

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

25th September 2012

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Dunn (Chairman) and Councillors Bambrick, Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chairman), Richards and Wilkins.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations), K. Stackhouse (Head of Corporate Services) and D. Townsend (Democratic Services Officer).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Lacey.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Members of the Public

P. Bambrick, D. Bird, C. Hobson, H. Hobson, R. House, R. Hughes, A. Jones, M. Lunn, C. Maddock, J. Pallett, O. Pallett, M. Richards, J. Tooth, S. Tooth, B. Woods and P. Woods

NA/10. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman invited Councillor Wilkins to pay tribute to Richard House. Richard had been a stalwart of the local community, and had recently retired from the CVS after 15 years service. He was wished a very long and happy retirement.

NA/11. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Newhall Area Forum held on 24th July 2012, were noted, subject to Councillor Richards being noted as present.

NA/12. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

With regards to safety improvements on Park Road, Newhall, it was reported that an island was not suitable in this area. It was felt that speed calming measures were needed. The Forum Liaison Officer reported that safety measures would be considered in areas with a history of speed related personal injury collisions, but this did not apply in this area. He added that the Authority had recently introduced a stringent policy for the introduction of vehicle activated signs. This location failed to meet the new criteria. However, the Traffic and Safety Officer who had provided the feedback was to undertake a site visit to determine if there were any further safety improvements that maybe justifiable. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to report back to the Forum on whether any further measures could be introduced.**

With regard to the overgrown hedge on Park Road, Newhall, the Forum Liaison Officer advised that he had written to the land owners in regard to cutting back their sections of the hedge. In addition, a request had also been issued to Property Services, in regard to the cutting back of the Derbyshire County Council owned section. A resident reported that some hedges were still overhanging the carriageway, and made particular reference to the hedge approaching the A444.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to continue to monitor this area.

With regard to the issues at Rainbow Waste, Councillor Richards reported that this was the subject of an ongoing investigation by Derbyshire County Council.

Councillor Lacey reported that both Derbyshire County Council and the Police had considered issues at Manor Road, Stanton. He would report any further action to the Area Forum at a future Meeting.

NA/13. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

It was reported that the footbridge on the footpath leading onto the new golf course off William Nadin's Way was in a state of disrepair.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to look into this issue and establish who was responsible for the footbridge.

Several concerns were raised regarding the increasing use of the B5353 through Newhall by HGV's. It was reported that they were regularly using this route as a shortcut from Midway Road and Darklands Road, through to the A444. In addition, a resident reported that one particular vehicle was regularly parked outside Popeye's Café. The Vehicle was left dangerously parked opposite the Robinson Road junction, which obstructed visibility for vehicles trying to exit Wellwood Road. The Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that HGV's using this route were in contravention of the area's 7½ tonne weight restriction. Both the Police and Derbyshire County Council Trading Standards were able to enforce the weight restriction and he agreed to forward residents concerns for their attention. He also advised that Derbyshire County Council Trading Standards had a weight restriction monitoring form which residents could use to log any contraventions. This allowed the Department to build up a picture of the specific problems. This form could also be completed and submitted online.

Concerns were raised over the traffic lights at Midway Road, as visibility of these lights was quite difficult when turning right. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that there were detectors that allowed traffic to clear before they changed.

It was reported that the footpath at the bottom of Shelley Road was badly overgrown.

The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate this matter to find out who was responsible for this area.

It was reported that an area on Springfield Road, between Nos. 7 and 9 had a problem with litter.

It was agreed that the District Council request that the Clean Team visit this area.

Concerns were raised in regard to the lack of a right turn arrow on the traffic signals at the Burton Road/Midway Road/Sandcliffe Road junction. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that there was insufficient space within the highway to install further signal heads. It was acknowledged that the situation was not ideal, but that the collision history had improved from when the junction was not signal controlled.

It was reported that Abbots Close needed street cleaning.

The Director of Operations agreed to ask the Clean Team to visit this area.

Questions were asked with regard to the new extra care unit in Swadlincote and the Director of Operations confirmed that residents would move into this building on a voluntary basis, and were not being forced to move out of their existing council properties.

Further concerns were raised on this matter, and it was felt that certain residents thought that they would be given notice to leave their existing council property if they had too many bedrooms for their current usage. The Director of Operations reported that this was not the case and he might consider issuing a press release to confirm this in the future.

It was reported that the gates leading to the football pitch on Oversetts Road needed new reflective signs.

It was agreed to forward this to the relevant officer at the District Council.

NA/14. **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer reported that a Healthwatch Derbyshire consultation exercise was being undertaken. This was a new initiative set up by the Government to make sure that residents could influence and challenge health and social care services in Derbyshire. The consultation process ended on 15th October 2012, and further copies were available at GP's surgeries, libraries and online.

In addition, 'Get Ready for Winter' leaflets were also circulated to those present.

NA/15. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Operations reported that the District Council was currently undertaking consultation on the Local Development Framework. He reported that this would have an implication on all major developments in the local area. He advised that there were 12 public consultation sessions planned, and further information would be released shortly. Information would be released via the local press, on the website and in libraries etc.

The Head of Corporate Services reported that he was currently undertaking consultation on the Council Tax Support Scheme. He confirmed that changes to this scheme would only affect people in receipt of Council Tax Benefit. It was proposed that funding passed from Central Government to the District Council would be 10% less which equalled £500,000. South Derbyshire District Council currently supported 6,000 people and 2/3's got 100% support towards their council tax. As the funding was being reduced by 10%, the District Council had to decide if they could still afford this level of benefit.

The District Council were consulting on options on how to deal with this. Options that were being considered were listed within the presentation slides.

Final proposals needed to be in place by the end of December 2012, and the Council would decide how they were going to deal with this issue on 24th January 2013. The Scheme must be in place by the end of January 2013 and would operate from 1st April 2013.

NA/16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

P. DUNN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.40 p.m.