

REPTON AREA MEETING

31st October 2001

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chair) and Councillors Bell, Bladen, Evens, Sherratt and Mrs. Wheeler.

T. Neaves (Chief Finance Officer), D. Cook (Member Services Officer) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillor Jones and P. Leigh (Area Traffic and Safety Manager, South East Area).

Parish Council Representatives

A. Atkin (Newton Solney Parish Council), C. J. Bailey (Woodville Parish Council), S. M. Evans (Repton Parish Council), A. Gifford (Willington Parish Council), D. Roberts (Repton Parish Council), R. Shadrack (Hartshorne Parish Council), S. M. Smith (Woodville Parish Council), R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

R. Booth, D. J. Deboo, A. Gillespie, M. J. Groom, H. D. Harrison, A. B. Kimber, A. Skipper, L. Taylor, G. R. Tulley, K. Vincent.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mr. D. Adams (Hartshorne Parish Council), Mr. B. Morrow (Willington Parish Council), Mrs. Stamford and Mr. and Mrs. J. Cownie.

RA/13. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th August 2001 were noted.

RA/14. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair expressed his apologies to the Meeting that presentations on the topics of Recycling and the Youth Information Shop requested previously had not been received to date. The Council's Recycling Officer was currently on long term sick leave and a convenient date was to be organised with a representative of the Youth Information Shop. The Chair advised the Meeting that every endeavour was being made to ensure that these presentations took place and it was hoped that a presentation on Recycling would be made to the next Meeting.

RA/15. **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 flooding of Sands Brook, Willington, Mr. Gifford advised that the brook had been cleared as a result of voluntary work carried out by parishioners. One riparian landowner associated with the brook had not addressed its responsibilities and the District Council was to be asked to pursue this matter.

With regard to the issue of Bridleway No. 11, Willington, Councillor Jones advised that the County Council would welcome any comments on this issue and the consultation period closed on 23rd November 2001. Mr. Gifford expressed concern that a Public Meeting on this issue had not been organised separately and as a consequence a recent Willington Parish Council Meeting had been dominated by this issue. Officers agreed to investigate why a Public Meeting had not happened and to advise Mr. Gifford accordingly.

RA/16. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Deboo advised that a public right of way running from Repton to Milton had been ploughed again by two farmers. It was agreed to advise the Council's Footpaths Officer of this matter accordingly.

Mr. Gifford referred to the PPG3, Sustainable Development Guidelines document recently adopted by the District Council. He had interpreted the document to mean that a selective group of villages would be targeted for development whilst others would remain unaffected. Mr. Gifford queried how the District Council had interpreted this document and what flexibility was contained within the guidelines. The Chair advised that the Council had interpreted the document so as to identify sustainable villages in the southern and northern end of the District and had adopted a point scoring system based on issues such as effective bus routes etc. as assessment criteria. The Council had recognised that it was required to adopt PPG3 in some form prior to the adoption of the Local Plan. The Local Plan would create an opportunity for consultation on such issues arising from PPG3. The Chair advised that PPG3 was Government Policy and he was not prepared to comment on its viability. Councillor Bladen advised that his interpretation of PPG3 was that where a village was sustainable it should be targeted for development and the Chair felt that there was a delicate balance between using brown field urban land which had natural environment qualities as opposed to green field sites.

A member of the public expressed his concern that the village of Repton was being used "as a dual carriageway" and that the speed of traffic travelling through Repton was unacceptable. The Chair referred to Mr. Leigh of Derbyshire County Council being present and indicated that this matter would be discussed alongside other highways issues.

Mrs. Smith of Woodville Parish Council asked if the MP for South Derbyshire could be asked to attend a Meeting to advise why no powers existed to stop public utilities bodies digging up stretches of highway immediately after the resurfacing of such roads had taken place. The Chair indicated that he was aware that powers did exist but the matter required clarification. It was noted that before any resurfacing works took place on public highways public utility bodies were always advised (this was the case recently during the

resurfacing of High Street, Woodville). Accordingly, it was agreed to write to the MP for South Derbyshire in this regard. As an explanation as to why this item had arisen, the Chair advised that there was long term leak on Woodville High Street which Severn Trent Water had had the opportunity to repair when resurfacing of this road had taken place. Mr. L. Taylor asked why the Highways Authority did not follow up the matter when Severn Trent Water failed to appear to repair the leak and the Chair indicated that this had been the case but Severn Trent had not arrived and the contractor could wait no longer. Councillor Sherratt suggested asking a representative of Severn Trent Water to attend a future meeting to talk about such issues as public consultation and what services Severn Trent Water provided and accordingly it was agreed that this matter would be pursued.

With regard to future discussion items Mr. Taylor advised that he had recently read an article in the Burton Mail written by the MEP advising that certain local authority powers were being transferred to the Regional Development Associations (RDA's). It was agreed to clarify this matter and include a further report to a future Meeting. The Chair advised that he wished to see a future discussion item on the National Forest and it was agreed that this matter was to be pursued.

RA/17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the date of the next Repton Area Meeting was Tuesday, 29th January 2002 and the Meeting would be held at the Bretby Country Club, Geary Lane, Bretby.

RA/18. **TRAFFIC CALMING – HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Mr. P. Leigh was in attendance to answer any queries on traffic calming/highways issues. Mr. D. J. Deboo thanked Mr. Leigh for attending the Meeting and referred to his previous correspondence with Mr. Leigh on the matter of the Repton to Willington road speed limit. Mr. Deboo challenged Mr. Leigh's opinion that the speed limit on this stretch of road should not be reduced and indicated that walkers dare not use the pavement on that stretch of road due to the high speed of passing traffic. He queried how the Highways Agency had managed to reduce speed limits in the area and also queried what consultation took place with the police on such matters. Mr. Leigh advised that before the introduction of any Traffic Regulation Order the comments of the Police Force were always sought because it was the police who were responsible for enforcement of such Orders. Mr Leigh advised that he had discussed the matter of the Repton to Willington road with the police on a number of occasions, but the police would not support such a reduction. (Mr. Leigh did point out that on occasion an Order would be introduced without the support of the police but this was rare.) Mr. Leigh advised that he thought that at peak periods incurring high volumes of traffic, natural traffic calming took place on this stretch of road but he understood that the traffic moved quicker at off-peak times. He indicated that he was to obtain up-to-date speed data for this road and the main road through the village of Repton. He was also intending to talk to the police again in this regard. With regard to Mr. Deboo's point on the Highways Agency lowering speed limits, Mr. Leigh advised that this was in conjunction with an Accident Reduction Trial which had cost over £1m focusing on Derby, Chapel-en-le-Frith and other areas. The results of this

Accident Reduction Trial would not be known until 2002. Mr. Leigh stated that it was a fact that traffic calming schemes were based on accident statistics and potential accident savings. His department had to target and prioritise in accordance with set expenditure however he agreed to re-assess the Repton to Willington road speed limit in the coming months. It was also agreed that a letter would be sent from the Area Meeting to the police indicating the support for a reduction in speed limit on this road.

Again, on the issue of the Repton to Willington Road, Councillor Evens referred to a reluctance by walkers and cyclists to use this stretch of road and asked what difference it made to a consideration for a reduction in speed limit if the road did not benefit from street lighting. Mr. Leigh advised that lighting levels did not impact on such considerations as an unlit road usually had less activity.

Mr. Leigh advised that Derbyshire County Council was the next Authority in line to be given the ability to keep the revenue generated from traffic safety cameras to spend on transport related issues. He was to be advised in two weeks which routes in the County would benefit from traffic safety cameras. The police were planning to use mobile traffic safety camera units and another 45 fixed camera sites were proposed for the county of Derbyshire. The A514 from Derby to Swadlincote was now signed and mobile units would be used on that stretch of road.

The Chair advised that he had previously indicated his opposition to increasing the speed limit on the A511 prior to entering Woodville. He referred to an identical area in Chesterfield where the speed limit had been decreased. Mr. Leigh disagreed with the Chair that this particular area was identical and advised that the changes to the A511 limits were linked to the Ashby bypass. It was proposed to move the 30 mph speed limit on that road in order to have a better impact on the speed of traffic. Mr. Leigh advised the Meeting of the current legislation with regard to 30 mph repeaters on roads in that the County Council were not allowed to erect such repeaters in areas where street lighting existed and this was the national code.

A resident queried whether the A511 was to be down graded to a 'B' road and Mr. Leigh advised that he was not aware of this. Mrs. Smith of Woodville Parish Council queried whether any account of the number of fatalities on the new island leading into Woodville had been recorded and the general consensus of the Meeting was that this area was on the boundary between South Derbyshire and Leicestershire and that accident statistics might be "lost" to Leicestershire.

With regard to the speed of traffic travelling through Repton High Street, Councillor Wheeler advised that the County Council had received finance for such a scheme and asked when traffic calming measures on this road would be implemented. Mr. Leigh stated that the footway outside the company Zytec in Repton was to receive attention and the speed limit entering into the village was to be moved by nature of the distribution of street lighting. The County Council were looking at Main Street from The Square out to Hartshorne regarding the implementation of traffic calming but the street lighting in this area was inadequate for physical traffic calming measures to be implemented. Accordingly, the County Council would design a scheme and assess financially what was achievable in this regard. Councillor

Wheeler suggested reducing the speed limit to 20 mph around the Repton School. Mr. Leigh referred to the 20 mph flashing lights used in some parts of the County but stressed that it was difficult to implement these measures outside Repton School but suggested that something could be centred adjacent to The Cross at Repton. Mr Leigh suggested that a 20 mph speed limit would not work and that physical measures were required, and as referred to above it was difficult to implement such measures due to the street lighting in Repton (which would cost £30,000 to rectify). Councillor Wheeler expressed concern that £35,000 had been lodged with the County Council for this traffic calming and in two years nothing had been done on the matter.

Mr. Shadrack of Hartshorne Parish Council referred to a previous request for a traffic safety camera outside 'The Snooty Fox' at Hartshorne and asked for Mr. Leigh's support on this matter. Mr. Leigh advised that the A514 was a designated route for future mobile traffic safety cameras.

Mr. Statham of Woodville Parish Council referred to a previous request made by the Parish Council for an additional traffic safety camera on the Woodville High Street. Mr. Leigh advised that it was his recollection that an extra camera had been approved some time ago but unfortunately it could not be installed in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. He again referred to the availability of the police mobile traffic safety camera units.

The Chair thanked Mr. Leigh for attending the Meeting.

RA/19. **CRIME AND DISORDER INITIATIVES**

Mr. Neaves, the Council's Chief Finance Officer, referred to a "Teamwork" newsletter which had been circulated. This newsletter outlined that the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 required the Council and the police to work together with the Police Authority, Probation Service, Health Authority and other organisations set down by the Secretary of State in order to reduce crime and disorder in South Derbyshire. The Teamwork newsletter gave details of a recent audit carried out on crime and disorder in the District. It highlighted that overall South Derbyshire was a safe place to live and work. The county of Derbyshire had the second lowest recorded crime rate in the East Midlands. Whilst Derbyshire had 84 crimes per 1000 population in 2000/2001, in South Derbyshire the figure was 54 crimes per 1000 population. The information gathered outlined in the "Teamwork" document prepared by the South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Partnership was to be utilised to set priorities for the type of crime to be tackled and in which particular order. For example it was suggested that in Woodville, criminal damage would be targeted as a priority and members of the public were asked to provide feedback in this regard.

Mrs. Smith of Woodville Parish Council advised that Woodville had recently been awarded a beat constable. Mr. Gifford of Willington asked why youths congregating in villages had not been included in the priority areas and Mr. Neaves advised that these disorder issues were not recorded on a "ward" basis and not reflected in the figures. Councillor Bladen indicated that intimidation incidents were not recorded. Consequentially a police presence was required in rural villages.

Mr. Shadrack of Hartshorne Parish Council queried the facts and figures for Hartshorne and Mr. Neaves agreed to investigate this matter and report back to him personally.

Various attendees asked why there was a continued lack of police presence at Area Meetings and were advised that the police had been asked to attend but had been unable to do so. The Meeting was advised of the dates of next Police Consultative Committee Meetings taking place in the District.

The Chair thanked all for attending, wished everyone a Happy Christmas and declared the Meeting closed.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 9.00 p.m.