

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

14th November 2007

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Mrs. Coyle, Hewlett, Murray, Pabla, Shepherd, Stanton, Watson and Mrs. Wheeler.

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

County Council Representatives

Councillors Ford, Harrison and Jones.

D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and G. Duckworth (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant S. Clough.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Martin and E. Hicklin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), D. Seed (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), C. Pidcock (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council), J. Carroll (Melbourne Parish Council) and R. Parker (Ticknall Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Allen, D. Bayliss, D. Bellis, C. Ford, G. Harvey, J. Hinds, A. Madeley, F. Mitchell, G. Pollard, R. Saxby, P. Waters, K. Wheewell, D. Yale and J. Yale.

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Harrison had been appointed Chairman of the Melbourne Area Meeting at a District Council Meeting held on 28th June 2007.

MA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council) and R. Wheat (Stanton-by-Bridge Parish Meeting).

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

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

MA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Meeting held on 7th February 2007 were noted.

MA/5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman introduced Officers of the District and County Councils, together with Sergeant Steve Clough of the Derbyshire Constabulary. He also recorded his thanks to Jane Carroll, who had chaired the Melbourne Area Meeting from its inception until the last meeting.

MA/6. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Clough gave an update on police services provided by the Constabulary's "D" Division in South Derbyshire. He spoke particularly about work through the Safer Neighbourhood Groups and the recent "Relentless 2" campaign, which had targeted violent crime. He reported on the success of the initiative, the types of crime it targeted and the achievements made during the six-week campaign period.

Sergeant Clough referred to the Police Community Support Officers. He advised that the current vacancies should be filled by mid-December. From the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, antisocial behaviour was consistently the highest problem reported. He referred to the recent Melbourne Wakes and there had been no major incidents this year. Sergeant Clough explained the additional police powers now available to remove youths aged over 16, who had consumed alcohol and he demonstrated this by a specific example. There were clear links between antisocial behaviour and alcohol, especially involving minors and the Constabulary was undertaking test purchase schemes. The outcome of this exercise had been disappointing, but had resulted in prosecutions and the service of Fixed Penalty Notices.

Sergeant Clough then referred to the Special Constable activity and vehicle crime in the Shardlow Marina area. The Officer explained recent action, leading to the arrest of certain individuals. Sergeant Clough closed by publicising the next round of Safer Neighbourhood Meetings.

Councillor Shepherd asked whether there was a breakdown of the time spent by Officers in individual wards or parishes. Statistics were available where specific incidents were reported, but not for routine patrol work. The Member felt it would be useful for the Constabulary to keep such records, to respond to concerns about a lack of police presence. The Officer explained that the local 'Area 3' Team was based in Melbourne, but use was made of a mobile police station to visit outlying villages.

There was a discussion about the roles of Beat Officers and the more free ranging role of the Rural Beat Officer. It was confirmed that there were no plans to change the current arrangements.

The Officer gave an overview of the number of Police Officers covering the South Derbyshire area. Councillor Stanton sought further information on the Police's powers to deal with young people, who had consumed alcohol and this was duly provided. Councillor Bladen noted that the approach to discourage antisocial behaviour might prevent further problems in the future.

Sergeant Clough agreed that most crime within South Derbyshire was relatively petty, with approximately one third being minor criminal damage. Councillor Harrison thanked the Sergeant for the work undertaken in Melbourne.

MA/7. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman provided a detailed report with regard to the Swarkestone Bridge and causeway. It was confirmed that a site visit had taken place involving nine local residents and Peter Leigh from the County Council's Environmental Services Department. The Chairman read extracts of a report from Mr. Leigh and expanded on each of the issues in that report. He added that residents had undertaken traffic surveys and reported details of vehicles to Trading Standards, where it was considered that HGV's were using the Causeway inappropriately. There was a significant increase in the number of vehicles using this route and concerns about the Causeway's ability to cope with such traffic. A report had subsequently been received from Trading Standards following the traffic survey and warning letters had been sent to 6 vehicle owners. Trading Standards planned to monitor this site at least once per month, subject to other commitments. The Chairman felt it would be useful if residents also recorded registration details and reported these to Kim Percival at the County Council's Trading Standards Department.

The Chairman provided an update with regard to the camera monitoring equipment on the Bridge. Since the last meeting, the solar panel, which powered the unit, had been stolen. The excessive cost of providing a vandal-proof unit meant its replacement was unlikely in the near future. A further problem was caused through satellite navigation equipment directing vehicles to areas such as the Swarkestone Bridge.

An update was provided on alterations to the number 73 bus service. A letter had been sent to the Notts and Derby Bus Service, but no response had been received. Contact had also been made with Derbyshire County Council and the Chairman read the reply from its Public Transport Unit.

The police had monitored the complaint about vehicles parking on verges and pavements between Weston-on-Trent and Aston-on-Trent. It was understood that the building work in this area was now nearly complete. Reports were also provided to confirm there were no plans to install a security barrier at the entrance to the Greenbank Leisure Centre and to report the action taken to address litter problems near to the Budgen's Supermarket. The Chairman then gave an update on the review of the admissions policy at the Chellaston School and the on-going concerns over school places for residents in the Aston-on-Trent and Melbourne areas. County Councillor Jones confirmed he had passed on the road safety concerns relating a section of road in Ingleby.

The Chairman reminded that the Council's Clean Team could deal with problems of litter and fly tipping. Residents who wished to report such problems could contact the Clean Team by telephoning 0800 587 2349 or (01283) 595795.

Councillor Ford commented that the replacement enforcement cameras at the Swarkestone Bridge should be funded through the fines imposed on those using this route improperly. Following the discussion about satellite navigation, Councillor Atkin used an example of HGV's travelling from the M1

Motorway to Barrow-on-Trent and explained the problems caused when such vehicles could not gain access. He asked if the County Council could look into this matter, to see how it could assist, possibly through the renaming of certain roads.

MA/8. **AREA MEETING BOUNDARY REVIEW**

The Chairman outlined plans for a review of the Council's Area Meeting structure. Historically, there were six Area Meetings based on the former County Council divisions. A Boundary Commission review had taken place and there were now 7 County Council divisions. Overlaps between the revised areas meant that some residents and Councillors had to attend a number of meetings. The Chairman explained how this review would impact on the parishes previously included in the Melbourne Division. It was suggested for this area to use the new Aston and Melbourne County division, involving district and parish council representatives within that area.

County Councillor Jones noted the benefits of area meetings based on County division boundaries, but for some services, residents might have links to perhaps Melbourne or even Chellaston. Jane Carroll and Councillor Stanton felt that the areas of Ticknall, Smisby and Calke were linked more with the Melbourne area than the urban core. Councillor Ford explained the difficulties for Members and presently he attended three area meetings. Councillor Watson sought clarification of the parishes that would be included in the new Melbourne and Aston Division and then objected strongly to the exclusion of Foremark, Ingleby and Stanton by Bridge. There was recognition of the difficulties caused through this Boundary Commission review and several parishes had more affinity to Melbourne than other surrounding areas.

A number of residents and Councillors discussed the merits of including those parishes that traditionally had been linked to the Melbourne Area Division. The contrary view was expressed by others, that this approach was effectively maintaining the status quo. The Chairman noted that as these were public meetings, anyone was welcome to attend and the administrative support at the District and County levels would enable issues to be transferred to other area meetings. Further discussions took place with a view to securing a consensus on the future arrangements. Procedurally, only District and County Councillors present were able to participate in a formal vote on this matter.

It was agreed that for the Melbourne area, the status quo be maintained for an Area Meeting covering the Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Calke, Elvaston, Foremark, Ingleby, Melbourne, Shardlow and Great Wilne, Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge, Stenson Fields, Swarkestone, Ticknall, Twyford and Stenson and Weston-on-Trent areas.

The Chairman was mindful that similar consultations were taking place at the other Area Meetings.

MA/9. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

In response to a question from Mr. Waters of Ambaston, there was a discussion about damage to highway verges and the difficulties in securing

effective re-instatement. Councillor Hewlett pursued the earlier discussion about Swarkestone Bridge, questioning the role of English Heritage. The Chairman provided further information on its consultative role, with regard to maintenance and the upkeep of the Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway.

Mrs. Hinds of Aston-on-Trent sought an update on the reinstatement of the milepost near to Cuttle Bridge. The Chairman confirmed that legal action on this matter was ongoing. It was recognised that this had been a lengthy process.

Mr. Bayliss referred to correspondence in April 2004 about the provision of a footpath on the A5132 in the Lowes Lane/Woodshop Lane area to its junction with the A514. These works should have been undertaken during the 2005/06 financial year, but had never taken place. **It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council would investigate this matter and provide a report back to the next Meeting.**

Councillor Watson made further reference to the Swarkestone Bridge weight restriction. Modern vehicle design and materials meant that vehicles could be larger and wider, but still satisfy the weight restrictions. He questioned whether it would be possible to seek a reduction in the weight limit in this area to 3 tonnes, subject to certain exceptions. Related to this, Mr. Bayliss clarified the difference between maximum gross weights and vehicle carrying capacity. **It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council look into the feasibility of reducing the weight limits in this area and provide a report back to a future Meeting.**

The Chairman asked those present to consider items for the next agenda. Councillor Ford advised that the Environment Agency hoped to attend the next round of Area Meetings to provide information about the Flood Warning System. It was also hoped that the Police Emergency Response Team would be present at that round of meetings.

J. HARRISON

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.40 p.m.