

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON

Tuesday, February 13th, 2018 at Coton in the Elms Community Centre

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive.
Tom Sloan – Clerk.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Pat Murray.

Parish Council / Meeting Representatives

John Coxon (Walton Parish Council), Philip McGibbon (Netherseal Parish Council), Janice Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Ollie Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), John Powell (Linton Parish Council), Carol Wright (Castle Gresley Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Chris Beebee, Jane Beebee, Tim Bidder, Rob Deakin, Helen Kreft (Burton Mail), Rob Talbot, Brian Wilson, Gwen Wilson

LA/19

Apologies

Claire Bradford, Karen Bradford, Sheila Jackson, Alan Lees, Stephanie Marbrow, Jane Summers.

LA/20

Declarations of interest

None.

LA/21

Chairman's announcements

None.

LA/22

The minutes of the meeting held on October 25, 2017

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

LA/23

Report back on issues raised at the last meeting

Nothing to be added to report contained in agenda pack.

LA/24 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident asked when it would be Netherseal's turn to have potholes in roads mended. Drivers were forced into the middle of the road between the village and Acresford, causing clear danger to all road users. Councillor Pat Murray replied that Derbyshire County Council had a repair team operating in South Derbyshire and they had been repairing the road at Cadley Hill, among other locations. The cold spell this winter had caused a lot of potholes to emerge, especially at the side of roads without kerbs such as the one the resident mentioned.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report potholes to Derbyshire County Council and provide a report back

A resident reported dangerous speeding between Ladsgrave Cottage and Coton, with cars only slowing down once they reached the church. There would be a lot of traffic using the narrow lane when a planned road closure took place in Rosliston. He foresaw big problems and was considering parking his car in the road to slow traffic down.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to report back on traffic problems at the location

A member of the public said that, as a horse rider, she was terrified every time she rode on a road in the area. There was a lack of bridleways in the area and increasing speed on the roads made the experience unpleasant. Councillor Murray said that greater courtesy was needed on the roads. The resident asked if there were any plans to extend bridleways. Frank McArdle replied that, to his knowledge, there were no such plans – but bridleways were a DCC responsibility.

A resident said that an S-gate on the footpath at Walton bridge to prevent motorbikes and push bikes from using it had been discussed at the previous meeting. In the report back, DCC had rejected the request. What was the situation? Councillor Murray replied that a DCC officer had been out to the site and, contrary to the report back, something was planned and he would raise it the next time he visited County Hall.

A Netherseal resident asked what was happening with missing HGV signage in Gorse Lane. Councillor Murray replied that he had no report to give, but DCC Highways officer Richard Handbury was aware. A sign which had been broken in half had been replaced and he understood that other signs were due to be replaced by the end of February.

A resident of Drakelow Park estate asked for the 40mph limit outside the entrance to be reduced to 30mph in light of the new housing development.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report request to Derbyshire County Council

A resident said that a sign in Coton Park alerting drivers to a bridge was damaged before Christmas. Councillor Murray replied that he believed the sign had now been repaired.

LA/25 **County council issues**

None.

LA/26 **District council issues**

Mr McArdle gave a budget presentation for SDDC. Reserves were healthy and the budget was balanced for 2017-18 and 2018-19. Income was being generated from growth and would be invested in extra services, including an extra refuse round. A deficit was predicted for 2019-20, so SDDC was still looking for savings and efficiencies. It was Mr McArdle's job to structure his organisation according to need and not want. However, compared to other authorities in the country, SDDC was in a reasonable position. Reserves were forecast to remain above the minimum level for the next five years.

A pilot scheme where authorities in Derbyshire would retain 100% of their Business Rates would be undertaken. Local authorities were no longer able to rely on the Government grant, which was being phased out, in order to stay afloat. They would have to rely on the Rates they generated from Council Tax, Business Rates and the New Homes Bonus.

SDDC was also determined to sweat its assets and get value for its land.

A provisional increase of 1.95% in the Council Tax for 2018-19 was proposed, 1% below the Government limit. The proposal would go to Full Council on February 26. It was important to note that SDDC took just 11% of the total bill on an average Band D property.

It had also been proposed that grants to voluntary bodies would go up by 2% and a proposal that £250,000 to be allocated for a Community Partnership Scheme would also be put before Full Council.

Councillor Bob Wheeler asked if any progress had been made on the Walton bypass and new bridge over the River Trent. Mr McArdle replied that he had not been given consent by a potential developer to release information, but he was aware of a firm bidder who did not rely on outside funding. He was as confident as he had ever been that the bid on the table would be the one which would get the bridge built.

A resident stated that Bank House (South Derbyshire Mental Health Association) had been threatened with closure. Was it eligible for the new funding stream? Mr McArdle replied that a new grant had been secured by Bank House and he was delighted for them.

Councillor Murray said that police and SDDC officers had been very successful in dealing with a problem resident in Woodville Road, Overseal. He thanked them for their efforts on behalf of residents. Mr McArdle added that it was always difficult using civil law against a criminal. The result was someone who had not only been to prison but had also been hit with a hefty fine.

LA/27 **Date of next meeting**

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

**Councillor Pat Murray
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 8.03pm.

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