

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
SWADLINCOTE

28th January 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Lane, Rhind, Southerd and Tilley (Vice-Chairman).

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

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Mrs. Lauro and Southerd.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer) and R. Peberdy (Principal Librarian).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Members of the Public

M. Causer, R. Causer, S. Horridge, C. Horridge, K. Hough, A. Lager, M. Lunn, A. Pitcher, D. Pitcher, C. Rose, S. Saddal, A. Sheriff, C. Thomas, J. Thomas and J. Williamson.

SA/16. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Mrs. Lane, M. Todd, M.P. and Mrs. Jackson.

SA/17. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Wright gave a brief update on issues affecting Derbyshire Constabulary. He advised that the Derbyshire Constabulary website now had crime maps and crime statistics which were updated regularly. He also pointed out that South Derbyshire had seen a reduction in crime of 6.7% over the previous year. He added that the Police had been proactive in their attempts to reduce crime. There would be a Meeting within the next week to decide if Speedwatch was to continue in South Derbyshire. He added that the Safer Neighbourhood Team was now fully staffed, and two new Police Community Support Officers would be starting soon within the District. In addition, graffiti removal kits were still available, and if organisations required one of these items, they should contact Sergeant Wright on 01283 595894.

Following questions, Sergeant Wright gave further information on speedwatch, and the work carried out by the Police with youth services and schools.

SA/18. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised those present that a leaflet had been distributed relating to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy that was being consulted upon. It was noted that it would be at least a week before the

consultation started formally. The main consultation booklet and questionnaire referred to in the leaflet would appear on the Council's website.

SA/19. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Forum held on 6th November 2008, were noted.

SA/20 **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.

The Director of Community Services gave a brief update on Nadins Way. He reported that in anticipation of progress in the near future, the Council had reformed the Tetron Point Consultation Group, consisting of local residents, who would be consulted at the appropriate time. In addition, the District Council was also promoting a group of companies at Tetron Point to form a "Constructions Futures Group" to help local businesses sustain themselves through the current economic downturn. However, as this might be the subject of a potential planning application, it could not be discussed any further.

The Forum Liaison Officer gave an update on the Swadlincote Regeneration route. He advised that funding was still being sought for the development of this route and the Chairman added that, although he was disappointed this had not progressed, the District Council had identified that this must run in tandem with the Local Development Framework.

Further to the update on the use of Josiah Ford's name, it was asked if the family could be made aware that this name would be used at this future development.

It was requested that the District Council write to Josiah Ford's family, and advise them of the use of his name.

SA/21. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident asked about the proposal for the extension of Sainsbury's Supermarket with specific reference to car parking. The Director of Community Services responded that this matter was currently out for consultation, and there would be the opportunity for residents to comment. However, as this was a potential planning application this matter could not be discussed any further.

Further questions were asked with regards to the possible development surrounding the Morrison's site. The Director of Community Services responded again that as this was a potential planning application, it could not be discussed any further within this Forum.

A resident stated that the wall adjacent to HSBC in Swadlincote needed rebuilding, and asked whose responsibility this was.

The Director of Community Services agreed to look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

A resident asked why the wall near to the Leisure Centre on West Street, had still not been rebuilt.

The Director of Community Services responded that the District Council would look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting. However, he understood it was an insurance issue.

It was pointed out that, outside Tesco on Church Street, assurances had been given previously that kerbs would be raised in this area. It was also noted that there had been an increase in parking around this area. The Chairman responded that in February, Derbyshire County Council would be taking over the responsibility for Parking Enforcement, and there might be an opportunity for further enforcement work in this area.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into the issue of raised kerbs in this area and report back to the next Meeting.

It was reported that lights on the bandstand on Gresley Park were not on at night-time, and it was asked if this was deliberate, or if, in fact the bulbs needed replacing.

The Director of Community Services agreed to look into this matter and report back to the next Meeting.

A resident pointed out that the road approaching Morrison's, at the rear of Gregg's had no footpath, posing a danger for pedestrians. The Director of Community Services responded that this area was part of the Town Centre Development, and a footpath was planned.

A resident asked, when Sandiccliffe Road was shut due to road works, would diversion signs be provided. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that Derbyshire County Council had an Officer who was dedicated to considering temporary road closures and diversions, and this area would be given consideration before the road works commenced.

Councillor Southerd suggested that, as the Sainsbury's site was of great interest to many residents, that Sainsbury's be asked to do a presentation of their proposed development at the next Meeting. The Director of Community Services responded that they could be asked to attend a future Forum. However, it would be dependant on whereabouts they were in the planning process.

SA/22. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES - PRESENTATION BY THE LIBRARY SERVICE**

The Area Forum received a presentation from Rosina Perberdy on the role of the Derbyshire Library Service. The County Council was seeking residents' feedback on how the service could be improved to encourage greater use. She provided statistics on the number of visits to libraries both nationally and within the county of Derbyshire. She explained the current range of services provided, which included free broadband, the free hire of books, the availability of other media and online facilities. She also explained how library facilities were provided through a range of venues, referred to the awards the service had received and its Charter Mark status. There was a home library service, which delivered materials to residents and items such as publications in Braille, prescription books, the School Libraries Service and work with Surestart.

A question was asked with regard to the possibility of extending opening hours in the summer. Ms. Peberdy responded that this could be considered and encouraged those present to complete the feedback forms if this was considered a useful service.

Paul Jameson publicised the Trusted Trader scheme. This was an initiative from Adult Social Services, to respond to the concerns of certain service providers that had led to the compilation of a database of different skilled trades people. Those involved in the scheme had been through rigorous checks and a leaflet and card were available to provide further details on how to access this service. Mr. Jameson also explained how trades people could join the scheme.

SA/23. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES - DISTRICT PRIORITIES – PROGRESS ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

The Area Forum received a presentation from the Director of Community Services on the Council's priorities and budget for the period 2009/14. This covered the new Corporate Plan, with details of the consultation undertaken and the top priorities identified. The Director of Community Services also highlighted particular issues such as flood risks. He referred to the services delivered by South Derbyshire, and the cost of provision of these services.

SA/24. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as 31st March 2009 at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.