

LINTON AREA MEETING

3rd November 2004

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Lauro (Chair) and Councillors Mrs. Hall and Shaw.
Mr. M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), Mr. I. Duckmanton (Youth Engagement Through Sport Officer), Mrs. D. Cook (Democratic Services Officer) and Mr. B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

G. Edwards and I. Chester (Overseal Parish Council), Dr. D.A. Eaton (Cauldwell Parish Meeting), S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Mrs. B. Ford, Mr. R. Ford and Mr. J. Dolman (Drakelow).

LA/11. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Southern (District Councillor), County Councillor Mrs. K. Lauro (Vice-Chair), S. Boddice, Dr. T. Elson and Mark Todd M.P.

LA/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th August 2004 were received.

LA/13. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair stated that this forum had been established with the intention of allowing the District Council to communicate with the people of South Derbyshire. He stated that County Councillors were invited and in addition, County Council Officers and the Police but the District Council was not in a position to insist on their attendance. Any complaints or comments received on services provided by Derbyshire County Council could only be forwarded to that Authority for action.

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

With regard to the request for an Action Plan on Highways issues and work undertaken between Area Meetings, the Chair read out a statement submitted by the County Councillor Mrs. K. Lauro. In the statement, she stated that she did not agree to take the matter to Derbyshire County Council at the last Meeting. This was because an action plan for spending on highways, highways maintenance and transport already existed and was decided after consultation by the Cabinet and the County Council last year. A new action plan would be formulated for 2005/06 and was now being collated. The statement advised that what happened was that the highways

were surveyed and costed for capital and maintenance schemes and then this was submitted to the Cabinet's star chamber, taking into account the most urgent priorities, the less urgent and low priority items or schemes. Whether the schemes were undertaken depended on the Government's Annual Spending Review and the money it gave to local authorities and the amount of Council Tax raised to fund all local authority services. The statement advised that at the County Council Environmental Services Department, which included highways, countryside and transport and waste had to compete with education, health and social services, public protection and all services that the County Council provided. Each department had a chance to put forward their priorities in line with the County Council plan (decided by public consultation), the Local Strategic Partnership Plan etc. After public consultation on the Council Tax, the final annual Service Plan was drawn up and approved at the County Council's full Council Meeting. Councillor Mrs. Lauro's statement went on to say that the Highways Manager was always available at the County's Local Area Committee which was held in a different ward every six weeks. The last South Derbyshire Area Committee was held on 20th October 2004 at Newhall. The statement went on to say that the County Councillor did arrange site meetings with Parish Councils and, if there were any issues she would pass them on and report back. She had arranged special meetings for Parish Councils to give them a chance to talk to Cabinet Members and Officers individually about specific problems. She stated that all the mechanisms existed already. There were action plans for every service within Derbyshire County Council. There were action plans for crime reduction and plans were being co-ordinated for a local Community Strategy. The County Council planned next year to run a pilot of combining community forums with their local Area Committee and this, if it worked out, sounded a sensible way forward for the future. Mrs. Lauro's statement advised of a danger that these Meetings could get "bogged down" in outlining every parish's hole in the road just as it overtook the District's local area committee now. The statement went on to say that Mrs. Lauro felt it would be interesting to see the outcome of this pilot.

With regard to the felling of trees in the area of Gate No. 2 at Roger Bullivants, Mr. Dolman expressed concern that he was still not aware whether planning permission had been given in retrospect. He was concerned that no replacement trees had been planted and also concerned about traffic issues associated with the right hand side of the entrance of Gate No. 2. He queried why felling had taken place, how many trees on that site had been chopped down and when and where the replanting was to take place. It was agreed to speak to the Area Planning Officer about this matter and respond directly to Mr. Dolman.

With regard to the hedge which required cutting at Linton, the Director of Community Services advised that this hedge had now been cut back. He advised the Meeting that in fact this particular hedge had not been in the Council's ownership but following the granting of permission by the owner, the Council had undertaken the cut, as promised.

With regard to problems experienced at Greenacre Park, Coton-in-the-Elms following a visit from the Refuse Collection vehicle, the Director of Community Services read out correspondence which had been sent to the residents of Greenacre Park and advised that the matter had now been resolved.

LA/15. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reference was made to a traffic count taking place on the Staffordshire side of the Walton Bridge, which intended to establish the origins of traffic. This count was being undertaken on behalf of Roger Bullivant. V. Taylor of Walton-on-Trent stated that this had not been a typical count and that those undertaking the survey had merely been asking drivers where they were travelling from and to. S. Jackson asked what the purpose of the traffic survey which was undertaken between Drakelow Power Station, the Cadley Hill island and the M42 on 5th October 2004 was. It was agreed to investigate this matter and report back accordingly.

S. Jackson asked why the new green recycling box delivered to residents did not take plastic. The Director of Community Services advised that he suspected this would be due to current market conditions. V. Taylor stated that there was not enough weight in plastic. The Director of Community Services talked about the need to recycle and referred to the excellent schemes being operated by the District Council. Councillor Hall stated that she felt the guidelines as to what items could be placed in the brown bins needed to be made clearer and the Director of Community Services agreed to look into this matter.

V. Taylor referred to the poor quality and lack of road signs meant for HGV drivers travelling through Walton-on-Trent. She stated that from the A444 there was only one sign which was not visible and there was no sign stating that there was no through road to the A38. She stated that more signing was desperately needed at Drakelow and it was agreed to speak to the appropriate body regarding this matter. Mr. Dolman emphasised the problem of heavy lorries coming into the area as a short cut. He stated that he had raised the matter at a recent meeting of the Police Liaison Committee and the Inspector had agreed to look into the matter. It was noted that Derbyshire County Council's Trading Standards Department had also agreed to look into this matter at the last Meeting of this Committee and accordingly, it was agreed to pursue this matter with Trading Standards and respond to Mr. Dolman accordingly. Mr. Dolman queried whether Rosliston Road South at Drakelow was being increased from a 30 mph to a 40 mph speed limit. Sergeant A. Wright advised the Meeting of a speed survey which had been undertaken on that stretch of road together with the results but confirmed that there were no firm proposals currently. Mr. Dolman stated that this road had only 300 yards of pavement making it very dangerous and expressed concern that nothing had been done with regard to reducing speed on this road.

A resident suggested obtaining a list of action undertaken for the whole of the Linton Ward from Derbyshire County Council. Mr. Dolman stated that accidents were occurring on Rosliston Road South but not being reported as no injuries had occurred (such as cars veering off the road and into hedges).

V. Walton referred to a proposal for a huge development adjacent to the A38 at Branston and expressed concern that this would result in a large increase in traffic through the Linton Ward villages. The Chair advised that the District Council would be a consultee on the Local Plan and a general discussion took place regarding communicating concerns to other planning authorities in such circumstances. It was agreed to receive a report at the

next Meeting on how the District Council would be consulted on neighbouring authority planning applications and processes.

Mr. Dolman advised the Meeting that he had recently attended a meeting of the Police Liaison Committee which had been talking about the B625 initiative. He praised this meeting as an excellent meeting, well worthwhile attending.

LA/16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the date of the next meeting had yet to be confirmed but a notification of the date would be despatched in due course.

LA/17. **PRESENTATION BY MR. I. DUCKMANTON, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SPORT OFFICER**

Mr. Duckmanton advised the Meeting that he was employed by the Home Office for 4 days a week and the additional day was paid for by the District Council. He outlined the areas of work which he was involved in which included strategic sports groups, Crime and Disorder Strategic Group and Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team, play schemes and out of school provision, junior youth needs survey, developing community training opportunities, sports development etc. He stated that he was hoping to be instrumental in the installation of a skateboard park at Castle Gresley in the future. He was working at Overseal to convert an old air raid shelter into a young persons' shelter and was also working within the Parish of Coton-in-the-Elms. He stated that a Junior Needs survey was being undertaken with junior schools currently. G. Edwards queried the nature of the junior consultation exercise and was advised that it was similar to the Youth Needs survey undertaken in conjunction with schools, however, the questions had been tailored to be relevant to the junior age group. S. Jackson advised Mr. Duckmanton that a graffiti wall had been requested for Castle Gresley. She stated that children in that area were very territorial and perceived a difficulty in parishes within the Linton ward working together. G. Edwards praised the work of the mobile Youth Bus. The Chair thanked Mr. Duckmanton for coming to the Area Meeting to outline his role.

LA/18. **DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

The Director of Community Services advised that the Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on the Council to work with its partners to produce a Community Strategy that would help to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of South Derbyshire. The South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership (SDLSP) was taking responsibility for preparing the Community Strategy and for making sure that the plans in it were actioned. The Meeting was advised that the SDLSP was established in October 2003. It consisted of a forum which met twice a year and was open to all residents and any organisation with an interest in the area. The Partnership Board (made up of representatives from public, private and voluntary sector organisations) carried out the day-to-day work of the partnership. This included developing the Community Strategy.

The Meeting was advised that the draft Strategy was made up of a number of building blocks which included:-

- (1) An overall vision
- (2) Six broad themes
- (3) Priorities for action
- (4) Examples of the types of action that could be taken

The overall vision for the Strategy (which would cover the next five years) was “Working together for a better South Derbyshire”. To help the Partnership to deliver this vision, six broad themes had been identified relating to:-

- (1) Safe communities
- (2) Healthy communities
- (3) A vibrant economy
- (4) A sustainable environment
- (5) Lifelong learning and culture
- (6) Creating opportunities for all

These themes were intended to cover the issues, which were important to local people. The Meeting received a presentation on the contents of the draft Strategy on a theme by theme basis. A short questionnaire was circulated and those present were encouraged to complete the questionnaire and return it to the Council to assist the SDLSP find out more about local priorities. The SDLSP would be consulting local people and groups across South Derbyshire until early December 2004. The feedback would then be analysed and used to shape the final version of the Strategy which would be presented for approval to a meeting of the Partnership Forum in January 2005.

S. Jackson expressed concern regarding the appointment made through the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils of a representative for the SDLSP and asked why this representative could not have been elected at the Joint South Derbyshire District Council and Parish Council Meeting. She also asked how often the Board re-elected and it was agreed to provide this information to the next Meeting.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

M. R. LAURO

CHAIR