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Notes of the Northern Area Community Forum held on 26 February 2019 at 7.00 pm at the Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell

PRESENT

Derbyshire Dales District Council	Councillor Helen Froggatt (In the Chair) Councillor Susan Hobson Councillor Lewis Rose OBE Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources) Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration & Policy) Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services) Ros Hession (Community Engagement Officer)
Peak District National Park Authority	Sarah Fowler – Chief Executive
Members of the Public	
Bakewell Town Council	Steve Edwards, Bill Storey
Grindlow	Henty Folkard, Jamie Ollerenshaw
Hucklow Parish Council	Martin Beer
Shirley Parish Council	Hugh Tyler
Rowsley Parish Council	Kath Potter
	George & Janet Challenger, Dorothy Ollerenshaw, Pete Tapping plus one other
	12 in total

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Froggatt welcomed everyone to the Forum, introduced participating Councillors and Officers then outlined the plan for the evening.

DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL – GOOD NEWS

Steve Capes gave a presentation reflecting on the District Council's achievements over the last 4 years.

Reflection on our Achievements 2015 – 2019

- New Council elected May 2015
- Corporate Plan approved 2015 which set the priorities for Council 2015-2019:

- Ambition to create ‘A Thriving District’ focussed upon three key priorities:
 - Business Growth and Job Creation
 - Affordable Housing
 - Market Towns
- How have we done?
- Did we achieve our objectives?

Creating a Thriving Local Economy

- Derbyshire Dales Business Advice has supported 48 businesses to secure £1,462,000 in external grant funding over the last three years, to create over 100 new jobs.
- Adopted a new Local Plan (December 2017) which allocates 24 ha land for employment and over 5680 new homes.
- Tourism promotion – over 500 copies of our Limestone Way Walk Guide have been sold since its launch less than a year ago.
- Helped local groups secure the adoption of Neighbourhood Plans in Wirksworth (2015) and Doveridge (2018).
- Nearly 300 Derbyshire Dales businesses are now signed up to the ‘Inspired by the Peak District brand’, giving them a marketing edge by being associated with an iconic place.
- More than 40 Derbyshire Dales visitor economy business have been offered ‘Pedal Peak’ grants to help make them more cycle-friendly.
- Hosting of the Tour of Britain and Women’s Tour of Britain cycling events
- Supported re-establishment of Y Not Festival
- Established Derbyshire Building Control Partnership
- Introduced a comprehensive chargeable pre Planning Pre-Application advice (circa £40,000 income p.a)

Affordable Housing

- Completed 235 new affordable homes (2015/16 – 2018/19)
- Derbyshire Dales Debt Advice Project – assisted 570 people over 4 years
- With our partners we have prevented 2800 families from becoming homeless
- Successful funding applications: Hurst Farm Regeneration Project (£190,000), Community Led Housing (£380,000), Transformation challenge Award (£80,000)
- Implementation of the new Homelessness Reduction Act 2018
- Age UK Housing Advice Service supported over 1000 clients generating £1m in new benefit claims
- 1200 households allocated a new home through Home-Options
- Provided Discretionary Council Tax Assistance to low income households (£16,000 p.a.)
- Financially supported Citizens Advice Services to Dales residents
- Awarded more than 1,000 Disabled Facilities Grants to vulnerable people

Market Towns

- New ‘Dales Markets’ branding created for all our markets
- Facilitated the transfer of Wirksworth Market to Wirksworth Town Council with financial support
- Ashbourne Community Interest Group progressing discussions on Ashbourne Market
- Successfully tendered for Bakewell Christmas Market, now in its 4th year

- District Fairtrade Status has been successfully achieved
- New Events Strategy introduced to support Market Town events
- Organised the 1st 'Cow Shed' beer festival at the Bakewell Agricultural Business Centre
- Introduced cashless payments on our markets
- Investment in 'Big Belly' bins to reduce street litter in town centres
- Successful coordination of the Great British Spring Clean initiative
- Hall Leys Park, Matlock awarded Green Flag status for 11th consecutive year
- Matlock Bath Illuminations now runs at no cost to the Council, over the last 4 years (2015-2018) the event has made a surplus of £145,517

Supporting Healthy Communities

- The management of our Leisure Centres was outsourced, providing circa £5m savings to the Authority over 10 years
- Over £1m to be invested in our Leisure Facilities
- Completion of Swimming Pool and gym extension and refurbishment projects in our Leisure Centres
- Secured £165,000 from Sport England to deliver physical activity programmes in targeted communities
- Successful conversion of Multi Use Games Area on Hall Leys Park with £20,000 external funding
- More than 600 people have completed the Active Health Referral programme
- Established a young people's support programme in Matlock with £10,000 grant from Big Lottery
- Support to refurbish Baslow MUGA by writing successful Sport England funding application for £50,000
- Supported 74 Sports Clubs and Groups through our Clubs First Programme
- Walking for Health goes from strength to strength by launching new accessible walks and dementia friendly walks. The programme as a whole attracts more than 8,000 visits per year
- Delivered the Five60 programme in primary schools across the Dales which focuses on improving healthy eating and physical activity levels
- Supported approx. 350 community projects through coordination of the Local Projects Fund
- Successfully organised annual corporate games event as part of our district wide Active Workplace Scheme
- Installation of permanent Orienteering courses in Hall Leys Park and at Ashbourne and Bakewell Recreation Grounds
- Steady improvement in standards of food safety in the area – proportion of all premises scoring 5 (top score) now 73.2% up from 67%

Delivering Accessible Services

- Annual visits to our website has increased by 113.74% from 596,000 to 1.27 million
- Introduced live broadcasts of full and special council meetings and selected community forums, attracting a total of 5,500 video views and extending the democratic process
- Significant increase in all our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram)

- Followers of our Matlock Bath Illuminations Facebook page has increased from 10,000 to 25,626
- Recently approved new investment to improve the customer website experience

Delivering High Quality Services (2018 Residents Survey)

- Online Residents Survey undertaken October/November 2018 (circa 700 residents)
- 94% of respondents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (national rate 78%)
- 68% satisfied with the District Council overall (national rate 61%)
- 60% consider District Council provided value for money (national rate 44%)
- 83% feel well informed about the services the Council provides (national rate 58%)
- 97% feel safe during the day and 84% feel safe in the area after dark
- 80% residents satisfied with waste collection services
- High quality services maintained despite achieving £2.3m savings since 2014

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

Bakewell Christmas Market

- Kath Potter commented on the success of the Bakewell Christmas Market noted the tremendous amount of effort contributed by Bakewell Town Council and the efforts of Paul Morgans with the publicity.
- Steve Capes acknowledged wholeheartedly that a lot can be achieved through partnership working.

Bakewell Farmers' Market

- Bill Storey commented on stall occupancy Bakewell Farmers' market – he believed stalls were often booked in advance, but some traders failed to turn up on the day leaving empty stalls.
- Steve Capes noted the point which would be taken back to relevant officers to look for a better system to remedy under occupancy.

SPENDING PROPOSALS AND COUNCIL TAX FOR 2019/20

Karen Henriksen gave a presentation on the District Council's spending proposals and Council Tax for 2019/20.

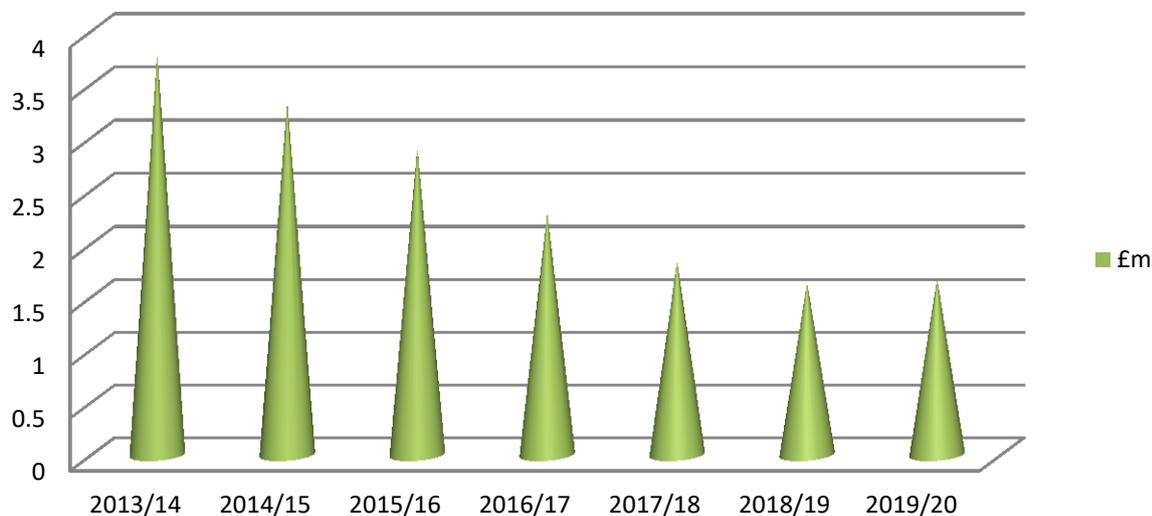
Local Government Finance Settlement

	2019/20	2018/19	Change
Settlement Funding Assessment	£1,648,000	£1,611,000	+2.3%
Spending Power	£8,742,000	£8,412,000	+3.9%

The table above shows increases in SFA and spending power.

It should be noted that the Government's spending power figure assumes that the council tax for DDDC will be increased by 2.99% in 2019/20.

DDDC Settlement Funding Assessments



The slide above shows the change on SFA from 2013/14 to 2019/20.

The table over shows the relative gearing between Government-Funded Spending Power and Locally-Funded Council Tax between predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas, and how it has changed.

Percentage of Spending Power funded by Council Tax over the four-year settlement period					
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Mainly Rural	58%	62%	65%	68%	69%
Mainly Urban	45%	49%	51%	54%	56%
DDDC	58%	59%	65%	71%	69%

Financial Uncertainties

- Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review
- Government’s Fair Funding Review
- Changes to system for sharing business rates income
- New Homes Bonus
- Other service cost pressures e.g. welfare reforms & renewal of outsourced contracts
- National Minimum Wage & Apprentices Levy
- National pay award and grading structure
- Pension fund revaluation
- Inflation, the value of the pound and Brexit

Budget Proposals: Annual Income	
Proposed Revenue budget 2019/20 (excl. benefits) Total £17.6 million	
Fees and Charges	41%
Council Tax	34%
Business Rates	17%
Government Grants	8%

Budget Proposals: Annual Spending	
Proposed Gross Revenue Spending 2019/20 Total £17.6 million (excluding Benefits)	
Waste & Recycling	23%
Clean & Green	18%
Regeneration & Tourism	13%
Central Services	11%
Health & Grants	10%
Housing	8%
Sports & Arts	7%
Car Parks & Transport	5%
Democratic Representation	5%

Capital Spending		
Proposed 4 year capital spending 2019/20 to 2022/23 Total £6.7m		
Affordable Housing	£3.7m	53%
Keeping the district safe and clean	£1.5m	22%
Other	£0.9m	13%
Leisure Centres	£0.6m	9%
Economic Regeneration	£0.2m	3%

Medium Term Financial Plan						
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Forecast spending	9,412	9,586	9,937	10,096	10,053	10,233
Council tax income	-5,951	-6,062	-6,222	-6,397	-6,576	-6,760
Business rates income	-2,308	-2,707	-3,023	-3,087	-3,153	-3,259
Negative RSG	0	0	371	380	390	400
Government Grants	-1,365	-1,412	-654	-559	-488	-270
Total funding	-9,624	-10,181	-9,528	-9,663	-9,827	-9,889
To waste contract fluctuations reserve	212	300	0	0	0	0
To funding uncertainty reserve	0	438	0	0	0	0
Other reserves	0	-143	-13	-13	112	20
Savings to be achieved	0	0	396	420	338	364

Council Tax Increase for 2019/20:

We propose an increase of £5 for a Band D property for 2019/20, which works out at 2.45%, or around 10p a week for a band D property.

Band	DDDC Council Tax 2018/19	DDDC Council Tax 2019/20	Increase on previous year	Increase per week
A	136.18	139.51	3.33	£0.06
B	158.88	162.77	3.89	£0.07
C	181.57	186.02	4.45	£0.09
D	204.27	209.27	5.00	£0.10
E	249.66	255.77	6.11	£0.12
F	295.06	302.28	7.22	£0.14
G	340.45	348.78	8.33	£0.16
H	408.54	418.54	10.00	£0.19

Approach to Savings

- Explore further partnership working
- Transformational & organisations efficiencies
- Better procurement
- Better use of assets
- Extra income from sales, fees and charges
- Explore commercial opportunities
- Establish reserves to use when needed in future

The Future?

Position should be clearer this time next year when the government has completed its reviews and given the Council its new funding levels

Your feedback

- This presentation will be placed on the Council's website www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk
- Councillors will meet on 7th March to consider the proposed increase
- Please use the feedback forms to let us know your views or email finance@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

For other authorities, Karen advised on percentage increases:-

Derbyshire County Council	3.99%
Police & Police Crime Commissioner	12.46%
Fire & Rescue Authority	1.98%
Average for Town & Parish Councils	5.6%
Derbyshire Dales District Council	2.45%
Overall average	4.7%

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

- Steve Edwards commented on the £400,000 savings over the next four years and if this already accounted for savings made by the transfer of the leisure service to Freedom Leisure.
- Karen Henriksen confirmed that the figures already included savings made through the leisure transfer.

THE X FACTOR

Ros Hession gave a presentation on standing for election at the 2 May 2019 Elections.

Being a Councillor – What’s it all about?

- Are you concerned about your local area?
- Do you want to represent the views of local people?
- Are you passionate about services provided to your community?
- Do you want to contribute to making a real difference in the communities of the Derbyshire Dales?

If yes, then Stand Up to the X Factor and consider being a Councillor.

Elections to the District Council and 70 of the town and parish councils in the Derbyshire Dales takes place on 2 May 2019.

What the job entails?

You could be the fresh new talent that your council is looking for:

- Representing your local area
- Community leadership
- Developing Council policy
- Planning and Regulation
- Thinking of what you can do for others

Skills

- Good listener
- Good communicator
- Analytical skills
- Quick thinker
- Objective
- Negotiator
- Working knowledge of IT

What (real) people say

- “You feel that you can have an impact on the big decisions affecting the Dales”
- “You can give your community a voice at a higher level”
- “On a personal level it can be a new life challenge”
- “Responding to concerns and queries from your residents is an important part of the role”
- “Visiting parish councils and other local organisations makes you feel really involved”
- “The more you put in the more you get out of the role”

Some frequently asked questions (and answers)

Who can be a councillor?

- Almost anyone as long as you are:
- Over 18, British, Commonwealth or European Union citizen
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election

You cannot be a councillor if you:

- Work for the council you want to be a councillor for
- Are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order
- Have been sentenced to prison for 3 months or more during the 5 years before election day

Can I be a Councillor and have a job?

- Yes. By law your employer must allow you to take reasonable time off. Discuss this with your employer before making a decision

I have a disability, can I be a councillor?

- Yes. Your council will work with you to overcome any barriers you may come across as a result of your disability

Will I get paid for being a councillor?

- Reimbursed allowance. District Councils have a scheme for special responsibilities. More information from your local council or through its website.

I don't have time.....

- How much time you spend as a councillor is largely up to you and will depend on the particular commitments you take on. As a rough guide a district councillor can expect to spend from 5 to 20 hours a week. A parish/town councillor can expect to spend about 3 hours a week.

What's the Next Step?

- Decide if you want to represent a political party or want to be independent?
- If you want to represent a political party get involved with your preferred party as soon as possible. Contact at the end.
- If you want to stand independently, start building your profile so that local people know who you are.
- Get up to speed on local issues and what your local council is doing – get ready to be challenged on the door step.
- Get a nomination pack download from www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk or call 01629 761335 (available from January 2019)

Key Dates

- 19 February Candidates Briefing to run through nomination process. 6.00pm Town Hall, Matlock
- 19 March 2019 – Notice of Election for District and Parish Council Elections
- 19 March through to 4.00pm 3 April (working days 10.00am – 4.00pm receipt of nominations)
- 4.00pm 3 April – close of nominations
- 9 April Candidates Briefing – run through of election do's and don'ts including the count procedure. 6.00pm Town Hall, Matlock

- 2 May – Election day if contested
- 2 May – 10.00pm Verification and Count for District Council Elections
- 3 May – 3.00pm Count for Town and Parish Council Elections

Key Contacts

Election Helpdesk

Tel. 01629 761335

Email: electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Website: www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk –

- Nomination packs including information, role profiles and nomination papers
- Parish and town council contacts

Electoral Commission

www.electoralcomission.org.uk –

- Guides for candidates and agents

Political Parties

To find out how to represent a political party please visit the following websites. Please note this list is not intended to be a complete list of all political parties:

Conservative: www.conservativecouncillors.com/become-councillor

Green Party: <https://register.greenparty.org.uk/>

Labour: www.labourcouncillor.org.uk

Liberal Democrat: www.bealibdemcouncillor.org.uk

UKIP: www.ukip.org.uk

Any technical questions or queries email electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

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

- Kath Potter had attended the 19th February candidates' briefing which she regarded as excellent.
- Ros advised that the Central Forum had been filmed and Sandra's presentation could be viewed on line.

<http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/your-council/news-and-publications/latest-news/2809-video-do-you-have-the-x-factor>

WASTE & RECYCLING CONTRACT UPDATE

Steve Capes gave an update on the waste & recycling contract.

Our challenge

To procure a waste and recycling contract that is affordable whilst meeting residents' needs and statutory recycling targets.

Progress so far

- Project Team formed
- Industry experts, procurement support and legal services appointed
- Discussions with other Local Authorities (joint working)
- Public Consultation

- Ward Member Briefings and Workshops
- Soft Market testing
 - Purchase of vehicles
 - Risk Share
 - Nature of the district
- Draft Specification (Report: 14 March 2019)

Resources and Waste Strategy

- Invoke the 'polluter pays' principle – ensuring that producers pay the full costs of disposal for packaging they place on the market
- Tougher penalties for waste criminals
- Mandatory separate weekly food waste collections (2003)
- Consultation to take place regarding chargeable green waste collections (no date set)
- Collection of textiles (no date set)

Recommendations

Waste and recycling service from August 2020 to have the following configuration:

- a) Weekly food waste collection typically in kerbside caddies [as now]
- b) Fortnightly collection of dry recyclable materials typically in 240 litre bins [as now]
- c) Chargeable fortnightly collection of garden waste typically in 240 litre bins
- d) Fortnightly collection of residual waste typically in 140 litre bins [as now]

Bidders will be asked for a method statement for introducing three weekly collection of residual waste from 2024, including:

- Free op-in weekly absorbent hygiene product collections and textiles collections
- Communication and education; such a variation only to be implemented if:
 - The District Council requests (with Member approval) the introduction
 - Numbers of properties on sack collections have been reduced, and
 - This variation generates financial savings to the Council

Detailed contract specification be brought to Council on 14 March 2019 for approval to tender

Other Requirements

- Properties will continue to have their bin(s) collected on the same day each week
- The separate weekly collection of food waste will continue
- The number of containers will remain the same*
- The new waste collection vehicles will have 'in-cab' technology (inc 360 degree cameras) to help verify and rectify missed bins promptly
- Ability for residents to pay online for green waste collection service, via a new quick and easy to use digital platform

*Possible introduction of textile sacks

Timeline

- December 2018 – February 2019: Specification for procurement
- 14 March 2019: Approval to procure
- April 2019 to January 2020: Procurement of new contract
- February 2020 to August 2020: Mobilisation of new contract
- August 2020: New contract starts August 2020

Communications Plan

- Plan to be drawn up for regular communications including:
- Dales MATTERS
- Website
- Social media
- YouTube videos and live broadcasts
- Press releases to community and news media
- E-newsletter
- Area Community Forums
- Town and Parish Councils
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Any introduction of three-weekly residual collections would involve additional communication, education and engagement (including home visits)

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

- Kath Potter asked how much the sale of soil improver contributed towards offsetting collection costs.
- Steve replied that it costs the District Council to collect and dispose of garden waste, but in turn it receives recycling credits from the County Council so it does balance out.
- Steve Edwards asked that if residual waste collections move to 3 weekly, will the bin sizes increase.
- Steve Capes answered that the bin sizes would not increase, but the idea was to increase recycling.
- Steve Edwards further asked if cat litter would qualify for the free opt-in weekly absorbent hygiene product & textiles collections
- Steve Capes explained that cat litter would not form part of this service (if it were to be introduced). He appreciated issues for cat owners, but further explained that surveys show that currently 25 – 30% of waste placed in residual bins is food waste which should be placed in the food caddies.
- In response to a further query from Steve Edwards about 3 weekly collections, Steve Capes explained that the contractors are not being asked to give a price for a three weekly collection, but rather to include it in their method statement as to how they could carry out this service.
- Steve Edwards asked if DDDC officers go out with contractors as part of the specification assessment.
- Steve Capes explained that a lot of work had been done with the current contractor who had admitted that some of the vehicles were originally unsuitable for the area. Making sure that the service works is a top priority.
- Henry Folkard feared that fly tipping may become an issue with waste being dumped in areas that we would wish to remain pristine. This in turn creates other issues and costs. He urged that the wider implications be considered.
- Steve Capes noted a good point. He added that the waste consultants don't believe the introduction of charging for garden waste will increase fly tipping. The

consultants are of the view that garden waste subscriptions may be low, but that the tonnage lost will be relatively small. These assumptions will be monitored.

- Kath Potter commented that Derbyshire County Council's Northwood Lane Recycling Centre is well used.
- Steve commented that use of the site for garden waste disposal may be an option for some.
- Martin Beer spoke of the disposal of recycled materials and asked if the District Council monitors what happens to the recyclables it collects.
- Steve noted a good point and, as a result of China and India no longer buying recyclables, the cost of recycling plastics was increasing. The government was trying to reduce the use of plastic through initiatives such as Polluter Pays.
- Pete Tapping had been told that DDDC did not take polystyrene in recycling bins.
- Steve undertook to check, acknowledging that polystyrene was a difficult material to deal with.

Post Meeting Note – Polystyrene cannot be taken in recycling and should go into the grey bin / black sack. Expanded polystyrene can be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre.

- Mr Tapping further noted Mr Gove's suggestion that all bins should be the same across the country.
- Steve noted the desire for consistency across the country, but that probably what was collected and its frequency more important.
- Jamie Ollerenshaw suggested that rather than garden waste being taken to Civic Amenity sites, campaigns be launched to educate and encourage home composting.
- Steve approved of this environmentally friendly approach and the District Council certainly endorsed home composting.

QUESTION TIME

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

Houses on land below Matlock Golf Club

Kath Potter asked:-

1. How many houses have been built on this land and what is the make-up / proportion of each type of housing / properties ie open market and affordable homes?
2. Are all the affordable homes occupied by local residents ie within a radius normally accepted by the DDDC Planning department?
3. Have any been distributed to people outside the accepted radius and if so how many?

The following response has been supplied by Rob Cogings, Head of Housing

1. All 58 properties have been completed, 50 of these were for affordable rent and shared ownership. 8 were for market sale. However there was some government funding available at the end of 2017/18 and we subsequently worked with Waterloo to buy the 8 and provide them as affordable homes.

2. The site is not an exception site and so lettings can take place to residents with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales. DDDC's Planning department does not have any involvement in this scheme. The allocations were made under the Home-Options allocation policy administered by DDDC Housing Team and Waterloo Housing Association.

In summary local connection is determined as:

You may have a local connection to an area if:

- you have lived in the area for the last six months or more
- you have had permanent (not seasonal or temporary) employment in an area for the last six months or more
- you have previously lived in an area for three out of the last five years
- you need to move to the area to give or receive support (the person to whom you will be providing support to, or receiving support from, must have lived in the area for five years
- you have been accepted as homeless by one of the Home-Options partners.

You may also be awarded a local connection if you would normally live in the Home-Options area but currently have to live away because you are:

- a student
- serving in the armed forces
- in prison
- receiving specialist medical treatment.

You can also be awarded a local connection if you are vulnerable due to a learning disability and need to move to access day centres, volunteering opportunities or be-friending groups.

Enthovens – noise nuisance

- In response to Kath Potter advising of a letter which the District Council may receive regarding noise emanating from Enthovens, Tim advised that the Environment Agency now dealt with this issue.

Gulls in Bakewell

- Steve Edwards noted the sudden increase in gulls in Bakewell and asked what the District Council could do to deter them - Tim Braund undertook to look into the issue.

Post Meeting Note – Tim does not believe the gulls are nesting in Bakewell, so removing eggs is probably out of the question, but the issue seems to be accessibility of food. There are a number of deterrent options (if we think there is a real problem) – Tim has emailed Ashley Watts, Head of Community & Environmental Services, who has responsibility for pest control.

Leisure Facilities

- Steve Edwards applauded the successful transfer of Leisure Services to Freedom Leisure, but had 2 comments:-
- He asked for an update on the air conditioning system at Arc Leisure Matlock and believed that it may not be replaced.

Post Meeting Note - Rob Wilks (Community Devolvment Manager) advises that Freedom Leisure, the District Council and contractor are working to resolve the issues.

- Steve secondly commented on a general deterioration of standards at Arc such as empty paper towel dispensers & overflowing bins. He had raised with the Duty Manager.

Post Meeting Note – The Manager of Arc Leisure Matlock has also been contacted about both matters. He will address the paper towel and overflowing bin issues with the relevant staff.

- Steve also noted that the current improvement works at Arc are being well managed with no disruption to classes.

Police attendance at Forums

- Henry Folkard noted the 12% increase in the police element of Council Tax and requested a future presentation by the Rural Crime Team.
- Councillor Rose explained that Councillor Garry Purdy was a District Council representative on the Police Crime Commission Panel and that the intention was to have an increase in police ‘on the beat’.
- Councillor Rose acknowledged a good idea which would be noted for a future Forum.

Grass surfaced car park next to the road to the ABC, Bakewell

- George Challenger said he had previously raised this issue with regard to car park surfacing which was muddy for much of the year - a poor welcome for visitors to Bakewell he considered.
- He said that we were told at the last meeting that £40,000 had been spent on repairs and he thought that was ‘throwing good money after bad’ and that other grass surface car park systems are more fit for purpose.

Post Meeting Note – Helen Carrington (Parks & Street Scene Officer) - The current project is to carry out the repairs as required to the car park to be undertaken for the summer season subject to compliance with procurement rules. The Council has worked hard to produce a car park that complies with the planning restrictions (i.e. that it has to be grass – not tarmac or concrete), the site conditions (i.e. that it is not much higher than the river) and budget constraints.

- The Council has recently invested in new signage and chains to restrict access to the grass and to encourage the use of the rear car park area that provides over 200 marked spaces on tarmac that are under-utilized.

CONCLUSION AND THANKS

Councillor Froggatt thanked everyone for their participation.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm