



# meeting notes

**Title:** Ilkeston and North Community Forum

**Date:** Tuesday 17 September 2013

**Venue:** Gladstone Lodge, Market Street, Ilkeston

**Apologies:** Rita and Eric Leverton; Councillor Carol Hart.

No.	Subject	Action / Lead Officer
1	<p><b>Welcome from the Chair (Lew Hall)</b> Lew Hall (LH) welcomed everyone to the meeting and politely reminded everyone that they needed to raise their questions through the Chair.</p>	
2	<p><b>Matters arising from the previous meeting</b></p>	
2.1	<p><i>Statement from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Green Space Strategy (item 5.3)</u> A resident stated that he had contacted Dave Bramwell (<i>Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council</i>) with a copy of the strategy.</p>	
2.2	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Living wage (item 5.4)</u> Is there any update on this item?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I spoke with someone from our Personnel team today and there has been no decision taken regarding the 'living wage' to date.</p> <p><i>Resident:</i> Can this item please be kept on the agenda for future meetings?</p>	<p>Ian Marsden to ensure that any further information regarding the introduction of the 'living wage' at Erewash Borough Council is communicated to the Forum.</p>
2.3	<p><i>Question from Councillor Dawson:</i></p> <p><u>Nuisance motorbikes (item 5.5)</u> Has the number of incidents of nuisance motorbikes now decreased since the children started their new school year?</p> <p><i>Inspector Nick Daines, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> Yes they have reduced, but this may be due to the weather</p>	

	becoming more inclement following a hot summer and the night's drawing in just as much as it relates to the children going back to school.	
2.4	<p><i>Statement from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Trainers hanging from telephone wires (item 5.1)</u> I'd like to pass my thanks on to Scott Cartledge (<i>Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council</i>) for getting the trainers removed. This was done very quickly following the meeting. Great work.</p>	
3	<b>Questions for Officers</b>	
3.1	<p>Prior to the 'question and answer' session the Chair invited <u>Tony Buck, Secretary, Ilkeston Tennis Club</u> to say a few words regarding <u>Disability Tennis</u>.</p> <p>We need to identify people in the Erewash borough who would benefit from taking part in 'disability tennis', either children or adults. There may be particular community groups or clubs whose members may benefit. We are planning on running sessions in the October half term holiday (as a taster session) with further sessions planned for January 2014.</p> <p>For further details contact <a href="mailto:anthony.buck@ntlworld.com">anthony.buck@ntlworld.com</a> / 07821 038382.</p>	
3.2	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Derbyshire County Council budget cut</u> The coalition government are going to cut Derbyshire County Council's budget by £157 million over the next five years. Could someone tell me how they are going to provide, protect and deliver services to the most vulnerable in our society? We, the residents of Derbyshire, cannot accept such an outrageous attack on our services by the coalition government. What do you suggest we do to stop this outrageous attack?</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> I will take your comments back to the County Council and seek a response.</p>	Paul Jameson to seek a response from Derbyshire County Council.
3.3	<p><i>Resident:</i></p> <p><u>The Mayor</u> With reference to the question raised at the previous meeting in July will Erewash Borough Council consider the following; a) a request for a local referendum for deciding if a mayor is wanted or not; b) value for money is to be questioned as the previous mayor was a farce in her role as chair of council meetings.</p> <p><i>Inspector Nick Daines, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> Is the role of the mayor being considered as part of the Boundary</p>	

Commission's current review?

*Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:*

The Boundary Commission's review does not include a review of the role of the mayor.

The reason for the review is that each councillor is meant to represent approximately the same number of electors. For Erewash this is approximately 1,900 electors per councillor. With changes in population some ward areas have too many electors per councillor and some have too few. The Boundary Commission have therefore called a review to try and get the numbers back in line.

There are two main parts to the Boundary Commission Review:

- Deciding how many councillors we will have from 2015;
- Deciding what the ward boundaries will be from 2015.

We currently have 51 councillors. It is highly likely that the number of councillors will be reduced following this review. The Conservative and Labour groups each submitted a suggestion to the Boundary Commission of what they think the number of councillors should be. They have made these calculations based on population projections and likely councillor workload.

Consultation with residents and stakeholders on the 'council size' took place between 4 June and 16 July 2013. The Boundary Commission organised this consultation and ran it via their website. The decision on the 'council size' (number of councillors) was made by the Boundary Commission on 13 August following their analysis of the feedback received. They have decided that a more appropriate number of councillors for Erewash is 47.

The second stage of reviewing the 'warding patterns' began on 3 September and will finish on 11 November. Again, the Conservative and Labour groups will submit their own suggestions for where the new ward boundaries should be. Consultation with residents and stakeholders on the 'warding patterns' is currently taking place. The Boundary Commission has again organised this consultation via their website ([www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)) and residents can record their views there.

I am not aware of how a referendum on the role of the mayor would work but I will seek a response.

*Lorraine Poyser, Assistant Chief Executive, Erewash Borough Council:*

It needs to be remembered that the mayor also supports a lot of charitable organisations and attends local community groups and schools throughout the year and in doing so helps to raise the profile and the funds of a lot of these organisations. There is a much bigger picture than the cost stated in the previous meeting notes and the council receives many positive letters, thanks and compliments from organisations in relation to the mayor's work.

Ian Marsden to seek a response on how a referendum on the role of the mayor would operate.

*Resident #1:*

I think the mayor's role is a complete waste of money. I think the money it costs could be spent more wisely. I will look to write in to the council to this effect.

*Resident #2:*

I have lived in Erewash for seven years. I still don't know what the mayor does. We are in times of financial cutbacks.

*Resident #3:*

We need to keep some traditions. The mayor is one such tradition.

*Councillor Frudd:*

Every borough council has a mayor. The people of Ilkeston are particularly proud of their mayor. The mayor does champion and further a lot of charities.

*Councillor Birkin:*

The people of Ilkeston are very proud of the tradition of the mayor. It would still cost a lot if you had a council chairman performing the same task as the mayor.

*Resident #4:*

The removal of the mayoral role would also lead to some people losing their jobs, those that support the mayor.

*Resident #5:*

I think that once the people realise the level of financial cuts affecting local councils then they may think differently.

*Councillor Dawson:*

Going back to the subject of the Boundary Review the Boundary Commission is also asking what the new wards should be called. If you feel that, for example, Abbotsford Ward should be called Shipley View then this is your chance to state this.

*Councillor Frudd:*

It should be noted that the number of councillors per ward are to be based purely on the number of electorate within that ward. The calculation does not take into account the demands of one ward versus another.

*Response from Andrew Sharpe, Head of Democratic Services, Erewash Borough Council on 23/09/13:*

The Borough status is granted by Charter and allows the borough council to elect a Civic Mayor. The role of the Civic Mayor is a matter for the borough council as is the use of the civic regalia and from time to time the council has considered the Civic role including value for money and confirmed its commitment to the Mayorality. There are no provisions for requesting a referendum or plans to review the role in the near future.

3.4

*Question from resident:*

Erewash Jobs Fair

After attending the recent Erewash Jobs Fair I was appalled by the lack of real jobs on offer from the exhibitors there. There were just a collection of mainly temporary jobs with poor wages, terms and conditions, plus agency jobs including a discredited loan company. Will Erewash Borough Council commission a survey of employers in Erewash to establish the ones that are employing people on zero-hours contracts and the salaries on offer?

*Lorraine Poyser, Assistant Chief Executive, Erewash Borough Council:*

There were more jobs on offer at this year's jobs fair than last years. In terms of your question, other organisations such as the Job Centre Plus may have this information. We will seek this information from them. We don't have the resources to do this type of audit ourselves.

*There then followed a general debate between a number of residents regarding the availability of jobs and presence of zero-hours contracts.*

Further action

*Ian Marsden e-mailed the Job Centre Plus on 18/09/13 to see if they held any information regarding the number of Erewash residents working with zero-hours contracts.*

*A representative of the Job Centre Plus responded via e-mail on 23/09/13 to state that such information was not held by them. It was recommended that Erewash Partnership be contacted to see if they held the information.*

*Ian Marsden e-mailed the Erewash Partnership on 23/09/13 to see if they held any information regarding the number of Erewash residents working with zero-hours contracts. The Partnership responded on 24/09/13 stating that they would investigate but thought it unlikely that they would hold such data.*

*Further information from Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council on 26/09/13:*

A search of the internet shows that data regarding zero-hours contracts is scarce.

The Office for National Statistics issued the following press release on 22/08/13:

*"The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has announced plans for an additional regular estimate of the number of 'zero hours' employment contracts in the UK workforce.*

*From autumn 2013, one of ONS's large-scale monthly business surveys will include some questions on zero-hours contracts so as to obtain robust data directly from employers. These will be*

Erewash Borough Council to seek zero hours contracts information from Job Centre Plus.

*asked on a quarterly basis with the first results expected to be published in early 2014.*

*To ensure that users' needs are met, ONS will undertake a short consultation exercise in September 2013 to clarify data requirements.*

*The current estimate is based on an ad hoc analysis of employee responses collected in the regular Labour Force Survey (LFS). While the LFS is the largest household survey of any kind conducted in the UK, this question depends on employees knowing and correctly reporting their terms of employment.*

*Glen Watson, Director General of the ONS, said "we have followed the debate on zero-hours contracts and there is a clear need for better statistics. The best way to gather the information needed is to ask employers rather than individual employees. They are best placed to provide accurate information about the employment terms of their workforce."*

In terms of the data currently collected via the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the following key facts about zero-hours contracts were compiled at the end of 2012:

- 250,000 – the number of people currently employed on zero-hours contracts in the UK – 0.8% of the workforce. There were 89,000 people on similar contracts in 2004.
- 70% of people on zero-hours contracts are in permanent jobs.
- 26% of people on zero-hours contracts want longer hours.
- Almost a quarter of zero-hours contract workers are full-time students.
- More than 80% of people on zero-hours contracts are not looking for another job.
- Zero-hours contracts by industry - top 3:
  - Hotels and restaurants – 19% of all companies in this sector use them.
  - Health – 13%.
  - Education – 10%.
- Zero-hours contracts by occupation level:
  - Elementary (basic) – 22%.
  - Caring / Leisure – 20%.
  - Customer Service – 16%.
  - Professionals – 11%.
  - Associate / Technical – 8%.
  - Skilled Trades – 8%.
  - Administrative – 7%.
  - Machine Operatives – 5%.
  - Managers / Directors – 2%.

<p>3.5</p>	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>The availability of the PCSO</u> We have not seen our PSCO for ages since her job has transferred over the police. What's going to happen in the future?</p> <p><i>Inspector Nick Daines, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> I presume you're talking about PCSO Jen Hobson who was an extremely capable PCSO. It is good news that she's been retained as she'll be a very effective police officer. PCSO Batchelor has now left the organisation for personal reasons so we have two PCSO posts currently not filled. PC Simon Doar can't fill the boots of three people as hard as he tries. Derbyshire Constabulary have limited recruitment and I am lobbying hard for some of the money for recruitment to be allocated to us. I want at least one PCSO position replaced and I want to put other measures in place to fill that void. Unfortunately it takes time to introduce a new PCSO as you have to train them before they are deployed. I apologise that we've not had the police officer / PCSO visibility that we would've liked.</p>	
<p>3.6</p>	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Dangerous parking</u> Can incidents of dangerous parking be looked at by the police?</p> <p><i>Inspector Nick Daines, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> Dangerous parking is an offence. However, contravening double yellow lines / no waiting was decriminalised and given to the local authority to enforce; however, it must be noted that in respect of dangerous parking what the police can get through a court to say what is dangerous parking is not necessarily the same as what members of the public think is dangerous parking.</p> <p><i>Resident:</i> Would it be possible that, when a police officer / PCSO is passing a vehicle that they consider to have been parked dangerously, they could place a sticker on the vehicle highlighting this?</p> <p><i>Sergeant John Troup, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> We used to use stickers in this way. However to use stickers this way today would mean we would be threatening someone with action that the police can't take.</p> <p><i>Resident:</i> Pelham Street has particular issues with dangerous parking. The problem is that the vehicles tend to only be there for ten minutes at a time so they'd be difficult to catch.</p> <p><i>Inspector Nick Daines, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> There is a difference between what constitutes a danger and what constitutes an obstruction. If there are particular locations that, in your opinion, have a lot of incidents of dangerous parking then please let Scott Cartledge (<i>Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council</i>) know and he can deploy</p>	

	his wardens to those areas to monitor the situation.	
3.7	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Parking at Shipley Country Park</u>  I am a regular user of Shipley Country Park. In past years the car park has had an 'honesty box' where motorists could make a donation when parking their car. I would always put a pound in. The new car park ticket machines were vandalised recently. A sign on the damaged machines said that parking tickets should be obtained from the café. On my last visit there I purchased my ticket from the café at 11:20am and forgot to display it in my car (we stayed in the café for lunch). I returned to my car to find that I'd got a parking fine. The timing of the parking fine ticket was not long after I'd purchased my actual ticket and I question whether I would've got back to my car in time from the café anyway. I appealed the fine but still sent off the £25 cheque as I feared that my fine would increase if I didn't pay straight away. I got a letter back from Derbyshire County Council stating that I had not parked correctly. There was no notification of what I could do after this. Why am I paying for someone's vandalism of the parking meter? My visit was to take a poorly friend out for something to eat.</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i>  The Civil Enforcement Officers allow a grace period. This is from the time that your vehicle is logged in to their handheld to the time they issue a Penalty Charge Notice, in this case for not displaying a ticket. If you've not gone back within the grace period time then they will issue the fine.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i>  I think what were challenging here is the lack of compassion shown by Derbyshire County Council.</p> <p><i>Councillor Frudd:</i>  The resident has a valid point in that the current arrangement is far from ideal. I hope the machine can be fixed as soon as possible. It is worth Councillor Birkin and me asking at county what the future arrangements are going to be.</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i>  I can take the issue back to James Adams at Derbyshire County Council to see if an appeal can be made.</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i>  You were not notified of the appeals process because you made the notice payment. Payment of the notice illustrated that you agreed with the fine being issued. The paperwork issued to you would have stated that, if you wished to appeal the notice, then payment should not be made. A notice amount will not be increased during an appeals process.</p>	<p>Councillors Birkin and Frudd to seek clarification on future arrangements at the park from Derbyshire County Council.</p> <p>Paul Jameson to check with Derbyshire County Council to see if an appeal can be lodged.</p>



3.8	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Speed of cars on Stanton Road, Ilkeston</u> Can anyone sort out the race track that is Stanton Road? The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) to alert drivers to their car exceeding the 30mph speed limit has been removed. Why?</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I seem to think that it's a mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and it moves between three to four sites across the Erewash borough.</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> It will come back to Stanton Road again at some future point.</p>	
3.9	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Noise from car exhausts</u> Is there a law about modifying exhausts on cars? A car owner on our street has a very loud exhaust that we can hear above the sound of the television. It even wakes up one of our elderly neighbours. We've spoken to the person about it and we have been verbally abused.</p> <p><i>Inspector Nick Daines, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> There are rules about certain decibel levels.</p> <p><i>Sergeant John Troup, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> There are so many car exhaust modifications that can be bought that are perfectly legal. It would be unlikely that a patrol officer would have the necessary knowledge about car exhaust modifications to challenge someone on whether they were breaking the law. If there is a specific person in mind then please see me at the end of the meeting and we can have a word with him or her. We can make the local officer aware of the issue. If the issue continues we can then pass it on to one of our traffic colleagues to take further.</p> <p><i>Resident #2:</i> Go to the Environmental Health team at Erewash Borough Council and ask for a sound level meter to be installed inside your property to monitor the decibel levels.</p>	
3.10	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Broken lights on Bath Street and South Street, Ilkeston</u> There are 27 lights not working along these two roads. I reported this to Derbyshire County Council on 29 July 2013 and still nothing has been done to fix them.</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> The county council has quite a backlog of lighting repair work to complete. From the date of a required repair being reported it</p>	

	<p>tends to be completed within three months. These columns should therefore be fixed within the next month.</p>	
<p>3.11</p>	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Maintenance of guttering</u>  The clearance of guttering on properties in Bath Street and the Market Place took place on one day and lasted just one hour. The main buildings still have problems, with some still spilling rainwater. I'm told that the cherry picker hired for this task cost £2,000 per day to hire. Surely such equipment can be hired cheaper than this?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i>  I will seek clarification on the cost.</p> <p><i>Councillor Birkin:</i>  Absentee landlords are one of the main causes of such property maintenance issues.</p> <p><i>Resident #2:</i>  The old Wigfalls building has these problems, along with the Chambers pet store. It has trees growing out of it.</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i>  We will request that our Building Control team investigate these two properties to see what works are required.</p> <p><i>Response from Simon Powell, Economic Development Officer, Erewash Borough Council on 23/09/13:</i>  Erewash Borough Council offered a free gutter maintenance service to all retail and commercial properties within the pedestrianised areas of the Market Place and Bath Street as part of a wider scheme to regenerate Ilkeston town centre. Some weeks prior to the event flyers promoting this offer were hand delivered to each property within the area. Additionally, the council wrote to the owners or agents of all vacant shops within the area to offer the service for their properties.</p> <p>Nine properties took up the invitation, with the work taking place between 8.00am and 4.00pm on Wednesday 21 August 2013. The work was carried out by an Ilkeston based company - Alpha Partnership (UK) Ltd - at a total net cost of £756.00, or £84.00 per property. This included £300.00 for hire of the cherry picker used by the contractors.</p> <p>The council is aware that, following the event, there are still properties in the area that require maintenance or clearing of their gutters. However, the owners/tenants of these properties did not respond to the council's invitation to carry out the work free of charge. Without receiving the owners' permission for the work to be carried out the council and its contractors were, unfortunately, unable to undertake any cleaning or repairs to the properties in question.</p>	<p>Ian Marsden to seek clarification on the cost of hiring the cherry picker.</p> <p>Ian Marsden to contact the Building Control team.</p>

	<p>The council has allocated funds to hold another gutter maintenance event in Ilkeston town centre next year and will once again extend the offer to owners of properties with damaged or blocked gutters to encourage their participation. In the meantime, if members of the public are concerned that a building's damaged guttering is becoming dangerous (e.g. if there is a clear risk that passers-by could be injured by falling sections of guttering etc.) then they are advised to contact the council's Building Control section.</p>	
3.12	<p>The Chair closed the meeting at 8:05pm.</p>	
	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b> Thursday 16 January 2014, 7:00pm. Gladstone Lodge, Market Street, Ilkeston, DE7 5RB.</p>	