

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

18th April 2012

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman in the Chair) and Councillors Atkin, Hewlett and Mrs. Watson.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations) and P. Spencer (Democratic Services).

County Council Representative

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

K. Atkin & Mrs. Blackmore (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Mr. & Mrs. Adams, D. Bayliss, D. Bellis, Mr. & Mrs. Dunn, B. Fletcher, J. Grimley, P. Grimley and Mrs. Jackson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor and County Councillor Harrison, D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council) and Mrs. Hawkesworth and Mrs. Mitchell (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council).

MA/24. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 31st January 2012 were noted.

MA/25. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman reviewed the report back on issues raised at the last Meeting. An update was provided regarding the weight restriction signage that had been installed on the A50 sliproad. The Chairman reminded of efforts to have similar signage placed on the approaches to this junction, which had been unsuccessful.

MA/26. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Further reference was made to the recent repairs and kerbing works adjacent to the bridge on the Sinfin Lane/Deepdale Lane area of Barrow-on-Trent.

Whilst residents appreciated the works undertaken, it was noted that a kerb of approximately 15 inches in height had been installed and had resulted in a number of motorists damaging their vehicles when travelling through this area. **It was agreed to refer this matter back to the County Council's Traffic Section and to ensure that Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council was copied in on the response.**

A resident of Ashby Road, Melbourne expressed concerns about the development to provide sports pitches in this area. This involved the raising of land levels in the Washington Close and Derby Road area. A range of issues were raised and there had been significant correspondence between residents and the Council. The residents did not feel they had been consulted adequately, raised concerns about the stability of the imported materials and referred to an independent consultant's report which was awaited. There were concerns about the drainage from this land, which would be by means of a soak away and a further consultant's report was awaited on this aspect. Reference was also made to the previously determined planning applications, including a subsequent application for a terraced approach that had not been carried forward. The Chairman felt residents would have been aware of the proposals through the extensive consultation the Council undertook as part of the planning process. He also spoke about the design and construction of this scheme by competent experts, also touching on the drainage aspects and land levels.

The Director of Operations also responded to the points raised by residents regarding the appointment of independent consultants and confirming that he had responded to every point raised by the residents on planning and a range of other reported concerns. There was discussion about the consultation arrangements, it being noted that South Derbyshire District Council exceeded national requirements and a list was given of all the consultation mechanisms used. Further residents considered that the plans used were not clear. It was noted that both the Melbourne Parish Council and Civic Society had been consulted on the proposals. The levelling scheme sought to maximise the number of sports pitches possible and this could not be delivered by the proposed terracing scheme. The Director offered to recirculate information on this aspect. It was noted that there had been some waste found in the imported materials to the site, but it was confirmed that sorting took place on site to remove such objects.

It was agreed that a site visit be arranged once the consultant's reports had been received and this would be open to all interested residents, also involving Council Officers and the independent consultant.

A resident referred again to the terraced levelling scheme, which would have resulted in ground levels being lower and would have been more acceptable to residents. It was repeated that the final scheme sought to achieve the pitch requirements. There was a consensus amongst those present that a site visit should be held once the consultant's report had been received. It was made clear that residents had no "right to view" under planning law. The discussion then turned to proposals to finish this site in terms of landscaping and netting.

A further issue raised was the County Council's plans to switch off certain street lights overnight. This matter had recently been considered by the County Council's Cabinet and in the first year of the scheme, there were proposals for some street lights in Barrow-on-Trent and Weston-on-Trent to be turned off overnight. There was discussion about the consultation to date and further planned local consultation, together with risk assessments when individual schemes were taken forward. A District Member quoted from a recent email about other South Derbyshire villages which would be involved in this scheme.

MA/27. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

A Swarkestone resident reminded of the drainage problems on Woodshop Lane and had noted recently that some markings had been placed on this lane. It was understood that an improvement scheme was approved in the previous year. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate this matter and to submit a report to the next Area Forum.**

With regard to the Swarkestone Causeway, it was understood that agricultural vehicles had an exemption to the weight restriction. The Chairman noted that large agricultural vehicles had recently been using the Causeway. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate this matter and would submit a report to the next Area Forum.**

MA/28. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next Melbourne Area Forum would be held on 11th July 2012 and the venue would be confirmed shortly.

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.