

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON

17th February 2014 at Ticknall Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Smith (Chairman); Councillors Stanton; Shepherd, Ford & Mrs Hood

S Batchelor (Director of Community & Planning) and C Smith (Communities Manager)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

County Councillor Davison and Mrs Chilton

P Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

P Ricketts (Willington Parish Council); A Badger (Bretby Parish Council); F Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council); C Fellows & R Lisewski (Stenson Fields Parish Council)

Members of the Public

M G Burns; D Eastman; F Hood; L Froggatt; H Hall; B Hanson; S Toone

RA/8 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Chahal.

RA/9 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

RA/10 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The draft Local Plan comments have been collated and are currently being considered. The Pre-Submission Plan is to be consulted on in March through into April. The pre-submission consultation will go to one venue in each of the Area Forum areas for an afternoon/evening drop in session. The Repton area consultation is on 28th March at Repton Village Hall 2.30pm -7.30pm. The Local Plan will be submitted in June with a public examination likely to be in the autumn this year.

RA/11 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Repton Area Forum held on 3rd July 2013, were noted.

3 Items of accuracy-

County Councillor Davison had stated that SDDC deserved praise for the new recycling scheme.

A Stenson Parish Councillor, not a resident that had asked if Seven Trent were contributing to the cost of repairs.

A Stenson Parish Councillor, not a resident had asked about putting in low energy lighting instead of removing lights under the DCC scheme

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

The Chairman handed over to the Forum Liaison Officer to report back on those items raised at the last Meeting.

Bretby Lane, Bretby Drainage Issues- DCC Liaison Officer advised that the final touches were being added to a scheme design to improve drainage capacity along a section of Bretby Lane, which will hopefully alleviate the flooding problems. Once the design is complete, consideration will then be given to securing the required funds to introduce the measures on site.

DCC part night lighting scheme – The Newton Solney scheme is under way now and Stenson will be by end of financial year.

Riverbank Footpath at Willington- There will be a Public enquiry at Newton Solney Village Hall 25th to 27th June. Anyone who wishes to may come to the inquiry and may have the opportunity to speak if they have relevant information as to use of the route (on the one hand) or challenges/interruptions to use (on the other).

Two parishes have asked Ian Hey about developing neighbourhood plans, one is Ticknall and the other is Elvaston.

Repton Road Willington - Cllr Martyn Ford noted that the new zebra crossing has now been introduced and seems to be working well.

He queried whether DCC could consider upgrading the lighting on the crossing further towards the railway bridge, similar to that on the new crossing – i.e. LED ‘rings’ around the beacons

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

Newton Solney Parish Council raised 3 points regarding Newton Lane/ Bretby Lane in Newton Solney;

- a) Thanks were passed on for the works undertaken to repair a drainage issue in the carriageway.
- b) It was reported that there are several potholes in the carriageway, approximately 20yds from the junction with Knight's Lane.
- c) Concerns were raised in association with the collapsed wall on Newton Lane, which collapsed on 25th January. Temporary signals have been installed alongside the wall to keep motorists clear of it. However, this route is well used by both pedestrians and cyclists and there were fears that they were traversing the signalised section. There were also concerns in regard to the wall, closer to the village, which appears as though it could collapse at any moment.

The Forum Liaison Officer advised that he would pass these concerns on to officers in DCC's Structures section. Efforts to establish ownership of the wall have proved inconclusive but it appears that it may serve highway purposes. Repair options are currently being considered; obtaining the required funds will be a challenge, given the current economic climate

Stenson Parish Council asked again if the speed limit on Stenson Road could be lowered to 30 mph. With the new development there is a significant population moving into the area and there is no safe crossing near to the school.

The Forum Liaison Officer stated that DCC have advised that currently 40 mph is appropriate but he will take the Parish Councils comments back.

County Councillor Davison's stated that his previous comments remain the same on this matter; that it would create a rat run on Pilgrims Way and he is not in favour of reducing the speed limit.

A resident asked if the owners of Ticknall Village Hall could be informed of the fact the road hump which is sited at the entrance to the car park has caused damage to his car.

Action: To inform the Clerk to Parish Council.

At Sycamore Avenue (bottom of Hazel Close, Findern). A wall has fallen into the brook. Foliage is also in the brook. SDDC has said it's the resident's duty to move the boundary wall. It needs removing as it could block the brook.

Resident raised potholes on Chapel Lane, Ticknall. Harpur-Crewe Estates should maintain the road which is an un-adopted road. It's not SDDC responsibility but we could write to them from this meeting.

Action: The Chair of this Committee to send a letter to Harpur-Crewe Estates

Stenson Parish Councillor raised that on the three roads into Stenson, all three bridges have been recently damaged, possibly by construction traffic. Forum Liaison officer aware of construction traffic from the south and he will ask structural engineer to examine bridges. Stenson Road bridge has had a big chunk taken out, looks like a lorry has caused it. County Councillor Davison confirmed this is likely to be raised at the Melbourne meeting as this affects Barrow upon Trent residents also.

Both bridges have high weight restrictions so the construction vehicles are likely to be legal.

Action: SDDC Planning department to be informed of issues

County Councillor Davison – Highways and SDDC having to spend a great deal of time policing these developers. Need to get compliance from developers as development is taking place for next 14 years. If anything goes wrong with any of these entrances there would be major consequences.

County Councillor Chilton stated that Robinsons Hill has a big pothole. It has been repaired once but has dropped again.

RA/14 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer stated that the County Council needs to make £157m of cuts to its budgets by 2018 – something they are calling ‘The Derbyshire Challenge’. Their Cabinet has been considering proposals on how they can make these reductions; they are looking to make cuts totalling around £36.7m in the next financial year (2014/15).

Many of the budget reductions being announced will be subject to public consultations. You can visit the ‘Derbyshire Challenge’ page of their website to find out more and take part in our consultations launching throughout the year – www.derbyshire.gov.uk/challenge.

The Forum liaison officer highlighted two of the consultations currently open. Firstly, are changes to the Mobile Library Service; several options are being considered to make savings to this service which currently costs in the region of £720,000 per year to run. Four options have been put forward. One is to scrap the service completely (which will obviously make a saving of £720,000 per year). A further two options have been put forward which will involve various reductions in the fleet in order to make savings – they currently have a fleet of 10 vehicles; 2 MCV’s (maximum capacity vehicles) and 8 standard mobile libraries. A fourth option is to transfer the service over to community based organisations. The consultation started on 13 January and ends 1 March 2014.

Members of the public can visit the ‘challenge’ webpage to find out more information and complete the online survey. For those without internet access, you can contact Call Derbyshire – 01629 533190 – to find out more.

DCC are also proposing a number of changes to the Adult Care services. The consultation launches today and will run for 12 weeks. Again, more information will be made available via the ‘challenge’ webpage.

Councillor Ford raised the future of Elvaston Castle and that there is a consultation on this on the same website (www.derbyshire.gov.uk/challenge). The Closing date is 4th March.

RA/15 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Community and Planning gave an update on the District Council Budget setting Process:

Nationally, there has been a reduction in government funding for local councils since 2010 and this is currently set to continue until 2018. For SDDC this has been approximately £1.25m to date or 20% from where we were in 2010/11 (*net after New Homes Bonus and Business Rates Retention*)

SDDC has been delivering budget savings since 2010 and has had 3 main phases, culminating this year with savings of £320k. Next financial year 2014/15 is ok but need another round to find further savings of up to £300k before this time next year ahead of 2015/16.

No major reductions in mainstream service provision so far – reductions in management and support services, together with general efficiencies have met the shortfall to-date. There has been an increase in services – recycling and capital investment in leisure facilities.

Next year’s Council Tax still to be decided – Government offering some support for councils who freeze Council Tax again for a 4th year.

Possible future pressures – growth and demand for services – some will be paid for by increased funding but this is not certain.

With regards to recent flooding issues in the area; SDDC has issued 115 sandbags, with half of them in Walton. They also currently have 15 tonnes of sand, 3000 unfilled sandbags and approx 100 filled sandbags ready to be deployed if needed.

RA/16 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

P SMITH

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.08 pm