



meeting notes

Title:	Long Eaton and South Community Forum
Date:	Thursday 19 February 2015
Venue:	Long Eaton Town Hall
Apologies:	Richard Chamberlain; Roy Smith; Sergeant Liam Caldecott; Councillor Steve Bilbie; Philip Wright.

No.	Subject	Action / Lead Officer
1	Welcome from the Chair (Mike Powell) Mike Powell (MP) welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	Derbyshire Constabulary proposals	
2.1	MP introduced Alan Charles, Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire (AC) and Superintendent Gary Parkin (GP) of Derbyshire Constabulary to provide an overview to the proposed changes to policing arrangements within Erewash.	
2.2	AC opened by stating that parallels could be drawn between the financial situation of Derbyshire Constabulary and local authorities in that budget support from central government is being cut. £20 million has been cut in the past five years and internal changes have accommodated this (e.g. reorganising policing divisions). A further £26 million now needs to be saved over the next five years. This required saving will have an impact on police services.	
2.3	Derbyshire Constabulary have completed an internal priority based budget exercise, to see how the best police service can be delivered with the number of police officers remaining constant wherever possible. This approach assesses the need for various elements of the policing service and, if they are needed, could they be done differently?	
2.4	For example, one change is regarding police vehicles. Those vehicles being driven to non-emergency routine appointments will now have a downgraded specification, i.e. still be badged but not carry blue lights.	
2.5	In discussions with AC the Derbyshire Chief Constable Mick Creedon has stated that he can deliver the current police service without needing 58 police buildings currently in operation. AC asked for the proposed policing plan for each area to have assurances that the police service can still be delivered effectively.	

2.6	The use of police buildings can be looked at in regards to two classifications of police officers; those associated with Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) and the 'reactive' officers.	
2.7	The process will impact minimally on SNT officers. It may alter where they are based. For example, in Bakewell, the officers are to now share a building with the ambulance service. Before any local police building is closed an assessment will be made of the locality to see where the SNT can be adequately rehoused.	
2.8	By closing the 58 buildings Derbyshire Constabulary will save £700,000 in revenue costs per year. Long Eaton Police Station is scheduled to close in 2017-18. The possibility of police officers being based at Long Eaton Town Hall from this time is already being discussed.	
2.9	AC then passed to Superintendent Gary Parkin (GP) to talk about the responsive police work. GP explained that every police officer will, in approximately two years' time, have an iPad / smartphone which will allow them remote access to police systems. A new generation of radios at this time will also enhance the ability to work remotely from a building.	
2.10	MP invited questions from the meetings attendees. Councillor Holbrook expressed concern at the time taken to transport an arrested person to Ripley police headquarters, and the fact that this has to be completed by two officers. GP explained that two officers are often required for safety reasons. Once the person has been detained at Ripley, one of the officers returns back to the streets as soon as possible. The other will typically remain to complete necessary paperwork.	
2.11	<i>Resident:</i> Will there always be reactive officers in Long Eaton? <i>GP:</i> Yes	
2.12	<i>Resident:</i> What do you define as 'quality policing'? <i>GP:</i> It's in terms of what the public think of us; their trust and confidence in us, and their satisfaction with us. <i>AC:</i> Policing is about far more than crime, for example dealing with road traffic accidents, missing persons, etc.	
2.13	<i>Resident:</i> If you are reducing policing in the area, how can you send large numbers of police to anti-fracking sites? There will be protests in this local area on this issue in the near future.	

	<p><i>AC:</i> The police's role in marches has to be neutral. The British public have a right to protest peacefully. There has to be an assessment of the level of police attendance that is required. If an event was considered to be over-policed I would take up the issue with the Chief Constable.</p>	
2.14	<p><i>Councillor Athwal:</i> How do you prioritise which victim of a crime is attended to first? Who makes that judgement?</p> <p><i>GP:</i> Our Ripley contact centre typically receives 800 to 900 calls per day. The people answering the calls use their professional judgement to prioritise a call ('emergency', 'immediate' or 'problem solving'.). This judgement is often based on the vulnerability of that individual.</p>	
2.15	<p><i>Councillor Athwal:</i> How long will it take someone to respond to an emergency call? What is the target response time?</p> <p><i>GP:</i> That's a hard question for me to answer because it depends where the officers are located within the community at that time relative to the location of the incident. The officers would be dispatched straight away.</p>	
2.16	<p><i>Resident:</i> Do you think that with some police vehicles looking less like police vehicles, and the police station closing, that the fear of crime may increase for some members of the community?</p> <p><i>GP:</i> Statistics show that crime has reduced greatly over the past ten years, but the perception of crime still has to be managed. We have to be consistent with our positive messages about how we are tackling crime.</p>	
2.17	<p><i>Resident:</i> What has happened to all the CCTV equipment?</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> The CCTV system has just been upgraded. As stated previously, it will be a number of years before Long Eaton Police Station is closed. The CCTV centre will in all probability be rehoused somewhere within Long Eaton.</p> <p><i>Resident:</i> Will CCTV cameras be extended beyond Long Eaton?</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> There are no plans for additional cameras. Mobile CCTV cameras are available.</p>	

2.18	<p><i>Resident:</i> Does the police helicopter provide good value for money?</p> <p><i>AC:</i> The police helicopter is now provided via a national scheme. This national scheme is facing a 14% budget cut. There are currently two helicopters based at Ripley.</p> <p><i>GP:</i> The helicopter is expensive but it is successful. It is a good way of finding missing persons, and being used in pursuits. It is value for money in protecting the vulnerable.</p>	
2.19	<p><i>Resident:</i> I have worked at Long Eaton Police Station since 1986. Many years' ago the traffic office was closed there and we were told it would not make a difference. I believe it has made a difference as the response times to incidents are slower. I am concerned that response times will slow down because of this change too.</p> <p>I am also concerned with the perception in the community that there will be a lack of police presence. As Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire you should protest with central government in the strongest terms.</p> <p><i>AC:</i> The only way that I can raise money is by increasing the police precept in the Council Tax bill. If I proposed an increase of over 2% I would need to hold a referendum which would cost a total of £1.5 million to complete.</p>	
2.20	<p><i>Resident:</i> Could the police be located at Long Eaton fire station?</p> <p><i>AC:</i> Whatever location is chosen for the SNTs will not include a public enquiry desk. I am keen to work with the other blue lights, and I'm sure we'll find a suitable solution for Long Eaton's SNTs.</p>	
2.21	<p><i>MP:</i> Where could the public go to show documents or deliver lost property?</p> <p><i>GP:</i> There are less instances where such action is required now due to technology.</p> <p><i>AC:</i> For lost property, people could still visit the SNT base or arrange for an officer to pick the item up from them.</p>	
2.22	<p><i>Councillor Hosker:</i> In 2013 it was proposed that 21 fire stations were to close as a result of a £5 million cut in funding. The Fire Authority found other ways of making the savings and in March 2014 it was announced that no Derbyshire fire stations will be closed for at least two years. We now have an agreement with East Midlands Ambulance Service to share services with them.</p>	
2.23	<p>MP called the discussion to a close due to a limit on the time available for</p>	

	<p>the remainder of the meeting. As a final question he asked what the consultation process was in respect of the proposals. AC confirmed that there is no consultation process and that the final decision has been made regarding the 58 police buildings.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Updates from officers and the Chair</p>	
<p>3.1</p>	<p><u>Leopold Street</u></p> <p>MP invited Paul Jameson (PJ), Local Area Forum Liaison Officer for Derbyshire County Council, to provide an update on the decision made in respect of access via the gates between Leopold Street and West Park.</p> <p>PJ confirmed that Derbyshire County Council had carried out an investigation regarding the path at the end of Leopold Street, leading on to West Park, and gathered evidence to ascertain whether a claim could be made to have the path added as a Public Right of Way. Following the conclusion of investigations a decision was made to propose that the footpath be claimed as a Right of Way. Objections were received during the subsequent consultation and the matter was then passed to the Planning Inspectorate for a decision.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate hosted a hearing on 2 December 2014 at Long Eaton Town Hall. On 16 January 2015 The Planning Inspectorate decided not to confirm the Order, finding that any use of the route by pedestrians was permissive and that use by the public with bicycles was insufficient to raise a presumption of dedication of the way as a Public Right of Way.</p> <p><i>At the conclusion of the meeting a resident spoke of a “deception” that had taken place during the Planning Inspectorate’s hearing. It was alleged by the resident that the reason for the gate being closed was not due to acts of anti-social behaviour in the vicinity, as had always been thought, but that a regular monetary payment had not been made in relation to paying someone to keep the gate open. The resident argued that some local councillors must have been aware of this situation and queried why nothing had been done about it.</i></p>	
<p>3.2</p>	<p><u>School Crossing Patrols</u></p> <p>MP invited PJ to provide an update.</p> <p>On 20 January 2015 Councillor Dean Collins, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure said: <i>"In July 2014 we faced the prospect of losing all the school crossing patrol service unless alternative funding could be found. So I am delighted that we have managed to find the funding, by using public health money, to propose keeping most of the service."</i></p> <p>The proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the service at 93 sites that meet criteria based on national guidance. • Ending the service at 35 sites where there are either zebra or light-controlled crossings. • Ending the lunchtime service – currently only at seven schools. • Keeping the service at 61 sites that don't meet specific criteria, but if 	

	<p>employees leave these sites they will not be replaced. There are currently 19 sites not meeting the criteria that have become vacant following employees leaving their jobs. These will not be replaced.</p> <p>There are School Crossing Patrols at 189 sites across the county, all of which have been assessed against national guidance.</p> <p>Councillor Collins continued: <i>"We'll now consult on our proposals with families, school children, schools and the public before any decisions are made."</i></p> <p>Cabinet will also be asked to approve the timetable for consultation. It is proposed that the timetable is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From January 2015 – 12 week consultation (now confirmed as 28 January 2015 to 21 April 2015). • Spring/early Summer 2015 – evaluation of consultation responses. • Early/late Summer 2015 – report back to Cabinet and staff consultation. • Autumn 2015 – plans implemented. 	
3.3	<p><u>Long Eaton High Street</u></p> <p>MP invited Ian Marsden (IM), Community Engagement Officer for Erewash Borough Council to explain the second stage of consultation regarding access arrangements in the eastern section of Long Eaton's High Street.</p> <p>IM explained that, in October 2014, Erewash Borough Council carried out a public consultation on the Traffic Regulation Order for Long Eaton's High Street, which allows Blue Badge holders to drive and park from Cross Street to the junction with Claye Street. 80% of respondents indicated that they wanted to see a change to the High Street layout, either through a change in the Traffic Regulation Order or by changing the street layout. This has been backed up by a recent safety audit which found that the uncontrolled parking of vehicles in chevron formation causes dangerous reversing manoeuvres in the pedestrian zone.</p> <p>In addition to the above safety issues, the current High Street layout is constraining the regeneration of the town centre. Footfall monitoring shows that the market increases visitor numbers. However, opportunities to expand the market are limited by the street furniture layout and current positioning of stalls showing their backs to the shops. Repositioning of the market area would allow for a back-to-back stall layout, which would help to create a better functioning market.</p> <p>In response to this, Erewash Borough Council has proposed a new layout for the High Street, as indicated on the map distributed at the start of the meeting. A roadway (the red area on the map) has been identified to clearly show all users where space is allocated for Blue Badge holder access in the pedestrian zone. This includes space for parallel disabled parking. Similarly, another winding roadway from the junction with Gibb Street to the Market Place (the amber area on the map) has been identified as a route for emergency vehicle access. Zones for markets (the blue area on the map) have also been incorporated into the layout.</p> <p>Erewash Borough Council would like to know whether you approve of the proposed changes to the layout of Long Eaton High Street and gather any</p>	

	<p>comments you may have.</p> <p>The consultation closes on Friday 20th February 2015 and so IM encouraged the meeting's attendees to complete the provided survey forms that evening and pass them back to him.</p>	
<p>3.4</p>	<p><u>Long Eaton Branding Scheme – Logo</u></p> <p>MP invited IM to explain the project.</p> <p>IM stated that Long Eaton Chamber of Trade has devised a brand to promote Long Eaton as the 'UK Centre of Quality Upholstery Manufacture'. The town has a worldwide reputation for being a centre of excellence for quality hand-crafted upholstered furniture and is home to the Long Point Exhibition, the UK's most popular luxury furniture show. The Chamber believes there are around 60 upholstery companies and suppliers in Long Eaton, employing around 2,250 people and with a turnover of £250 million.</p> <p>Long Eaton Chamber of Trade has asked the council to come up with a logo and strapline for the brand, in order to raise the profile of the town on a national and international level. Both the logo and the strapline will appear on gateway signage into Long Eaton and will also appear on letterheads and site signage of participating local manufacturers and suppliers. The logo will be used as a marketing tool to spread awareness of Long Eaton's position as the UK capital of upholstery excellence.</p> <p>Erewash Borough Council has sourced four logos and has been asking the public to vote for their favourite design. The logo with the most votes will be adopted as the official logo for the branding scheme.</p> <p>IM referred to the voting form distributed at the start of the meeting. The voting closes on Friday 20th February 2015 and so IM encouraged the meeting's attendees to complete the provided voting forms that evening and pass them back to him.</p> <p><i>Councillor Miller:</i> It's a fabulous idea but none of the four designs on offer say 'Long Eaton' to me. School children should be involved in designing the logo.</p> <p><i>IM:</i> The wording part of the branding scheme project (the 'strapline') will be a separate project taking place in the coming weeks. This part of the project is looking purely at the visual image, with strict rules that there be no wording included at this stage.</p>	
<p>3.5</p>	<p><u>Long Eaton railway station lift</u></p> <p>MP explained that the accessible lift at the station was open from 7:00am, but was closed at the same time as the booking office, i.e. 5:00pm. This led to a number of passengers disembarking at Long Eaton on their return journey having to negotiate the access ramps instead.</p> <p>The issue has been taken up by Erewash Borough Council and the situation is being positively reviewed by Network Rail and East Midlands Trains. Both organisations are looking at how access to the lift may be extended beyond the booking office opening hours via the use of remote</p>	

	technology.	
3.6	<p><u>Elections</u></p> <p>MP reminded attendees of the forthcoming parliamentary and local elections on Thursday 7 May, and asked that they ensure that they are registered to vote and know where their polling station is following the local boundary review.</p>	
4	Questions for officers	
4.1	<p><u>Dog fouling in Long Eaton and Sawley</u></p> <p><i>Resident:</i> Tamworth Road has particular issues, with a lack of bins.</p> <p><i>Councillor Miller:</i> The dog fouling text messaging service is excellent (07792 701583).</p>	
4.2	<p><u>Bus routes</u></p> <p><i>Resident:</i> Important information has reached me from the depths of Trent Barton, namely that the Zoom is to stop going to Old Sawley and New Sawley in December, and become a 24/7 service from Beeston-Derby, and that the Indigo will not go to Derby anymore. I have e-mailed the company for a comment on this. Also, the no. 29 is under threat due to County Council cuts.</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Community Engagement Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I will forward this comment on to Trent Barton and ask that they respond to me directly.</p> <p><i>Action: Ian Marsden e-mailed Trent Barton on 20/02/15.</i></p>	
4.3	<p><u>Double yellow lines and grass verges</u></p> <p><i>Resident:</i> Can vehicles legally park on a grass verge adjacent to a double yellow line?</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> No. The double yellow line restriction covers the grass verge area as well.</p>	
4.4	<p><u>Taxis on Long Eaton Market Place's taxi rank</u></p> <p><i>Resident:</i> Taxi drivers are double parking in this area.</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> We have previously received the occasional complaint regarding this activity. Erewash Borough Council has written to all taxi drivers licensed through us to remind them not to double park. If you do see such activity in</p>	

	<p>the future please report it to Erewash Borough Council. It would be particularly useful if you could note the licence number of the taxis concerned.</p>	
4.5	<p>MP closed the meeting by announcing that Ian Marsden (Community Engagement Officer, Erewash Borough Council) would be leaving his position at the council to take up a new role at the University of Derby. MP thanked Ian for his work with the Forum and the online consultation panel.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:00pm.</p>	
5	<p>Questions submitted prior to the meeting</p> <p>The following questions were submitted prior to the meeting but, due to time limitations, were not asked at the meeting. They were circulated to the appropriate officers subsequent to the meeting.</p>	
5.1	<p><u>Plaque at West Park</u></p> <p><i>Resident:</i> As part of the ongoing management of this superb local facility I notice that the small plaque “Dorothy Gee, Long Eaton’s First Guide” has been removed. This due to the re-landscaping of the corner sections adjacent to Tennis Court area. Is this plaque to be reinstated?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden (Community Engagement Officer, Erewash Borough Council) forwarded this question to Dave Bramwell, Erewash Borough Council’s Head of Green Space and Street Scene, on 20/02/15 to seek a response.</i></p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Erewash Borough Council’s Head of Green Space and Street Scene responded on 23/02/15:</i> The landscaping including the plaque was not looking effective at this location. This area now includes new banking with new turf on top. A design is to be included in this area incorporating a mixture of box hedging and stone that will reflect the new design of the Girl Guides’ badge. This change has been approved by the Girl Guides Association and should be completed towards the end of March 2015.</p>	
5.2	<p><u>Overhead electricity cables, Dales estate</u></p> <p><i>Resident:</i> The original development (late 1950’s) still has overhead electricity cables, (renewed in the 1970’s?). Some supplies appear to have been redirected underground, apparently on an individual basis by the Electricity Supply Company/s. I have correspondence with Liz Blackman (then M.P.) who provided me with recommendations and urged that all these supplies be re-routed underground, not least on the basis of safety. Please would the Forum take up this issue to ensure it is resolved as soon as practicable?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden (Community Engagement Officer, Erewash Borough Council) e-mailed this question to the National Grid on 20/02/15 to seek a response.</i></p> <p><i>An e-mail received from the National Grid on 20/02/15 confirmed that it had been internally forwarded to the correct department.</i></p>	

<p>5.3</p>	<p><u>Footpaths and access, Dales estate</u></p> <p><i>Resident:</i> In October / November of last year (2014) Wensleydale Road footpaths were fully upgraded and, following my investigations, residents were able to request (and for some £100 per metre of additional access) access widened. I contacted the DCC highways department and as a result all residents were given that option.</p> <p>However and much to my surprise and disappointment the DCC has no provision to offer such facilities. The DCC even suggested that they do not seek additional business! Surely it is a complete 'no brainer' and best use of public funds and facilities, to say nothing of the initiatives to reduce on street parking that these options should be made available throughout the County (and Country)? I have email correspondence in relation to this matter which I could forward if required. Please could this matter be investigated?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden (Community Engagement Officer, Erewash Borough Council) forwarded this question to Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 20/02/15 to seek a response.</i></p> <p><i>Paul Jameson responded on 24/02/15 to request that the resident forward the correspondence referred to. Ian Marsden e-mailed the resident on this day with the request.</i></p> <p><i>Paul Jameson responded to the resident via e-mail on 25/02/15 stating:</i> I have reviewed our file and the e-mail exchanges between yourself and Paul Beckett from our Highways Maintenance department. It appears that Paul has previously provided you with an answer to the query you have submitted and I can only reiterate his response to you. It is not our policy to actively seek additional business in this manner but we will be happy to provide quotations to any resident who expresses an interest.</p>	
<p>5.4</p>	<p><u>Bus stop visual time displays</u></p> <p><i>Resident:</i> Some of these have been restored to operation use; however some, e.g. adjacent to Trent College, remain out of commission. I understand the previous removal of the displays was as a result of some contractual matters with a Leicester Authority. Please could this matter be investigated?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden (Community Engagement Officer, Erewash Borough Council) forwarded this question to Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 20/02/15 to seek a response.</i></p> <p><i>Paul Jameson responded on 24/02/15 to state that the issue appears to be one to be taken up by Derbyshire County Council's Public Transport Unit and that he would e-mail the details to them.</i></p> <p><i>Paul Jameson issued a response on 25/02/15:</i> We have six electronic units on trial at present, which are being administered by Nottingham City Council. Should finances become available we hope to add more sites. The previous system was in</p>	

	operation for 8-9 years but is now obsolete and Leicester City Council closed their system some time ago. The new system is far more reliable and has the ability to display more information.	
	Date and time of next meeting Tuesday 16 June 2015, 7:00pm. Council Chamber, Long Eaton Town Hall.	