

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE – AREA 4

Meeting minutes – Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Gordon Rhind (Chair), Councillor Malcolm Gee, Councillor Vonnie Heath, Councillor Mick Mulgrew, Councillor Neil Tilley, Councillor Kevin Richards, Councillor Trevor Southerd

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive Officer
Chris Smith – Communities Team Manager
Claire Rawlins – Anti-social Behaviour Officer
Kate Allies – Environmental Development Manager
Anthony Baxter – IT and Business Change Manager
Ash Roberts – IT Infrastructure & Security Manager
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant (Taking notes)

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Linda Chilton, Councillor Stuart Swann

Derbyshire Police representatives

PCSO Jamie Gutberlet, PCSO Reece Beattie

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Eric Parker (Woodville Parish Council)

Cathy Miles – South Derbyshire CVS

Members of the public

Chris Baldwin, Carl Barratt, Jenny Burley, Alan Jones, Helen Kreft, Joan Riley, Ingrid Van der Weide

SA/1 **1. Open meeting**

a) Introductions and housekeeping



b) Apologies

Councillor Dr Jane Perry, Councillor Stephen Taylor

c) Declarations of interest

None declared.

d) Chair's announcements

Councillor Rhind raised awareness that changes are soon taking place with regards to the three COVID-19 Community Testing Centres that have been operating in the Swadlincote Area. The three centres have been open since December and over 18,000 people have been tested. However, the Grove Hall centre has now closed and Gresley Old Hall will close on Friday, February 5. The decision to close the centres comes from Central Government.

The Midway Community Centre will remain open each day from 9am until 7pm on weekdays (last admission 6.15pm) and from 9am until 4pm at the weekend (last admission 3.15pm) until further notice. Please encourage friends and family to make use of the testing facility whilst it remains open.

e) To receive the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting however Councillor Neil Tilley raised that his attendance had not been recorded.

ACTION: Debbie Ward to add Councillor Neil Tilley's details to the previous minutes' attendance list.

f) Matters arising from the last minutes

A member of the public queried whether there was any further progress in respect to The Cutting in Hartshorne and added that there are sections of fence that is broken and the area is becoming very littered.

Councillor Rhind responded that other things have taken precedence since the last meeting and that the matter had not been forgotten and would be investigated further in due course.

ACTION: Communities Team to pass on the information provided regarding littering around The Cutting in Hartshorne to the Clean Team.

Frank McArdle updated that the surface of The Delph is now being treated regularly with very light (low-cost) maintenance to keep it in a stable condition that is safe for people to walk on.

Frank McArdle added that legal communications have been ongoing between SDDC and the contractor and that SDDC are now pursuing the manufacturer regarding the



physical makeup and internal structure of the blocks used. By Spring/ Summer 2021 the matter should be resolved.

SA/2 2. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) report and police Q&A

PCSO Jamie Gutberlet and PCSO Reece Beattie provided the following SNT update:

-

Following concerns raised by residents in Swadlincote, speeding enforcement action has been taken in several hotspot locations in the area. PCSO Gutberlet updated that officers have now been trained on a laser gun which enables tickets to be issued on the spot, or a warning can be given, dependant on circumstances.

PCSO Beattie updated that things had been much quieter in recent months on the anti-social behaviour (ASB) front in Swadlincote.

Parking on pavements in the area continues to be an ongoing issue which officers have been paying close attention to and tickets/ warnings have been issued where appropriate.

School patrols have continued (when open) on a rotational basis.

Officers have attended COVID-19 breaches and several fines have been issued as a result.

Plain clothes officers have been patrolling hotspot areas in response to intelligence received in connection to drugs. PCSO Gutberlet encouraged people to come forward and report any suspicious activity so that it can be investigated further by the Police.

Vehicles have been seized in the area for having no insurance or valid driving license, including several electric scooters (e-scooters).

A member of the public asked what the Police were doing about the drug and anti-social behaviour in Nelson Street, Swadlincote?

Chris Smith updated that the issue raised had been passed on to the relevant Housing Officer at SDDC who was investigating the matter further and that the Police were also aware of the issue.

PCSO Gutberlet confirmed that he was aware of the issue and that the matter was in hand.

Councillor Stuart Swann raised concerns on behalf of a local resident regarding cars parked on the brow of the hill on Chiltern Road.

PCSO Gutberlet updated that a visit had been made to the location in question and that the vehicle was not found to be causing an obstruction at that time.

ACTION: PCSO Gutberlet to update the female complainant that raised parking issues on Chiltern Road



A member of the public raised concerns around double parking by the local convenience store situated on the corner of Woodville Road leading on to Goseley Avenue and explained that Arriva Buses have recently had to change their route due to this ongoing issue.

PCSO Gutberlet confirmed that the Police would keep an eye on the situation and would speak to anyone found double parking in the area and would also speak to Arriva Buses to determine a long-term solution to the problem.

ACTION: Police to speak with Arriva Buses regarding their route onto the Goseley Estate that has been blocked at times by double parking. The Police to monitor the area and advise anyone found to be double parked.

Councillor Linda Chilton added that Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is aware of the situation and have been in touch with both the local Police and Arriva Buses about it.

SA/3 3. South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership/ Safer Neighbourhood grants update

Claire Rawlins provided the following update: -

After a short period of uncertainty during the first lockdown many of the Local Partnership meetings quickly resumed using Microsoft Teams, including Police and Partners ASB Meetings, Pub Watch meetings, Child Exploitation meetings and the Violence Alcohol and Licensing meetings.

During the first lockdown there was an increase in calls to Police service for Domestic related incidents, and as a result a new South Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Action Group was set up to ensure key partners and support services are working closely together to raise awareness of domestic abuse and promote what local support services are available.

The easing of the first lockdown also saw a large increase in ASB both in terms of neighbour issues, parking issues at Tourist sites and large groups of young people gathering and causing a nuisance in parks and open spaces across the District.

Over the Summer local police SNT Officers were in daily communication with the Councils Communities and Cultural Services Teams and the Councils Community Enforcement Officers and multi-agency meetings were introduced to deal with specific issues at Foremark Reservoir and Newhall Park. New CCTV cameras have also been installed at Maurice Lea Park.

The Partnerships Safer Homes scheme which is delivered by South Derbyshire CVS was temporarily suspended when lock down commenced in April and through to July the Safer Homes worker was redeployed and delivered over 160 essential medical and food parcels to vulnerable individuals who were unable to leave their property.



Safer and Stronger Neighbourhoods Funding

There have been two projects awarded funding since the last meeting. One was for a mosquito alarm at Gresley Old Hall which is designed to keep young people from gathering in specific areas and causing ASB. The other project was to provide a Community Garden Service to be staffed by volunteers.

Funding is still available to local community groups, parish councils, clubs & associations and not for profit organisations to make their community feel safer and stronger and to enhance the local community.

For more details, please visit the Council Website or contact Chris Smith or Debbie Ward in the Communities Team on community.safety@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Councillor Trevor Southerd asked whether the CCTV cameras installed at Maurice Lea Memorial Park have been effective at reducing anti-social behaviour.

Chris Smith responded that the cameras have helped together with patrols by SDDC Community Support Enforcement Officers (CSEO's) and the Police.

Councillor Southerd queried whether cycling at Maurice Lea Memorial Park is both legal and acceptable.

Chris Smith updated that he was not aware of any restrictions in relation to cycling at Maurice Lea Memorial Park and had not received any reports to date regarding individuals causing a nuisance on pedal cycles at the park.

ACTION: Chris Smith to speak with Cultural Services about the feasibility of incorporating a designated cycle lane at Maurice Lea Memorial Park.

SA/4 4. Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update

Cathy Miles provided the following South Derbyshire CVS (SDCVS) update: -

The SDCVS offices remain closed but staff are continuing to work from home.

The Food Bank has relocated from the SDCVS offices on Grove Street to Hill Street Baptist Church.

Since the pandemic started some services have had to be temporarily put on hold due to the risks associated with COVID-19, such as face to face befriending, active travel, social car and shop mobility. The Home from Hospital scheme also had to go to phone assessments but these are now gradually returning to home visits.

Demand for other services has soared, such as the Food Bank, telephone befriending, shopping and collecting medication for people that are not able to leave the house.

Community groups have continued to be supported and SDCVS quickly moved the Community Forums online. Community Forums are held every two weeks covering a wide range of topics.



There has been a huge increased need for volunteers since the beginning of the pandemic with 180 volunteers being recruited between March and May 2020.

SDCVS have launched the South Derbyshire Volunteer Force (SDVF) to bring partnerships together with other volunteer organisations. There are lots of tasks and roles to be fulfilled, such as shopping, helping with the Food Bank, telephone befriending and collecting medication.

The biggest area of growth for SDCVS has been the volunteer centre and since launching the SDVF in January 2021 over 300 people have come forward to help support the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Cathy Miles extended thanks on behalf of SDCVS to everyone from Swadlincote and surrounding areas for their phenomenal response in respect to this.

Demand for the Food Bank and associated wrap-around support has increased significantly due to the increasing number of people facing financial hardship because of the pandemic. In response to this SDCVS launched the Winter Giving Campaign to encourage people to consider making a financial donation to provide the right balance of food and support for those most in need this winter. For more information about how to donate, visit the SDCVS website (www.sdcvs.org.uk/donate).

Covid Connectors is a recent project funded by Public Health England which aims to find people in the community who can get clear messages out quickly. The need for this has been highlighted due to the amount of false information that is circulated via social media platforms such as Facebook.

It has been decided that SDCVS will look to sell its existing office on Grove Street due to it not currently being fit for purpose. However, moving forward SDCVS would like to maintain a high street presence.

Frank McArdle extended huge thanks to the Community and Voluntary Sector for all the work they have done to date to help the residents of South Derbyshire since the beginning of the pandemic.

SA/5 **5. Local authority update and public Q&A**

Frank McArdle provided the following update: -

COVID-19 Pandemic update

South Derbyshire's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been co-ordinated by the County Local Resilience Forum, the forum that guides our efforts in dealing with all local emergencies. All the work on the pandemic is overseen by a Strategic Coordinating Group, chaired by Derbyshire Police, this comprises senior representatives for health, social care, police, fire, military, local authorities, ministry of housing, communities and local government. South Derbyshire District Council's Chief Executive sits on this group. Under this sits a range of sub-groups all dealing with specific areas of action from:



Maintaining Front Line Services – in particular, essential services and maintaining customer access to those. All organisations have had to adapt the way they do things.

Capacity in the Health and Social Care system – dealing with pressure on hospitals, care homes and supporting people in their own homes.

Community Response and Coordination – this has been a big area for us locally. Whether that be in ensuring the delivery of food parcels to vulnerable people who were shielding, providing prescription deliveries, supporting people being discharged from hospital, co-ordinating volunteers for services such as befriending, supporting the local food bank and providing local testing facilities. A huge amount of effort has gone into this strand of work and partners should be rightly proud of the support they have provided to the local community at what has been and continues to be a very challenging time.

Frank McArdle reported that South Derbyshire continues to be well placed to respond to the pandemic. Unlike other areas across the County, South Derbyshire retained its Local Strategic Partnership in the form of the South Derbyshire Partnership meaning there were already structures in place to act quickly.

South Derbyshire is being held up as best practice in the County in this regard and other areas have been very complimentary about the strength and depth of the District's partnership arrangements.

Draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

South Derbyshire District Council is currently inviting residents to comment on the Council's draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2021-25. Equality, diversity, and inclusion are an integral part of everyday life for South Derbyshire District Council and we are committed to ensuring that the services we provide are accessible to our residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Strategy and Action Plan for 2021-2025 sets out the Council's equality objectives for the next four years. In developing this strategy, the Council has consulted with Elected Members, Council Officers, Trade Unions, residents, community and faith-based groups through events held in partnership with SDCVS.

The Council is proud of the progress being made but before the final version of the Strategy is approved, any comments and feedback the Forum has is welcomed.

The strategy and Action Plan are available on the Council's website and can be viewed in the following link <https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/equality-diversity-and-inclusion> The deadline for comments is Thursday, 4 February 2021.

Christmas Waste Service Disruptions

Unfortunately, the brief spell of snow over the period between Christmas and New Year had a significant impact on all waste collection services and in particular recycling collections.



The recycling collections have been impacted by the increased amount of waste being generated at home due to the COVID-19 restrictions on households with tonnages presented for collection at times 30% above normal levels.

In normal times the Christmas week and the first two weeks of the new year see the highest volumes of waste presented for collection, these volumes are even higher than normal.

The three issues combined, tonnages due to COVID-19, increased tonnages due to Christmas and the loss of collection days due to Christmas/ weather have made it extremely difficult to catch up with collections.

The Council and its contractor have made every effort to get collections back to normal in as short a time as possible including additional resources and additional working days.

As of January 12, 2021, black and brown bin collections are back to normal. However, green bin collections are approximately one day behind. These collections are only delayed and not cancelled, therefore, residents should be advised to leave their bins out and they should be collected no later than the following working day.

Housing Services Update

Neighbourhood and Estate Management

Seven Community Protection Notice Warnings (CPNW) were issued for anti-social behaviour and condition of gardens, Two Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) letters were issued, one for littering and the other for breaching a previously issued Community Protection Notice (CPN).

Community Engagement

The 2020-23 Housing Customer Engagement Strategy Action Plan has been consulted on with Council tenants, Council employees and other social housing landlords. 185 tenants responded, with 82% saying that they found the Action Plan easy to read and understand. More information about the Strategy is available by contacting Community Engagement Officer Laurie Coombs on 07891 071980.

Helping vulnerable residents stay warm and well at home in South Derbyshire.

Householders living with cold sensitive health conditions who are unable to achieve affordable warmth are at high risk of needing extra support from the NHS and Adult Care.

The Council can provide support services at short notice and will work with referral partners to provide appropriate and cost-effective solutions for the NHS and Adult Care.

- Privately own or privately rent their house ✓
- Have a health condition made worse by the cold ✓



- Struggle to afford to keep their home warm ✓

People can self-refer/contact us for advice through our generic email environmental.health@southderbyshire.gov.uk or stephanie.thandi@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Councillor Mick Mulgrew raised the issue of supermarkets and the number of people that are now being let in to shop with little or no control/ enforcement in place compared to how things were managed during the beginning of the pandemic.

Frank McArdle updated that SDDC have now engaged Covid Marshalls to patrol in and around Swadlincote Town Centre and that any COVID-19 breaches and/ or bad practice by supermarkets and takeaways will be addressed by the Marshalls to ensure that the rate of infection is minimised.

Councillor Mulgrew asked why Oakland Village is not appearing on the list of COVID-19 Vaccination Centres for residents in the Swadlincote area.

Frank McArdle explained that whilst both the NHS and local Social Care are jointly rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine programme and are aware of each other, they are in fact separate organisations who do not work together to determine who goes to which centre. Frank McArdle confirmed that he would try and speak with the Derby & Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) again regarding this.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to contact Derby & Derbyshire CCG in respect to the Oakland Village COVID-19 Vaccination Centre not appearing as an option available to residents in the Swadlincote area.

A member of the public asked who was responsible for the railway cutting opposite the Railway Inn/ Swadlincote Windows, where Church Street joins Midway Road as the hedgerow there is starting to cause an obstruction on the footpath.

Frank McArdle advised that the land was owned by Gresley Investments and that he would contact them in the first instance.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to contact Gresley Investments regarding the overgrown hedgerow located by the railway cutting opposite the Railway Inn/ Swadlincote Windows where Church Street joins Midway Road.

Councillor Tilley raised the ongoing issue of cars queuing to visit McDonalds which is causing traffic along Civic Way to come to a standstill at peak times of the day, particularly on a Friday and Saturday.

Frank McArdle updated that DCC Highways are aware of the issue and as part of the construction of the Woodville Regeneration Route this will in turn lead to an evaluation of traffic coming down Civic Way including the turning into the retail park where McDonalds is situated.



Councillor Southerd added that he was assured by DCC Highways that there would be a traffic impact assessment (TIA) completed in relation to the new Woodville Regeneration Route and requested that enforcement action be taken.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to follow-up on the request made by Councillor Southerd regarding a Traffic Impact Assessment in relation to the Woodville Regeneration Route and the effect on traffic along Civic Way.

SA/6 **6. Summary of agreed actions**

Action	Person responsible
Debbie Ward to add Councillor Neil Tilley's details to the previous minutes' attendance list	Debbie Ward
Communities Team to pass on the information provided regarding littering around The Cutting in Hartshorne to the Clean Team	Debbie Ward
PCSO Gutberlet to update the female complainant that raised parking issues on Chiltern Road	PCSO Jamie Gutberlet
Police to speak with Arriva Buses regarding their route onto the Goseley Estate that has been blocked at times by double parking. The Police to monitor the area and advise anyone found to be double parked	PCSO Jamie Gutberlet
Chris Smith to speak with Cultural Services about the feasibility of incorporating a designated cycle lane at Maurice Lea Memorial Park	Chris Smith
Frank McArdle to contact Derby & Derbyshire CCG in respect to the Oakland Village COVID-19 Vaccination Centre not appearing as an option available to residents in the Swadlincote area.	Frank McArdle
Frank McArdle to follow-up on the request made by Councillor Southerd regarding a Traffic Impact Assessment in relation to the Woodville Regeneration Route and the effect on traffic along Civic Way	Frank McArdle

SA/7 **7. Close and date of next meeting**

TBC (May/ June 2021)

Councillor Gordon Rhind
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 6:55pm

