

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL

3rd February 2010

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Mrs. Brown, Ford, Mrs. Hood and Roberts.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Ford.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Community Transport (Swadlincote)

B. Corbishley.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

P. Coultas (Dalbury Lees Parish Council), B. Cowley, C. Gerrard and B. Penny and C. Gerrard (Egginton Parish Council), K. Cresswell, N. Ireland, D. Miller and I. Smith (Etwall Parish Council), S. Dunicliffe (Findern Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), M. Cramp and G. Green (Hatton Parish Council), J. Bates and B. Walton-Knight (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

F. Hood, D. Harrison, T. Wherly and P. Wood.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District and County Councillor Mrs. Patten, B. Payton (Etwall Parish Council), Councillors Taylor and Thurman (Hatton Parish Council), S. Avery, H. Hague and R. Mathews.

EA/15. **POLICE ISSUES**

The Chairman publicised the date of the next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting, for this part of South Derbyshire. It would be held on 3rd March 2010 at 6.30 p.m. at the Egginton Memorial Hall.

EA/16. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman publicised Liberation Day, a joint venture between the District Council and Safer Neighbourhood Partnership. This popular event sought to raise awareness of safety issues and always filled quickly. The Chairman advised that registration could be made by phone between 20th March and 6th April 2010. Free transportation could be provided and he encouraged residents to attend. Finally, the Chairman reported on the by-election, which would be held in Hatton the following day.

EA/17. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held on 10th November 2009 were noted.

EA/18. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reviewed the items raised at the last Meeting and reported the progress made in each case.

EA/19. **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

The Area Forum received a presentation from Bill Corbishley of the Swadlincote Community Transport Scheme. Initially, he provided background on the establishment of Community Transport schemes and the funding secured by Derbyshire County Council. Swadlincote Community Transport was formed in 1991 and now operated a "dial a bus" service, using 25 accessible vehicles. The service was free to residents who had the "Gold Card" travel pass. Community Transport was a charity and a "not for profit" company. He explained how the "dial a bus" scheme worked and gave statistics on the number of users of certain routes through this part of South Derbyshire. There was a lack of awareness of some services and it was questioned how these could be publicised better. Feedback was always welcomed on those elements of the scheme that worked well and where problems existed. Mr. Corbishley then spoke about driver training and the commercial aspects of Community Transport, which sought to cross-subsidise other services.

It was requested that Mr. Corbishley attend an Over 60s group in Egginton, to give information about the Community Transport Scheme. A County Councillor spoke about the support for the Community Transport service. In Foston and Scropton, services were being delivered by Community Transport (Ashbourne). The need for a dialogue was recognised between the different Community Transport schemes operating in South Derbyshire and this could also lead to service enhancements. It was asked whether residents' views were sought on where services should be provided. This did happen and an example was the questionnaire used to seek feedback on service needs.

The Council for Voluntary Services Social Car Scheme, which used smaller vehicles and volunteer drivers was also publicised. A plea was made for

service delivery to the smaller settlements in the north-west parishes of the District. Mr. Corbishley was thanked for the presentation.

EA/20. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer had circulated information on the Derbyshire Community Climate Action Conference. This would be held on 13th March 2010 at the County Council's offices in Matlock.

EA/21. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Your Area – Options for future developments and Place Survey results

The Chief Executive gave an update on the Place Survey results 2008/09. He reported that this was a new statutory survey, which all English local authorities were required to carry out every two years. A total of 4,000 questionnaires were mailed out to randomly selected addresses between October and December 2008. Some 1,616 questionnaires were completed, which at 41% was a good response rate. Results had been analysed by Community Forum Area and the key issues for Etwall were included within the presentation. Results were reported under various headings and included satisfaction with the local area, crime, community involvement and satisfaction with the District Council.

The Chief Executive also gave a presentation on the District Council's Core Strategy, which was currently out for consultation. He advised those present that the Council's Core Strategy would guide development and investment in South Derbyshire over the next 20 years. The options looked at how much development should take place in South Derbyshire up to 2026 and where it should be built. A summary leaflet was available for residents and this provided highlights of some of the main points and advised on how to find out more information. The consultation document was available at the Council's offices, public libraries and some post offices. In addition it could be downloaded from the Council's website. The Chief Executive encouraged residents to respond and responses had to be received by 31st March 2010.

Presentation on the Council's Budget

A presentation was also given on the District Council's budget for 2010/11. Information was provided on how Council Tax for a Band D property was split between the District and County Councils, the Police, Fire Authority and parishes. The Council's net running costs were confirmed, together with how they were financed and also how those funds were used. The 2010/11 initial budget showed a deficit of £484,250, which would need to be funded from reserves. Challenges faced by the Council included the effects of the recession, a review of Government grants and also the uncertainty of future forecasting. The District Council had accumulated cashable efficiencies to date of £677,000. Other savings would come from restructuring, partnering, streamlining the central purchasing and procurement, the disposal of assets and lower pay awards and general inflation.

The aims of the District Council were reported together with the timetable for the budget proposals. A full copy of the Consolidated Budget Proposals 2010/11 and the Financial Plan to 2015 could be accessed via the Council's website www.south-derbys.gov.uk.

With regard to the budget setting proposals, it was announced that Derbyshire County Council intended to levy a 1.5% increase, which would be one of the lowest County Council precepts in the Country. An Etwall parish councillor questioned whether use could be made of the Council's procurement arrangements, to achieve savings for parishes and he was urged to contact Officers outside the Meeting. With regard to the Place Survey, it was confirmed how parish councils would be involved and that the Government had undertaken the random survey of 4,000 people in the District.

EA/22. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Concerns were raised about damage to grass verges adjacent to 4 rented properties in Welland Road, Hilton. **It was agreed that the Forum Liaison Officer would speak with the resident after the Meeting, pursue this matter and report progress back to the next Meeting.**

There was a discussion about the lack of winter maintenance of a path between Heath Way and Station Road in Hatton. This footway provided a pedestrian access to nearby shops and was also a public right of way. It was considered that the land might be owned by the District Council. Advice was provided on the potential liability for individuals who undertook winter maintenance themselves. **It was agreed that Officers of the District and County Councils would liaise with resident directly on this matter.**

A County Councillor spoke about the recent winter maintenance and the potential for the residual grit to block gullies. Residents were urged to "Call Derbyshire" on 08456 058058 to report any blocked gullies. A resident spoke about pre-drilled kerbs on Station Road in Hatton, close to the Kestrel public house that had been blocked for several months. It was confirmed that this area had been inspected recently and a works order placed.

A Councillor questioned whether the County Council would have a budget for additional street lighting in the new financial year and he reported problems in Heath Way, Hatton where two elderly residents had fallen. Further reported problem areas were Field Avenue and Foston Close in Hatton. The Forum Liaison Officer responded that the funding provided to date had been for maintenance, rather than the provision of new street lighting.

Parking enforcement was discussed and it was questioned whether the County Council's powers extended to prosecuting individuals who parked on footways. Clarification was provided and in some instances, where obstruction occurred, it was a matter for the Constabulary.

An update was sought on the Boundary Committee Review of South Derbyshire. It was confirmed that the District Council had made its submission, which could be viewed via the Boundary Committee website.

There would be the opportunity for further consultation when the draft proposals were published.

EA/23. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Etwall Area Forum Meeting would be held on 10th March 2010 at Egginton Memorial Hall.

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.