



# meeting notes

**Title:** Ilkeston and North Community Forum

**Date:** Wednesday 16 May 2012

**Venue:** Main Auditorium, The Arena, Rutland Street, Ilkeston

**Apologies:** Councillor James Dawson; Councillor Carol Hart; Councillor Phillips.

No.	Subject	Action / Lead Officer
1	<b>Welcome from the Chair</b> (Patrick Pritchett)	
2	<b>Ian Sankey, Director for Resources, Erewash Borough Council: 'What Erewash Borough Council will spend the public's money on'</b>	
2.1	Ian Sankey (IS) began his presentation by explaining that Erewash Borough Council (EBC) has two main budgets; the Revenue Budget for the day to day costs of running services and the Capital Budget for funding projects that typically last more than one year, for example refurbishing a leisure centre.	
2.2	EBC's Net Revenue Expenditure is £13 million. This money is funded from central government grant and part from Council Tax.	
2.3	EBC has funds in reserves and balances. Any one-off projects, for example benches for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee are financed by a contribution from these reserves. Any surplus funds are invested in the money markets where EBC exercise caution with regular advice taken from financial advisors.	
2.4	EBC needs £5.9 million of income from Council Tax charges in 2012-13. This equates to £165.91 per Band D property for the EBC proportion of the Council Tax bill. The overall Council Tax bill also includes the charges from Derbyshire County Council (73% of the total Council Tax bill), Derbyshire Police Authority (11.1%), Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority (4.6%). The EBC proportion of the bill equals 11.3%. In some instances there will be a charge for the local Parish Council too.	
2.5	The Localism Act is giving more power back to local councils. Unlike previously there will be no specific cap placed on Council	

	Tax increases by the Secretary of State. Central Government is now saying that a local authority can increase Council Tax by over 3.5% (this figure could change year on year) providing such an increase is supported via a public referendum. A public referendum, as with all voting exercises, is costly to a local authority in terms of the administration work required.	
2.6	The Formula Grant from central government is decreasing year on year, meaning a reduced income for EBC. As a result of the reduction in the Formula Grant EBC needs to look at ways to increase income and / or reduce expenditure.	
2.7	IS then explained the annual cost of delivering a range of EBC services, followed by a breakdown of the cost of the main service areas per head of population.	
2.8	IS then explained capital spending in more detail. This is typically for the funding of major works that can last for more than one year. During 2012-13 it is planned to spend £2.49 million. For example, money will be spent on replacing vehicles such as road sweepers and refuse collection lorries (£700,000).	
2.9	Under the Localism Act EBC would benefit from economic growth in the borough. From 2013/14 EBC would be allowed to keep a percentage of the extra rates collected from new businesses setting up in the borough. This encourages EBC to further stimulate economic growth. Without growth in the borough there is a risk that EBC will lose income.	
2.10	<i>Question from resident:</i> Can Derbyshire County Council give a similar talk on the areas that they spend their Council Tax revenue on at a future Forum meeting?	Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, EBC to forward this suggestion for consideration.
2.11	<i>Question from resident:</i> Recycling was mentioned; I am unsure what can be recycled and where the recycling goes. Is this a subject that could be considered for a presentation at a future Forum meeting?	Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, EBC to forward this suggestion for consideration.
2.12	<i>Question from resident:</i> CCTV was mentioned in the capital spending programme for 2012-13. Can someone please clarify how the CCTV network will be reviewed and how residents will be involved in this process?  <i>Response from Nick Thurstan, Head of Environment and Community Safety, EBC:</i> The review is scheduled to be completed by end of June 2012.  The CCTV review is considering the following issues: -  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most appropriate system for the storage of data and</li> </ul>	Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, EBC to contact Nick Thurstan, Head of Environment and Community Safety, EBC for a response.

	<p>viewing images;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The type, number and location of surveillance cameras to contribute to the prevention and detection of crime and to assist in the apprehension of offenders;</li> <li>• Monitoring and manning arrangements for the control rooms and the options for increasing monitoring hours;</li> <li>• Possible alternative hosting arrangements for the control rooms;</li> <li>• Preferred maintenance and support arrangements for the CCTV network and infra structure;</li> <li>• Recommendations on procedures needed to meet statutory requirements regarding data storage and management.</li> </ul> <p>Public consultation is not deemed necessary since the review is focussing on operational and technical issues associated with the CCTV network.</p>	
2.13	<p><i>Question from Councillor Louis Booth:</i> Are there any plans for bringing the Albion Leisure Centre into further use?</p> <p><i>Response from Ian Sankey:</i> EBC are open to ideas for future usage of this building. If a sound business case is provided then it would be considered. The property has been actively marketed in the past. On another note we have recently managed to lease out the Mark Street office in Sandiacre on a five year lease.</p>	
2.14	<p>The Chair closed the agenda item and thanked IS for his presentation.</p>	
3	<p><b>Questions for Partners</b></p>	
3.1	<p><u>EBC's Community Forums review</u> <i>Question from resident:</i> What is the justification for reducing the number of Erewash Forums and who authorised it? I feel that the opportunities for people like me to share their views have been reduced.</p> <p><i>Response from Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, EBC:</i> A review of Community Forums took place during 2011 across a six month period. Over 1,000 residents took part in the various stages of the review. This process included surveys and discussions at Forum meetings. A number of issues were identified in the feedback, including a low level of awareness of the Forums, low attendance levels at the two 'rural' Forums and a desire for meetings with a more local focus.</p> <p>Residents suggested that the Forums should feature a particular</p>	

	<p>topic for discussion, whilst maintaining the open ‘question and answer’ session. This has occurred for the first time at this evening’s meeting.</p> <p>The desire for more localised meetings is acknowledged; the issue is how to resource such meetings, given that residents stated that they liked officers from EBC, Derbyshire County Council and the Police to be in attendance at each meeting. The feedback also indicated that greater links should be built with the existing Parish Council network.</p> <p>To this end I have been meeting with Parish Councils to strengthen our working relationship with them. Following a meeting with Risley Parish Council the Parish Councillors distributed a copy of an EBC survey to all 364 households in the Parish. Nearly 100 were returned, meaning that the link with the Parish Council provided an opportunity for a large number of people in this community to effectively have their say.</p> <p>I am also meeting with other organisations in the community to help promote and distribute the opportunities for engagement, for example Ilkeston &amp; District Neighbourhood Watch Support Group.</p> <p>Alongside the public meetings residents can share their views with us via a host of other methods, including a new On-line Forum, by writing to us or speaking to us in person or over the telephone.</p> <p>If a particular issue were identified within a community then ad-hoc meetings could be arranged as appropriate to discuss the issue.</p> <p>The Forums were reorganised following a Council meeting in December 2011.</p>	
3.2	<p><u>Promoting Community Forum meetings</u>  <i>Question from resident:</i>  How has this meeting been advertised, given the number of residents in attendance (31 residents attended the meeting).</p> <p><i>Response from Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, EBC:</i>  A range of methods were used to advertise the meeting. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A media release to local media organisations. For example, the Ilkeston Advertiser featured the meeting details in their 10 May edition and on their website’s home page on 16 May.</li> <li>• An article on the home page of the EBC website (featured from mid April).</li> <li>• An e-mail to approximately 400 residents in the north of the Erewash borough.</li> <li>• A postal mailing to a number of residents listed on the Forum mailing list.</li> <li>• An article in the ‘EBC today’ community magazine,</li> </ul>	

	<p>delivered to 50,000 Erewash households.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters displayed in EBC buildings.</li> <li>• Posters distributed to local councillors for public display.</li> <li>• Posters distributed to Parish Council Clerks for public display.</li> <li>• Posters distributed to community facilities (e.g. doctors' surgeries, libraries, shops, Post Offices, schools) for public display.</li> </ul>	
3.3	<p><u>Understanding Housing Benefit claim forms</u>  <i>Question from resident:</i>  Why do the Housing Benefits department send out letters that are so difficult to understand?</p> <p><i>Response from Ian Sankey, Director for Resources, EBC:</i>  The Housing Benefit claim form can appear complicated. Unfortunately a lot of its content has to be worded in a particular way to ensure that it is legal. We do send a member of staff out to visit a new claimant to explain the form in greater detail as we appreciate that people can struggle to understand them.</p>	
3.4	<p><u>Answering questions</u>  <i>Question from resident:</i>  If residents' money is used to pay Council staff wages then why are some Council staff refusing to answer simple questions and provide evidence they claim to have to support their decisions?</p> <p><i>Response from Erewash Borough Council:</i>  Ian Sankey has attempted to contact the resident submitting the question above to discuss the matter in more detail. Telephone answer messages have been left and further attempts to contact will be made.</p>	
3.5	<p><u>Freedom of Information request</u>  <i>Question from resident:</i>  I obtained a recent Freedom of Information request. I asked about Council staff time allocated to a particular task and actual time spent on the task in question. I was told that this information is not recorded. Surely wage costs are one of the highest running costs so why is the money, which is the residents', used to pay salaries to staff who do not need to justify the time spent on tasks? This could lead to inefficiency.</p> <p><i>Response from Stephen Harrold, Freedom of Information Officer, EBC:</i>  My original response to the FOI applicant was as follows:  <i>"The information you seek in questions 3 and 4 is not recorded by the council. That being the case we would inform you, in accordance with Section 1.1.a of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that the information you seek is not held by this authority."</i></p> <p>The information request related to our Licensing Team. They deal with the follows areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensing Act 2003</li> </ul>	<p>Ian Marsden,  Consultation Officer,  EBC to contact  Stephen Harrold,  Freedom of  Information Officer,  EBC for a response.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambling Act 2005</li> <li>• Small Society Lotteries</li> <li>• Taxis - Hackney Carriage and Private Hire</li> <li>• Street Collections</li> <li>• House to House Collections</li> <li>• Street Trading</li> <li>• Caravan Sites</li> <li>• Food Related Licences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food Registration</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Personal Treatment Licences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Acupuncturists</li> <li>○ Cosmetic piercing (e.g. ears/body)</li> <li>○ Electrolysis</li> <li>○ Tattooists</li> <li>○ Semi-permanent skin-colouring</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Animal Licences</li> <li>• Motor Vehicle Salvage</li> <li>• Scrap Metal Dealers</li> </ul> <p>Staff are not allocated specific time to deal with each licensing type and therefore not allocated time for consideration and decision making on applications. Time taken on these functions is not recorded by the department hence my previous response.</p>	
3.6	<p><u>Neighbourhood Planning</u>  <i>Question from resident:</i>  What is EBC intending to do about the development of Neighbourhood Plans?</p> <p><i>Response from Ian Sankey, Director for Resources, EBC:</i>  This is new legislation that came in to force on 1 April 2012. The government have decided that it is better for neighbourhoods to have say in their area and shape any development within it. Local groups (e.g. a Parish Council) can apply to their borough council to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Where Parish Councils do not exist this role could be taken on by a community group, for example. The Neighbourhood Plan has to be robust. The group has to demonstrate that they represent the community to which the Plan relates. Neighbourhood Plans are generally about having more development, not less. The residents of the area covered by the Plan have to accept the Plan via a referendum. The cost of a referendum would be borne by Erewash Borough Council. This cost would be in the £1,000s. There is a duty on Erewash Borough Council to support Neighbourhood Plans as it sees fit.</p>	
3.7	<p><u>Dog fouling at Pewit Nature Reserve</u>  <i>Question from resident:</i>  There is an increasing amount of dog fouling, particularly on the footpaths leading to Pewit Nature Reserve and from Victoria Park. What is the cleansing regime and is there any reinforcement?</p> <p><i>Response from Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, EBC:</i>  EBC has recently employed a second Neighbourhood Dog</p>	

	<p>Warden. This means that the service can now cover weekends and later evenings as well. We encourage residents to provide information to us so that we can identify dog fouling 'hot spots'. Information relating to particular times of the day or week when the offences occur is especially useful. Dog fouling can be reported via our Pride Line number (0115 850 8383).</p>	
<p>3.8</p>	<p><u>Funding provided to local sporting clubs</u>  <i>Question from resident:</i>  What funding does EBC provide to local sporting clubs in the area?</p> <p><i>Response from Amie Elliott, Partnership Development Officer, EBC:</i>  The Culture and Leisure team at EBC have a £1,500 budget to support local sporting clubs. All of it has now been allocated this year. I cannot release the details of who the funding has been awarded to yet as the applicants have not yet been notified of the funding decision - details will be on our website at the end of June once Council Executive have been informed.</p> <p>The Executive Office also had a budget of £47,819 and there is now £6,069 remaining which sports groups can also bid into, the next funding round date is to be decided. The fund is open to registered charities, community and voluntary groups and social enterprises. Again I cannot release the details of who the funding has been awarded to as the applicants have not yet been notified - details will be on our website at the end of June once Council Executive have been informed.</p> <p>EBC also contribute £3,000 to a 'Health Initiatives' fund which is administered by Erewash CVS and is match funded by both Derbyshire County Council and NHS Derbyshire County. Sports clubs could apply into this fund if the project meets the priorities. For details they would need to contact Erewash CVS 0115 946 6740.</p> <p>EBC also provides play and sports activities to young people free of charge through Erewash Extreme and Erewash Vibe, although this is not funding that Sports Clubs can access it does further evidence our commitment to sport and providing youth activities in the Borough.</p> <p>It's also worth noting that the Sport and Health Development Team have a Volunteer and Club Development Officer who would be able to support clubs in a number of ways.</p>	<p>Ian Marsden,  Consultation Officer,  EBC to contact Tim  Spencer, Head of  Culture and Leisure,  EBC for a response.</p>
<p>3.9</p>	<p><u>Windsor Crescent, Kirk Hallam</u>  <i>Questions from resident:</i>  When on a walking inspection of the Windsor Crescent area approximately four weeks ago we noticed that a light on the Multi Use Sports Area was not working. This has still not been fixed.</p> <p>In addition, what is the latest news regarding providing a skate park facility within Kirk Hallam?</p>	<p>Ian Marsden,  Consultation Officer,  EBC to contact Dave  Bramwell, Head of  Green Space and  Street Scene, EBC for  a response.</p>

	<p><i>Response from Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, EBC:</i> The light sensor has been vandalised and we are in the process of modifying the scheme to prevent further damage.</p> <p>We have a small amount of funding for the proposed Wheeled Sports Area at present. On completion of our current projects we will then start work on this one. If any local constituted groups would like to support this venture, please ask them to get in touch with me (dave.bramwell@erewash.gov.uk; 0115 907 2244 extension 3237).</p>	
3.10	<p><u>Hose pipe ban</u> <i>Questions from resident:</i> Is there a hose pipe ban in the Ilkeston area?</p> <p><i>Response from Ian Sankey, Director for Resources, EBC:</i> There are no hose pipe bans within Severn Trent Water areas.</p>	
3.11	<p><u>Switching off street lights</u> <i>Questions from resident:</i> What are the latest plans for switching off street lights at night?</p> <p><i>Response from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forums Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> Derbyshire County Council (DCC) has agreed plans to turn off certain street lights between midnight and 5:30am. The scheme is to be rolled out on an area-by-area basis and will take 3-4 years to implement countywide. At a recent Cabinet Member meeting, 68 areas were agreed upon for this financial year (2012/13). The first phase will focus on the areas that were in support of our plans. The first stage of the process is to undertake a risk assessment in each area – i.e. consulting with Community Safety, Police, etc. Following this a four week consultation period would commence. There are a number of criteria where we would not look to switch street lights off, for example where road accident rates were higher than average. Ilkeston and Long Eaton are not included in the 68 locations to be dealt with this year, although I believe Little Eaton, Dale Abbey and Breadsall are. The list of all 68 areas is on the DCC website.</p> <p><i>Questions from resident:</i> Would there possibility be more crime if street lights were switched off?</p> <p><i>Response from Sergeant John Troup, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> Any answer I give to this question would be me purely speculating. I wouldn't say that I'm either opposed or for the suggestion. I would need to see the statistics after lights had been switched off before I could make any comment.</p>	
3.12	<p><u>Stanton Wagon</u> <i>Question from Councillor Louis Booth:</i> The consultation on the future of the Stanton Wagon is being conducted via the pages of the Ilkeston Advertiser. I am</p>	



	<p>concerned that this limits the people who can take part in this consultation.</p> <p><i>Response from Ian Sankey, Director for Resources, EBC:</i> Your concerns are noted and I will take them back.</p>	
	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b> Monday 17 September 2012, 7:00pm. Venue to be confirmed.</p>	