

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at Newhall Old Post Centre

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Paul Dunn (Chair), Councillor Mrs Linda Stuart,.

Kevin Stackhouse (Director of Finance and Corporate Services), Tom Sloan (Clerk), Chris Smith (Communities Manager).

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Gary Musson.

Scott Clayton (Thriving Communities).

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

None.

Members of the public

Alan Argent, Colin Dobson, L Felthouse, Pamela Foy, Christine Hobson, Hedley Hobson, Richard House, Ron Hughes, David James, Alan Jones, Helen Kreft (Burton Mail), Mike Lacey, Mick Lunn, Colin Maddock, Cathy Miles (CVS), Bill Park, Michelle Ray, Glenys Tagg, R Trim.

NA/19 **Apologies for absence**

Pat Bambrick, Councillor Sean Bambrick, Mick Mulgrew, Councillor Robert Pearson, Councillor Kevin Richards, Councillor John Wilkins.

NA/20 **Declarations of interest**

None.

NA/21 **Chairman's announcements**

None.

NA/22 **The minutes of the meeting held on October 10, 2017**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

NA/23 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

Pedestrian crossing at Wideshaft

Councillor Paul Dunn said the report provided by DCC didn't address the issue of vehicles being able to go along the pavement around parked cars. A bollard would prevent this from happening. Councillor Mrs Linda Stuart added that she had brought the matter to the forum's attention. She said cars frequently drove along the section of pavement right in front of people's front doors – and it was getting more regular. A white van had done it while she was showing Councillor Kevin Richards the location. The problem would be serious if a resident walked out of their front door at the wrong moment. A resident asked if something like an A-board would help if a bollard wasn't forthcoming. Another resident suggested a petition to DCC with more than 10 signatures would lead to a report going to a cabinet member.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to again report location to Derbyshire County Council and request a bollard be installed

Pine Grove, Newhall

A resident said they'd brought up the issue of untidy land around the garages at the two previous meetings. The garages had still not been touched. Rubbish went all the way through to the Burrows and nothing had been done.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to again report issue and ask for the area to be cleaned

Derbyshire County Council development company

Councillor Dunn reported that DCC had pockets of land across the county which could be developed. Money earned wouldn't go into private hands and the taxpayer would receive the benefits. DCC was looking at other areas of land rather than the one in Plummer Road but he would keep mentioning it. A resident asked if it could be used as an allotment. Councillor Dunn replied that it was unlikely due to the value of the land.

Security lighting at Pine Grove, Newhall

A resident said that SDDC hadn't fixed the light in question and it still wasn't working.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report issue to SDDC Housing

Councillor Gary Musson asked for the resident who requested a pedestrian crossing at Wideshaft to talk to him. Councillor Dunn pointed out that the street was in Swadlincote and was relevant to that forum and not Newhall. A resident added that the issue had been investigated in the past and there weren't adequate visibility splays to install a crossing.

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

A resident reported that grounds maintenance workers had caused damage to the grass in Newhall Park by the bowling green. There were tyre tracks left in the surface after workers had been to plant trees. Councillor Dunn agreed that it was an unacceptable situation.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to report issue to SDDC Depot

A resident asked how to obtain a grit bin from DCC. Councillor Dunn replied that they hadn't been issued by the county council for two years because of financial constraints. The only solution was people buying rock salt themselves. Councillor Musson added that some grit bins were bought by parish councils but there weren't any such organisations in Midway, Newhall and Stanton. He would ask DCC if anything could be done.

ACTION: Councillor Gary Musson to report back on grit bin availability

A resident asked where they could find a plan of a new development proposed adjacent to William Nadin Way. Chris Smith replied that one would be available on the Planning Portal. The resident asked if some of the recreation ground at Meadow View Road was being taken for a development. Councillor Dunn replied that it wasn't strictly the case. Football pitches were going to be enhanced and new changing facilities added. Kevin Stackhouse added that the football pitches were going to be moved but there would be no loss of facilities.

NA/25 **County council issues**

Councillor Musson detailed a planned road closure for High Street, Newhall on April 26.

NA/26 **District council issues**

Mr Stackhouse reported that SDDC was looking to set its budget and Council Tax for the next financial year, 2018-19. The financial position continued to be a good one in the short to medium term with a budget surplus in 2017-18. More money was being generated from the New Homes Bonus and from the extra Council Tax being levied from the additional

properties being built in the district. Extra services were having to be laid on, including a new refuse collection round, and work was being done to review grounds maintenance around South Derbyshire. With extra properties and associated facilities, there was more which needed maintaining. Extra revenue from new houses wasn't all being spent – some was being held in reserve to secure future services. There was the potential for a budget deficit in two-three years' time.

The proposal was to raise SDDC's precept by 1.95%, a very similar rise to the previous two years. There was the option to put it up by more than that but anything more than a 3% rise or an extra £5 on a Band D property would require a referendum.

A resident asked if a final decision on the Council Tax had been made. Mr Stackhouse replied that it would be made at Full Council on February 26.

Mr Stackhouse added that councillors had voted through an extra 2% funding for voluntary bodies and parish councils. A Community Partnership Scheme had also been proposed with additional funding of £250,000.

A resident asked for information on Business Rates. Mr Stackhouse replied that local authorities currently kept 50% of the Business Rates levied. However, there was soon to be a Government pilot in Derbyshire to allow local authorities to keep 100% of their Business Rates. It would result in a net gain to South Derbyshire. Other funding streams could also be reduced, however. Councillor Dunn added that he was concerned about the potential for Toyota uprooting after Brexit and income from their Business Rates going elsewhere. Mr Stackhouse confirmed that Toyota was one of the biggest Business Rate payers in Derbyshire.

A resident asked for clarity on the revaluation of business properties for Council Tax purposes. Mr Stackhouse replied that extra support from Central Government would be offered over the next four years for affected properties.

Councillor Dunn reported that DCC was proposing to raise Council Tax by 2.99% in 2018-19, with an extra precept of 2% on top for Adult Social Care. There would be another similar rise the following year. However, there would be a freeze for two years from 2020-21 – ahead of the next election.

Mr Smith updated on Midway Community Centre. A two-pronged attack was needed to increase community engagement and usage of the centre. SDDC's Sport & Health department was doing a project at the centre, as was People Express. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) seemed to be under control. Cathy Miles said that a long-term sustainable approach to the centre was needed. Consultation had taken place at the one-year

anniversary event. The overwhelming thing that came out of the event was that a lot needed to be done. ASB needing tackling first. A good group of people had come together to form a committee. A resident said that they'd questioned why the centre was never open while it could be used for so much. Councillor Dunn said the concern was shared among councillors at the lack of use of a £750,000 facility, but since Mrs Miles had got involved the centre had moved on a great deal. Councillor Musson said he would take some details from Mrs Miles to see if DCC's Youth Services would get involved.

Scott Clayton reported that ideas from DCC's Thriving Communities project were starting to form into a bigger plan. Among them were Club Newhall, where local residents would run a club and Our Newhall, to make it easier to find volunteers and support their work in the community. There were also plans to make Newhall Day Centre more of a community venue. Councillor Dunn added that there seemed to be very positive things coming out of Midway Community Centre and the Thriving Communities project.

NA/27 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on a date to be announced.

Councillor Paul Dunn
CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 8.27pm.