



meeting notes

Title: Ilkeston and North Community Forum

Date: Tuesday 15 January 2013

Venue: Gladstone Lodge, Market Street, Ilkeston, DE7 5RB

Apologies: Councillor Abey Stevenson; Dave Bramwell

No.	Subject	Action / Lead Officer
1	<p>Welcome from the Chair (Patrick Pritchett) The Chair introduced Paula McDonald (PM) and Scott Cartledge (SC) to the meeting attendees.</p>	
2	<p>Paula McDonald, Emergency Planning Officer, Erewash Borough Council; Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager / Emergency Planning Duty Officer, Erewash Borough Council: Emergency planning for severe weather conditions</p>	
2.1	<p>PM explained that the aim of the presentation was to outline the roles and responsibilities of responding organisations during major emergencies within Erewash.</p>	
2.2	<p>The objectives of the presentation were to raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning Division and Erewash Borough Council's Emergency Planning Team, and to encourage community resilience.</p>	
2.3	<p>There is a legal responsibility to undertake such work (the Civil Contingencies Act 2004).</p>	
2.4	<p>PM explained that Derbyshire County Council (DCC) co-ordinate all the emergency planning for Derbyshire. All the local authorities sign up to a Service Level Agreement with DCC.</p>	
2.5	<p>PM explained the role of DCC's Emergency Planning Division. The Division has 18.5 staff and is based at County Hall in Matlock. PM showed a structure chart of the individuals working within the team and explained their areas of responsibility. For example, Nick Elliott is working on a flooding project.</p>	

2.6	The Health Service will be pulling out of the Service Level Agreement with DCC in respect of the Emergency Planning Division at the end of March 2013.	
2.7	PM explained that she is part of the support team, and that she works out in the district areas. Emergency Planning Officers tends to cover two districts each. Paula covers Erewash and Amber Valley, and also works at DCC as a Duty Officer.	
2.8	The team have access to an Emergency Control Vehicle. The vehicle is present at every major emergency incident. PM explained the various equipment available on the vehicle, and that it can be used as an incident meeting area for the officers on site.	
2.9	PM explained that Dave Bramwell co-ordinates emergency planning within Erewash Borough Council (EBC). PM works on site at EBC 1.5 days per week. She prepares, maintains, trains and exercises EBC's Emergency and Business Continuity Plans. PM also prepares multi-agency emergency event plans in consultation with event organisers and the County Events Safety Advisory Group.	
2.10	Scott Cartledge (SC) explained that he is one of four EBC Duty Officers. Every 1 in 4 weeks he is on 24 hour call. They are the first point of contact for the Emergency Planning Division of DCC. They act as Forward Liaison Officers during major incidents. Work that they might get involved in would be, for example, despatching EBC employees to deliver sandbags to an area with a flooding issue.	
2.11	PM then talked through a number of examples of incidents within Erewash and Derbyshire. One in Kirk Hallam in 2007, for example, involved people having to be evacuated from their properties due to a fire involving gas canisters.	
2.12	PM has put together notes for EBC's Contact Centre staff so that they know who to contact in a given emergency situation.	
2.13	There are a number of policies in place relating to emergencies. One is a policy for the issuing of sandbags. This policy is signed off by the Chief Executives of the Borough and District Councils.	
2.14	PM then showed pictures of numerous examples of flooding in Erewash, including incidents at Borrowash, Breadsall, Ockbrook, Draycott, Stanley and Bennerley Viaduct during 2012.	
2.15	Different organisations are now working together in Ockbrook to create a plan for the prevention and management of flooding in the area. If this pilot project is successful it will be used as a template for similar initiatives across Derbyshire.	
2.16	An example of flood defences was shown (in Breaston). The flood defences are fitted with sensors in the metal pipes. Once the water reaches a certain height the defence is activated	

	diverting the water along a certain route.	
2.17	<p>PM then gave feedback on various websites that carry information with advice regarding flooding. EBC's own website (www.erewash.gov.uk) provides a number of articles and links on the subject. The Environment Agency's website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk) has a number of useful leaflets that can be downloaded free of charge ('What to do before, during and after a flood'; 'Prepare your property for flooding'; 'Flooding from groundwater' and 'Sandbags and how to use them properly for flood protection'). The Met Office's website (www.metoffice.gov.uk) is useful for tracking weather forecasts and severe weather warnings. The Derbyshire Prepared website (www.derbyshireprepared.org.uk) offers advice for residents and businesses, the plans in place in Derbyshire to cope with emergencies and up to date information and advice during a live emergency situation.</p>	
2.18	<p>PM then explained about 'Community Resilience Planning'. Community Resilience Planning is about communities and individuals helping themselves during an emergency in a way that compliments the work of the emergency services.</p>	
2.19	<p>PM showed an example of a Community Resilience Plan. The simple two page A4 document has contact details relevant to the local community, e.g. local councillors, contact details of the DCC Emergency Planning Division, etc. It also has a list of who needs to be contacted in the event of an emergency and in what order they need to be contacted.</p>	
2.20	<p><i>Question from Councillor Frank Phillips:</i> With the current cold weather some of the pavements are like skating rinks. Who is responsible for clearing them from ice? Should there be a similar plan as to the one there is for clearing the roads of ice?</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> There are in excess of 3,000 miles of roads and footways across the county and the authority simply does not have the funds or resources to clear all of them. We do grit around 47% of the network (approximately 1,550 miles) which is one of the best coverage rates in the country. DCC have entered into agreements with borough and district councils for their officers to grit urban footways / carriageways on our behalf. It is acknowledged that clearing footways is a very labour-intensive process and it is perhaps not possible to clear each and every footpath.</p> <p>If residents have a particular concern regarding snow / ice on a road that is not on the precautionary gritting routes they can submit a request to DCC – either via a reporting form on the website or by contacting 'Call Derbyshire' – and ask that the road be cleared. Officers will of course have to give priority to gritting the strategic network – i.e. the primary and secondary routes – before attending to any further requests on a priority basis. In</p>	

	<p>prolonged periods of bad weather, all resources may be taken up with continual gritting of the precautionary routes and in such circumstances any additional requests may not be achievable.</p>	
2.21	<p><i>Question from Councillor John Frudd:</i> Regarding flooding and planning applications for building on flood plains. What's the emergency planning team's view on such applications? Would you ever question planning policy on this matter?</p> <p><i>Paula McDonald, Emergency Planning Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> As an Officer that is a difficult question for me to answer. I will take it back to DCC and seek a response.</p> <p><i>Response from Paula McDonald, Emergency Planning Officer, Erewash Borough Council on 22/01/13:</i> The following response has been received from the Emergency Planning Division. The statutory consultee regarding river flooding is the Environment Agency. However, Emergency Planning are sometimes consulted if it might have an impact on flood emergency response.</p> <p>If a request for planning consent is received within a flood plain Emergency Planning would be most concerned if it was for a residential home, school etc. More often than not it is within a defended area e.g. Long Eaton and for one property which does not significantly alter overall risk.</p> <p>Whenever Emergency Planning is consulted, if the development is clearly within a flood plain or at risk area we always advise Planning to inform developers to put in flood resilience measures e.g. higher living areas etc.</p> <p>The Environment Agency almost always objects to a development within a flood plain.</p> <p>As this summer shows, more people are being flooded due to surface water, ground water, flash flooding etc – with this type of flooding a flood plain is less clearly defined. The Environment Agency holds some information on this type of flooding but does not specifically use this for planning purposes.</p>	<p>Paula McDonald to seek a response from DCC.</p>
2.22	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> What's the policy on supplying grit bins?</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> DCC own approximately 1,400 grit bins countywide and are responsible for their maintenance. I don't know how many grit bins the borough council own but there are approximately a further 1,100 grit bins countywide that are owned and maintained by either borough, district, town or parish councils.</p> <p>The Highway Authority already have the burden of maintaining their 1,400 grit bins and therefore cannot provide and maintain</p>	

	<p>any additional bins due to the strain on already limited funds. A modest sum of funding is made available each year where we can supply and install a grit bin and first fill of salt (subject to a set of criteria being met) on the basis that a borough / district / town or parish council agrees to take ownership of the bin and all future maintenance costs.</p> <p><i>Councillor Michelle Booth:</i> The Environment Agency leaflets are very handy. It would be good to have more supplied at the meeting</p> <p><i>Paula McDonald, Emergency Planning Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I will try and get more pamphlets for the next Forum meeting in Long Eaton in February.</p>	<p>Paula McDonald to look to supply more Environment Agency leaflets at the Long Eaton & South Forum meeting on 13.02.13.</p>
2.23	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> There is an issue with the down pipes / drain pipes at certain properties. They release water on to the public pathways and, in the very cold weather, this run-off turns to ice making the pathways hazardous to walk on.</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> Please give me specific location details after the meeting.</p>	
3	<p>Questions for Officers</p>	
3.1	<p><i>Question received in advance from Councillor Michelle Booth:</i></p> <p><u>Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service</u> In relation to item 3 discussed at the Ilkeston & North Community Forum last September, can you find out the estimated cost of extinguishing the Stanton fire, how much it cost and if any of the monies are likely to be recovered please - if so, how much?</p> <p>Especially in light of the report we had about the Localism Bill, and the fact that this could enable the council to charge an unfortunate resident who locks him or herself out of their home or they might be signposted to a locksmith, instead of having the Fire Brigade help them in their dilemma?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I contacted Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service on 2 January 2013 to seek a response to the issues raised in your e-mail. I am yet to receive a response and will contact them again.</p> <p><i>Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service provided a breakdown of the costs of the Stanton by Dale fire on 22/02/13 in the form of a PDF document. This document is now available to download at http://www.erewash.gov.uk/your-council/consultation/community-forums/ilkeston-and-north.html</i></p>	<p>Ian Marsden to contact Derbyshire Fire & Rescue service again.</p>

<p>3.2</p>	<p><i>Question received in advance from Councillor Michelle Booth:</i></p> <p><u>CCTV</u> At last September's Community Forum meeting I asked if the CCTV review could be considered as a future Forum discussion topic. Many people across the borough know that the existing CCTV system is very out of date. The findings, recommendations, considerations, costings, etc would be a very interesting item for the residents to be briefed on.</p> <p><i>Question received from resident:</i> When am I going to get a definite answer on CCTV at Kirk Hallam shops?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Nick Thurstan, Head of Environment and Community Safety, Erewash Borough Council has responded as follows to the advanced question: "Further to your email, since the outcome of the CCTV review and subsequent proposals are currently being considered, I think it would be premature at this stage to bring anything to the Community Forum until the matter has been reported to Council Executive. As you are aware the issue raised about CCTV coverage in Kirk Hallam has been considered as part of the review and any recommendations will be included in the report."</p> <p><i>Councillor Michelle Booth:</i> Can you advise me as to when the CCTV review is now scheduled to be brought to the executive please?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I will seek a response from Nick Thurstan and include the reply within the meeting notes.</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden contacted Nick Thurstan and is awaiting a response to the further question raised.</i></p> <p><i>Response from Nick Thurstan, Head of Environment and Community Safety, Erewash Borough Council:</i> The CCTV Review will be considered by our Corporate Management Team, and subsequently our Council Executive, in due course. The dates are yet to be confirmed.</p>	<p>Ian Marsden to contact Nick Thurstan</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p><i>Question received in advance from Councillor Michelle Booth:</i></p> <p><u>Ilkeston Hospital</u> Following the discussion and signing of the petition in relation to proposed bed cuts at Ilkeston Hospital a note was made that Erewash Borough Council have an Associate Health Director, Tony Morkane, and that Phil Wright, Director at EBC, was going to speak to Tony about the matter.</p> <p>Can we please have an update on the action taken and what has been agreed?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i></p>	

I received a request from the Chair of the Ilkeston 50+ Forum to speak at the September 2012 Ilkeston & North Forum meeting regarding Ilkeston Hospital. This request was granted; together with the request to circulate a petition to gather signatures of those opposed to the proposed changes.

Phil Wright, Erewash Borough Council's Director of Operational Services had stated that he would speak to Tony Morkane, Associate Health Director, regarding the matter and that we may discuss the issue at the next Forum meeting. This he duly did and, given the depth of feeling towards and complexity of the subject, it was felt that the most appropriate approach was for bespoke open public meetings to be held to discuss the issues. Two of these meetings have now occurred.

I met with the resident who chaired the Ilkeston & North Forum meeting in September 2012 to discuss the best way forward. The Chair is not formally elected to represent the Ilkeston & North Forum attendees; they volunteers to chair the meetings. It was agreed that the best approach was for me to liaise with the Chair of the Ilkeston 50+ Forum to support them in submitting their petition at the point when they were ready. This offer was made to the Ilkeston 50+ Forum Chair.

I also contacted the Head of Patient Experience at Derbyshire County PCT to see what consultation was active regarding Ilkeston Hospital to be told that there wasn't any. I was however provided with contact details for residents to submit their comments and these were duly included in the meeting notes that I circulated. I also obtained media releases on the subject and circulated these as well.

Councillor John Frudd:

I feel that the changes are the first stage to Ilkeston Hospital being closed.

Councillor Carol Hart:

I have contacted Tracy Allen, Chief Executive, Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust regarding this matter and she has e-mailed me with the following response:

"We have been working really hard over the last few months, alongside the Clinical Commissioning Group, to try and address concerns about the wider future of the hospital and our commitment to delivering local services from it. We have met with a local Patient Participation Group (PPG), Jessica Lee MP, a 'Derbyshire anti-cuts' representative, the media and 70+ people at an open public forum. We also offered to attend the local 50+ Forum (who started the petition to keep the beds open) but weren't taken up on our offer. We have also been active on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook rebutting false claims and allaying concerns where possible, which has had some positive response.

I can absolutely confirm that Ilkeston Hospital remains core to our plans going forward. I know that the recent Clinical Commissioning Group decision on the walk-in centre closure has

	<p>heightened concerns again. Whilst this may be very concerning for the public it has no impact on the hospital and our future plans for it other than potentially increasing our Minor Injuries Unit activity.</p> <p>As you know, the challenges we are facing, and the opportunities to do things differently, mean that there will continue to be changes to what and how we use the hospital but we have no plans to close it and continue to explore how we can expand the range of services we provide from it to the benefit of local people.”</p> <p><i>Chair of the Ilkeston 50+ Forum:</i> I have not been contacted by someone from Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust about attending one of our 50+ Forum events.</p> <p><i>Councillor Carol Hart:</i> I will ask Tracy Allen to get in touch with you regarding this.</p> <p><i>Councillor Michelle Booth:</i> We should be engaging with Jessica Lee MP on this matter.</p>	<p>Councillor Carol Hart to contact Tracy Allen, Chief Executive, Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust</p>
<p>3.4</p>	<p><i>Question received in advance from Councillor Michelle Booth:</i></p> <p><u>Bath Street and regeneration</u> At the previous Forum meeting a resident asked what Erewash Borough Council is doing towards regenerating our town centres. A brief update on any new regeneration initiatives that the council are pursuing would be most welcome to hear about. What ideas are being sought to generate new interest in Bath Street and on similar high streets in the borough?</p> <p>I understand about the revision of the Economic Development Strategy but I would like to be told of one item that has been identified and is being pursued as a viable option to bring new interest to our town. Also, could we have a future Forum feature on the work of our regeneration department and what options are available to us as a town and as a borough?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I have received the following response from Steve Birkinshaw, Head of Planning and Regeneration, Erewash Borough Council: “The Borough Council is reviewing its Economic Development Strategy. The review draft identifies town centres and markets as one of four Strategic Priorities, under which Priorities for Local Action include developing a regeneration strategy to address problem areas in our town centres, and supporting the return to active use of vacant properties. To further these actions the associated Delivery Plan includes creating a register of problem sites for intervention, and working with landlords to renovate and repair vacant units. This strategy will be considered for adoption by Council Executive on Wednesday 16th January.”</p> <p><i>Councillor John Frudd:</i> The problem is that people’s shopping habits have changed.</p>	

	<p>Bath Street has suffered as a result. One of the main problems is finding out who the landlords are of the vacant properties. I, along with others, have been involved in a project to try and regenerate the old Woolworths building in Bath Street. It's not happened yet but we're still working on it. It's a slow process.</p>	
3.5	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Brook Street parking issues</u> At the bottom of Brook Street there are always cars parked on the pavements. Pedestrians have to walk on the road which is dangerous as it is near the junction with Nottingham Road. There are no parking restrictions in this area as far as I am aware.</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> We can give consideration to introducing double yellow lines in certain circumstances. However, introducing a Traffic Regulation Order is a lengthy and costly process. Furthermore, we would be required to carry out a public consultation on any proposed restrictions and – in areas such as this where some properties have no off-street parking provision – we will invariably receive objections due the loss of much needed off-street parking. As such, there needs to be a clear road safety issue, where parking restrictions are likely to improve the situation, to justify proposing such measures.</p> <p>Parking on a footway in a manner which causes obstruction is a matter which the Police have responsibility for and the officers present may be able to look into the matter. It is acknowledged, however, that there are practical obstacles to taking enforcement as any obstruction would have to be witnessed by the officer in attendance [i.e. an actual rather than a potential obstruction].</p>	<p>Paul Jameson to contact DCC Traffic & Safety team</p>
3.6	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Down pipes / drain pipes causing ice patches</u> Can we do something about the down pipes on some Bath Street shops? The water from them spreads all over the pedestrian area of Bath Street. This can become an ice hazard. Can we do something about it?</p> <p><i>Councillor Michelle Booth:</i> This is also an issue at East Street, just up from the museum.</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> I will take the issue back to investigate further.</p> <p><i>Response from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council received on 08/03/13:</i> Regarding Bath Street the local Highways Inspector has carried out on-site observations and identified a number of properties here with broken down pipes which, as a result, are discharging water from a height. Land Registry searches will be carried out to ascertain ownership of the buildings and letters will subsequently</p>	<p>Paul Jameson to contact DCC colleagues</p>

	<p>be sent out, as appropriate, requesting that the down pipes in question are replaced/repaired.</p> <p>Regarding East Street investigations have determined that there is a property at this location at which the down pipe is damaged and allowing water to discharge from a height onto the footway. This is perceived to be a potential hazard to highway users.</p> <p>A letter was sent to the property owner on 14/02/13 requesting that they arrange repair / replacement of the down pipe as soon as possible.</p>	
3.7	The Chair closed the meeting at 8:10pm.	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 17 July 2013, 7:00pm. Venue to be confirmed.</p>	