

REPTON AREA MEETING

25th April 2002

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillors Bell and Evens.

Mrs. S. Whiles (Head of Community Services), Mrs. D. Cook (Members' Services Officer) and Mr. B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor Jones (Vice-Chair in the Chair).

Parish Council Representatives

S. M. Smith (Woodville Parish Council), S. M. Evans (Repton Parish Council) R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council), A. Skipper (Repton Parish Council) and R. Morrow (Willington Parish Council)

Members of the Public

J. S. Orme, K.V. Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cownie, Mrs. G. Varty, A. B. Kimber, S. Brookfield, L. Taylor, M. J. Groom, C. Manifold, A. Gillespie, S. Edwards, R. Paulson, A. Gifford, R. Russian (Repton Parish Council), J. Short (Repton Parish Council), J. Burley, J. Newman, S. Ellis, D. J. Deboo.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Taylor (Chair), and Mr. A. Atkin (Newton Solney).

RA/27. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January 2002 were noted.

RA/28. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and explained the progress made in each case.

With regard to the speed reduction on the Repton to Willington road it was noted that, following approval of a report submitted to the Council's Environmental Services Committee, Derbyshire County Council had been asked to reduce the speed limit on this section of the highway. The Council was currently awaiting a response from Derbyshire County Council but was informed that County officers were working on the matter. Mr. A. Gifford asked that it be noted that there were currently no raised pavements on this section of the highway.

RA/29. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

A general discussion took place with regard to the public toilets in Willington and it was noted that currently Willington Parish Council were seeking an individual/s to open/close and clean the toilets as part of a partnership scheme with the District Council. Mr. Orme asked whether it was the intention of the District Council to close the toilets if the Parish Council could not find the money to take part in such a partnership agreement and Councillor Evens advised that the Parish Council had confirmed that this would not be the case. Mr. Orme talked about the principle that the people of Willington were being asked to pay two sets of rates (but the people of Swadlincote did not pay for the public toilets through a precept arrangement). He referred to Derbyshire County Council pledging in its 'Insight' magazine to work to generate tourism and as part of this initiative was looking to set up a partnership with the District Council to promote tourism. A general discussion took place with regard to the public toilets in Willington, Repton and Woodville and Councillor Evens advised that he thought that the Parish Council and the District Council were close to reaching an agreement in order to keep the public toilets at Willington open. The Environmental Services Committee had approved a further three month period for an agreement to be reached within the Parish Council regarding the opening/closing and routine cleansing of the toilets. Mr. B. Morrow of Willington Parish Council advised that the Parish Council was currently advertising for someone in this regard. The Parish Council as an alternative, had offered a sum of money to the District Council in order to keep the toilets open but the District Council did not wish to pursue this arrangement and preferred the partnership arrangement referred to above. The District Council would maintain the building but required the Parish Council to organise the daily opening and closing etc. Mr. Statham of Woodville Parish Council talked about the standards of cleaning required for public toilets as determined by health and safety legislation. Mr. Morrow of Willington Parish Council advised that the Parish Council were prepared to clean the toilets at Willington to a 'reasonable' standard. It was suggested that Mr. Morrow speak to Mr. J. Hansed at the District Council on this matter. Mr. Deboo queried what involvement Derbyshire County Council had on the issue of public toilets and Councillor Jones advised that Derbyshire County Council did not usually finance public toilets unless part of a particular tourism site operated by them. Mr. A. Gifford of Willington advised that the request to provide finance towards the toilets originally arose from the District Council's financial crisis which he understood was now over and therefore queried whether the District Council should not therefore cease to ask the Parish Council for further finance.

Mr. R. Morrow referred to a letter which he had received from the Council's Local Plans Manager regarding the first deposit draft of the Local Plan and the redevelopment of the former Willington power station site. He expressed concern regarding the following paragraph included in the letter; "Although their (the Environment Agency) mapping is based on upon the information available it relates to the risk of flooding within the natural floodplain and does not take account of protection provided by man-made flood defences". Mr. Morrow expressed concern that if the level of the power station site was raised to provide man-made flood defences then the water would need to run elsewhere. He was concerned that it already looked as if waste from the demolished buildings was being used to create defences by raising the site.

It was agreed to report the concerns of Mr. Morrow to the Local Plans Manager.

Mr. Taylor referred to the Green Paper on Planning issued by the Government and expressed concern that the District Council had not advertised that this paper was available for public consultation. S. Whiles advised that sometimes the consultation period on such documents was very short and the Council had to respond to the Government very quickly. It was agreed to report the matter back and suggest that the Council's Public Relations Officer could publicise such documents. Mr. Taylor talked about the White Paper on Regional Planning which had been issued recently and accordingly it was agreed to receive a presentation on regional development to a future Meeting, if possible. A discussion took place about consultation generally and arising from this discussion it was agreed to send a copy of the agenda for the Repton Area Meetings to Derby Library. Mr. Orme expressed concern that the only local place for the residents of Willington to have sight of the Local Plan (without travelling a great distance) was at the Willington Post Office where there was insufficient space available to look at the Plan properly and accordingly this matter was noted for future reference.

Mr. A. Gifford talked about the Willington House Hotel site where in his opinion outline planning permission had not been opposed to by the Parish Council because it was expected that the houses built would "fit into" the village. Mr. Gifford asked that the Council's Development Control Committee visit the site to ascertain whether the development built was in accordance with the planning permission granted. Mr. Gifford also talked about grass cutting standards in the village of Willington, particularly at the Castleway. He advised that cutting/mowing at the Castleway was even and consistent but at other parts within the village the grass was not cut to this particular standard. He asked what standards the Council employed for cutting particular areas and it was agreed to write to Mr. Gifford providing such information. Mrs. A. Skipper also queried the standards of cutting which applied to the path from Repton to Milton (including the hedge and verge) and asked how often such cutting took place. It was agreed to provide a written reply to Mrs. Skipper on this matter.

A resident asked if a presentation could be made on the Code of Conduct and it was agreed to organise such a presentation to a future Meeting.

Mr. A. Gifford referred to the Meadow Lane, Willington site which suffered repeatedly from fly-tipping. S. Whiles advised the Meeting of The Clean Team which would respond to reports from members of the public on fly-tipping incidents, dog fouling, litter, etc. It was suggested that Council officers undertook surveillance at this particular site with a view to obtaining a successful prosecution for fly-tipping.

A resident expressed concern that poplar trees at Mill Hill (top of Mount Pleasant Road) were causing a problem and the drains in that area were full. The pavement at the end of Mill Hill was disintegrating due to cars using them as a turning point. Concern was also expressed regarding drains at Main Street, Repton not working efficiently and it was agreed to investigate these matters and report back. Mr. Deboo advised that the drain cover outside No. 6, Boot Hill, Repton was lifted and in a dangerous position and accordingly it was agreed to pursue this matter with the County Council.

A resident expressed concern about the speed of traffic on Boot Hill and it was agreed to raise this matter with officers at Derbyshire County Council.

Mr. S. Edwards referred to finger posts missing from various Rights of Way in Willington. He was advised that it was a general policy that Derbyshire County Council replaced finger posts in one area at a time and accordingly it was agreed to ask Derbyshire County Council to confirm when finger posts in South Derbyshire would be replaced and report back to Mr. Edwards.

Mr. Orme of Willington referred to the cemetery on Etwall Road, Willington which was adjacent to a level crossing. He felt that this particular stretch of road generated a traffic hazard as it was dangerous that funeral cars had nowhere to park. Mr. Orme also expressed concern that the current cemetery at Willington had approximately 20 years remaining for interments however if the size of the village was to be doubled then this would not be sufficient. He asked that the District Council could investigate this matter with a view to making a compulsory purchase order for the field to the rear of the cemetery.

Mr. Deboo expressed a general concern regarding speed limits in the village of Repton/Newton Solney and it was agreed to report these concerns to Derbyshire County Council.

RA/30. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the next Repton Area Meeting was to be held on Tuesday, 23rd July 2002 at Goseley Community Centre.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.