

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

7th November 2007

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

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

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Mrs. Lauro and Southerd, D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and K.McIntyre (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant Sisman.

Members of the Public

M.G. Brotherhood, M. Causer, R. Causer, C. Groves, E. Hill, D. Hinelley, C. Horridge, K. Hough, W. Jackson, A. Lager, M. Lager, M. Lunn, J. Pallett, O. Pallett, A. Pitcher, J. Tomlinson, B. Williamson, C.M. Wright and B. Wright.

SA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Taylor had been appointed Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Meeting at the Council Meeting held on 28th June 2007.

SA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Tilley be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Swadlincote Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

SA/3. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from G. Fairwell, C. E. Harvey, S. Horridge, Mr. Key, Mrs. Key and Mrs. Staley.

SA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Swadlincote Area Meeting held on 6th February 2007 were noted.

SA/5. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sisman advised the Meeting of the date and venue for the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting. He encouraged residents to attend this Meeting as

there would be Police Officers present who had knowledge of local current issues.

A resident congratulated the police and the court service on successfully dealing with the recent Heathcote Road robbery. Sergeant Sisman responded that the Police were helped considerably by PCSO's, who arrived at the scene very quickly, which assisted with the detection of the offenders.

It was reported that Securicor were still parking at the junction of Church Street and Thorpe Downs Road, Church Gresley outside Tesco Express. Concern was also expressed that this vehicle arrived at the same time each evening, which posed a security threat.

Sergeant Sisman agreed to follow up this issue once again with both Tesco Express and Securicor.

A discussion then ensued on the work carried out by PCSO's within the area.

It was requested that further details of the work carried out by PCSO's be provided at a future Meeting.

SA/6. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reported details of progress that had been made on issues raised at the last Meeting.

With regard to the 'No Entry' signs on Ernest Hall Way, the County Secretary reported that he understood this road was un-adopted, however further investigation was ongoing.

The County Secretary agreed to provide a further update to the next Meeting.

With regard to the provision of benches in Maurice Lea Memorial Park, Councillor Southerd understood that although the Park was refurbished with a view to putting on concerts, the cost to do this was prohibitive to many groups. The Director of Community Services agreed to follow this up and provide a response to the next Meeting. A resident asked if a bench could be sponsored within this area. The Director of Community Services responded that if someone requested this, it would be investigated.

The Director of Community Services agreed to investigate the cost of putting on a concert within Maurice Lea Memorial Park and report back to the next Meeting.

SA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A member of the public advised the Meeting that during the Remembrance Day Parade at Swadlincote, Midland Road was closed. However, the Castle Gresley service, which paraded through Market Street, took place whilst traffic was present and usually only had one Police Officer in attendance. He added that this did not give dignity to the many families who attended, and was also very dangerous.

The Director of Community Services agreed to liaise with the police to consider this.

It was asked if the Council could pursue the problem of untidy land at the top of Alexandra Road/Hastings Road. Councillor Lane added that this was an ongoing problem, but as the owners did not live locally it was very difficult to serve notice on them. He confirmed that the District Council had made contact with other family members and might now be making progress with this issue.

It was agreed that this be followed up by the District Council's Enforcement Officers.

A resident queried why road works in Swadlincote seemed to be completed on a "part time" basis, with all work taking a long time to complete. The County Secretary responded that this was a general criticism however, work was undertaken to cause the least disturbance to the public. He agreed that he would follow up any specific query outside the meeting.

It was reported that street lighting at The Delph in Swadlincote was very unsatisfactory. One light had not worked for eight months. It was very dark at night and additional lighting was needed.

The County Secretary agreed to follow this issue up with Derbyshire County Council and to report back to the next Meeting.

A question was raised with regard to the Waste Site Allocation Consultation, which was currently taking place. The Chairman pointed out that this was a wide-ranging consultation, which ended on 9th November 2007. He added that many sites had been identified at this stage, and when a specific site had been chosen, further planning permission would still be required, together with permission from the Environment Agency. South Derbyshire District Council would be considering this item at the following evening's Council Meeting, and residents were also encouraged to send in a response. Councillor Southerd added that areas of land throughout the County had been identified, and the District Council response would be that none were wanted within South Derbyshire.

A resident expressed concern that an area of land on the corner of Thorpe Downs Road had recently been cleared by a bulldozer, and had been left in very poor condition. In addition, a grassed area also on Thorpe Downs Road had not been mown for six months. Councillor Southerd responded that the area of grass did not belong to the District Council, as developers had not handed it over. The Director of Community Services confirmed that if land had not been put forward for adoption by the District Council, it remained the responsibility of the developer to maintain.

It was agreed that the area on the corner of Thorpedowns Road which had been left in an untidy state, be referred to Officers, to consider enforcement action.

A discussion then ensued on the recycling of plastics. The position of the existing plastic recycling bins was confirmed, however it was noted that these bins were often full to capacity.

It was suggested that for a future meeting, the development of 'Green Living' could be looked at. The Chairman responded that it may be possible to ask someone from the National Forest to attend.

The Director of Community Services confirmed that it was hoped to present an item on Emergency Planning arrangements at a future Meeting.

SA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue of the next Swadlincote Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

SA/9. **REVIEW OF AREA MEETING STRUCTURE**

The Chairman asked those present to consider a proposed review of the Area Meeting structure. He advised that maps were displayed within the room and gave a brief overview of those areas that the proposed Area Meetings would cover. The Chairman reported that this proposal had been made by the Controlling Group at the District Council. However, the final decision would be made by Full Council. General discussion about this took place and an informal "straw poll" took place. All those present at the Meeting indicated that they wished all area boundaries to remain as existed.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.