

Minutes of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th October 2018 at the VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present: Cllrs P Bickerton (Chairman), R Strand, M Beadle, E Beech and P Loakes.

In Attendance: DCllr Peter Watson 19 residents and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.10.18 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr R Russell (unwell) and J Byng (prior commitment).

02.10.18 Variation of Order of Business: none

03.10.18 Elvaston Castle Action Group Presentation on DCC's Master Plan:

The minutes of this are at the Appendix on pages 5-9. The presentation ended at 8.50pm and the chairman thanked attendees and presenters for an interesting and informative discussion.

04.10.18 Declaration of Members Interests: None

05.10.18 Digital Derbyshire: No update therefore clerk to contact Cllr Atkin and Robert Rowan for an urgent appraisal of progress, especially as a recent review was not forthcoming.

06.10.18 Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Beech is dismayed to see that signs (Neighbourhood Watch etc) have been removed from lamp posts at BM; she will reattach these and council to reimburse her for any materials used. She rued the litter in the area and believes more waste bins would help. She asked when a bus stop will be installed on Snelsmoor Lane; clerk to ask Highways and this also to be raised in the next Persimmon meeting. Cllr Beech is pleased to note that roads have been resurfaced. She is keen to see recent minutes etc uploaded to the website; this is covered at minute 08.10.18.

Cllr Strand informed the clerk recently of the overflowing dog waste bin at Borrowash bridge; clerk subsequently told SDDC to empty although members are unsure if this was carried out. The hedge at the bus shelter on the A6 is overgrown and impedes traffic visibility; clerk to tell Highways. He is pleased to see discarded and used toilet roll around Grove Court removed after the clerk informed the PCSO.

Cllr Loakes complained that when the Ambaston quarry was opened road blockage and damaged to trees resulted. Kevin Birch will attend the quarry meeting tomorrow night and raise these issues. Cllr Loakes wonders whether the new conveyor will be placed below ground; Mr Birch to enquire at the meeting. Cllr Loakes also rues that drug use is prevalent around the lagoon; clerk to inform the PCSO. He is dismayed that the recent road repairs to Ambaston Lane were only undertaken once a resident had submitted a formal complaint to Highways; this is in contrast to the parish council constantly asking for such repairs for several months.

Cllr Beadle notes that a police speed camera van is regularly parked on Main Road; and that 2 accidents occurred in 2 months. Clerk to ask Highways if either VAS signs and/or a road chicane can be fitted.

In her absence Cllr Russell requested that minutes should be displayed on the website.

07.10.18: District and County Councillors' report: none. Clerk to ask DCllr Watson to arrange a Persimmon liaison meeting as soon as practicable and an open meeting for residents to be arranged thereafter.

08.10.18 Website Maintenance: Clerk to obtain the login details from Cllr Mansfield in order to upload historic minutes and agendas.

09.10.18 Elvaston Communities Group:

Eve Wilson announced that an 'apple day' will be held on 20th October at Beechwood Caravan Park; tea and cakes are offered, games and a scarecrow event held. Also, an apple pressing pastime will take place. Posters are available to advertise and Eve asked for volunteers to assist on the day.

Eve asked whether the council will fund plants to be placed in the signage planters to which members **agreed**. Mr Birch kindly offered to lower these planters as the contractors had placed them too high. She asked whether flowers may be planted below notice boards to which members had no objection. **Resolved:** Cllr Beech to liaise with the Communities Group.

Ray Jeffries (ECG treasurer) reported the following:

Current working available Cash is some £1.05K which is detailed as follows:-

Balance prior to Commitments. £7,863.82

Current & Future Commitments £6,812.30

Money available prior to Donations £1,051.52

From this we shall incur Apple day expenses & a small movement in insurance cost.

10.10.18 Public Speaking:

The new clerk at Aston on Trent asked if draft minutes can be advertised prior to publication of the confirmed minutes; members to consider.

A resident at Sevenlands Drive complained that the hedge next to the swale is left untrimmed; it was agreed that the resident send the location to the clerk who will then forward the request to Persimmon. The chairman will also raise this at the upcoming liaison meeting. The resident is concerned that dog waste is prevalent in the area and asked for waste bins to be placed here.

Another resident noted that 2 water valves in the brook at the castle need repair although this will be expensive.

A fourth resident raved the errant parking at Buttercup Leys, especially around junctions. Cllr Beech has contacted the City Council to investigate and awaits its reply but in the meantime will send complaint to the clerk who will forward it again to the City Council. Cllr Beech produced a 'no-parking' sign obtained from the previous meeting which she will place and which may deter some of this behaviour.

11.10.18 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th July 2018: These were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman (pp Cllr Strand and seconded by Cllr Beadle).

12.10.18 Boulton Moor Housing: Nothing further to report.

13.10.18 Flooding and Gravel:

Kevin Birch's booklet advising residents of flooding was **approved** by members. Kevin will print the plan and cover letter and distribute to Ambaston residents for which members gave their thanks. He will also send the plan to Cllr Mansfield for insertion onto the website.

14.10.18 Police Report: July - 15 reports of minor incidents in Boulton Moor and 6 in the rural ward.

15.10.18 Chairman's Report: none

16.10.18 Matters for Decision or Discussion:

1. Car parking issues. Cllr Beadle highlighted that despite parking restriction signs being displayed during the Woodland Festival some drivers flouted these warnings but were caught. Generally the signs made a difference. She received a questionnaire from DCC suggesting options for implementing more permanent measures, such as yellow lines. Cllr Beadle will circulate this to members and clerk to ask for an extension of time in which to return council's response.

2. Avenue of trees at the Castle. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

3. Parcels of land for possible tree planting. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

4. Update on bridge between Pool Close and Field Lane (if any). **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

5. To adopt the modified clauses in the new standing orders. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

6. To consider the quote for installing steps on the village green. **Resolved:** clerk to obtain 2 further quotes.

7. New battery for the defibrillator at the Harrington Arms. **Resolved:** agreed.

8. To consider a basic inspection and test of the above defibrillator. **Resolved:** agreed and clerk to ask Cllr Russell whether the village hall and Ambaston devices would benefit from/are due the same inspection.

9. New 'welcome' sign at Colwell Drive. City Council will now conduct a site visit to determine a suitable location.

10. To consider a Grant Application from the cricket club. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

11. Update on the registration of the village green (if any); none.
12. To consider a display of lamp post poppies. **Resolved:** clerk to investigate their cost and circulate to members after which Cllr Beech will order and be reimbursed.
13. Budget review. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.
14. Photos of members to be taken. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

17.10.18 Clerk's Report:

1. Clerk informed SDDC of the bin on the cycle path at Borrowwash Bridge being full to overflowing as mentioned earlier and asked for more regular removal of waste. Also see point 4 below.
2. Clerk asked for an update on the replacement of the bus shelter on the A6 near Thurlston Grange which is under an insurance claim but has not received a reply after several reminders.
3. Allotment issues. Cllr Strand to furnish the clerk with the latest list of tenants. All rentals have now been received. Plot 11's request for a greenhouse was **agreed**.
4. To consider new waste bins. **Resolved:** large generic waste bins to be placed at Pool Close/ Mountfield Way, Sevenlands Drive/ Buttercup Leys and at the Borrowwash Road bridge. Clerk to ask Gill Forester whether she has suitable bins that council may use/ purchase.

18.10.18 Finance:

- (a) Accounts for Payment – cheques to be approved and signed:

NB: to ratify the approval and signing of the following accounts (1281 – 1285) outwith a meeting (on 19th September). **Resolved:** agreed.

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001281	J Irons – Clerk's salary July	497.43	-	497.43
001281	J Irons – Clerk's salary August	497.23	-	497.23
001281	J Irons – home allowances July & August	36.00	-	36.00
Stand Order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay July	285.60	-	285.60
Stand Order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay August	285.60	-	285.60
001282	HMRC – clerk's tax July	62.20	-	62.20
001282	HMRC – clerk's tax August	62.40	-	62.40
001283	DCC – clerk's pension July	134.43	-	134.43
001283	DCC – clerk's pension August	134.43	-	134.43
001284	Cllr Bickerton – reimbursement for groceries	11.89	-	11.89
001285	Community Heartbeat Trust – 3 new pads for defibrillators	108.00	21.60	129.60
	TOTAL	2115.21	21.60	2136.81

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001286	J Irons – Clerk's salary September	497.43	-	497.43
001286	J Irons – home allowance September	18.00	-	18.00
Stand Order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay September	285.60	-	285.60
001287	HMRC – clerk's tax September	62.20	-	62.20
001288	DCC – clerk's pension September	134.43	-	134.43
	TOTAL	997.66	-	997.66

(b) **Income** – Western Power wayleaves £ 4.60

(c) **Bank balance as at 2nd October 2018** £31174.00

19.10.18 To consider planning applications:

9/2018/1011 - PROVIDE A SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND GARAGE CONVERSION AT 88 SEVENLANDS DRIVE BOULTON MOOR. **Resolved:** no objection.

9/2018/0963 - PART RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF A BOUNDARY FENCE AND WALL AT 1 WILLOW CROFT BOULTON MOOR. **Resolved:** no objection.

Decision. 9/2018/0847 - THE FELLING OF 1NO. SYCAMORE TREE AND TOPPING OF 1NO. SYCAMORE TREE COVERED BY SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 9 AT 6 GROVE COURT THULSTON - Tree Preservation Order Consent Granted on 28th Sep-2018.

20.10.18 Items for Information: no major items of interest had been received.

21.10.18 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- update on car parking issues (if any);
- Avenue of trees at the Castle;
- parcels of land for possible tree planting;
- update on the bridge on the footpath between Pool Close and Field Lane (if any);
- to adopt the modified clauses in the new standing orders;
- update over quotes for installing steps on the village green (if any);
- update on Colwell Drive signage issue (if any);
- New battery for the defibrillator at the Harrington Arms and inspection of all devices;
- To raise a cheque for the RBL poppy wreath;
- Outcome of the Persimmon liaison meeting (if held);
- Comment over the Elvaston Castle Action Group Presentation from this meeting;
- To raise the Ambaston Lane repairs with the county councillor;
- to consider a Grant Application from the cricket club;
- Photos of members to be taken (Cllr Strand to provide camera and screen).

22.10.18 Date of next meeting: the next Council Meeting will be held on Monday 12th November at 7.30pm.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

23.10.18. To move the following resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960): *‘that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw’.*

24.10.18 Review of the recent finance decision and to consider the clerk’s contract for 2018/19: **Resolved:** council and clerk to meet at the village hall on Monday 15th October at 7pm. However, the venue has since changed to Nunsfield House.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.45pm.

Signed

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman).

Appendix:
**Minutes of the Presentation given by
Elvaston Castle Action Group to Elvaston Parish Council on 8th October 2018**

The power point presentation was given by Sarah Leuenberger on behalf of Elvaston Castle Action Group with technical support provided by Rachel Scott. Sarah stated that the aim of the presentation was to:

- Provide Elvaston Parish Councillors and members of the public with an understanding and awareness of an alternative proposal relating to the development of Elvaston Castle and Country Park which has been compiled by Elvaston Castle Action Group.
- Highlight the success of our petition campaign showing the public objection to the main points of the Derbyshire County Council draft Master Plan i.e. the proposed new access road, the enabling development and relocation of the showground and car park. The breakdown of signatures obtained on the paper petition (details not available for the online petition) showed DE72 post code – 21.28% (1341 signatures), DE24 post code area – 17.33% (1092 signatures). This was considered to be relevant information for local interest.

Sarah stated that the Elvaston Castle Action Group do not wish to be in conflict with Derbyshire County Council on all aspects of the draft Master Plan and supports some of the recommendations made. However, Elvaston Castle Action Group believe that some of the main points of the draft Master Plan are not in the public interest.

Key Issues

Sarah then went on to provide an overview of a number of key issues which have been drawn up by Elvaston Castle Action Group;

- Derbyshire County Council draft Master Plan is contrary to their own vision and guiding principles
- Other Country Parks researched by Elvaston Castle Action Group does show that 750,000 visitors per annum is achievable for Elvaston Castle Country Park
- Rufford Park is probably the most compatible with Elvaston so is therefore useful for comparisons
- The proposed new road and car park will cause serious detriment to the parkland, with additional infrastructure and loss of open space and greenery. One alternative route, the South Avenue, will cause destruction of Grade 2* listed park and gardens. The access using the B5010 Shardlow Road where the national speed limit applies is dangerous and as the Highway Agency's figures show, the traffic along this road has increased following the construction of the new A6 road, rather than decreased as expected
- A traffic survey conducted by Elvaston Castle Action Group at the Woodland Festival in September illustrated that 60% of park traffic is from the Borrowash direction (North) whilst 40% is from the South. Therefore park visitors arriving from a northerly route intending to use the proposed relocated car park will drive through the villages of Elvaston and Thulston, turn right on to the B5010 before entering the park at one of the proposed new access roads. This will result in an increase in traffic and congestion through the villages, not a decrease as suggested by the Derbyshire County Council draft Master Plan.
- Derby is considered one of the worst cities in the UK for air quality. Director of Public Health for Derbyshire County Council must improve healthier options i.e. less pollution and less traffic. Sarah highlighted that an increase in traffic through our villages to visit the park and travelling further in doing so, contravenes this requirement. Therefore, a new road is not required.
- The Derbyshire County Council proposals are contrary to South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan, which has natural and built environment policies and targets, Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan, National Planning Act 1990 and also Derbyshire Physical Activity and Sport Strategies.
- Enabling Development – The draft Master Plan states that this would be the final option the Trust would use. As Derbyshire County Council would retain the freehold, any properties built would be leasehold only. Elvaston Castle Action Group feel that alternative viable uses can be found for these areas and the relatively small one off sum of cash raised (rumoured to be approximately £1m) will be a drop in the ocean compared to future alternative and sustainable uses of the historic sites affected. Sarah also highlighted that following the NPPF amendments dated the 24th July 2018 that English Heritage have now revised their criteria for what they allow to be enabling development.

Sarah then went on to highlight Elvaston Castle Action Group's ideas. Elvaston Castle Action Group propose a phased approach for the development of Elvaston Castle and Country Park. As follows:

Phase 1 – The Grounds

Improve the grounds and gardens. Keep it simple and focus on low cost income generation opportunities to maximise income. Split the estate into two areas: To the north, the showground and play area would lend itself more to family recreation, while to the south, the castle and formal gardens would appeal to those appreciating a more reflective and cultural experience in a quieter environment.

Sarah outlined that to maximise income Derbyshire County Council should cease their policy of tendering for concessions e.g. ice cream, catering and adopt a proactive approach with professional marketing and management. The Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust to maintain this approach once they take over.

Drainage of the Showground and wider estate

- Drainage of showground, lake, ponds, and water courses is fundamental to the health of the estate and to relieve visitor pressure and footfall. This would prevent the showground flooding and therefore prevent Oak Flat from development thus saving the biodiversity of Oak Flat and grassland and protecting the local wildlife area. Sarah questioned - Why move the Showground from an area which may flood to an area which does flood. Elvaston Castle Action Group would like Derbyshire County Council and the Trust to explore Countryside Stewardship funding for drainage of the showground etc. Sarah also outlined that the showground was originally designed as a polo field for the estate and surrounded by lovely trees, makes a natural amphitheatre for events and for encouraging people to enjoy active recreation. Oak Flat, the area suggested for a relocated showground, is close to the busy and noisy A6 with the added disadvantage of traffic pollution, which is not ideal for open air concerts and events.

The Historic Gardens

- Sarah suggested that the Heritage Lottery funding would be an obvious source of funding as this would meet the criteria. She also suggested that Derbyshire County Council should recognise the national value of Elvaston's historical gardens, designed by William Barron for the Earl of Harrington, taking on a commission Capability Brown had refused.

Reinstate Existing Caravan Park

- The Elvaston Castle Action Group recommended that the existing caravan park be reinstated on its current foot print owing to local competition. Elvaston Castle Action Group cannot present any alternative options because Derbyshire County Council have already gone out to tender for the caravan park.

Car park improvements

- Sarah outlined that Elvaston Castle Action Group would argue that there are sufficient spaces in the existing car park to meet both current and future needs. The existing car park is well designed and functions well. A survey recently undertaken by Elvaston Castle Action Group of comparable walking distances from the car parks to the main areas shows Elvaston very favourably (Bradgate Park 1600m). Elvaston Castle Action Group would suggest a slightly adjusted route which would give Elvaston a distance of 448m from the car park to the castle. There is a need for reliable ticket machines and signage giving directions to various attractions and the distances involved would greatly improve the facility. Increased car parking charges would be required initially to help with sustainability. There is an option to refund car parking charges to visitors using the cafe when spending over a stated amount whilst using the café. Eventually, if visitor spend increases, then the estate could either reduce or remove charges.

Visitor Centre and Café

- It is absolutely fundamental to have a good quality cafe with reliable service. Recent Trip Adviser comments state the existing cafe is undesirable. Elvaston Castle Action Group would suggest two food and drink outlets. A Visitor Centre Cafe next to the showground, existing car park, and play area. Elvaston Castle Action Group would recommend a timber lodge, which would be acceptable, with solar panels, reed bed and recycled grey water. A meet and greet centre and a casual family friendly atmosphere. An outdoor serving

hatch could be provided to accommodate customers wanting to keep watch on their children in the play area, or dog owners wishing to avail themselves of the cafe facilities.

Courtyard Tea Room

- Sarah then went on to explain the need for an upmarket courtyard tea room catering for a different demographic looking for a more cultural experience. She explained that this idea has been designed by Elvaston Castle Action Group to utilise the current carriage shelter. It should be of a tasteful style with reference and styling to William Barron's gardens attracting those visitors wanting lunch/afternoon teas.

Adventurous play facility

- Sarah outlined that Elvaston Castle Action Group think it is not appropriate to have this type of facility near the core buildings. It should be of a high quality and located near the existing car park appealing to older children alongside the existing play area for younger children. It should be environmentally styled to be in-keeping with its surroundings. This is not directly an income generator but will increase family footfall into the park and generate income in the café outlets.

High and Low Ropes

- This could comprise of climbing facilities for both young and adult activity. These facilities have to be carefully managed and the historic trees, which are the backbone of the success of such a venture would be wrapped to avoid damage.

Virtual Office

- Sarah outlined the benefits of Elvaston Castle becoming a virtual office address for micro businesses operating from home, suggesting that this service could utilise existing staff.

Phase 2 – The Castle and Core Buildings

Sarah then went on to outline some ideas for the Castle and core buildings once phase one had been implemented but explained that these ideas had not been costed and just included to outline the future potential.

The Castle

- Sarah outlined that the following suggestions would work well for the castle and could include a Cultural and Arts Centre, conference facilities and banqueting facility. She stated that residential use of the upper floors could pose problems with possible smoking, misuse of electrical appliances and general damage to the historical structure.

Core Buildings

- Development of outlets for artisan produce, rural crafts, micro-brewery, well-ness centre to name a few suggestions.

Walled Garden

- To incorporate a plant nursery where people could visit and buy plants.

Thatched Cottage

- Provides an ideal location to run Forest Schools.

Home Farm

- Sarah highlighted that this was not an easy area owing to its isolation but suggested that this could be used for livery or a children's farmyard. However, stressed that if animals were to be kept there overnight, an onsite manager would be required for security purposes.

Kennels

- This could be developed for holiday lets, a children's farm yard or an interactive exhibition of the hunting history of the estate.

Funding Strategy

Sarah then explained that Elvaston Castle Action Group has a professional fundraiser within the group who has identified 20 possible grant funds totalling £7.25m. This includes only one of the two Heritage Lottery Fund programmes: Heritage Grants and Heritage Enterprise which cannot be used together but potentially could be used sequentially for different projects. She also mentioned that the Arts Council was not included in this sum and needed investigation for the Arts Centre. Plus the Rural Development Programme and potential Section 106 funding had not been included in this sum, but should be investigated, highlighting that there are more sources potentially available to support development at Elvaston than the £7.25m initially identified. Sarah also stated that it should not be just grant funding, but Derbyshire County Council and the Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust needed to maximise their effort on community fundraising, community donations and gifts in-kind.

Proposed Capital Costs

Sarah explained that Elvaston Castle Action Group had costed all their phase one proposals using either figures from previous reports with updated cost indices, or new costings from manufacturers. Sarah highlighted that only relatively small amounts of funding are required to implement the proposed two food and drink outlets which would immediately start to income generate and that no money in Elvaston Castle Action Group's proposal would be required on a new road or car park. The cost to implement phase one would be approximately £8m which includes an allocation for contingency, professional fees and inflation.

Projected Revenue Model

Sarah explained that Elvaston Castle Action Group's alternative master plan includes full revenue models, which have been based on increased visitor numbers from year 1 - 350,000 to year 5 - 750,000. With the phased approach previously outlined the estate could be sustainable within 1 - 2 years. Sarah explained that in working out the financials there were some unknowns relating to existing running costs and Derbyshire County Council's existing VAT treatment of the existing estate's accounts.

Sarah finished her presentation stating that the alternative proposal shows the full potential of the park with only a few areas to be developed at a relatively low cost without unnecessary development and high costs for a new car park and road.

She also questioned whether the Heritage Lottery Fund will only fund Elvaston Castle Country Park if a new road and car park is included, saying that in Elvaston Castle Action Group's view this is unlikely.

She also highlighted that Derbyshire County Council and the Trust have stated that they hope to receive money from D2N2 for the road and car park. Derbyshire County Council applied for funding for the road but D2N2 have rated the application as pool C RAG rating red.

Finally, she finished by stating that the Derbyshire County Council and Trust's 6 week consultation period was not the 12 week requirement with only 3 days' notice given for the first consultation session. They have not followed their own toolkit guidelines. The Derbyshire County Council consultation resulted in approximately 150 questionnaires received and by contrast Elvaston Castle Action Group obtained 10,500 petition signatures indicating the depth of feeling towards the adverse proposals previously outlined.

A Question and Answer session followed:

Ray Jefferies asked if the proposal by Elvaston Castle Action Group to de-silt the lake and associated waterways was accepted and how long would it be before work started and has the cost of a delay in commencement been considered in the costing strategy. Sarah answered that the cost of the work necessary to restore the lake is based on Alan Baxter and Associates Limited's survey some years ago and updated in line with inflation. Before the commencement of any work, an up to date survey should be undertaken. Although the sum quoted in the alternative proposal is high, Elvaston Castle Action Group believes it is vital to the future of the estate.

Mike Tong reported that an idea to lower the water level in the lake to improve showground drainage resulted in the sluice gate being severely damaged which has resulted in the inlet stream and ponds drying up and the wildlife lake water level lowered.

Sarah replied that this information goes to prove the importance of an up to date drainage survey and also that the wildlife issues are of paramount importance.

Faye Simnett stated that it is important to convince visitors that paying car parking charges is not money just going into “a big DCC pot”, but is retained for the maintenance and development of Elvaston Castle and Gardens and getting the public to realise this is important.

Kevin Birch queried whether implementing the drainage work at the showground would cause drainage issues to the villages east of the estate where he lived. He stated that in his belief Oak Flat was 3 - 4 cm higher than the showground and could be used without issue. Mike Tong immediately responded stating that the height of the ground was irrelevant and it is the structure of the sub soil which will have most impact on future flooding. He reiterated that Oak Flat will be unsuitable as a proposed location for the showground.

Mick Shaw asked if the alternative proposal had considered staffing to which Sarah replied that staffing had been fully included in the financials relating to those elements included in the initial phased approach only. Sarah also explained that Elvaston Castle Action Group had limited information on Derbyshire County Council staffing for Elvaston Castle and Country Park which is why the group had approached the costings for the initial phased approach from scratch. Sarah also mentioned that Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust envisage using volunteers to help wherever possible.

Rick Strand stated that the role of Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust is marginal. The Trust will be responsible for running the castle once the plan is implemented and asked if Elvaston Castle Action Group had consulted with the Trust. He stated that he hopes Elvaston Castle Action Group will work with the Trust. Sarah informed Rick that Elvaston Castle Action Group has already met with the Trust and presented this alternative proposal to them.

Rick Strand explained that the Derbyshire County Council and Trust relationship is a long story, since the County would hold the freehold they wanted to get the estate in to a reasonable condition. Sarah replied by saying that at the Derbyshire County Council/Trust/Elvaston Castle Action Group meeting, that all parties confirmed that they want the best for the future of Elvaston Country Park. If Derbyshire County Council wants to put money into the core buildings, why invest money into a new road and moving the car park.

Rick Strand stated that Elvaston Castle Action Group has quite concrete plans and at what stage does the group envisage letting the Trust take a key role. Sarah explained that if Derbyshire County Council and the Trust agree with our report and therefore keep our main suggestions, our work is done. We all walk away and agree.

Paul Bickerton asked how far Elvaston Castle Action Group had promoted the presentation. Sarah confirmed that our first presentation was to Derbyshire County Council and the Trust and this presentation to the Parish Council, our second. We will continue promoting our work.

Rachel Scott asked if Elvaston Parish Council will give their support to Elvaston Castle Action Group and assist in getting the message across to Derbyshire County Council. Paul Bickerton agreed to provide the views of Elvaston Parish Council on the draft Master Plan which had been submitted by them to Derbyshire County Council.

Rick Strand said he found the Elvaston Castle Action Group proposal very promising unlike the structure of the petition the group composed, which he found somewhat negative. Rachel explained that it was necessary to follow this approach to enable Elvaston Castle Action Group to raise the 7,500 signatures required to allow Elvaston Castle Action Group to present at the forthcoming full council meeting.

John Evans, a City Councillor from Alvaston found Elvaston Castle Action Group’s presentation encouraging and offered his help and support.