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Notes of the Southern Area Community Forum held on 12 February 2019 at 7.00 pm at Hulland Ward & District Millennium Village Hall

PRESENT

Derbyshire Dales District Council	<p>Councillor Sue Bull (In the Chair) Councillor Richard Bright Councillor Albert Catt Councillor Tom Donnelly Councillor Dermott Murphy Councillor Lewis Rose OBE</p> <p>Paul Wilson (Chief Executive) Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources) Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services) Ashley Watts (Head of Community & Environmental Services) Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services) Ros Hession (Community Engagement Officer)</p>
Members of the Public	
AshCom	Jeffrey Phillips
Clifton Parish Council	Bob Nicholson
Hulland Ward Parish Council	Peter Birkbeck
Osmaston & Yeldersley	John Hall, John Naylor
	Robert Archer, P Dobbs, Fiona Hadfield, Robin Shirtcliffe, Saskia Tallis plus one other
	11 in total

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL – GOOD NEWS

Paul Wilson 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 businesses 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

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.

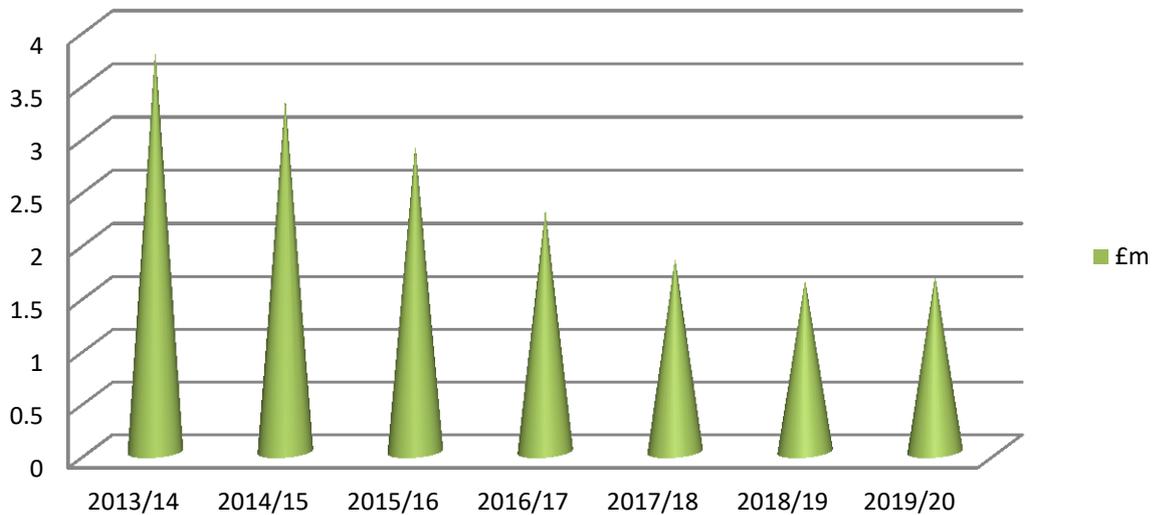
Local Government Finance Settlement

	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	9,461	9,812	9,971	10,053	10,233
Council tax income	-5,951	-6,015	-6,197	-6,374	-6,556	-6,743
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	-10,134	-9,503	-9,640	-9,807	-9,872
To waste contract fluctuations reserve	212	300	0	0	0	0
To funding uncertainty reserve	0	421	0	0	0	0
Other reserves	0	-48	112	112	112	20
Savings to be achieved	0	0	421	443	358	381

Council Tax Increase for 2019/20: The Options

	Proposed Council Tax for 2019/20	Increase %	Increase £ per year	Increase £ per week	Savings Target
Option A: Increase Band D council tax by £5	£209.27	2.45%	£5.00	£0.10	£372,000
Option B: Increase band D council tax by 1.94%	£208.23	1.94%	£3.96	£0.08	£400,000
Option C: No increase	£204.27	0%	£0.00	£0.00	£527,000

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

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

- Jeffery Phillips noted the growth in business rates over the last 5 years believing the figure to be a modest estimation of revenue in view of business development on sites such as Ashbourne Airfield Industrial Estate.
- Karen explained that a cautionary approach had been taken. At the moment it is not yet confirmed what percentage of business rates the District Council will be able to retain. This year is a 50% split as part of the pilot project and next year will be 40%. The Economic Development Team have looked at figures, but need more certainty to make an informed prediction.

- A member of the public noted the 53%, £3.7 million 4 year capital programme funding for affordable housing and asked what his would be spent on.
- Karen replied that some funds would be towards disabled facilities grants and the rest would be invested into new homes schemes.
- In response to queries about Section 106 agreements, Tim Braund explained that this is an amount agreed in a legal agreement. Funds are not received until work commences on site and the monies will be spent in the Local Planning area, not necessarily in a specific town or village.
- A member of the public asked, in view of central government's funding reductions over the last 5 or 6 years, has the District Council had to dip into its reserves?
- Karen explained that the District Council has several allocated reserves for specific expenditure such as vehicle replacements and elections. Reserves are used as required and generally remain at a certain level.

THE X FACTOR

Sandra Lamb 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 therefore 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 year 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

WASTE & RECYCLING CONTRACT UPDATE

Ashley Watts 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:

- Representatives from Osmaston & Yeldersley were keen to know of any plans to reduce the number of properties that currently receive a sack collection.
- Ashley reported that the aim was to reduce the number of properties on sack collections. An assessment is required on each property to check vehicular and crew access.
- In response to queries about the proposed garden waste collection, Ashley explained that the intention was for an online ordering facility for an annual subscription with collections taking place almost all year round. He appreciated that the service may not be suitable for everyone.
- Robin Shirtcliffe asked about the impact of residents not subscribing to the garden waste service.
- Ashley explained that the contract specification included financial modelling, based on an average take up of a similar area, at around 33%.
- For those not subscribing to the service, there were options to take garden waste to household recycling sites or compost at home.
- There was no current evidence to support any increase in fly tipping in areas where garden waste charges had been introduced.
- Mr Shirtcliffe further asked if some recycling was not recycled due to contamination.
- Ashley reported that the current contract is quite tight with financial measures and penalties in place. The local authority will be made aware if contaminated waste is taken to the recycling site.
- Derbyshire Dales District Council prides itself on having one of the highest recycling rates in the country.
- Jeffery Phillips asked how 'polluter pays' would affect Derbyshire Dales District Council.
- Ashley advised that the details were not fully confirmed, but the suggestion is that central government would place a levy on businesses and producers who do not

comply. Local authorities were unlikely to see any direct financial benefit, but reduced disposal costs were anticipated.

QUESTION TIME

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

Traffic Speed

- Peter Birkbeck raised concerns about the speed of traffic through Hulland Ward and asked how speed check operations could be organised.
- Councillor Bull had attended a meeting 11th February with the Deputy Police Crime Commissioner – the police were trying to encourage volunteers to be proactive on initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch and Speed Watch. Unfortunately resources were stretched with only one PC and 3 PCSOs for the area, but the police were prepared to work with other groups.
- Ashley added that the District Council had no funds to support, but working with the Safer Neighbourhood Team seemed to be a way to take this forward.

Post Meeting Note – Mr Birkbeck has been supplied with details of the relevant Safer Neighbourhood Team and Police Service Volunteers.

Planning Applications

- A representative from Osmaston & Yeldersley noted difficulties accessing documents relating to planning proposals at the Airfield Industrial Estate.
- Paul Wilson explained that this was a Derbyshire County Council application for a highways scheme and was accessed via the County Council portal so may have a different feel to the District Council planning portal.
- Councillor Bull noted access to Variation of Conditions planning applications where the original documents are no longer accessible on the District Council website.
- Tim Braund noted the comments and that the process was currently reviewed.

CONCLUSION AND THANKS

Councillor Bull thanked everyone for their participation.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm