

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
ETWALL

4th February 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

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

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Hood.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer) and R. Perbedy (Library Service).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright and PCSO Waite.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

C. Gerrard, B. Penny and P. Whittingham (Egginton Parish Council), N. Ireland and B. Payton (Etwall Parish Council), L. Nash (Findern Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston & Scropton Parish Council), D. Taylor and C. Thurman (Hatton Parish Council), G. Banton, and L. Kolkman (Hilton Parish Council).

Members of the Public

S. Avery, F. Baston, K. Baston, J. Bates, C. Beddows, K. Bennett, J. Bilbie, C. Brazier, C. Brockington, M. Brockington, A. Carter, A. Cooling, M. Coulthard, S. Cowdery, M. Cramp, J. Crane, K. Cresswell, A. Dutton, M. Edwards, O. Emery, R. Emery, G. Green, R. Guthrie, H. Hague, E. Holbrook, K. Holbrook, D. Hughes, R. Jellis, V. Jennings, M. Jones, T. Jones, E. Kemps, T. Kemps, R. Kendall, M. Kennell, H. Kreft, C. Marples, P. Mosson, D. Muller, M. Murray, M. Nesbitt, S. Nesbitt, S. Noakes, T. O'Brien, J. Parkinson, G. Platt, D. Price, J. Riley, P. Riley, J. Southard, J. Seilings, I. Stiles, G. Wale, L. Wherly, T. Wherly and A. Wassell.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from M. Todd M.P., District and County Councillor M. Ford, R. Buxton, J. Clarke, J. Orme and V. Stewart.

EA/12. **POLICE ISSUES**

The Chairman introduced Sergeant A. Wright and congratulated local police officers, following their recent success and arrests in the Hilton Area. The Sergeant publicised details of the Safer Neighbourhood meetings for South Derbyshire and the next for the North-West area would be held on 9th March

2009 at 6.30 p.m. at the Egginton Memorial Hall. He advised that crime statistics were now available via the Derbyshire Police and District Council websites. He sought feedback from residents on the value of these statistics. The Sergeant then referred to continuing reductions in crime levels for South Derbyshire and the County as a whole. Other issues raised were the availability of graffiti removal kits, test purchase operations to respond to concerns about young people purchasing and consuming alcohol and the link to anti-social behaviour. An update was also given on the speed watch scheme.

Questions were invited and the first concerned the continuation of speed watch. The Officer was confident that this initiative would be continued. A request was made for Hilton to be included in the scheme. It was suggested that an anti-graffiti kit be provided for Tesco at Hilton. The problems associated with people using mobile telephones whilst driving was discussed, it being acknowledged that this was difficult to police effectively. A further issue raised was vehicle registration plates that did not conform to the required standards. It was confirmed the police did prosecute the owners of such vehicles, where evidence was available and the resident was encouraged to refer any particular issues to the local beat officer.

EA/13. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Etwall Area Forum held on 8th October 2008 were submitted. A local District Councillor corrected the wording on page 5, paragraphs 2 and 3 on the importance of this local issue, which was of considerable local concern and the wish to provide information. The Member also wished to correct that they had only left the Meeting temporarily and returned after 10 minutes or so. There was a consensus that these alterations should be accepted and the Minutes of the Area Forum would be altered accordingly.

The Chief Executive referred to the circulated information on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy. Being mindful of earlier discussions, he referred to the employment and skills section of the Strategy and particularly the potential for rail freight services to be provided within the District. An offer was made to provide further information on the regional spatial issues either after this Forum meeting or in the near future, either within the locality or at the Council's Civic Offices. Being mindful of the weather conditions, there was a consensus that such a meeting should be arranged in the near future. The Chief Executive confirmed the District Council's role as a planning authority, which meant it could not allow the discussion of any forthcoming planning applications at the Area Forum. District Council Members might also wish to attend the meeting on spatial issues and guidance was provided to those Members who served on the Development Control Committee. In response to residents' questions, the Chief Executive provided further guidance on the nature of the Area Forum Meetings, why any planning applications could not be discussed and the separate mechanisms that existed for the planning process.

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

A report had been circulated with the Agenda, to provide feedback on the issues raised at the previous meeting. Clarification was provided on the item on traffic calming for Main Street, Hilton, particularly about the lack of

consultation with the Parish Council and the inadequacy of signing and marking for the “humped” crossing. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to refer this issue back to Derbyshire County Council.**

A question had been submitted about a review of speed limits in the vicinity of the Willington Marina. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to refer this issue back to Derbyshire County Council.** Thanks were recorded for the assistance given on issues raised at the last Meeting by both Mr. Jameson and Mr. Payne of the District Council.

EA/15. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident had submitted a letter about highway issues in the Hilton and Hatton area. As this resident was not present at the Area Forum, a response would be provided to him direct.

Complaints had been received about the lack of gritting on icy roads in the north-western parishes. Particular problems had been experienced in Church Broughton for both residents and those visiting the village school. The Forum Liaison Officer spoke about the gritting routes and over 50% of the County’s roads were treated. He urged residents to report any areas of concern through ‘Call Derbyshire’. Further information was provided by the local County Councillor, on the capacity of these vehicles, the pre-set gritting routes and the representations made to the responsible Cabinet Member. Information was also provided on the siting of grit bins, which would be funded by the County Council. Providing additional grit would be the responsibility of the local parish council.

In Hatton, concerns had been reported about the access to the Nestle Factory and information was given on the County’ Council’s assistance to date. **A further update was sought on this matter and this would be provided to the next Meeting.**

Changes to the County Council’s Call Centre were discussed. Previously, residents were able to report highway issues via an answerphone service, but this was no longer available from the revised options on the telephone system. **It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council respond to this issue at the next Meeting.**

In the Etwall and Egginton areas, complaints were being submitted about dog fouling being thrown into the highway verge. There was a discussion about responsibility for dog waste and litter bins and it was understood that this was a matter for the local parish councils. Further information was provided on the maintenance works undertaken by Derbyshire Wildlife Rangers.

EA/16. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – PRESENTATION BY THE LIBRARY SERVICE**

The Area Forum received a presentation from Rosina Perbedy of the Derbyshire Library Service. The County Council was seeking residents’ feedback on how the service could be improved. She provided statistics on the number of visits to libraries both nationally and within Derbyshire. She explained the current range of services provided, which included free broadband, the free hire of books, the availability of other media and online facilities. She explained how library services were provided through a range of venues, referred to the awards the service had received and its Charter

Mark status. There was a home library service, which delivered materials to residents and such things as publications in Braille, prescription books, the school libraries service and work with Surestart.

Questions were invited and reference was made to the free internet service. However, the printing and photocopying costs were high, particularly for children doing research. It was requested that feedback be provided through the circulated consultation questionnaire. In Hilton, there was no library for the 6,000 residents. The nearest alternative was at Etwall, which was difficult for some to access, because of the poor local bus services. The Officer responded on the issues which would have to be considered in providing an additional library, but feedback was sought through the consultation to raise awareness of this issue. Mrs. Perbedy was thanked for presentation.

The Forum Liaison Officer publicised the Trusted Trader scheme. An initiative with Social Services to respond to concerns about certain service providers had led to the compilation of a database of different skilled trades people. Those involved in the scheme had been through rigorous checks. A leaflet and card were available to provide further details on how to access this service. Mr. Jameson also explained how trades people could join the scheme.

EA/17. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES: PROGRESS ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

The Area Forum received a presentation from the Chief Executive on the Council's priorities and budget for the period 2009/14. Initially, this covered the new Corporate Plan and evidence base, with details of the consultation undertaken and the top priorities identified. The Chief Executive highlighted particular issues, including how the economic climate had impacted on the District as compared to the rest of the region. He spoke about environmental issues such as flood risks and the proportion of householders within the District that were affected by flooding. He referred to the low crime statistics, but the fear of crime was increasing. The District had a higher than national average death rate through motor accidents, which reflected on the need for better public transport. He spoke about the growth of South Derbyshire, which was now the sixth fastest growing area in the Country. Other issues were health-related problems, including obesity, alcohol and smoking.

The Chief Executive then referred to the budget for 2009/14. He explained the District Council's proportion of the Council Tax and the services which it provided. Information was provided on the 2009/10 Draft Budget Plan, together with issues for the next five years, including a review of priorities and the fact that the Council was now debt free.

A question was submitted about the place survey and the resident was not aware of anyone who had completed it locally. Further information was provided on this survey and the other consultation mechanisms that the Council had used.

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:20 p.m.