councillor Mrs Coe reported that there would be a change to the format of the meeting, with the likelihood that the Area 4 Safer Neighbourhood meeting and Swadlincote Area Forum be rolled into one.

**Councillor Mrs Kim Coe
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.30pm.