

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

21st October 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Hewlett, Pabla, Stanton and Mrs. Wheeler.

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

County Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant M. Sisman.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

J. Wilcox (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), M. Sharp and D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council), J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council), R. Parker (Ticknall Parish Council) and S. Cooper, K. Cross and E. Green (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

R. Beardsley, S. Blatch, P. Carly, B. Foster, M. Edwards, D. Harris, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, R. Knibb, J. Lancashire, J. Lawrenson, A. Madeley, G. Onions, G. Pollard, R. Saxby, C. Scott, J. Sowter, K. Whewell and D. Yale.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District and County Councillors Ford and Murray, District Councillors Mrs. Coyle and Shepherd and M. Todd, M.P.

MA/11. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant M. Sisman gave an update, initially speaking about the recent Melbourne Wakes, which had gone well, with no serious incidents. He reported on a successful operation for the seizure of drugs and thanked the community for their support and information. He then referred to Neighbourhood Watch Schemes within this part of the District, publicised the

availability of graffiti removal kits and provided an update on crime statistics for the area. The Officer also spoke about Police priorities and particularly anti-social behaviour. He publicised details of the next Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, which for the north-eastern parishes would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 7th December 2009 at the Weston-on-Trent Village Hall. For the Mercia Division, which included Stenson Fields, the Meeting would be held at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, 10th December 2009 at Findern Village Hall.

Congratulations were recorded to the Constabulary for the large Police presence at the recent Melbourne Wakes and the patrols were appreciated by local residents. The Chairman thanked the Constabulary for the attendance of the local Beat Officer, PC Croxall at the Aston-on-Trent Parish Council Meeting, the previous evening. He hoped this could be extended to other parish council meetings. It was confirmed that Officers would attend wherever possible, but where other commitments prevented their attendance, a written update could be provided.

In Stenson Fields, problems were reported with the fear of crime, assaults by youths and burglaries in the area. A Police presence was sought, particularly during the night-time. There was discussion about the reactive cover provided to this part of South Derbyshire from the City of Derby. The matters raised would be reported back to local Officers for this area. Details were also given of a planned event on 4th November, which it was hoped would address some of these concerns. Comment was also made about the response times from Police based in the City of Derby.

MA/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 15th July 2009 were noted.

MA/13. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Information had been circulated with the agenda, to provide an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting. Supplementary information had also been circulated. A resident of Swarkestone repeated previous concerns about inadequate weight restriction signage from the A50 trunk road and the impact this had on the Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway. She explained her efforts to raise these concerns with Derbyshire County Council, without response. Further issues raised were the frequency of visits by DCC Trading Standards, the lack of prosecutions and that there were too many signs on some approaches to the Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway. There were questions relating to the structural stability of the Bridge and Causeway, which was not fit for purpose, given the size of some vehicles and the number of vehicles using it.

An apology was provided on behalf of the County Council for the failure to respond to previous enquiries and this would be rectified. A report was displayed, which was to be submitted to Derbyshire County Council and the Highways Agency showing examples of more appropriate weight restriction signage in both Derbyshire and Leicestershire. It was felt that such signage from the A50 trunk road would be helpful. A response was awaited on this matter, but it did appear positive. Reference was made to a structural survey

undertaken of the Causeway, which had not identified any problems. The real issue was for a long-term solution to provide an alternate route. Discussions were ongoing at both the District and County Councils to pursue this and hopefully to identify a suitable alternate route bypassing the local villages. Further issues raised were the replacement of enforcement cameras and how expenditure on road improvement schemes was targeted.

MA/14. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident wished to submit questions about the Weston Hill Chalet Park. It was difficult for the District Council to discuss this matter at the Area Forum. **It was therefore proposed that a separate meeting be arranged between the residents and appropriate Officers at the District Council.** The resident was asked to leave contact details after the Meeting.

It was noted that the Swarkestone Bridge arches were partially obstructed and it was questioned whether the Area Forum could pursue this matter. A Swarkestone resident clarified that this was the responsibility of the Environment Agency and she offered to pursue this.

At the bottom of Robinson's Hill in Melbourne, trees and verges were in need of maintenance, as visibility at the traffic junction was partially obstructed. This was a matter for resolution by the local landowners. **The Chairman of Melbourne Parish Council agreed to look into this matter.**

Concerns were then reported about vehicles using Woodshop Lane in Swarkestone as a means of bypassing the junction of the A5132/A514. Previous enforcement work and fixed penalty fines had provided a deterrent and it was questioned if this could be repeated. There were also concerns about the speed of vehicles travelling along this narrow, access only road. The problems were worst between 7.00 and 8.30 a.m. and from 4.30 p.m. in the evening. Sergeant Sisman felt this request might have resource issues for the Constabulary. **It was agreed to refer this matter to the Highway Authority.**

MA/15. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES: ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

A presentation was provided by Jayne Jones, Director of Corporate Services on behalf of the Boundary Committee for England. Copies of presentation slides had been circulated and residents were encouraged to consider and respond to this consultation process. The presentation slides explained why South Derbyshire had been selected for an Electoral Review and the purpose of the review. It gave details of the issues that could be considered by the Boundary Committee, those that were outside the review's scope and the review processes, leading to final recommendations. A Swarkestone resident commented that there was no parish council or meeting for that area. She offered to provide a point of contact and was asked to leave her contact details after the meeting, so that the views of Swarkestone residents could be included as part of the review.

MA/16. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was reported that Melbourne Area Forum Meetings would be held on 2nd February 2010 at Melbourne Leisure Centre and on 17th March at the Stenson Fields Primary School.

In closing the Meeting, those present were advised of the recent ill-health of the Clerk to Melbourne Parish Council, and best wishes were forwarded to Mr. Hill for a speedy recovery. The details of the locum Clerk were also provided.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.55 p.m.