

REPTON AREA MEETING

23rd October 2003

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chair), Councillor Bladen (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bell, Ford, Mrs. Hood, Isham and Jones.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), D. Cook (Democratic Services Officer) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor A. Jones.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Inspector R. Hargreaves.

Parish Council Representatives

D. Brookfield (Newton Solney Parish Council), R. Paulson and A. Skipper (Repton Parish Council), K. Gibbs and H. Bowcott (Willington Parish Council), D. Oatley and S. Smith (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

A. Kimber, K. Vincent, A. Gillespie, C. Sturgess, Mrs. J. R. Cownie, D. J. Deboo, S. Brookfield, M. Groom, A. Atkin, A. Mayger, C. Bailey, Mrs. Rauf, M. Gee and R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council).

Primary Care Trust Representative

Mr. S. Elliott.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Mrs. Wheeler (District Council), D. Roberts (Willington Parish Council), A. Gifford, D. Adams (Hartshorne Parish Council) Mr. J. R. Cownie and Mrs. J. Stamford.

RA/13. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st July 2003 were received.

RA/14. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair referred to the consultation exercise currently taking place regarding the change of the name for East Midlands Airport and encouraged anyone interested to make their views known.

RA/15. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair invited the Democratic Services Officer to provide an update on matters raised at the previous Meeting. She advised that with regard to traffic issues at the Toll Gate Island, Woodville a response had been received from Mr. P. Leigh of Derbyshire County Council stating that any major scheme

would be very expensive and the County Council were not convinced of the viability of simply installing traffic signals. To this end, the County Council had completed a video traffic count/survey of the junction to enable them to make a better assessment of what might or might not be achievable. The contractors were currently processing the data from the video and the County Council hoped to have the information available sometime during November 2003. Discussions would then take place with the Traffic Signal Manager but it was unlikely that the County Council Officers would be in a position to make any firm conclusions/recommendations until the New Year.

D. Oatley referred to a previous e-mail received from Mr. J. Waite of Derbyshire County Council on this matter and requested that he be invited to return to a Meeting of Woodville Parish Council to discuss the issues. S. Smith advised that the Parish should not be 'fobbed-off' with the issue of finance. The Chair advised that traffic problems in Woodville were a huge issue and there was a need to drive the matter forward. He stated that he would not allow Derbyshire County Council to "let the matter slip".

On a separate matter, Mr. R. Statham advised that at Hartshorne Road, Woodville there had been inconsistencies with the erection of railings to the Puffin Crossing. One side of the road had one and a half metres of railings missing and the other side of the road had eight metres of railings missing. The County Council had agreed to fill in the one and a half metres but not the eight metres. Mr. Statham expressed concern particularly for the safety of children using this Puffin Crossing and accordingly it was agreed to write to Derbyshire County Council on this matter.

With regard to the provision of cardboard recycling for Woodville, the Democratic Services Officer advised that Officers at the District Council were in the process of negotiating for a network of small cardboard banks for the local contractor and it was hoped to have such banks in place in the next few months. The Chair advised that the Recycling Officer had experienced some difficulty in finding the perfect site and was currently talking to the Parish Council on this matter. D. Oatley queried whether a cardboard recycling site was available at the Council's Depot and was advised that this was not the case.

With regard to hazardous parking outside Newton Solney Village Hall, Inspector Hargreaves advised that this would be monitored and the County Council were to consider the issue of parking restrictions.

On the issue of the footway between Newton Solney and Repton requiring making-up, the Democratic Services Officer advised that Mr. J. Waite of Derbyshire County Council had stated that sections of this road had been resurfaced over several years and although there was a bid for this to be completed this year, the priority was not high enough when compared with other schemes.

The Meeting was advised that a letter had been sent to Central Trains regarding Willington Station not being accessible to disabled people. A copy of the response received from Central Trains was circulated to all present for information. Councillor Ford expressed concern that yet another service had been lost and the situation was getting worse rather than better at the Station.

With regard to the parking restriction sign at Castle Lane, Willington being removed and the double yellow lines needing repainting, the Democratic Services Officer advised that the County Council had reported that the parking restriction at The Castleway, Willington would be re-lined as required. With regard to parking outside the Co-op at Willington, a response received from the Local Beat Officer was read out and the situation would be monitored. Councillor Mrs. Hood advised that in her opinion the parking situation had improved recently.

The Democratic Services Officer advised that with regard to the Public Consultation on street naming for Ladyfields, Newhall, a letter had been sent to Mr. Vorley in response to his queries.

RA/16. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Deboo raised the issue of Pavements are for People and advised that Councillor Mrs. Wheeler had passed him a report from the House of Commons regarding this matter. He stated that there was no law in the country banning/permitting parking on pavements and that some authorities had taken out Private Acts to ban it (London). Most pavement parking would be seen as an obstruction however. Inspector Hargreaves advised Mr. Deboo that the police could only deal with legislation as it existed and would deal with any offence of unnecessary obstruction. However, such cases were difficult to prove in court. Should there be a wish for byelaws this would be the best solution. Councillor A. Jones referred to the leaflet produced by Derbyshire County Council on this matter which was aimed to encourage good behaviour regarding parking from a road safety point of view. Councillor Bladen advised that cars were regularly parking outside the post office and Spa shop on single yellow lines in Repton and this was a very narrow pavement and could prove dangerous. Accordingly, Inspector Hargreaves agreed to action the no waiting restriction in this regard.

The Chair referred to recent reports in the press comparing South Derbyshire District to East Staffordshire Borough Council regarding crime statistics. Inspector Hargreaves advised that in South Derbyshire the real numbers of crimes had been reduced by approximately 10% this year. Derbyshire as a whole had issues in this regard but South Derbyshire was doing well. Mr. M. Alflat advised that South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Partnership was regarded as one of the best in the Country and that the Government Minister had stated his intention to come and look at the work being carried out in the District.

Mr. R. Statham queried whether it was an offence to drive over a pavement to access one's own property. Mr. M. Alflat advised that there was a need to obtain planning permission to drop a kerb and if the case in which Mr. Statham referred to did not have planning permission then the details should be supplied to the Council. Councillor Bladen referred to instances whereby an individual might be asked to apply for planning permission in retrospect.

D. Oatley advised that several cars were parking on the zig-zag outside the newsagents/chip shop in Woodville and accordingly it was agreed that the Beat Officer would be asked to monitor this situation. Inspector Hargreaves advised that he was endeavouring to increase the traffic warden coverage for South Derbyshire.

Councillor Isham referred to parents parking inappropriately when dropping off and collecting children at schools (parking on bends/double yellow lines etc.) She was concerned that such parking was endangering people walking to school and asked if the police could send letters to parents asking them to park more appropriately. Inspector Hargreaves advised of a need to educate parents and that the police did regularly speak to schools in this regard.

The Chair reported a high level of HGV traffic using Moira Road, Woodville. He queried whether this situation could be monitored with a view to obtaining a restriction on that particular road. He was concerned that a number of small children used the road to get to pre-school and the lorries were driving on pavements. Inspector Hargreaves advised that a seven and a half tonne weight limit did not exist for this road but agreed to speak to the traffic division regarding this situation.

Mr. Paulson of Repton Parish Council expressed concern at the time taken to obtain answers from the County Council on traffic problems at Repton and accordingly the Chair offered to take specific issues on board.

C. Sturgess advised that she was attending this particular Area Meeting but was more interested in the Area Meeting for the Ingleby, Foremark, Stanton-by-Bridge area and accordingly the Democratic Services Officer agreed to ensure that Mrs. Sturgess' details were added to the other relevant Area Meeting distribution list.

Mr. Gibbs advised of litter problems at the recycling centre at Twyford Road, Willington. Plastic bags were being tied to recycling banks as the litter bin for plastic bags filled every two days. The plastic bags were blowing on to the playing fields and neighbouring properties causing a litter problem. Also, the cardboard bin slots had been reduced and people were leaving boxes adjacent to the bank. Accordingly it was agreed to report this matter to the Council's Recycling Officer for action.

Mr. Statham expressed concern that the recycling bins at Woodville were not being locked and all types of rubbish were being placed in them. A general concern was expressed regarding bins not being locked across the District and accordingly it was agreed to advise the Recycling Officer of this matter.

The Chair advised that Mr. J. Oake would be attending the next Meeting to give a presentation on the Sharpe's Pottery Centre at Swadlincote.

RA/17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the next Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 27th January 2004 (venue to be determined).

RA/18. **PRESENTATION OF THE LOCAL IMPROVEMENT FINANCE TRUST (LIFT) PROJECT**

Mr. Steve Elliott, Assistant Director, Commissioning Service Improvement, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust was in attendance at the Meeting to discuss the LIFT Project. He advised that the Primary Care Trust had been in existence for 18 months and were undertaking health assessment work. He advised of the rising population in

the Swadlincote area and the increase in proportion of the younger population. He stated that the area suffered from a higher than average death rate from conditions such as cancer and heart disease. There was a shortage of GP's and dentists etc. in the area. For the past two years there had been a lack of revenue funding but increased funding was on the horizon. With regard to capital funding, he advised of the Government's new LIFT Scheme.

Mr. Elliott reported that the five PCT's in Derbyshire had formed a partnership with Excel Care. A new building would be erected on the former Ambulance Station site in Swadlincote forming the base for many health services. A formal consultation was taking place regarding this project which would end on 27th November 2003. Mr. Elliott advised that he was happy to talk to voluntary groups regarding this project. The former Ambulance Station was to be demolished and replaced with a purpose built centre to house four GP's, NHS dentists, extra district nurses, health visitors, consultant sessions and a number of special nurse clinics. The District Council was to house an information point at the project by way of a computer system and it was possible that Social Services would also have a presence in the building. Voluntary organisations would be allowed to use the building. Mr. Elliott asked for feedback on the provision of the local X ray service and minor injuries/illness service. He advised that the PCT were commencing a scheme with local pharmacies currently to treat minor illnesses (coughs and colds etc.). The PCT had begun to work with architects on the design of the building at Swadlincote which would begin construction mid-2004 for completion mid-2005.

A resident requested chiropody services to be provided in the building. Councillor Ford queried whether all people in South Derbyshire would have access to the services provided. Mr. Elliott advised that this would be the case however GP's would be able to decide their list of patients. In response to a query from Mr. Statham, Mr. Elliott advised that it was a high priority to provide an NHS dentist in the building. Some services would be managed by the PCT but some would be employed by other PCT's in the County. The contractual relationship with the GP's was to be determined. A resident submitted a request for adequate parking provision and Mr. Elliott advised that the architect was currently looking at the site in this regard.

A resident queried the provision of teenage health services and Mr. Elliott advised that these were in the early stages of development. He stated that the particular needs of teenagers were not always met by traditional health services and the PCT were currently looking at ideas to provide relevant services. In response to a query raised, Mr. Elliott confirmed that no services would be closed as a result of this new building and that this was totally additional provision. He did advise however that as a separate exercise the PCT were reviewing all health services within their boundary, particularly at Hilton, Etwall and Willington. Councillor Ford queried the provision of ambulance services for people attending the Swadlincote building and was advised that such provision was being addressed. S. Smith advised that she felt this project was a marvellous idea and wished the PCT every success.

The Chair stated that a number of residents were currently travelling to Burton for blood tests and Mr. Elliott advised that it was hoped to introduce a blood taking service at existing clinics as not all local GP's offered this

service currently. The Chair thanked Mr. Elliott for attending the Meeting to give his presentation.

RA/19. **DRAFT REVISION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE:
HOUSING AND DESIGN**

It was reported that supplementary planning guidance (SPG) was used by local planning authorities to add detail to and aid the application of policies contained in the Local Plan. The Council was required to consult widely on the format and content of such guidance, prior to its adoption. SPG's were a material consideration when planning applications were considered.

The Housing and Design SPG required revision due to the publication of a revised Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note No. 3 on housing. The basic thrust of the PPG was that new development should be located within urban areas wherever possible and in sustainable locations, having regard to local distinctiveness. The PPG placed greater insistence that new housing layouts should be more intensive in terms of the number of houses per hectare and that there should be a higher quality of design and layout promoted. The draft SPG sought to interpret this and moved away from the Council's traditional stance, which sought to ensure that spaces about and between dwellings were at a set level, to a position where only existing dwellings were protected from intrusive and overbearing forms of new development. This would allow developers to accommodate a larger number of houses within new developments, with innovative and interesting designs, whilst maintaining existing standards for occupiers of existing dwellings. The draft SPG reflected the stance of the PPG and the latest revision to the Local Plan in promoting lower levels of car parking provision, reflecting the Government's intention to reduce reliance on the private motor vehicle. Comments on the draft guidance could be submitted to the Planning Services Manager at the District Council.

A general discussion took place with regard to parking provision and Government targets for new housing developments. Councillor Bell referred to Woodville Woodlands and that the Highways Authority had refused to approve the road layout. He requested an update on this situation and the Chair advised that this matter was nearing resolution. The Chair felt that there was a need to develop guidance to recognise the car users' requirements in conjunction with good transport services.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.40 p.m.