

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

31st January 2012

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Harrison and Councillors Atkin and Watson.

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

**County Council Representatives**

Councillor Harrison.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), R. Hill (Elvaston Parish Council) and N. Hawksworth and A. Mitchell (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council)

**In attendance**

County Councillor P. Murray and representatives of Derbyshire Constabulary

**Members of the Public**

J. Caisley, L. Lancashire, A. Madeley, T. Mills and P. Waters.

MA/16. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Harrison had been appointed Chairman of the Melbourne Area Forum following the introduction of revised boundaries.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Hewlett and Mrs. Watson and County Councillor Ford.

MA/17. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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

MA/18. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 27th October 2011 were noted subject to a spelling correction of Mr. Parker's name and to clarification under Minute No. MA/9 regarding the "safe walk" to Chellaston School, where all the road crossings were major roads.

MA/19. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman thanked representatives of Derbyshire Constabulary for staying on from the earlier Safer Neighbourhood Meeting, to respond to matters raised at the last Area Forum. In particular, an update was given regarding the community speedwatch initiative being sought for to the Melbourne/Kings Newton area and contact details for the residents association, had been passed to the Sergeant.

There was discussion about the installation of weight restriction signage at Junction 3 of the A50. This had also been raised at the preceding Safer Neighbourhood Meeting, where the Police had agreed that the issue of vehicles breaching the weight restriction would be monitored. The Forum Liaison Officer updated that this matter was now being dealt with by the Department for Transport. Derbyshire County Council pursued breaches of the weight restriction through its Trading Standards Department, which undertook bi-monthly monitoring. Fixed Penalty Notices were issued and two companies were currently being prosecuted. The Chairman supplemented that some of the routes accessed from this junction of the A50, were not subject to the weight restriction. The Vice-Chairman reminded of the photographic evidence submitted to Derbyshire County Council of such signage being used elsewhere.

With regard to maintenance issues on Sinfin Lane, Barrow-on-Trent, it was noted that the carriageway surface had deteriorated. A date was sought for the completion of repair works and it was confirmed that these would be completed during the current financial year. At the same time, Derbyshire County Council would undertake some kerbing works, whilst the road was closed.

MA/20. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident sought to submit a question with regard to the Weston Hill Chalet Park. The Chairman and the Director of Operations interjected as this matter was subject to court proceedings and could not be discussed in a public forum.

In response to a resident's question, the Chairman gave an update on the future use of the Elvaston Castle, the original plans for a hotel and golf facilities, possible interest by the National Trust and the necessity for urgent roof repairs.

The Director of Operations responded to a question about the payment of licensing fees and he offered to research this matter further and to respond to the resident. A further issue discussed was the County Council's consultation

on street lighting, with details given on the mechanisms used for consultation and the level of responses received.

A question was also submitted on the Council's plans to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Whilst this was still subject to Member approval and would be publicised shortly, a number of the ideas being considered were explained.

MA/21. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

It was reported that Derbyshire County Council was undertaking a consultation to propose changes to the Youth Service. A briefing note had been circulated, which gave details on what the proposals meant, how residents could get involved in the consultation and details of the consultation events. A resident expressed his views on the County Council's plans. The Chairman reminded of the closure of the Melbourne Youth Club, spoke about the replacement venue and service, which had also subsequently closed and he touched on the financial cuts that the County Council was having to make. Other initiatives publicised were 'oz-box' and the 'Friday night' clubs provided at the Granville School and now at Hilton.

MA/22. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Operations made a presentation on the Council's financial plans. Information had been circulated to those present, with charts showing the Council's turnover and how it was paid for. It was noted that Council Tax for a 'Band D' property for District Council services equated to £2.90 per week. Consideration was currently being given to a Council Tax freeze for 2012/13, which would be the second year running. Another element reported on, was the Government grant, before looking at the net budget for 2012/13 and a further chart showed how this was split across services. Finally, the Director spoke about new capital projects. Additional information had been circulated and the Council's funding of £1.7m had been supplemented by others, resulting in investment of £5m in local leisure and community facilities. In response to a question, further information was provided about a computer-based system for identifying areas of contaminated land.

MA/23. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next Melbourne Area Forum would be held on 18th April 2012 at the Melbourne Leisure Centre.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.