

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018 at Swadlincote Town Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council representatives

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe (Chair), Councillor Robert Coe, Councillor Gordon Rhind, Councillor Stuart Swann, Councillor Steve Taylor, Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt.

Kate Allies – Environmental Development Manager.
Ardip Kaur – Legal and Democratic Services Manager.
Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.
Chris Smith – Communities Manager.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Gary Musson, Councillor Stuart Swann.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Eric Parker, Don Redfern (Woodville Parish Council).

Police representatives

PC Stuart Kelly, PCSO Dean Badham-Spalding, PCSO Claire Robbins, PCSO Lee Walker.

Members of the public

Rachel Bayliss, Chris Bowley, Tracey Budworth, Jenny Burley, Colin Dobson, Geoff Fox, Mark Hunt (CVS), Mick Lunn, Cathy Miles (CVS), Maureen Mycock, David Sharpe, Geoff Tubey, Ben Waldron (Burton Mail), Marc Woolaston, Rachel Woolaston, Jayne Worthington.

SA/1 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Ron Causer, Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Chris Horridge, Shirley Horridge, Councillor Neil Tilley.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Frank McArdle said he hoped that the merger of the meetings would improve the flow of information from the public to members and officers at SDDC. He would welcome feedback on the new format of one meeting instead of two.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

SA/2 **Safer Neighbourhood report**

PC Stuart Kelly reported that:

- Town centre anti-social behaviour (ASB) had taken up a lot of the team's time in the previous three months. Theft and drugs were still an ongoing problem, with between 80 and 100 prosecutions since the start of the year. The success was mainly down to shops getting CCTV systems to identify culprits.
- Six positive drug warrants had been carried out in the area. Charges had been laid for various offences, including possession and possession with intent to supply.
- County Lines, where drug dealers from outside an area who are unfamiliar to local police, come in and start dealing was a problem in Swadlincote. It linked in with another phenomenon called 'cuckooing', where dealers would take over an addict's property for a short time and sell drugs from there and move on before the police acted.

PCSO Lee Walker reported that:

- The town centre ASB issues had been a big problem in 2016 and they had reared their head again in recent months. There were more people involved this time around, with around 25 offenders identified. Cases of assault and criminal damage had been dealt with, while a case of harassment at McDonald's was due to go before the court. Incidents had declined in the previous three weeks.

Councillor Stuart Swann raised drones being used on the Castleton Park estate in Church Gresley. Residents believed they were coming from the vicinity of Anglia Drive. PC Kelly said he would investigate.

ACTION: PC Stuart Kelly to investigate drones in Castle Gresley and provide an update

A resident asked for police to visit Ward's Recycling as he believed lorries accessing the site were causing traffic problems at the Clock Island. PC Kelly said he would visit the location.

SA/3 **Communities update**

Mark Hunt explained what the Safer Homes Scheme was and how it allowed the over-60s and vulnerable members of society free security upgrades to their properties. Councillor Mrs Sandra Wyatt added that it was an excellent service she had used.

Cathy Miles reported on:

- The setting up of Gresley Old Hall as a community hub and explained what the project entailed. Councillor Mrs Kim Coe added that the new roof on Gresley Old Hall had made a big difference to the building and that the inside of the hall could be renovated. Fund-raising would have to be undertaken.
- The range of activities and projects that the CVS was involved in.

Mr Smith told the meeting that there was still a £4,000 pot of funding for projects impacting on community safety or development. Two projects had already applied for funding – Gresley Old Hall for £1,500 towards a CCTV system and the RSPCA Shop in Swadlincote High Street for £1,100 towards gates for its alleyway. Both projects were approved by the meeting.

Mr Smith reported that the Community Partnership Scheme, a new £250,000 fund for capital projects in South Derbyshire, had been launched. Projects seeking funding needed to show how they would impact on SDDC's Corporate Plan and Community Strategy. Community Partnership Officer Ian Hey was available to help with advice for projects and potential applications.

SA/4 **Local authority issues & public questions**

Mr McArdle reported that:

- A detailed approach was preferred to tackle the poor condition of the Delph paving. What was down did not comply with the original specification and Mr McArdle was attempting to bring the contractors to the table and put right what was believed to be their responsibility.
- An area of land off the A444 near to the Gate Inn, Stanton, had been sold for housing. It was adjacent to the proposed golf course and related facilities off William Nadin Way.

- A planning application was expected soon for the old SDDC Depot site at Darklands Road, with a pub, takeaway and care home expected to be included.
- The Princess Diana Memorial Garden had opened.
- A feature had been written about Swadlincote in Derbyshire Life magazine.
- An historic cricket match from the 19th century was being recreated – South Derbyshire v The Aboriginals. The game was being played at the County Ground in Derby and was free to enter.
- The regeneration route in Woodville had received planning permission and would bring traffic into Swadlincote via a route away from the congested Clock Island. The challenge for officers was absorbing traffic in the town centre.

Councillor Steve Taylor said he had no doubt Swadlincote would have some of the effects felt by Ashby when its bypass was built. However, he was disappointed that further development had been allowed off Woodville Road, Hartshorne, when the Tollgate Island was already at full capacity.

A resident asked why a reaction to the Delph surface had taken so long? Mr McArdle replied that he would've liked the situation to be resolved faster but he couldn't turn back the clock. Work was under way to solve it.

A Woodville resident raised the issue of South Street, Woodville, and an unadopted piece of road which was untarmacked and caused him a range of issues. There was also the problem of dog walkers leaving bags of mess in his hedge and on his gate. Discussions had been held to close the road with bollards. DCC ended up placing a bollard which caused vehicles to turn outside his house, with a result that he'd had two walls demolished. Supermarket delivery lorries were also using the road and taking a back entrance into the store. Mr McArdle replied that he'd met the resident but unfortunately it was a private street and not a public highway. He was unable to create a precedent on the matter and couldn't give the resident any comfort. Councillor Gary Musson added that he was still trying to pursue the matter at County Hall. It was asked whether a community grant could help the situation. Councillor Gordon Rhind replied that as a member of the Community Partnership Panel, match funding was needed and he didn't want false hope to be created.

A resident said they had enjoyed the Swadlincote Festival of Transport. Mr McArdle replied that it was an excellent day. Councillor Mrs Coe added that it was well attended. Councillor Rhind said he'd received complaints about motorbikes parked outside the Card Factory, in High Street, causing excessive noise and fumes in the shop, even when the owners were asked to stop. Councillor Mrs Coe said the feedback would be noted.

Councillor Swann had forwarded a motion in the agenda pack as follows:
"This Area Forum requests that Derbyshire County Council supplies grit

bins for the above locations on the Castleton Park estate, Church Gresley and further requests that South Derbyshire District Council commits to maintain these amenities.” The three locations were: Junction of Westminster Drive / Hope Way / Edinburgh Road, junction of Glamorgan Way / Moray Close and Luton Road near Cranfield Avenue. The motion was seconded.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to forward request to Derbyshire County Council

Councillor Musson reported that a broken bollard in Sun Street, Woodville, (not Thorn Street as initially reported) had been removed and there were no plans from DCC to replace it.

SA/5 Presentation on local community initiative

Kate Allies delivered a presentation on the Swadlincote Heritage Trail which was being created around the town. It would celebrate 30 points of interest and well-known local figures such as boxer Jack Bodell and actor John Hurt through wall and pavement plaques. The trail would be officially launched at the Festival of Leisure in June. Mr McArdle asked whether similar trails would be forthcoming in local villages. Ms Allies replied that her team would be available to help any project coming forward.

Ms Allies updated the meeting on the Environmental Forum, which helped groups involved in dealing with issues around the South Derbyshire environment.

SA/6 Summary of any agreed priorities / actions

- PC Stuart Kelly to investigate drones around Castle Gresley.
- Tom Sloan to report grit bin request to DCC.

SA/7 Close and date of next meeting

Wednesday, October 24th, at Goseley Community Centre.

**Councillor Kim Coe
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 7.55pm