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## CENTRAL AREA COMMUNITY FORUM

Notes of the Forum held on 23 July 2012 at 7.00pm at the Town Hall, Matlock

### PRESENT

**Derbyshire District Council**      **Dales**      Councillors Barrie Tipping (in the Chair), Ann Elliott and Garry Purdy.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Peter Foley (Director of Community Services), Heidi McDougall (Head of Environmental Services), Ash Watts (Leisure Facilities Officer) and Ros Hession (Democratic Services Officer - Communities)

**Derbyshire Council**      **County**      Izzy Fisher (Service Manager - Accommodation, Care & Support), Debbie Anderson (Project Engineer) and Ratna Taylor (Improvement and Scrutiny Officer)

**Derbyshire Constabulary**      Inspector Bryan Hall and Sergeant Nick Reason

**Members of the Public**      John Groom, Jane Gardner, Patricia Leake (local resident and in contact with DDCVS), J White (resident), C & M McCall (residents), Ken Parkinson (resident), Jayne Regan (South Darley P C), Joe Cain (resident), Ingrid Pasteur (Darley Dale T C), Kathleen Dyson (Darley Dale T C), Dianne Gurney (resident), Diana Dakin (Matlock Hospitals League of Friends), Jason Atkin (Darley Dale T C), Dave Oakley (Darely Dale T C), Keith Orford (Wirksworth Transition), Russ Boyack (Cromford P C), Richard Walsh, Netta Christie (Police Authority), Heather Clifton-Smith, Phyllis & Frank Mason and Laura Stevens (environmental groups).  
23 in total

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Tipping introduced the Members and officers from the participating authorities and welcomed everyone to the Forum.

## DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL - NEW WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE

Peter Foley, the District Council's Director of Community Services, began the presentation by outlining the new waste and recycling collection service which is being launched in August in partnership with Serco that:

- ✓ increases recycling opportunities for everyone
- ✓ saves Council Tax payers £385,000 a year
- ✓ reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill
- ✓ helps us achieve a recycling target in excess of 60%

The changes will include:-

- New **weekly** collection of food waste using kerbside caddies.
- Improved fortnightly recycling service:
  - ✓ **mixed rigid plastics,**
  - ✓ **Addition of foil trays, aerosols & beverage cartons**
  - ✓ **Household batteries**
- ✓ Expansion of garden waste service
- ✓ New great looking vehicles
- ✓ More versatile to service district
- ✓ New containers for recycling and food waste

Opportunities for recycling will include:-

- All recyclable material being collected from a new blue-lidded wheeled bin with basket insert , replaces blue box
  - Paper/cardboard placed in the basket
  - Glass/cans/mixed plastic in the body of the bin
- Excess paper & cardboard in existing blue bag
- Addition of new materials, aerosols, foil trays, beverage cartons
- Fortnightly collection
- Recycling alternatives for properties that cannot accommodate wheeled bins
  - Mixed plastics in blue bag
  - Paper/cardboard in blue bag
  - Glass/cans/aerosols/foils & beverage cartons in blue box
- ✓ **recycling services will be available for every household**

Arrangements for food waste will be:-

- New weekly collection
- 23ltr kerbside & 5ltr kitchen caddy
- 52 kitchen caddy liners
- All types of food waste

Provision for the collection of garden waste will be:-

- Food waste removed and collected separately
- Green lidded wheeled bin will continue
- Fortnightly collection of garden waste
- Extended to include 6,000 properties currently not participating in the service
- Request compostable sacks by end of July
- Annual delivery of 42 sacks

In terms of household waste:-

- Greater recycling reduces the amount of residual waste and therefore reduces the need to collect this as frequently
- 140 litre bin a fortnight will be sufficient for average family
- Larger bins for: larger families, families with children in nappies, families with medical needs

Peter was pleased to report that assisted collections will continue and for all containers.

Serco are to take over the new contract with effect from 5th August 2012 and Heidi McDougall (Head of Environmental Services) explained how the change would be rolled out:-

- First change: from w/c 6th August residents will be asked to put tins & cans in their **Blue Box**, not Blue Bag
  - **A postcard informing residents about this change will be posted to all 33,000 households in the Dales w/c 23 July**
  - **Glass will continue with cans**
  - **Add foil trays, aerosols & beverage cartons**
- Collection will continue under the current system for 6 weeks after which new service will be rolled out
- **From 17th September** residents receive a leaflet, informing them of two significant upcoming changes:
  - **New collection day**
  - **Imminent arrival of new blue-lidded recycling bin/containers & food caddies**
- **From 1st October** each household receives new recycling bin/containers and kerbside food caddies, including:
  - **Full instructions on what to put in the new containers**
  - **Reminder of day change with calendar**
  - **New sticker for garden bin – “garden waste only”**
- **From 15th October** new fortnightly collections of recycling, household waste and garden waste start, together with weekly food waste collections
- Week 1 – household waste & food
- Week 2 - recycling, garden and food waste
- **By 26th October** every household in the Derbyshire Dales will have received their containers and first collection

To minimise confusion caused by these significant changes, Derbyshire Dales District Council is communicating **using a variety of channels:**

- Well informed Customer Service Team
- Leaflets/Postcards/Stickers
- Frequently asked questions
- Touring roadshows
- Online postcode search facility
- Media releases
- Updated website
- YouTube video
- A3 posters in our car parks & toilets
- Ashbourne/Wirksworth radio trailers
- E-newsletter
- Social media channels (Twitter & Facebook)
- October dalesMATTERS newsletter
- Parish newsletters
- Staff & Member Briefings

➤ Area Community Forums

In addition, changes were taking place to the 'bring sites' which were explained as follows:-

- Improvements being delivered at local bring sites in partnership with H W Martin
- Greater opportunities to recycle cardboard and beverage cartons
- Transfer programme beginning 25 June for approximately 3 weeks
- New uniform containers
- Much simpler system
- Material consistent
- Easier to clean
- Annual review of sites

Heidi concluded by summarising the benefits of the new arrangement:-

- Better recycling opportunities for all residents
- It will help to improve our recycling rate
- The service is good value for money
- Weekly collections of food waste
- Residents will have greater capacity to contain waste and recycling

Question and comments were then invited from the floor and issues raised as follows:-

- A resident raised concerns about the bring sites – since the new contract had begun, there had been issues with the sites (Sainsburys and Hurds Hollow) being cordoned off due to being overfull and incidents of broken glass on the sites. Also, people seemed unsure of which bins to use. Heidi appreciated that teething problems had arisen during this transitional stage and these were being addressed with the contractors which included capacity issues at Sainsburys. The resident further asked why the contract had changed – it seemed that the bins required emptying more frequently. Peter highlighted that the new contract enabled all material to be recycled at all sites (80 across the district) and a £100,000 savings had been achieved – the contract also included daily emptying of bins if required. He appreciated that it may take time to achieve the correct bin capacities and emptying frequencies for some sites and hoped that people would understand which materials to place in which receptacle.
- Laura Stevens, who was passionate about recycling, felt that the new system was easier. However, she raised concerns about trade waste which was often being disposed to landfill.
- Phyllis Mason noted the requirement for businesses to pay for the removal of trade waste. Heidi explained that the District Council was looking to develop, with Serco, a recycling service for businesses. She highlighted, however, that the disposal of trade waste, is chargeable.
- Phyllis cited examples of large pieces of cardboard / boxes deposited at the side of the recycling bins at the Winster bring site. It was acceptable to fold cardboard and leave it at the side of the bins if too large to deposit within, Heidi explained and that residents may also leave larger pieces of cardboard / boxes at the side of their wheeled bins. Peter added that the District Council wishes to encourage as much recycling as possible, so if the contractor can easily see that the waste is recyclable it will be taken as 'side waste'.

- In response to a question from Councillor Tipping about excess garden waste, Heidi explained that wheeled bins can be emptied easily, but due to health & safety and manual handling issues, it is not always possible to lift material contained in other receptacles. However, additional green bins could be purchased and / or compost bags.
- Russ Boyack asked if the blue bins were available in a smaller 140 litre size rather than the 240 litre due to storage problems and access issues which were common to several households in Cromford. It was not possible to supply smaller bins, but Heidi undertook to look at alternatives.
- In response to a question from Heather Clifton-Smith, Heidi replied that it was not compulsory to use the liner in the food waste caddy, but it was believed that the issue of liners may encourage use of the caddy. Use of newspapers was discouraged as it is not acceptable to the processing plant. Heidi highlighted that the caddies can be washed and are dishwasher proof.
- In response to a question about the extensive consultation undertaken by the District Council, Heidi detailed press releases, surveys, focus groups, Area Community Forums (November 2010) were amongst the various ways in which the District Council had engaged with residents on its refuse and recycling service. The resident noted that community associations such as Hurst Farm had not been consulted. Sergeant Reason noted that 125 households had been surveyed on Hurst Farm, as part of a community safety initiative, on a number of issues which had included recycling.
- In response to a further question Peter responded that Derbyshire Dales District Council did not fulfil the criteria to apply for government funding to implement weekly rather than fortnightly collections.
- Keith Orford asked how Wirksworth Transition could help to disseminate information and also had some issues they wished to investigate eg schools who wanted to increase their recycling. When might be a sensible time to promote new services in conjunction with the District Council and / or hold an event? A meeting of Transition Wirksworth was being held on 24 July. Peter welcomed Wirksworth Transition's aspirations and an opportunity to work in partnership possibly by tying up with events around the road shows. Keith noted to be mindful of Wirksworth Festival which would take place in the autumn. Peter added that recycling promoters were also being employed to help get the message across to the public. Keith concluded that 'The Rubbish Group' were a keen group of recycling ambassadors in Wirksworth.
- In response to a query from a member of the public, Heidi advised that large wheeled bins seen around establishments such as The Whitworth Centre are trade waste bins.
- Laura Stevens urged that those who don't recycle be targeted.
- Kath Dyson had observed bins to the rear of the Firs Parade shops which appeared to be overflowing. Peter re-iterated that this is trade waste and the responsibility of the businesses.

- Richard Walsh noted that some properties are still on the bag system and would have liked bins. The green bag capacity is a lot less than the bins. All sack properties are currently being reviewed and changes to the fleet may enable more properties to be offered bins.
- A resident noted that people are more inclined to recycle if they know how the materials are processed and their end use. Details are available on the District Council's website and through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- In answer to Kath Dyson's question about households currently on black sacks, Heidi explained that the options for these properties would be discussed to determine continuation on black sacks or a move to bins.
- In response to a resident's question, Heidi confirmed that, for those remaining on black sack collection, 4 bags per fortnight would be collected which should not contain any garden waste. It was accepted that the number of garden waste sacks would fluctuate. The increased recycling opportunities should lead to less residual waste.
- Peter advised, in response to a resident, that batteries were to be placed in the bag provided at the side of the blue bin on collection day. A replacement bag would then be provided.

## **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

Izzy Fisher introduced the presentation by explaining that in February 2012, Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet approved a revised plan to deliver a strategy for accommodation, care and support for older people in Derbyshire.

This involved investment in Specialist Community Care Centres and Extra Care housing developments which would, overtime, replace the majority of the existing County Council homes for older people.

This transformation of the way in which care for older people is delivered had an emphasis on promoting independent living whilst still providing support where needed.

Locally, Izzy reported that specialist services would be delivered from a centre adjacent to the Whitworth Hospital, Darley Dale. Plans had just been submitted and the County Council were keen to consult with residents.

A DVD outlining the plans and examples of the care provided was shown.

Question and comments were then invited from the floor and issues raised as follows:-

- Kath Dyson noted intentions to submit a planning application for affordable housing on the Gracelands site at Darley Dale. Kath suggested that, as the site would be in close proximity to the proposed development on the Whitworth Hospital site, that the Gracelands development includes a children's play area to promote community integration. Councillor Tipping urged that residents and Darley Dale Town Council make their views known and clarified that a planning

application had not yet been submitted for the Gracelands site. Izzy noted that it was important to have opportunities for the community and families.

- In response to Netta Christie, Izzy explained that 24/7 care is usually social support and care. Where special care is needed, these needs will be met. Netta noted the complexities of qualifying for support and accessing accommodation.
- Diana Dakin, Chair of the Matlock Hospitals League of Friends, was pleased to see plans going ahead for the development on the Whitworth Hospital site, however, she hoped that this would not detriment the provision of care currently enjoyed at the Whitworth Hospital. Izzy assured that there were no plans to take any business away from the Whitworth Hospital and that the County Council were keen to work with the NHS.
- Kath Dyson inquired about a Waltham House (Wirksworth) resident who was currently in hospital after sustaining 2 broken hips – would she be able to return to Waltham House? County Councillor Garry Purdy advised it is the resident's home, however, if the resident's circumstances have changed and they may not be as fit or physically able, the Social Services Department will make an assessment to identify best options.
- Councillor Tipping sought clarification on the purchase of flats. Izzy and Councillor Purdy explained that circumstances will vary depending on the different social landlords. However, if a property is sold on the open market, the purchaser must fulfil certain criteria.
- Diana Dakin applauded the excellent care provided at Waltham House.

## **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PART NIGHT STREET LIGHTING**

Debbie Anderson explained that the County Council currently maintain around 89,000 street lights across Derbyshire. The County Council had recently consulted on its proposal to switch off around 40,000 street lights between midnight and 5.30am and permanently turn off around 900 others.

Of the 842 responses received, more than 60 per cent were in favour of the plans. It is expected to take up to four years to introduce the changes across the county. A timetable for 2012 / 13 had been drawn up which included an opportunity for residents to comment on the detailed proposals in each parish or local area. Information was available on the website and also in local libraries. The Peak District National Park Authority was in favour of attaining 'dark skies' status.

The next consultation phase included Baslow, Rowsley and Youlgrave.

The initiative would help reduce the current annual energy costs of £2.7 million and reduce carbon emissions (street lighting account for around 47%).

Debbie emphasised that part night street lighting would not be implemented in some key areas and areas such as town centres, main roads and areas of high incidents of crime or accidents.

Question and comments were then invited from the floor and issues raised as follows:-

- In response to Councillor Tipping's question on the timeframe, Debbie clarified that it was a 4 year project. Smaller areas were being looked at first with the proposal to introduce part night street lighting for 4,000 lights.
- Phyllis Mason sought clarification on the criteria for switching off lights and asked if some villages may find themselves with no lights at all. Debbie assured that this would not be the case – for example a light may remain at a road junction or around a sheltered housing complex. Each location was being individually looked at.
- Diana Dakin welcomed the initiative and would like to see street lights turned off in her village which would enable greater enjoyment of the stars.
- A member of the public suggested that some lights be switched off and see if anyone complains!
- Debbie stressed that the County Council were trying to identify sites where there would be little impact and stressed that this would not be in town centres and also added that the County Council were working in partnership with the community safety team.

## **CONCLUSION AND THANKS**

Councillor Tipping thanked everyone for their participation and advised that the next Central Forum would take place 30 October 2012, venue to be decided.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm