

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

Wednesday, October 25th, 2017 at Netherseal Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Pat Murray (Chair), Councillor Mrs Beth Hall, Councillor Bob Wheeler.

Stuart Batchelor – Director of Community and Planning Services
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Pat Murray.

Parish Council / Meeting Representatives

Claire Bradford (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Karen Bradford (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Mary Horne (Walton Parish Council), Sheila Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Carole Knight (Overseal Parish Council), Alan Lees (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Janice Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Ollie Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), John Powell (Linton Parish Council), Louise Ross (Rosliston Parish Council), Steve Sharpe (Overseal Parish Council), Tony Stone (Netherseal Parish Council), Lynn Sullivan (Rosliston Parish Council), Carol Talbot (Walton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Jane Beebee, Bethany Pridding (Burton Mail), Lynda Smout.

LA/10 **APOLOGIES**

Councillor John Grant, Stephanie Marbrow.

LA/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

LA/12 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

LA/13 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 28, 2017**

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

LA/14 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Derbyshire County Council issues

Ivy growing on the pavement at Hillside Road, Linton

Regarding the lack of response from DCC to an overgrown footway in Linton, Councillor Pat Murray reported that the loss of Paul Jameson as Area Forum Liaison Officer meant that an excellent go-between had been lost. DCC was looking at the situation and he hoped to have some information soon.

HGVs turning in Station Lane, Walton and damaging properties

Councillor Murray reported that DCC was working on a plan regarding signage to help combat the issue of HGVs entering Station Lane. It would hopefully help residents. A resident said they'd been told there was no chance of a camera being installed. Councillor Murray replied that there were no cameras available.

Traffic mounting the pavement in Lullington Road, Overseal

Councillor Murray reported that DCC had visited the location on many occasions in the previous few years but there was nothing which could be done about the situation. A resident added that it was highly frustrating having to deal with ageing infrastructure which was unsuitable for modern levels of traffic – yet still new developments were being built. Another resident said that Overseal had been defined as a key service village by SDDC, yet it fell far short of the requirements for one. Stuart Batchelor replied that the Local Plan Part I stood up under scrutiny. Highways specifications were based on national standards. He recommended that parish councils attend an SDDC parish and member briefing on the subject to have it explained by DCC experts. The process for getting improved signage and cameras was long and laborious. The only solution was the third river crossing at Walton.

Councillor Bob Wheeler updated that the developer wanted the bridge built so 2,000 extra houses could be built along with an industrial development. Regarding the new bridge, discussion were apparently being held with potential investors and the bridge was not dead and buried. The issue was a developer having enough funds up front to pay for the bridge and it was

about £12 million before any houses had been sold. From a cash flow point of view, it was difficult. When the bridge was announced by former Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, the £7m he alluded to was never actually there. There was £2.5m in place from the local economic partnership.

A resident complained that clerk Tom Sloan had failed to get DCC Highways officers to the meeting to answer questions on the subject. Mr Batchelor replied that DCC policy was now to not send an officer to the Area Forums. A better option would be to get an officer to a parish and member briefing.

A member of the public said they felt the new Woodville Relief Road would make traffic “like the M25” through South Derbyshire. Councillor Wheeler replied it would improve the situation at the Clock Island, which was already fouled up at peak times. A planning application for the road was expected soon.

LA/15 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident raised a problem with push bikes and motorbikes using the footpath across Walton Bridge to avoid the queue of vehicles. Could an S-gate be put across the footpath to discourage this?

ACTION: Tom Sloan to forward request for an S-gate to Derbyshire County Council

A member of the public asked if a sign could be placed at the bottom of Gorse Lane in Netherseal telling HGVs to use the A444 rather than coming through the village. Signage in place at the Robin Hood and the Crickets was poor, with the latter facing the wrong way and covered in vegetation.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to raise issue with Derbyshire County Council Highways

A resident asked if a meeting could be arranged with Highways so residents could air their views. Councillor Wheeler replied that he had written to the responsible director regarding a lack of response to questions posed by the forum. The situation was unacceptable and the answers might not be what was wanted, but the forum would at least like a reply. He was still awaiting a response to his email. Mr Batchelor added that there was a review of Area Forums and Safer Neighbourhood Meetings as there was a concern over dropping attendances. It was hoped that in the absence of an officer at the meetings, DCC would provide an officer to give adequate responses. It was important that residents got to speak about issues pertinent to them and their local area.

A resident stated that developers were hammered for not using wheel-washers at building sites. Why did the same not seem to apply to farmers? As a cyclist, they felt it was quite dangerous at times. Mr Batchelor replied that he couldn't answer the question. It would likely be a DCC enforcement issue.

A member of the public asked why so much lobbying was needed to get so little public money spent on various schemes to do with highways. Mr Batchelor replied that meetings took place across Derbyshire and with resources being finite, the most needy got money awarded. It was necessary to show how serious an issue was to attract spending with DCC.

LA/16 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

None.

LA/17 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Mr Batchelor reported that Part II of the South Derbyshire Local Plan would go to Full Council the following week. SDDC would then have a full local plan in place up to 2028. Part II governed where small developments of less than 100 houses would be located. It also contained design guidance and guidelines around open spaces and payments for community facilities.

The Open Space, Sport and Community Facilities Strategy had been to committee at SDDC. Any community projects could still be put in the plan, however.

On November 15 there would be a South Derbyshire Partnership refresh even at Toyota. Any community groups interested were welcome to attend.

The procurement process for Rosliston Forestry Centre was reaching its end. A new operator would be in place by April 1. The centre would remain free at point of entry. A resident asked if the current staff would remain. Mr Batchelor replied that a TUPE (Transfer of Undertaking) process would be undertaken for staff. Another resident said that dog bins were overflowing at the centre. Mr Batchelor replied that he would report the issue to the management at Rosliston.

A resident reported that the lease for the Coton in the Elms playing fields had expired. There was no legal tenure so grant funding couldn't be obtained. Mr Batchelor replied that it was SDDC policy to pass control on to the local level and he would investigate

ACTION: Stuart Batchelor to provide a report back on the status of the playing fields in Coton in the Elms

LA/18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be advised in due course.

**Councillor Pat Murray
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.28pm.