

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE

9th November 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Jones (Chairman) and Councillors Bell, Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Murray, Rhind, Southerd, Stuart, Taylor and Tilley.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations), D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Jones (Chairman) and Mrs. Farrington.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

In attendance

M. Lacey (Derbyshire Police Authority).

Derbyshire Constabulary

PC D. Walker.

Members of the Public

R. Causer, D. Bird, M.G. Brotherhood, S. Brotherhood, D. Crossley (Burton Mail), C. Gillespie, C. Horridge, S. Horridge, K. Hough, J. Hough, W. Jackson, C. Marson, J. Pallett, O. Pallett, D. Redfern, L. Rogers, M. Shepherd and R. Thomas.

SA/11. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from J. McCarthy and Mrs. Wheeler, M.P.

SA/12. **POLICE ISSUES**

PC Dave Walker reported on current crime figures within the Swadlincote area. He reported that crime had decreased overall by 11% over the last quarter, compared to the same period last year.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Priorities for the area had been recognised as, anti-social behaviour on the Goseley Estate and nuisance motorbikes in Woodville. In addition, Operation Safe Drive was being undertaken, along with Community Speedwatch in Hartshorne. Three drugs warrants had been executed and a Shop Watch Album was being developed of persistent offenders.

Problems caused by scrap vans in the area were raised by residents. The Police requested that if they were observed, registration numbers be recorded and the non-emergency number for the Police rung. The Director of Operations added that residents had a responsibility, when disposing of items, to ensure that the Operator had the correct waste licence. It was suggested that the District Council consider publicising this.

The Director of Operations agreed to consider issuing a press release on this matter.

The issue of travellers on Blackshed Island was raised. It was asked if any action was being taken to stop this problem. The Director of Operations responded that this was private land, and he had arranged a Meeting with the landowner's representative in the hope of persuading them to make the land more secure.

It was reported that there were still problems with speeding vehicles and HGV's accessing Coppice Side, and it was felt that the signage was still not clear. The Forum Liaison Officer reported that the traffic officer stated that signage was clear and that HGV's should not be entering this area unless they had a legitimate reason. He added that this issue had been passed to Trading Standards, and encouraged residents to use the reporting form from the Trading Standards website and submit this when completed.

It was also pointed out that there were problems with HGV's on Moira Road, Woodville. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that Trading Standards were also aware of issues in this area, and there may be plans for traffic calming in the future.

It was asked what the arrangements were for Church Gresley's Memorial Parade. PC Walker responded that there would be a police presence in this area and Councillor Southerd added that the roads would be closed, and staff from South Derbyshire District Council would also be in attendance.

SA/13. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that following the recent consultation exercise, the Council had agreed revised Area Forum boundaries. Each ward would be situated in only one area and details were given of the areas that would be included in the Swadlincote Area Forum from next year. These boundaries would also apply to the existing Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, enabling both meetings to be held on the same date at the same venue, with the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting first, to deal with any police issues. This would avoid duplication and achieve savings in cost and Officer time, as well as avoiding the need for residents to attend two meetings.

SA/14. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 28th July 2011 were noted.

SA/15. **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.

It was asked if there had been any progress on the proposed crossing at Wilmot Road. The Chairman reported that a request had been submitted that a full review of this decision be undertaken. The Forum Liaison Officer added that Derbyshire County Council were hoping to do a site visit to this area in the next few weeks.

It was asked what the current situation was with regard to the proposed pedestrian crossing at Burton Road. The Forum Liaison Officer reported that the Legal Team had looked into an alternate funding source for this work, however none had come to fruition. Legal Officers were now pursuing the developer once more. It was asked if any further action could be pursued in regard to the failure of the developer to meet the conditions of the S.106 agreement.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to provide an update on any further developments when available.

SA/16. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was reported that the name-plate at the bottom of the statue at the new retail park had become very rusty and needed attention. Councillor Richards responded that it had been a requirement that it was constructed from this material.

It was pointed out that repairs that had been made under the trees in the Delph had not been finished to a very high standard. The Director of Operations reported that this was a temporary repair as the Christmas Lights switch-on was imminent.

It was reported that some of the recently installed slabs in the top corner of the leisure centre car park had been cracked.

The Director of Operations agreed to look into this matter.

With regard to remedial work that had recently taken place to the road on Coppice Side, it was asked who had paid for this.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to find out how this was funded and report directly back to the resident.

It was reported that there was a large pothole outside No. 139 on the A511 and asked if remedial work could take place in this area.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this matter.

It was asked whose responsibility it was to clear private land of Japanese knot weed. The Director of Operations reported that this was the owner's responsibility.

It was reported that areas of road adjacent to Blackshed Island, the Woodville Island and Church Street were in a poor condition.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to request that any potholes be patched, and report back on any plans for resurfacing in these areas.

It was asked if there would be a bus service up to the new retail park from the existing bus station. Councillor Southerd responded that efforts were being made to get community transport to this area.

It was reported that there were no dog litter bins, or ordinary litter bins at the new retail development, or adjacent to Morrison's, Coppice Side or the bus stops.

The Director of Operations agreed to look into this matter and report back to a future Meeting.

Councillor Rhind asked where the market would go on the Friday when the fair arrived.

The Director of Operations agreed to respond directly back to Councillor Rhind.

It was asked if refurbishment of the Swadlincote town centre would continue from the Delph down onto the High Street. The Director of Operations responded that although there were plans to do this, at present there were no funds available to complete this work.

It was asked if the new retail park was affecting trade in the town centre. Councillor Murray responded that trade in the town centre had increased by over 30%.

SA/17. **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer reported that a part night lighting consultation was currently underway and was available online, at libraries, via Call Derbyshire and at Council Offices.

It was asked if Derbyshire County Council planned to reduce the amount of gritting that took place in the severe weather. The Chairman responded that there would be no reduction, however there were plans to re-schedule the fleet.

Councillor Murray reported that there were snow information cards available, issued by Derbyshire County Council, which would assist residents in inclement weather.

C. JONES

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.