

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

17th March 2010

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Hewlett, Pabla and Shepherd.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Sutherland.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), K. Slater (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), C. Fellows and R. Lisewski (Stenson Fields Parish Council) and R. Wheat (Stanton-by-Bridge Parish Meeting).

Members of the Public

D. Bayliss, D. Bellis, R. Knibb, A. Madeley, G. Pollard, R. Saxby, P. Waters, K. Whewell.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District and County Councillor Ford and District Councillor Mrs. Coyle.

MA/24. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sutherland gave an update on crime statistics. Overall, there had been a slight reduction in crime levels and a breakdown was provided on specific areas. There had been a slight increase in the level of reported anti-social behaviour. At the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting held the previous week, priorities had been set for the next three months and these were reducing anti-social behaviour in two areas of Aston-on-Trent and addressing car crime in Melbourne.

A District Councillor was concerned about anti-social behaviour in the Stenson Fields area, explaining the problems being experienced by local residents. Whilst this area was in close proximity to the City of Derby, police cover was provided from Swadlincote. Collaboration was sought between the two Police Divisions to address the reported problems. Residents were encouraged to report all problems on the telephone number 0345 123 3333, or for reactive support when crimes were taking place by ringing 999.

There were concerns related to door-to-door sales by people thought to be former offenders. Sometimes they were visiting properties after dark, which was disturbing for some residents. The Sergeant responded that whilst this might be a nuisance, it was not a crime. It was questioned what could be done to regulate this and noted that individuals had to apply to the local authority for a Hawker's Licence. At the Safer Neighbourhood meetings, residents could obtain signs, which discouraged door-to-door sales people. In Leicestershire, an authority had designated no "cold calling" zones. **It was agreed that Officers at the District Council undertake research on Hawker's Licences, including the conditions attached to them and provide a report back to the next Meeting.**

In response to further questions, confirmation was provided on the telephone numbers to be used when reporting incidents. A resident voiced concerns about the speed of traffic along the A5132 between Swarkestone and Barrow-on-Trent.

MA/25. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman provided information on Liberation Day, which would take place at the Bretby Conference Centre on 20th May 2010. This year, priority was being given to people who had not attended before, which should help residents in rural areas to get the much sought after places. It was noted that residents had to be aged 65 or over to attend. To request a place, residents should ring the registration line on 01283 595795. Full details were available via the District Council's website.

MA/26. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 2nd February 2010 were noted.

MA/27. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Information had been circulated with the agenda to provide an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting. The Chairman reviewed each of the items, providing further updates where appropriate. On winter gritting, it was explained that the County Council had increased its resources for this service area by some £2million. It was requested that Deepdale Lane at Stenson Fields be added to the County Council's gritting run. Previous requests by a District Councillor and the local Parish Council had been refused. The Chairman urged that a further request be made to Councillor Chris Jackson, the Cabinet Member for Highways.

MA/28. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Further reference was made to Deepdale Lane, about the installation of a safety barrier adjacent to the canal. A resident was critical that the road had been closed for three weeks, that no pothole repairs had taken place during that time, but most significantly that the barrier actually worsened safety on a particular corner, which vehicles were now taking much wider. It was requested that speed limits be reduced on this section of road and that traffic calming be introduced, to reduce the risk of road traffic accidents. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to pursue this matter and would provide a report to the next Meeting.**

A District Councillor referred to a hot food takeaway premises in Pilgrims Way, Stenson Fields and food wrappers were being deposited, causing litter. A request was submitted for an additional litter bin and it was asked that the District Council fund this. A representative of the Parish Council commented that it would be prepared to provide some funding. **It was agreed that Officers of the District Council liaise with the Parish Council Clerk regarding the provision of an additional litter bin. The Environmental Health Team would also be informed, with a view to taking enforcement action.**

MA/29. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – BIG CHOICES – WASTE CONSULTATION

The Forum Liaison Officer publicised a Joint Consultation by Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council on plans for waste management over the next twenty years. The consultation period had been extended to the end of April 2010 and residents' views were sought to shape the formation of a draft plan, on which further consultation would then take place. A copy of the report was available via the County Council's website or by phoning Call Derbyshire. Residents were urged to respond to this consultation and the Chairman spoke about the increasing costs of waste disposal.

A view was expressed that insufficient time had been allowed for this consultation and others, which the District and County Councils undertook. Local representatives explained the difficulties in responding effectively to such consultations, given the frequency of their meetings amongst other things. The Chairman urged that parish councils respond to the consultation exercise, seeking an extension for their views to be submitted.

There followed a discussion about consultation generally and how this could be made more effective. This included reference to the available parish newsletters, such as the Melbourne Village Voice and the quarterly magazine that circulated in Aston-on-Trent. The comments made by local representatives were noted and it was felt that the District and County Council could work with these organisations to improve communication. It would be helpful if parish councils could notify of publication dates and deadlines. The Forum Liaison Officer explained the other mechanisms used for this consultation exercise.

FM/30. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

A District Councillor referred to the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the recent exhibitions that had been held. He spoke about the importance of this process and had been surprised by the lack of local awareness of the LDF. A further exhibition would take place at the Stenson Fields Primary School on Friday 19th March 2010 and he urged residents to attend. Another District Member also spoke of the importance of the LDF process and the lack of responses received to date. If parish councils were unable to submit detailed responses at this stage, he urged them to at least submit their respective parish plans, even if these documents were in draft form, to give some input to the LDF process.

MA/31. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Details of the dates and venues for future Area Forum Meetings would be circulated to residents in due course.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.