

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

18th August 2004

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Carroll (Chair) and Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Nalty, Pabla, Mrs. Renwick, Shepherd and Mrs Wheeler.

I.Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), Mrs. D. Cook (Helpdesk) and Sergeant A. Wright (Crime & Disorder Partnership).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Inspector S. Fairbrother.

**Derbyshire County Council Representative**

Mrs. M. Evans.

**Member of Parliament**

Mr. M. Todd, M.P.

**Parish Council Representatives**

F. Smith (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), N. Hawksworth (Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council), J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council), V. Shaw (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council), P. Watson (Ingleby Parish Meeting) and R. Wheat (Stanton-by-Bridge Parish Meeting).

**Members of the Public**

D. Bellis, A. Bellis, L Brooks, P. Burden, P. Burns, H. Coyle, J. Hinds, F. Hinds, G. Pollard, D. Seed, A. Sellodale, P. Waters, K. Whewell.

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was noted that Councillor Carroll had been appointed as Chair of the Melbourne Area Meeting at the Annual Council Meeting.

MA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Jones, District and County Councillor Harrison, P.C. Staley (Derbyshire Constabulary), S. Graham (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Mitchell and E. Robbins.

MA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was agreed that Councillor Harrison be appointed Vice-Chair of the Melbourne Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

MA/4. **CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair commented that highway issues were raised frequently at the Area Meetings. Derbyshire County Council, which was the responsible authority

for highway matters had advised that its local area committees now met at 6.00 p.m. in the evenings. There was a public forum for the first half hour of each Meeting and Highway Officers would be able to respond to residents' questions. Future County Council local area committees would be held on 20th October 2004, 5th January 2005 and 9th March 2005. Those wishing to be included on the distribution list for future agendas were asked to contact K. Fox at Derbyshire County Council on 01629 580000.

MA/5. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and provided an update. In his absence, Councillor Harrison had submitted a report about progress with the flooding problems in Elvaston. An undertaking had been given by Derbyshire County Council to resolve the reported problems by the Autumn of 2004. Elvaston Parish Council was pursuing a problem with overgrown trees impeding visibility on the main road from the Village to the A6.

The Chair provided a report about planned changes to postal codes. This issue had been considered by the Finance & Management Committee and it supported the views raised by local residents. Representations had been made to Royal Mail to retain the current postcodes for those South Derbyshire villages where there was little foreseen development and that new postal codes be introduced for larger areas like Chellaston in Derby, where more development was taking place. Correspondence had since been received from Royal Mail repeating the reasons for the proposed change and then confirming that the review would be implemented. Mark Todd, MP had also pursued this issue and was advised of the need for additional postal codes in South Derbyshire and adjacent parts of the City of Derby. The alternate proposal to retain the current postcode for the South Derbyshire villages was not considered sustainable by Royal Mail.

MA/6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Hinds of Aston-on-Trent submitted a question about development of the Aston Hall Hospital site. An article had been included in the local press, which included a comment from a District Council spokesperson about the possible residential development of this site. Councillor Shepherd offered to investigate this matter and to respond to Mr. Hinds. Mark Todd, M.P. understood that the Council's official position, as set out in the Draft Local Plan, was for the retention of a commercial use of this site. If a policy change was to be considered, the Council would need evidence that business use of this site was not sustainable. Several tests would need to be satisfied before a change of use could be considered. Ian Reid, the Council's Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that certain criteria would need to be satisfied, to justify a change of policy.

Mrs. Shaw also commented on this site, which was actually within the Weston-on-Trent Parish. That Parish Council had received representations about the future use of this site and it supported the Local Plan position that it be retained for commercial use. Mr. L Brooks had seen the press article and had raised this matter with Council's Planning Services Manager. The Officer had been surprised by the alleged statement. Mr. Brooks also commented that a bungalow in Chellaston had been purchased to accommodate former residents of the Hospital. This had attracted local

opposition, including a petition against the planned use. It had been stated previously that these former patients should have been allowed to remain within the Aston-on-Trent area.

Mrs. Smith confirmed that Aston-on-Trent Parish Council was working with the neighbouring Weston-on-Trent Parish and others on the future use of this site. She felt that there was sufficient time as a community to agree an acceptable form of future development before any planning applications were submitted for this site.

Concerns were voiced about the congregation of young people in certain parts of Aston-on-Trent and their intimidating behaviour. Inspector Fairbrother understood that the local Beat Officer was aware of this problem and similar problems were reported in many other areas. In Melbourne there was a slightly different issue where young people came into the Village from the surrounding area. The Police were working with the Parish Council to target appropriate action. There was a need to work with other agencies, to examine the cause and look at providing activities and facilities for young people. Sergeant Wright added that the presentation on Crime and Disorder later in the meeting would make reference to a recently completed youth needs survey, which would help to identify the facilities that young people wanted. Maureen Evans would also make a presentation on the work of the Derbyshire Youth Service and she explained the strong partnership approach with other agencies. In response to a comment that Chellaston young people were travelling into Melbourne, she explained the developing partnership with the City of Derby Youth Service, to look at cross-boundary issues.

Mr. Mitchell of Elvaston Parish Council questioned when the Local Plan Inspector's report would be received. Ian Reid responded that the Planning Inspectorate had experienced certain difficulties and had allocated additional resources to complete this process. It was anticipated that the Inspector's report would be received by the end of Autumn, but this could not be guaranteed.

Mr. Watson of Ingleby Parish Meeting commented on the response from Royal Mail about the postal code change. He had read in a National newspaper that Central Government planned to review waste collection and disposal arrangements. One option was to introduce a variable charge based on the amount of refuse collected from each property. If such a system was to be introduced, he hoped that consultation would be provided through forums such as the Area Meeting, so that local residents could air their views. Ian Reid confirmed that the Cabinet Office had produced a discussion paper on this topic. Several Countries operated a scheme of charging based on the amount of waste collected. Mr. Reid explained the practical issues to be resolved before such a scheme could be introduced. The discussion paper was subject to Central Government consultation and it was questionable whether there would be the opportunity to raise it at Area Meetings at present. Mark Todd, M.P. added that there was no substantive proposal at present, but the discussion paper looked at how to make waste disposal more efficient. He offered to seek further information on this issue and to respond to Mr. Watson.

Mr. Hinds referred to a further press article and an Auditors view that the Council was spending too high a proportion of its resources in Swadlincote, as compared to the rural areas. He asked how this would be addressed in future years. The Chair confirmed that this statement had been made in a

Comprehensive Performance Assessment Report, but without supporting evidence. The Council was using a rural proofing scheme from the Department for Education, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to examine this issue. She gave examples of service provision throughout the District, which she felt proved that more resources were spent in the rural areas. Ian Reid provided further information about the DEFRA and Countryside Agency frameworks. The outcome of the review would be reported to a future Area Meeting.

A resident felt there was a need to provide an events venue in Melbourne as a base for organisations like the local Operatic Society. The Chair responded that, for such a venue to be commercially viable, it would need to generate regular income. Ian Reid explained that DEFRA was able to compare schemes elsewhere to give guidance on what might be achievable in a specific area. There would be a need to work with partners to see how such a facility might be used.

A question was submitted about development plans for the Melbourne Leisure Centre. The Chair advised that there was nothing to report at this time. Ian Reid confirmed that the District Council owned the Melbourne Leisure Centre and it was sub-let to the Parish Council and Derbyshire County Council. The premises were in need of some work, including works to comply with access requirements. Discussions were ongoing and there was a funding issue to be addressed.

Mr. Brooks felt that the Council should give its support for retention of the Assembly Hall in Aston-on-Trent. This would provide a suitable venue for concert events.

Mrs. Burden voiced her concerns about speeding traffic through Ticknall and the need to improve highway maintenance. She felt that the maximum speed limit through the Village should be reduced to 20 m.p.h. Councillor Shepherd explained that he had met with several agencies on a number of occasions about speed issues in the Village. He was due to meet with County Councillor Lucas, the Cabinet Member for Highways on 1st September 2004. He requested that Mrs. Burden write to him, setting out her concerns so that these issues could be raised. Inspector Fairbrother offered to participate in the Meeting, to see how the Constabulary could assist. He explained that Beat Officers were being trained in the use of mobile speed detection cameras, to increase the amount of enforcement work undertaken. Councillor Mrs. Wheeler commented that in many villages abroad, the maximum speed limit was 20 m.p.h. Attempts had been made to provide a school safety zone in the centre of Repton to achieve such a speed limit reduction, but to date without success. Mark Todd, M.P. had also been involved in efforts to reduce the speed of traffic through Ticknall and he felt that some improvements had been made recently. Attempts had been made to extend the area covered by the speed limit, but Derbyshire County Council did not feel this would be enforceable. He felt it was primarily about driver attitudes and in some rural locations, overbearing signage would not be appropriate. Conversely, there were increasing complaints about speed detection cameras and he referred to a local newspaper campaign against the use of speed cameras.

MA/7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Melbourne Area Meeting would be held on 17th November 2004 at the Stenson Fields Primary School.

**MA/8. PRESENTATION BY THE DERBYSHIRE YOUTH SERVICE**

The Chair introduced Maurine Evans who gave a presentation on the work of the Derbyshire Youth Service. Initially, she explained that traditional youth clubs now tended to suit younger age groups. The Service worked with those aged between 13 and 19. Through the Crime & Disorder Partnership, Home Office Funds had been secured for a Mobile Youth Service Scheme. A vehicle visited villages throughout the rural parts of South Derbyshire and could park where young people gathered. The scheme had been successful and it was hoped to improve the service even further once staffing shortages had been addressed through recruitment.

In Melbourne a scheme was operated through the Methodist Church to provide an Internet Café for young people. The service also worked with People Express to provide community arts. She then explained a project in Repton, working with the Parish Council to address low levels of attendance at the local youth club. The service had a mobile climbing wall, which had proved popular. Rock climbing trips were arranged and local young people were producing a mural. She felt it was better to identify the activities which young people wished to participate in, and then to tailor the service provided.

The Youth Service worked in partnership with the Police and the District Council through the Crime & Disorder Partnership. In some villages a scheme was provided to transport children to other areas. The Service worked with young people where there were perceived anti-social behaviour problems, to make them aware of their responsibilities and the potential action that could be taken. There was a District Youth Forum, which was currently working on a leaflet, written in young persons language to inform of their responsibilities in regard to anti-social behaviour. Mrs. Evans also explained the close working relationship with schools.

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler asked about cross-border working as some South Derbyshire young people attended the Chellaston School in the City of Derby. Mrs. Evans spoke of the potential for cross-border working and reminded of the success of the Mobile Youth Service Scheme. Mrs. Hawksworth explained that young people in Shardlow and Great Wilne attended a school in Long Eaton, in the Erewash Borough. Mrs. Evans confirmed that there would be a corresponding Youth Service for the Erewash Borough. Where there were specific issues, she requested details, so that she could liaise with colleagues and look at a joint project for cross-border working. Mrs. Evans was thanked for the presentation.

**MA/9. PRESENTATION ON CRIME AND DISORDER**

Sergeant A. Wright gave a presentation to the Meeting. He advised that the Crime and Disorder Partnership was a local partnership between the Police, Local Authorities, Health, Probation, Voluntary Services and the Fire Service. The Partnerships' priorities, as contained within the 2002/05 Strategy were house burglary, auto crime, fear of crime, anti social behaviour, substance misuse and violent crime (domestic abuse). The Partnership was resourced by a Police Liaison Officer, an Anti Social Behaviour Officer, a Community Safety Officer, a Community Drugs Officer and a part-time Community Engagement Officer.



Sergeant Wright gave an overview of projects currently being run by the Partnership, which included a Safer Homes for South Derbyshire Scheme, skateboard parks at Swadlincote and Hilton, a Youth Needs Survey (involving liaison with over 4,000 young people), a Burglar Alarm Installation Scheme, Environmental Improvements, a Domestic Abuse Campaign and a project to support parents of drug users.

The Partnership was undertaking new work in the areas of Anti Social Behaviour Orders, starting a mediation service, an abandoned vehicle scheme together with sports and arts development opportunities. A Liberation Day had been held during May 2004. A School Safety Day was being organised involving over 300 children, including a theatre production on anti social behaviour.

The Meeting was advised of crime statistics for the District and the successful work of the Partnership in relation victims of house burglary. The Partnership's proposals for 2004/05 included a Domestic Abuse Drop In Centre, a Neighbourhood Watch Support Scheme, an Anti Social Behaviour Response Team, environmental improvements and new facilities and activities. The timetable for the launch of the Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2005/08 was outlined.

Following a question from Mr. Brooks, it was confirmed that the Council was operating a free disposal scheme for unwanted vehicles. Mr. Watson praised the Clean Team's responsive service. He had noted a reduction in the number of abandoned vehicles within the Ingleby area, but wondered if this might also be due to an increase in the value of scrap metal. Mr. Mitchell of Elvaston commented that parental responsibility had not been mentioned as part of the Crime & Disorder presentation. Sergeant Wright explained the local Inspector's view on parental responsibility in regard to anti-social behaviour. He confirmed that nuisance letters were issued to parents of such young people. Mrs. Evans reminded about the Young Persons Information leaflet on anti-social behaviour. A similar leaflet would be produced for parents, which would give ideas on monitoring their children. She explained the wide publicity and circulation planned for the leaflets. Mrs. Smith asked where she could obtain a copy of the Youth Needs Survey and Sergeant Wright agreed to provide a copy of the summary document to her after the Meeting.

A question was submitted about Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's). Sergeant Wright explained that these Orders could be sought in conjunction with the prosecution of another offence. Where an ASBO was sought in isolation there was a lengthy process involving a variety of agencies to gather evidence, before submitting a case to Court. There were a wide range of restrictions, which could be imposed as part of an ASBO, including curfew, preventing a person visiting certain locations or requiring attendance at an anger management course. The ASBO could remain in force for many years, and where the Order was breached, this was viewed seriously by the Courts.

It was questioned how many ASBOs had been served in South Derbyshire. To date, six Orders had been secured and a further case was being progressed. He confirmed that ASBOs provided an effective deterrent. Councillor Mrs. Wheeler commented on the approach taken by the Derbyshire Chief Constable with regard to ASBOs. Mark Todd, M.P. referred to a particular ASBO in Church Gresley, which seemed to have been successful. He felt that securing ASBOs could be a lengthy process, particularly where

there were a number of agencies involved. Some areas like the City of Manchester had secured a high number of ASBOs. The South Derbyshire Crime & Disorder Partnership was considered to be the best within the County. It had an excellent track record of achievement, which deserved congratulation. Inspector Fairbrother commented that Crime and Disorder statistics had reduced significantly since he last served at the Swadlincote Police Station as a Sergeant. ASBOs did not provide a universal solution and for some problems, such as those reported in Melbourne a different approach would be pursued.

Mrs. Evans spoke of the Youth Service's role to provide education for those excluded from local schools. This was delivered through the Woodville Youth and Community Centre. She also commented on the schemes being undertaken by the Service, which it was hoped would prevent worsening behaviour, leading to potential ASBOs.

MA/10. **RECYCLING NEWS**

The Meeting was advised that South Derbyshire's residents had beaten the Council's recycling target for the financial year 2003/04. During the year 40,000 tonnes of waste were collected in the District, out of which 6500 tonnes were recycled (17%). The Council's target for the year was 14%, so it was well on its way to meeting the statutory target set by the Government to recycle 21% of waste by 2005/06. The main recycling developments during the previous year were the extension of the composting scheme by a further 6,000 households in the District, a fortnightly collection of the kerbside paper and the launch of a new scheme in January of this year for the kerbside collection of glass, cans, foils and textiles as well as paper from 12,000 households in the District.

Mrs. Shaw explained that Weston-on-Trent Parish Council arranged for a recycling freighter to visit the Village, in order that residents could dispose of "green" waste. The Parish Council had purchased a number of biodegradable sacks and distributed these to residents. The freighter driver refused to accept the waste in the refuse sacks, claiming that these would not be accepted at the disposal point. The Parish Council had written to South Derbyshire on this issue, that if the scheme was to be repeated in future years, the refuse sacks should be provided free of charge. It was considered that a terse response had been received from the District Council. Ian Reid agreed to pursue this matter and would respond to the Parish Council.

Mr. Watson reported that attempts had been made to locate a glass-recycling bank on the car park at the John Thompson Inn. Residents were disappointed that the contractor did not consider that his vehicle would be able to gain access to this location. A further complaint was made about the refuse collection service, where a number of bins had not been emptied properly. Previously, the operatives on the refuse collection vehicles seemed far more helpful. Ian Reid offered to pursue the request for a glass-recycling facility on the car park at the John Thompson Inn. He was concerned about the refuse collection issue, but advised that where bins were overloaded, these would not be emptied if there was a safety risk. If a bin had not been emptied correctly, the resident could ring the Council and the refuse freighter would revisit the property to ensure that the bin was emptied correctly. He was concerned about the comments relating to staff attitudes and he would seek further information from Mr. Watson and pursue this.

Mrs. Hawksworth referred to the scheme for the recycling of Christmas trees. This had not taken place in Shardlow in recent years and she asked whether it could be reintroduced. Ian Reid explained that the Christmas tree recycling scheme was still undertaken in main centres of population. This request could be considered, but there would be a financial implication.

J. D. CARROLL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8:45p.m.