

LINTON AREA MEETING

31st July 2001

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Southern (Chair) and Councillors Douglas, Knight and Lauro.

I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), M. Alflat (Environmental Health Manager), N. Betteridge (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor Mrs. Lauro and I. Shuttleworth (Emergency Planning).

South Derbyshire CVS

D. Rider.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

B. Laxton (Castle Gresley Parish Council), J. Blythe and S. Lee (Linton Parish Council), G Edwards (Overseal Parish Council), V. Taylor (Walton-on-Trent Parish Council) and D. Eaton (Caldwell Parish Meeting).

Members of the Public

J. Bodell, K. Dennis, P. Ellis, S. Elson, Dr. T. Elson, R. Palmer, P. Seeley, P. Smith and D. Woolley.

LA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

The Meeting noted the appointment of Councillor Southern as Chair at the District Council's Annual Meeting.

LA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from R. Pritchard (Coton-in-the-Elms Parish Council), B. Matkin (Rosliston Parish Council) and I. Brazier.

LA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was agreed that County Councillor Mrs. Lauro be appointed Vice-Chair of the Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

LA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 17th January 2001 were noted.

LA/5. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair referred to the recent intrusion of travellers onto land at Caldwell Lane, Linton, which was formerly a refuse amenity site. Mr. Alflat, the District Council's Environmental Health Manager advised that it was understood from the Environment Agency that asbestos had previously been

deposited on the site and a visit earlier in the day had revealed that the travellers were laying hardcore on the land. Normally, the District Council only removed travellers from public land and at the present time, the ownership details of the land were unclear, although the travellers claimed that they now owned the land. Accordingly, a Land Registry search had been submitted to ascertain this information and at the present time, Planning Officers were also investigating the matter in respect of the requirement for planning permission for the laying of hardcore. A report would be submitted to the District Council's Community Services, if necessary and the Chair expressed his disappointment that the Police Authority appeared reluctant to use its powers on the matter. Arising from this matter, a resident advised the Meeting of a recent violent incident concerning travellers at Netherseal. The Chair suggested that residents may wish to lobby the local Member of Parliament and the Police on the matter of travellers in the area.

Mr. Rider from the South Derbyshire CVS advised residents of the One Stop Shop mobile information service which was to visit Linton, Rosliston and Castle Gresley from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon on 7th, 14th and 21st August respectively. Leaflets on this service were available for residents.

LA/6. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

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

With regard to the request for the provision of a footway on the stretch of highway between Coton-in-the-Elms and Rosliston, County Councillor Mrs. Lauro advised that this would need to be considered by the County Highways Authority as a capital budget proposal for next year.

LA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident enquired as to whether the hedgerow on Caldwell Lane could be cut back and County Councillor Mrs. Lauro agreed to pursue this matter.

A resident claimed that the restriction on heavy goods vehicles on Park Road, Overseal was still being ignored and County Councillor Mrs. Lauro advised that residents should forward details to the police at the time of the incident. It was also agreed to write to the Divisional Commander requesting the traffic police to monitor this situation.

A resident advised that the road sign indicating Seal Wood Lane, off Colliery Lane, Linton had recently been removed and subsequently replaced, now indicating that this was not a public right of way, which was contrary to his understanding. The Chair advised that the District Council's Footpaths Officer had confirmed that this was not a public right of way but, in any event, the sign should not have been removed and replaced with the wording outlined. Accordingly, it was agreed to pursue this matter.

LA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Residents would be advised of the date of the next Meeting shortly.

LA/9. **COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN FOR CIVIL EMERGENCIES**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Ian Shuttleworth of Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning Division. He explained that increasingly, the public expected a proactive response to emergencies, irrespective of legal obligations and potential costs. The County Council was seeking to raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies and to highlight the potential for a new partnership approach where the community could help to protect themselves and each other during an incident. The document had been produced in conjunction with the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils and the County's Emergency Services. The document would be made available to town and parish councils throughout Derbyshire to provide guidance on dealing with emergency incidents and the collation of local information.

It was stressed that the emergency services should always be contacted and details were provided of the County Council resources available to respond to incidents. Potential hazards and threats for Derbyshire included road and rail accidents, air disasters and terrorist attacks. There were a number of companies throughout Derbyshire which handled potentially dangerous chemicals and details were provided of those statutory and non-statutory hazardous sites throughout the County. The potential for football stadia disasters and incidents resulting from large organised events such as open air concerts was also recognised.

The Chair and residents thanked Mr. Shuttleworth for the informative presentation.

LA/10. **BEST VALUE**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Ian Reid, Deputy Chief Executive at the District Council. Information had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting to provide a summary of the Best Value process. Mr. Reid gave an outline of the requirements placed on local councils by Best Value, the need to publish a Best Value Performance Plan and to establish a Best Value Review Programme to examine all services over a five year period. Details were provided of those reviews completed in year one of the Programme and those proposed for the current year which were either underway or due to start shortly. Each service would be subject to an inspection by an independent assessor appointed by the Audit Commission. The inspector would make a judgement on how good the service was and whether it would improve in the future. For South Derbyshire, the two services inspected to date were the Development Control function and Sheltered Housing and the results of both reviews were reported. Information was provided on the community consultation requirements for the Best Value Process.

Following a question by a resident, it was noted that the consultation process on the sheltered housing service was still ongoing and the Council had not yet made a decision on this matter.

LA/11. **CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON THE MODERNISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Two documents had been circulated prior to the Meeting to provide information on this subject. Ian Reid, Deputy Chief Executive at the District Council explained the options available to the Council in implementing the Government's Modernising Agenda. There had been widespread consultation through the publication "Which Way, Have Your Say". Some 32,000 copies of this document had been circulated through the local free newspapers. Consultation had also been undertaken with parish councils and details were provided of the responses to the consultation exercise.

Since that time a modernised committee structure had been introduced and information was provided on the key features of this structure. There was increased notice of meetings and new rights for the public including a question time slot at all meetings. Mr. Reid also explained the roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The new structure would provide for open and transparent local government.

R.W. SOUTHERN

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.