

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM - LINTON

22nd October 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman), Councillor Jones (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Grant.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. White (Democratic Services), M. Guest (Corporate Performance and Policy Officer), K. Allies (Environmental Development Manager) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs. Lauro.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer), F. Nicholls (Policy Manager, Research and Information) and G. Spencer (Policy Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant M. Sisman.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

K. Bradford (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), J.L. Powell (Linton Parish Council), M. Horne and V. Taylor (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

G. Hall, V. Taylor and P. Wood (South Derbyshire CVS).

LA/10. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from County Councillor Bambrick, M. Todd M.P., Dr. Elson and S. Jackson.

LA/11. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant M. Sisman addressed the Meeting, giving an update on staffing, including the appointment of two new Police Community Support Officers. He reported on the priorities for the area, which included the targeting of anti-social behaviour, under-age drinking, speeding and nuisance caused by motor cyclists. The issues of speeding and nuisance from motor cyclists would be addressed by Police Traffic Officers.

A resident made reference to consultation with Derbyshire County Council regarding the checking of vehicle speeds whilst using Hillside Road, Linton during March 2008. Details of the results received were provided and the police were thanked for their assistance given in this matter. Further clarification was sought from Sergeant Sisman with regard to the way forward to help alleviate excessive speeding in this vicinity. Sergeant Sisman provided various suggestions, including the implementation of the "Speed

Watch” scheme and emphasised that such matters could be addressed by the whole community, rather than the police in isolation.

Sergeant Sisman agreed to discuss the matter further with the Police Inspector.

Reference was made to the Microsoft Excel spreadsheets produced in connection with the “Speed Watch” scheme, which were considered difficult to read and it was requested whether the information could be provided in a more user-friendly format, for example in graphic form.

It was agreed to investigate this matter further.

Discussion was undertaken regarding the use of road strip detectors in Walton-on-Trent, possible for the undertaking of traffic count surveys.

It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council would investigate the results of the surveys and report back to the next Meeting.

A resident made reference to the provision of a network for local people to communicate information directly to the Police, including details of dedicated mobile telephone numbers and it was suggested that this issue could be discussed at a future Safer Neighbourhood Meeting.

LA/12. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised of the renaming of the public meetings from “Linton Area Meeting” to “South Derbyshire Area Forum – Linton”. 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 the County Council had responsibility for. In addition, the police would continue to be represented at these meetings, although their main role was to discuss partnership issues concerning the police and other agencies. Safer Neighbourhood Meetings would continue and would be the main forum for police issues.

The Chairman also advised of the current arrangements for discussing planning issues. He confirmed that arrangements for Area Committees (as they were originally called) had been approved by the Council in May 1997. The framework had therefore been set and it was explicitly agreed that matters relating to planning applications would not be permitted at Area Meetings. There was also an issue, particularly for Members of the Development Control Committee, that discussion of such items in a public forum could risk an accusation of pre-determination. Therefore, any matters relating to a current, or potential application could not be discussed at this forum.

LA/13. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Linton Area Meeting held on 2nd June 2008 were noted.

LA/14. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report circulated with the agenda which provided an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting was noted.

To provide a further update, it was reported that, following the most recent inspection on 13th October 2008, no problems had been evident regarding the condition of Station Road, Walton-on-Trent, other than a few leaves on the road, which would be cleared as part of the channel cleansing undertaken during October/November. A resident advised that there should be no issue with regard to the cleansing of the lane, since two sweepers had been sighted recently turning in the lane, alongside each other.

A report to update on recycling and composting measures undertaken by the District Council, circulated at the Meeting was noted.

It was confirmed that, following investigation, Officers had no knowledge of the installation of a water meter on a public footpath at Walton-on-Trent. A resident clarified that the meter installed appeared to be measuring leakages and it was suggested that this might have been installed by either South Staffordshire or Severn Trent Water Limited.

It was agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.

With regard to the leakage reported from a refuse vehicle carrying composting material in Rosliston, it was noted that some problems had been encountered with regard to liquid, rather than leachate, escaping from the waste being collected for composting. Although the refuse collection vehicles had seals at the back end, should a small fault develop in the seals, or a pinprick size hole occur in the hopper floor, problems would occur, especially given the high moisture content of the compostable waste being collected. It was noted that the refuse collection vehicles were not designed in the same manner as tankers. Robust procedures were in place in an attempt to keep on top of the vehicle maintenance necessary to minimise the risk of any spillages. In the event of any occurrences, however, a road sweeping vehicle was deployed to clear up any mess. It was noted that the response had been relayed to Rosliston Parish Council.

LA/15. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Concern was raised regarding the condition of the recycling blue bags once returned to households in Walton-on-Trent.

It was agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.

An issue was raised with regard to the recycling of tetra packs, including the conflicting advice given at the recycling centre at Park Road, Newhall, which had instructed the packs to be included with recycled cardboard. It was noted that the nearest site to Walton-on-Trent, which would accept tetra packs for recycling was Rosliston Forestry Centre. It was, therefore, requested that provision for tetra pack recycling within the vicinity of Walton-on-Trent be considered.

It was agreed to investigate this issue further and report back to the next Meeting.

An issue was raised concerning the insufficient width of parts of the public footway in the Manor Bank/Hillside Road, Linton area. It was noted that Councillor Mrs. Lauro had already raised the issue with Derbyshire County Council and the situation was being monitored. There was particular concern since the public footway was used frequently by schoolchildren.

Derbyshire County Council agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting.

Concern was expressed regarding a number of issues relating to Coton-in-the-Elms including a lack of public services in the village, forcing residents to travel to Rosliston to use the facilities there; problems with speeding traffic exceeding the 40 mph speed limit through the village and the turning of HGV lorries in Walton Lane. It was considered that HGV prohibition signs were required on the A444 entering Burton-on-Trent and that those HGV's entering the Roger Bullivant site should be offered an alternative route. A Councillor suggested that this issue could be raised at the appropriate liaison committee for discussion by Derbyshire County Council.

At this point, Councillor Timms joined the Meeting.

LA/16. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – “TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRIORITIES”**

Faye Nicholls introduced this item, relating to the partnership work of Derbyshire County Council. Surveys had been undertaken to assist the County Council in formulating 19 key priorities. Officers were now attending 41 forums across the County to discuss the key priorities with local people and to seek feedback. Questionnaires had been circulated prior to the Meeting, which residents were asked to complete, expressing their priorities and raising any local issues.

The Meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes to enable the questionnaires to be completed and a feedback session then followed. The top five priorities related to highways/roads/transport; affordable housing; strengthening the sense of community, reducing crime/perceived anti-social behaviour and provision of activities for young people. A general discussion then followed, allowing residents to raise a number of local issues.

In relation to highways/roads/transport, the reliability and improvement of the existing service and frequency of public transport was a high priority. It was noted that Swadlincote CVS actively encouraged community participation in schemes such as car sharing.

It was noted that the Council's Local Development Framework was the tool used for the provision of affordable housing.

With regard to strengthening the sense of community, reference was made to the loss of public facilities, which weakened the community. It was also noted that communication within parishes was undertaken through publications including the “Village Voice” and parish plans.

The reduction of crime and perceived anti-social behaviour, together with the provision of activities for young people were considered in conjunction with

each other. Particular reference was made to the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, which were a forum used to target the reduction of crime and perceived anti-social behaviour. It was considered that further provision in local communities was required for youths, in particular and suggested that existing facilities could be used more widely. Organisations such as the CVS could be utilised to distribute information regarding activities available.

It was noted that the District Council would also use the information provided regarding local priorities for incorporation in its Corporate Plan. Derbyshire County Council would use the information to feed into four or five different Plans and would provide a further report to update the Area Forums at the next Meeting.

LA/17. **ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Kate Allies (Environmental Development Manager) advised that a new Environmental Forum for South Derbyshire was being established, involving 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 would be held at Repton Village Hall on Tuesday, 4th November at 7.00 p.m. A reply slip was attached to the agenda and it was requested that this be returned by all those interested in being involved with the Forum.

LA/18. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dates of future Meetings were confirmed as Tuesday, 3rd February 2009 at Netherseal Village Hall and Monday, 30th March 2009 at Coton-in-the-Elms Community Centre.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.