

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
MELBOURNE

30th October 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Mrs. Coyle, Ford, Hewlett, Pabla, Shepherd and Stanton.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), M. Guest (Policy) and C. Lukaszewicz (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Ford, Harrison and Jones.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer), J. Cox, J. Thraves and E. Croll (Policy).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

East Midlands Airport

J. Nowakowski and L. Parkin.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Heathcote (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), M. Sharp and D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council) and R. Parker (Ticknall Parish Council).

Members of the Public

C. Allen, D. Allen, D. Bayliss, S. Blatch, P. Buckley, J. Burden, P. Burden, D. Calvert, C. Ford, P. Grimley, S. Harrison, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, D. Houghton, R. Knibb, A. Madeley, G. Pollard, R. Saxby, P. Waters, K. Whewell and J. Younger.

MA/13. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Bladen, Murray and Mrs. Wheeler and M. Todd M.P.

MA/14. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported on the renaming of these public meetings from 'Melbourne Area Meeting' to 'South Derbyshire Area Forum - Melbourne'. He added that the crest of the District Council appeared on the Agenda cover alongside those of the County Council and Derbyshire Constabulary, to indicate that these were joint meetings for the area. In future, there would be

greater involvement from the County Council to respond to questions on the functions that it was responsible for. In addition, the Police were continuing to be represented at these Meetings. However, their main role was to discuss partnership issues that concerned the police and other agencies. The Safer Neighbourhood Meetings would continue and these were the main forum for police issues.

MA/15. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Wright addressed the Meeting, providing details of the new Inspector based at the Swadlincote Police Station and the revised beat Officers and Police Community Support Officers for this part of South Derbyshire. An updated contact sheet was available from the Helpdesk. Details were provided of the reducing crime statistics and the crime detection rates. The Officer also referred to the recent Melbourne Wakes, the low number of reported incidents at that time and the subsequent slight increase in anti-social behaviour issues.

Questions were invited, which the Officer responded to and gave an undertaking to pursue where appropriate. This included a letter of complaint passed to the Officer from Councillor Pabla, about dog waste being thrown in the Stenson Fields area.

In Woodshop Lane, Swarkestone, there was still concern about non resident's vehicles being parked along this 'access only' road. It was also felt that the 30 mph speed limit at the junction of the A5132 had no impact and there were still problems with speeding traffic. Praise was recorded for the 'speed watch' initiative and it was questioned whether this could also be used to record vehicles exceeding permitted weight limits. The Officer explained that where such drivers also exceeded the speed limit, the camera would record vehicle registration details and could then be pursued. A particular problem area was the B5010 between the A6 and Borrowash Bridge. **The abuse of weight limits would also be referred to the Trading Standards Department at the County Council.** An outline was provided of how the 'speed watch' initiative worked. It was requested that a Police Officer contact Aston-on-Trent Parish Council about participating in this initiative. It was confirmed that Sergeant N. Rogers, based at Swadlincote Police Station was the contact for all parishes interested in taking part in the scheme.

There was a discussion about how the police responded to complaints regarding fireworks. **Sergeant Wright agreed to pursue the various issues raised.** In closing, he reminded of the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings and the next for the north-eastern parishes would be held at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 9th December at the Barrow-on-Trent Village Hall.

MA/16. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Meeting held on 28th May 2008 were noted.

Under Minute No. MA/5, the Chairman provided an update on the ongoing County Council research, following the traffic accident on Deepdale Lane. The provision of additional signage was being pursued. A resident referred to a 'hump' in the road and the adverse camber, which contributed to the highway problems in this area.

MA/17. **EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT**

The Chairman introduced representatives of the East Midlands Airport and outlined the Airport-related issues affecting the local community. Mr. Nowakowski explained the measures introduced to restrict the number of training flights, which were prohibited during the weekends and Bank Holidays. It was questioned whether this included light aircraft. In Aston-on-Trent, training flights were the main problem experienced, as they flew very low over this village. An offer was made by the Airport's representatives to take away all issues raised at the Meeting and to respond at the next Meeting. Noise problems at night were raised, with particular reference made to ground testing. It was felt that when residents complained, there was a standard letter of denial in reply. A member of the Airport's Independent Consultative Committee was also present and spoke about the volume of jet movements. In view of the economic downturn, it was questioned whether this would reduce the demand for pilots and therefore the number of training flights.

It was explained that Lufthansa had recently taken over BMI and was questioned how this would impact on the Airport. There was also a discussion about the Airport's approach to enforcing the "climb to altitude" in the shortest period. This generated more noise nuisance for areas nearest to the Airport. Related to this, reference was made to the noise preferential routes. A request was made to vary the training flight routes, which currently went over the Aston village school, as this was a cause of great concern.

L. Parkin then gave an update on the runway extension plans, which should alleviate some of the current problems over Kegworth, whilst having no detrimental impact on South Derbyshire villages. This was refuted by the representative of the Independent Consultative Committee, who explained that the increased runway length would enable greater weight to be carried by aircraft in terms of freight or fuel. This could enable further destinations to be reached and lead to even more flights from the Airport, but this point was not accepted by the Airport's representatives.

The noise from DC10 aircraft was then discussed. By 2012, all such aircraft would have been phased out. Other issues discussed were the proximity of the Donington racetrack to the Airport and the ongoing joint meetings that the District Council was involved in.

It was agreed that the Airport's representatives take away the issues raised and provide a report back to the next meeting.

MA/18. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman gave an update on those issues discussed at the previous Meeting. In particular, he explained how the request for a footpath extension was being pursued and confirmed that an Officer of the County Council would contact Mr. Baylis regarding the flooding problems in Woodshop Lane. The abuse of weight restrictions in this area was again discussed, together with the problems caused by satellite navigation, foreign drivers visiting this area and the role of the County Council's Trading Standards Department. The District Council was funding a study to seek an alternate route through

this part of South Derbyshire. This sought to stimulate a wider review, involving the County Council and other agencies, as the Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway could not cope with the increasing volumes of traffic. A Member referred to the Highways Agency response, refusing to provide advance weight restriction signage from the A50 trunk road. **It was felt that this matter should be pursued again by the County Council.** There was a consensus that early signage was needed, to deter vehicles from coming into the weight restricted area.

MA/19. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A request was made for the County Council to cut back hedges overhanging highways, particularly in the Stenson Road and Grampian Way area. The local County Member offered to pursue this. The refurbishment of a pavement in Aston-on-Trent, between the Village Hall and Valiner Road, was also requested.

There was a discussion about changes to local bus services and the Chairman advised how deregulation had given the operators every right to vary services. He explained the County Council's responsibilities and it could subsidise key routes that were considered vital, but unprofitable. Arriva's service changes had caused many problems for South Derbyshire residents and there were ongoing efforts to secure service improvements. A particular problem was the circulatory arrangement affecting residents on the edge of Melbourne. Similarly, the timing of school bus services was a further concern. Reference was then made to a Transport Bill that could restore some former County Council powers over bus services.

A resident referred to the Environment Agency's flood plan for the lower Derwent area. This would impact on a number of the north-eastern parishes. A comparison was made to other schemes elsewhere in the Country and the resultant problems experienced. A presentation had been made by the Environment Agency to the District Council's Flood Liaison Meeting. The District Council was very disturbed, particularly about the potential impact for Ambaston. These concerns had been put forward forcibly and it was requested that they be followed up by all relevant parish councils. A Member explained that representatives of the Environment Agency were attending Elvaston Parish Council Meeting on 7th November. A resident of Ambaston explained the potential flooding problems in that Village, stemming from gravel extraction works over 40 years ago. A requested increase in the flood bank height had been refused at that time and subsequent requests had been ignored persistently.

A scheme was publicised for flood defence boards, which the District Council was subsidising. Those wishing to find out further information on this scheme were asked to contact Tim Summers at the District Council or leave their details at the Helpdesk after the Meeting.

MA/20. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – "TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRIORITIES"**

Jane Cox of Derbyshire County Council introduced this item and explained the information and questionnaire that had been circulated. This sought residents' feedback on key priorities for Derbyshire County Council. The Chairman was conscious of the time and proposed that residents take these documents away and return them in the prepaid envelopes circulated. The

results from this consultation would be reported to the January round of Area Forums.

MA/21. **ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Kate Allies (Environmental Development Manager) advised that a new Environmental Forum for South Derbyshire was being established, involving local environmental groups, parish councils and individuals, who wanted to share ideas about environmental projects. These were being supported by the Local Strategic Partnership and South Derbyshire District Council.

The Forum would involve a networking group, to which groups and individuals would be invited. Meetings would usually include formal and informal information sharing and consultation, plus a walk or talk by a local group about their area.

It was confirmed that the first meeting would be held at Repton Village Hall on Tuesday, 4th November at 7.00 p.m. A reply slip was attached to the agenda and people were requested to return this, if they were interested in being involved with the Forum.

A local Councillor praised the Findern Footpaths Group, particularly its achievements and fund raising activities.

MA/22. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dates for future Meetings were confirmed as 9th February 2009 at the Stenson Fields Primary School and Wednesday 15th April 2008 at the Ticknall Village Hall.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:45 p.m.