

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

19th July 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Hewlett, Shepherd, Stanton and Watson.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Ford and Harrison.

G. Duckworth (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant S. Todd.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

C. Fellows and R. Lisewski (Stenson Fields Parish Council).

Members of the Public

C. Allen and D. Allen, D. Bayliss and T. Mills.

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Harrison had been appointed Chairman of the Melbourne Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Atkin, Chahal, Mrs. Watson and Wheeler and from D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council).

MA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Watson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Melbourne Area Forum for the ensuing year.

MA/3. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Todd was introduced to those present and he gave details of the Police staff covering this part of South Derbyshire. An update was provided on

crime statistics for the area and the Chairman publicised a website: www.police.uk, where residents could find detailed information on crime statistics for their area.

The Chairman referred to problems at the recent Aston Well Dressings. It was noted that PCSO Bromley was attending the Aston-on-Trent Parish Council Meeting, also being held this evening. Sergeant Todd confirmed that five incidents were reported late on the Saturday evening and it was hoped the Constabulary would be consulted about event planning for next year. It was questioned whether the extended licensing hours might have contributed and the Chairman requested that details of the reported incidents be sent by the Police to the District Council so these could be considered for future licensing applications. A local Member praised the police's response to one of the reported incidents.

Reference was also made to the changes in police staffing for this area and there was praise for the previous work undertaken by Sergeant Sutherland and PC Croxall.

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Area Forum to these Officers for their service to the area.

There was a discussion about speeding traffic problems and road traffic accidents along the A5132 in the Swarkestone and Barrow-on-Trent areas. A resident was awaiting an update about action on speeding traffic and understood that a Liaison Committee was due to be held. The Chairman referred to a recent fatal road traffic accident and was arranging a site visit to this area, as there were several gaps in hedges resulting from vehicle accidents. A copy of the police report on the fatal traffic accident would be useful. Another resident spoke about damage to a street light column, resulting from a road traffic incident in Stenson Fields, near to Grampian Road. Arising from this, there was a discussion about the recording of incidents, which did not necessarily take place unless there was an injury.

Sergeant Todd agreed to pursue the issues raised above.

MA/4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman referred to consultations held at earlier in the year about housing allocations required across the District. The Council was working jointly with Amber Valley Borough Council and Derby City Council, to see how much housing would be needed for the area over the next 15 years or so. It was expected the Government would scrap the existing regional building targets and residents' views would be sought on how much housing growth should be planned for and the extent to which it should be concentrated around the edges of Derby or dispersed to other towns, villages and locations throughout the Derby housing market area. A number of drop-in events were being held throughout the District over the coming weeks and information had been circulated to those present.

The Chairman then explained plans to consult about the future operation of the area forums. A consultation would take place with parish councils, with information also being placed on the website and sent to the Council's partners.

MA/5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 7th February 2011 were noted.

MA/6. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated with the agenda. The Chairman reminded those present of the issues raised, the action taken to date and he gave a verbal update. With regard to the concerns about motor-cyclists using a footpath between Gairloch Close and Holderness Close in Stenson Fields, a site meeting had taken place and the County Council was considering the installation of suitable barriers. Plans would be prepared and consultation undertaken with local residents and elected representatives.

There was further discussion about road safety issues adjacent to the canal on Deepdale Lane. Stenson Fields Parish Council had requested a reduction in the speed limit along this route and again reported concerns about the lack of gritting during the winter months. The Chairman responded, providing guidance on the criteria used when considering reductions in speed limits and traffic calming measures. He offered to take this issue back to the County Council and also spoke of the work of Trading Standards regarding the breach of weight restrictions in place for this area. The Chairman explained that a review of the gritting policy had taken place. The County Council was also encouraging parishes to become involved in a 'Snow Patrol' initiative, on which he gave information.

There was further discussion about the Tollgate roundabout in Woodville, but it was concluded that nothing further could be done at this location, at the present time. Next, reference was made to weight restriction signage at junction 3 of the A50 trunk road. A local District Councillor quoted from recent correspondence received from Derbyshire County Council and reiterated the need for advance signage at the 1 mile and ½ mile positions prior to each side of this junction. He acknowledged that a section of the road leading to the Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway was not weight restricted, but still felt that this matter should be pursued.

MA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A District Councillor advised that a number of issues had been raised with the County Council's representative, prior to the Meeting. The first concerned the canal bridge at Sinfin Lane in Barrow-on-Trent, where a wall had been damaged for several months and required rebuilding. It was questioned if this was owned by British Waterways, but it was felt the County Council should also look at the condition of the road surface in this area, as there might be a safety issue. Additionally, some street lining works were required. Next, the Councillor referred to the Kilomathon Road Race and several residents had complained about the lack of publicity for this event. It was felt that on-street signage should be provided in future. Finally, a request was submitted on behalf of a resident, for waste bins for dog fouling to be provided on the Trent and Mersey Canal towpath near to the Stenson lock.

It was agreed that Officers from the County and District Councils pursue the requests.

The damage caused to roadways in the Lowes Lane area of Swarkestone was raised and the Chairman reminded that Derbyshire County Council was pursuing this matter. A Member reported on work undertaken by the Community Payback Team to clear a jitty adjacent to Jarvis Road in Stenson Fields. The Councillor was also concerned about the number of driving instructors using the Stenson Fields area for driving lessons and he asked that a letter be sent to the local Driving Test Centre to request that instructors were more considerate and used other areas.

It was agreed that a letter be sent from the District Council, on behalf of the Area Forum.

A District Member reported that signage on a bus shelter opposite the Crewe and Harpur public house and on a rail bridge at Pingle Lane Swarkestone had been spelt incorrectly.

It was agreed to pursue these matters with Derbyshire County Council and Network Rail respectively to seek the correction of the signage.

Concerns were also reported about the layout of a road junction near to Kings Newton and Melbourne. The Chairman provided information on the options considered, the costs associated with installing a mini traffic island at this location and the low number of traffic accidents, which were felt to have been caused by poor driving.

The Chairman invited suggestions for presentations to future meetings and a resident asked if East Midlands Airport could provide an update. There was also a discussion about gravel site issues and the related liaison committees, which the public could attend. With regard to the earlier publicity to attend the planning drop-in events, residents were encouraged to attend these and to complete questionnaires, giving their views.

MA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue for the next Melbourne Area Forum would be confirmed in due course.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.