

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Weston on Trent Village Hall

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Harrison (Chairman); Councillor Watson; Councillor Atkin;

F McArdle (Chief Executive); Mandy McKeon (Service Assistant);

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

County Councillor Davison; Councillor Mrs Chilton;

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

D Hollingworth (Weston Parish Council); M Bowles (Weston Parish Council); W Earp (Melbourne Parish Council); P Bickerton (Elvaston Parish Council); R Russell (Elvaston Parish Council); B Thomas (Melbourne Civic Society); Chris Scott (Clerk, Weston Parish Council); T Scott (Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council); C Blackmore (Barrow on Trent Parish Council); A Record (Weston on Trent Parish Council);

**Members of the Public**

A Madeley; K R Whewell.

MA/13 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Hewlett; Councillor K Atkin; and Forum Liaison Officer.

MA/14 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

MA/15 **Chairman's Announcements**

None.

MA/16 **To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

The minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were noted as a true and accurate record.

MA/17 **Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting**

The Chair reported on those items raised at the last meeting, in the Forum Liaison Officer's absence.

1. Swarkestone Causeway

a. Camera Enforcement System

Councillor Davison said there is nothing to report on this yet. There was almost nobody within the chain of command around today to give Councillor Davison an update on this.

Councillor Davison said there is legislation that states the Secretary of State for Transport can allow a County Council of principal authority to issue summonses, being the policing role. That is what they hoped would happen. The Secretary of State is only prepared to do that in Greater London, which means the County Council cannot. The County Council is there in a situation to ask Derbyshire Constabulary if they would do it. Councillor Davison understands the Derbyshire Constabulary is willing to do this, but, if they do, they will then get the revenue, although it would be recycled through CREST.

Councillor Davison said there is equipment on the Causeway (towards Stanton end) to measure vehicle usage. The plan was to link with it some new equipment in order to build on the existing kit. There was a risk that if people approaching from the north side know they cannot take heavy vehicles over the Causeway they would instead turn left through Stanton by Bridge and take the road towards Ingleby. It seems easier to move the equipment when it is installed further back towards Swadlincote.

Councillor Davison said there is a project meeting taking place tomorrow, at the County Council, to discuss implementing the works and he will ask for a report to be circulated to those in attendance tonight in due course.

**Action: Councillor Davison to report back and arrange for report to be sent out to attendees of this forum.**

b. Advanced Weight Restriction Signage

The Chair disagreed that the main reason signs were not introduced on the A50 was due to cost. He said that Cllr Watson compiled a report some years ago on this and the reply he received from the Highways Agency, who are responsible for the A50, was that they could not put up a 7.5 tonne weight restriction on the A50 because

when you get off the A50 at Junction 3 and down to the Crewe & Harpur, there is no problem. It is only when you turn left on the A514 to Melbourne/Stanton-by-Bridge over the Causeway there is a problem; if you are going on to Willington on the A5132 there is no problem. So you cannot put a sign up on the A50 saying there is a weight restriction.

The Chair highlighted maintenance work needed on a weight restriction sign covered by overgrown branches/trees as you approach the turn on to the Stanton by Bridge in Melbourne as opposed to going to Willington. He requested Councillor Davison to speak to someone at County/Highways Agency to do something about it.

**Action: Councillor Davison to speak to County/Highways to remove foliage around sign and report back.**

The Chair wants to do some homework before writing to the Secretary of State. He said the County Council offered to put up cameras at each end for over 18 months. The cameras they put up were destroyed by vandals and they were going to be replaced with ones that were vandal resistant, but, to date, they still have not gone up.

Councillor Watson gave an update on a report he produced in 2009 regarding signs on A50 and a request he made to County Council to put in place a 7.5 tonne weight limit sign on the A50. After meeting with County Council Councillor Watson was told this could not be done. County Council did eventually put a sign at the top of a slip road, which goes against what they said couldn't be done because this particular sign says 7.5 tonne weight limit 1 ¼ miles ahead on A514. Councillor Watson said he was told by County Council that to put up a sign on the A50 would cost in the region of £20-£50,000.

**Action: Forum Liaison Officer to report back.**

Councillor Watson said he attended a meeting with the County Council on 31 March 2011 and the recommendations he put forward then are still valid saying that a sign should be erected 500 meters before the southern entrance of the Causeway in Stanton by Bridge near the junction of Ticknall that should say '7.5 tonne bridge 500 meters ahead turn around now'. Nothing has been done about it. There are still signs going through Stanton by Bridge and Swarkestone that says 7.5 tonne access only. Once on the Causeway there are no roads on or off the Causeway so why put up a sign that is not true?

**Action: Councillor Watson to give Councillor Davison a copy of said report.**

c. Foreign Vehicles on the Causeway

Councillor Watson said in August this year a 38 tonne truck was photographed crossing the Causeway. A photograph shows who the owner is and the number plate. It is a UK registered vehicle. Council Watson sent the information to the County Council and suggested we should proceed to prosecute as he is clearly overweight. The response from County was that it was his understanding they will do not prosecute until it is a second offence. There is substantial evidence. Councillor Watson was not happy with their response so emailed the lorry company and received a response from the Managing Director saying he knew who the driver was and he would be dealt with. There are signs erected saying enforcement area. Councillor Watson said there are no second chances for speeding motorists or those who are caught fly tipping and he would like this matter looked into.

**Action: Council Davison to look into and report back.**

2. Elvaston Castle Country Park: Selling of Land

Response noted.

3. 'Borrowwash Bridge': Cyclists on Footway

Response noted.

4. Robinson's Hill, Melbourne: Overgrown Hedges/Trees

Response noted.

5. Swarkestone Causeway: Damage

Councillor Mrs Chilton has written to Paul Jameson as repairs have not been made to date.

**Action: Forum Liaison Officer to report back.**

6. Ward's Lane, Stanton-by-Bridge – King's Newton: Stats of Route

Response noted. The Chair suggested that if there are concerns they could be raised on a future occasion.

MA/18 **County Council issues**

Councillor Mrs Chilton said she was on the Working Party Committee on the issue of Elvaston Castle. Derbyshire County Council will retain freehold. They

are now looking for lay members to compliment a single management team. Expenses will be paid. They hope to get interested people to join. Anyone interested can contact Derbyshire County Council, one of the County Councillors or Councillor Mrs Chilton.

Councillor Davison mentioned the next meeting for South Derbyshire Local Area Committee is open to the public and is being held on Wednesday 24 September 6pm start at Oaklands Village, Swadlincote.

Councillor Davison invited people to help themselves to a hand-out regarding information on a variety of services across Derbyshire.

Councillor Mrs Chilton expanded on East Midlands Intermodal Freight - Roxall Developments did come to a recent meeting area to present and ask for comments from elected members. Councillor Mrs Chilton's comments, which reflected people's concerns/feelings in the area were passed on and went to cabinet.

MA/19 **District Council issues**

Chief Executive announced the Council will be in a position soon to close their books having been audited and have received a favourable report on efficiency savings and sustainability for the next five years. Over the next round of meetings there will be a series of presentations for the future and what we should be doing.

The Chief Executive invited the Forum to visit Eureka Park, where restoration of the memorial gates has completed in commemoration of 100 years since the start of the First World War. A beacon has also been lit at Rosliston Forestry Centre and there was Drum Head ceremony in Swadlincote, which was very well attended.

Paul Bickerton said there was a public meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September where there were lots of issues arising. Paul invited the Chief Executive to attend the next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 to which the Chief Executive agreed.

Councillor Watson gave an update on the local plan, saying it to say it had been approved by the District Council on 3 July and has been submitted to the Planning Inspector.

Councillor Watson gave an update following a complaint made by an Elvaston resident at the last meeting who complained of damage to his property and litter strewn across his property from passersby. The following morning Councillor Watson paid a visit to the area and noted that the Clean Team had been out to clear up the rubbish. The contact number for the Clean Team is 0800 5872349 and should you wish to notify Police about non-urgent incidents/damage please use 101.

A resident complained that a recent heavy downpour caused rainwater to flow into his garden and under his front door. Councillor Watson said he would contact the Environment department.

**Action: Councillor Watson to liaise with Environment department.**

MA/20 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident raised a question regarding the two local strategic railhead consultations and what is being done for residents to comment and make their voice known?

The Chair responded saying the developer's agents are holding initial public consultation meetings and the next step thereafter would be to put in planning applications. Due to the size of both rail links it would be a matter for the Secretary of State for Transport, and both the County Council and District Council will have a status of being statutory consultees. Once an application has been submitted, any views the parish councils may have can be submitted to either the County Council or the District Council; prior to application, any views can be directed to the developer's agent.

A representative from the Melbourne Civic Society was concerned due to the length of time it has taken for footpath works to commence over and around the narrow Causeway as it is dangerous for walkers. The resident feels fobbed off as the County Council they have been saying these works would commence since 2008. When will something be done about it?

Councillor Mrs Chilton commented it is something she is working on. The legals have been passed and she has been told it is a question of money. She has tried to contact two people today to bring an update to the meeting but unfortunately neither were available. She will continue to pursue the matter.

MA/21 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at Barrow upon Trent Village Hall.

J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.15 pm