



Derbyshire Constabulary



Neighbourhoods



**South
Derbyshire**
District Council

teamwork

Keeping our Community Safe

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

DERBYSHIRE
County Council
Improving life for local people

**Safer Neighbourhood
Area 3 - North East
(6.15 pm - 7.15 pm)**

**Interval with light refreshments
7.15 - 7.30 pm**

and

**Melbourne Area Forum
(7.30 pm - 8.30 pm)**

***Wednesday 4th
February 2015***

***Barrow upon Trent Village Hall
Twyford Road
Barrow-on-Trent
Derby
DE73 7HA***

South Derbyshire changing for the better

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ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਸਰੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ
ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬ੍ਰੇਅਲ ਜਾਂ ਆਡਿਉ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ
ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

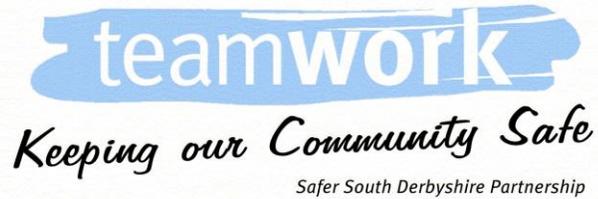
اگر آپ یہ ڈاکیومنٹ کسی اور زبان میں چاہتے ہوں، یا اگر آپ کو کسی ترجمان کی خدمات درکار
ہوں، تو براہ کرم ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔
درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات بڑے پرنٹ، بریل یا آڈیو فارمیٹ میں بھی دستیاب ہیں۔

☎ 01283 595795

@ customer.services@south-derbys.gov.uk

COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS 2015

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>
Environmental and Development Services (Special – Budget)	Thursday, 8th January 2015
Housing and Community Services (Special – Budget)	Tuesday, 13th January 2015
Finance and Management (Special – Budget)	Thursday, 15th January 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 20th January 2015
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 21st January 2015
COUNCIL	Thursday, 22nd January 2015
Finance and Management (Special – NNDR)	Monday, 26th January 2015
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 29th January 2015
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 5th February 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 10th February 2015
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 11th February 2015
Audit Sub	Wednesday, 18th February 2015
Finance and Management	Thursday, 19th February 2015
COUNCIL	Monday, 2nd March 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 3rd March 2015
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 5th March 2015
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 12th March 2015
Finance and Management	Thursday, 19th March 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 24th March 2015
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 25th March 2015
Audit Sub	Wednesday, 1st April 2015
COUNCIL	Thursday, 2nd April 2015
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 9th April 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 14th April 2015
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 16th April 2015
Finance and Management	Thursday, 23rd April 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 12th May 2015
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 13th May 2015
Finance and Management (Special – Provisional budget out-turn)	Wednesday 20 th May 2015
ANNUAL COUNCIL	Thursday, 21st May 2015
CIVIC COUNCIL	Thursday, 28th May 2015



AGENDA

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP - AREA 3

Wednesday 4th February 2015 at 6.15 pm
at Barrow upon Trent Village Hall

(Light refreshments will be served between 7.15 and 7.30 pm)

1. Chair's introduction, Apologies
2. Minutes of last Meeting (to be agreed) and update on actions
3. Safer Neighbourhoods Sergeant's Overview /Priorities Update
4. Partnership Update / Funding / New project ideas
5. Local issues – open forum (20 minutes)
6. Agreed Priorities
7. Date of next meeting

Meeting close (7.15 pm)

AREA 3 – MELBOURNE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Present	Date of Meeting	Venue
E Hicklin (Chair); Sgt G Summers; Sgt J Thompson; PCSO E Guest; PC V Ball; P Watson; A Madeley; T Scott; J Harrison; D Hollingworth; C Blackmore; L Chilton; G Beadle; N Atkin; Avril Record; C Summers; R Russell; W Earp; M Bowles; R Davidson; P Bickerton; J Longley; E Green; Also present: Mandy McKeon (Clerk)	Wednesday 18 th September 2014	Weston on Trent Village Hall

1	Chair's Introduction, Apologies	Action
	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by the panel.</p> <p>Apologies were received by Cllr Hewlett, Cllr Mrs Watson and Cllr K Atkin.</p>	
2	Minutes of last meeting (to be agreed) and update on actions	Action
	<p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Regarding the narrow footpath, which is used by pedestrians, horse-riders and cyclists around Borrowash Bridge where the overgrowth has made the path narrower. - Cllr Davison has requested this area be cut back, which has been done and he has made a request for it to be trimmed down before Autumn starts.</p> <p>The CCTV in Melbourne is working but there have been issues regarding access to it. The Police are not able to have access over the internet so would like a key. The Assembly Rooms would like a meeting with the Police to discuss this. Sgt Summers is happy to talk to the relevant person and attend a meeting to obtain a key as quick access is important whilst dealing with crime; currently the police have to wait up to week, on occasions, to view footage.</p> <p>Vandalism of lights in the lower section of the underpass under A50. Cllr Watson cannot report anything positive to date as it comes under the Highways Agency, the County Council are aware of the problem – Cllr Watson will continue to chase.</p>	<p>Sgt Summers to arrange a meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Watson to report back.</p>

3	Safer Neighbourhoods Sergeant's Overview / Priorities Update	
	<p>Sgt Summers gave an update on crime figures year to date. Crime is considered very low within the area but has increased across the board generally. Figures show increase in crimes around Melbourne from 151 cases last year to 164 this year, an increase of 8.6%.</p> <p>Breakdown:</p> <p>Violent crimes – crimes against a person have gone down from 25 to 17; Sexual offences have gone up from 1 to 4; Burglaries in a dwelling have gone down from 14 to 8; Burglaries (non-dwelling – sheds/garages) have gone up from 23 to 31; Theft of vehicles have gone down from 7 to 6; Theft from vehicles have gone up from 19 to 21; Theft offences (i.e. shoplifting/theft from person) have gone up from 100 to 115; Criminal damage has increased from 15 to 20; Drug offences have gone up from 4 to 6; Anti-social behaviour has gone up from 116 to 127.</p> <p>PC Vicky Ball gave an update on Priorities:</p> <p><u>Farmwatch</u> is now up and running with farmers receiving packs and by using Derbyshire Alert as a way of communicating with local farmers. There are further packs available should other local farmers wish to sign up. Looking to set up monthly drop-in sessions at Melbourne Police Station, allowing a two hour window if people want to report incidents/obtain crime prevention advice.</p> <p><u>Speeding on Colwell Drive</u> – as you come in off the national speed limit towards Boulton Moor, outside Woods Meadow, where it drops into 40 mph zone, there have been three occasions where Police have used a speed laser gun. The average speed was recorded at 38 mph. These operations took place during peak times at 5.00pm and 5.30pm; 5.30pm and 6.00pm; and 7.00pm and 7.30pm.</p> <p><u>Speeding on Ambaston Lane</u> – national speed limit is 60mph and no complaints have been made since the last meeting.</p> <p>PCSO Emma Guest gave an update saying she is continuing to get around the area as best she can, dealing with incidents that need attention. Using restorative justice disposals to deal with incidents of anti-social behaviour and graffiti in Melbourne, and also in Barrow with individuals who were caught causing criminal damage to a bench.</p> <p>There has been some new names coming through linked to ASB recently, these individuals are being monitoring.</p>	
4	Partnership update / funding / new project ideas	
	<p>Sgt Jim Thompson discussed anti-social behaviour (ASB). There are new tools and powers being introduced from October 1st, which will streamline the way ASB is dealt with. 19 existing powers are being reduced to 6 new powers which put the victim first and should be easier and quicker to obtain.</p> <p>There are currently three live ASBO orders across the district, which are all half-way through their three year terms; and six live acceptable behaviour contracts. Briefing sessions for councillors on the new tools will be held in October/ November time.</p>	

	<p>An update was given on a local resident who had been causing a lot of problems in the area with anti-social behaviour. The offending resident will be going to court in October so hopefully problems will reduce.</p> <p>The Police have been involved in a new project involving community punishment for local youths. Throughout July, 39 restorative disposal clinics took place and since that time only 5 of these offenders have reoffended.</p> <p>Police have made visits to local schools discussing staying safe online.</p> <p>A poster competition was set up in Aston Primary School for children to design a sign asking parents to park safely, the winning designs have been made into leaflets which have been given to all parents.</p> <p>Crime prevention drive with the CVS Safer homes scheme to combat shed/garage break-ins. Victims and their neighbours (two properties either side plus four properties across the road) receive offer to have free shed/garage alarms, new locks and property marking equipment.</p> <p>Operation in place when police are out and about. If they see valuables on display in vehicles, they will contact the owner by letter to request they remove/hide valuables to prevent them being stolen.</p> <p>There is still £2,000 in the pot for funding applications. If it is not used by Christmas then this money will go into a central pot and could be used elsewhere.</p> <p>Nominations are being taken for Vice Chairman and forms can be picked up from the meeting clerk.</p>	
5	Local issues – open forum (20 minutes)	
	<p>Cllr Hollingworth requested if speed checks could be put in place coming from Aston down the straight into the village.</p> <p>Sgt Thompson mentioned that the public can also arrange their own speed watch. Police can give the training. It would take 8 volunteers, they would need to inform police when they are doing it, if they record anyone over the speed limit then Police can send out warning letters.</p> <p>Cllr Bickerton thanked the Police for carrying out speed checks on Ambaston Lane and Colwell Drive. He then requested for speed checks to be carried out at Elvaston Lane. A resident commented that the area for checks should be around Main Road, Oak Road, Barrowwash Lane and Elvaston Lane</p> <p>Cllr Harrison reported there were 29 incidents in the Melbourne area for anti-social behaviour. He asked if a lot of these were related to the one person Sgt Thompson updated on earlier in the meeting. Sgt Thompson confirmed they were.</p> <p>Cllr Green asked how effective the flashing warning signs are that flash/light up showing how fast you are travelling and whether they could be funded within the area scheme. Sgt Thompson responded by saying they can be costly and the funding would not cover this. The Chair said they are effective but only in the short term.</p>	<p>Police to arrange and report back</p> <p>Sgt Summers will risk assess the area and look into carrying out speed checks</p>

	<p>Cllr Davison addressed the meeting saying it was very important for Parish Councils and members of the public have confidence in the Police. He said a local resident had telephoned the Police to report a stolen flower box and was told at the end of the call that the case has now been closed. The member of public was not happy with this response as they felt the Police should look into the matter in more detail so had a word with Cllr Davison who brought it to the meeting. Sgt Summers said the Police had addressed the issue, taken the relevant details and the matter would be closed since there were no witnesses or leads to follow-up on. It seemed pointless to visit the resident to see where the flower box once stood, so unless there was any other evidence to help with finding the flower box, it would be a closed case.</p> <p>Cllr Bickerton asked why Police cannot come and knock on doors to see if there are witnesses. Sgt Summers assured him that the Police would reopen the case if any further information was brought to light.</p>	
6	Agreed priorities	
	Speeding across the area.	
7	Date of next meeting	
	<p>The meeting closed at 7.05pm</p> <p>Next meeting date to be advised.</p>	

Area 3 Safer Neighbourhood Group – Useful Contacts

Safer Communities Manager

Chris Smith 01283 595961 chris.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk

Chairman Of North East Safer Neighbourhood Group

Ed Hicklin farm@hicklins.co.uk

Vice Chair of Safer Neighbourhood Group

District Council

South Derbyshire District Council 01283 221000 www.south-derbys.gov.uk
Clean Team 0800 587 2349
ASB Hotline 01283 595795

District Councillors

Cllr Neil Atkin (Aston on Trent) 01332 700643 neil.atkin@south-derbys.gov.uk
Cllr John Harrison (Melbourne) 01332 862477 john.harrison@south-derbys.gov.uk
Cllr Peter Watson (Aston on Trent) 01332 862301 peter.watson@south-derbys.gov.uk
Cllr Jim Hewlett (Melbourne) 01332 863927 jim.Hewlett@south-derbys.gov.uk
Cllr Mrs Ann Watson (Aston on Trent) 01283 229115 ann.watson@south-derbys.gov.uk

County Councillors

Cllr Robert Davison (Aston, Weston, Barrow) 07969 144574 rob.davison@derbyshire.gov.uk
Cllr Linda Chilton (Melbourne) linda.chilton@derbyshire.gov.uk

County Council parking enforcement parking@derbyshire.gov.uk

Police

Inspector Nigel Lidsey south.neighbourhoods@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk
Sgt Graham Summers
PC Victoria Ball victoria.ball.14184@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk
PCSO Emma Guest emma.guest.4627@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk
Team Mobile: 07802 771912

Safer Neighbourhood Wardens

Gareth Evans, Stephen Yates neighbourhood.wardens@south-derbys.gov.uk

Non – Emergency: 101
Emergency: 999
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
Website: www.derbyshire.police.uk

Websites/Social Media

Police Area 3 SNT Twitter www.twitter.com - @MelbourneSNT
Crime Statistics for your area www.police.uk
Safer South Derbyshire Partnership www.south-derbys.gov.uk/ssdp
Safer SDP Facebook Page www.facebook.com Search - Safer South Derbyshire Partnership
SDDC Environmental Health Facebook www.facebook.com/southderbys

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM MELBOURNE

(Covering Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Elvaston, Melbourne, Shardlow & Great Wilne, Stanton-by-Bridge, Swarkestone and Weston-on-Trent)

Meeting to be held at: -

**Barrow upon Trent Village Hall
Twyford Road
Barrow upon Trent
Derby
DE73 7HA**

on

Wednesday 4th February 2015

Members:

District Councillors: Councillors Atkin, Harrison, Hewlett, Mrs Watson and Watson.

County Councillors: Councillors Mrs Chilton and Davison.

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AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. Chairman's Announcements.
4. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th September 2014 (copy attached).
5. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
6. Public questions on issues raised by residents.
7. County Council issues.
8. District Council issues.
9. Date of Next Meeting.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

18th 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 10th June 2014**

The minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 10th 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. 'Borrowash 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 8th September where there were lots of issues arising. Paul invited the Chief Executive to attend the next meeting on 10th 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 as 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 4th February at Barrow upon Trent Village Hall.

J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.15 pm

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MELBOURNE AREA FORUM

(Covering Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Elvaston, Melbourne, Shardlow & Great Wilne,
Stanton-by-Bridge, Swarkestone and Weston-on-Trent)

Wednesday 4th February 2015

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the Melbourne Area Forum held on 18th September 2014 at Weston on Trent Village Hall, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made to date:-

1. SWARKESTONE CAUSEWAY: CAMERA ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

Work is continuing to define and fund the back office element to this scheme. Progress on the matter will be reported to the forum, when available.

The A514 and B587 to the south of the Causeway are both exempt from the area-wide weight restriction and so monitoring equipment cannot be moved further towards Swadlincote; HGV's would not necessarily be breaching a restriction at this point and therefore no action could be taken against them.

2. ADVANCED WEIGHT RESTRICTION SIGNAGE

When enquiries were initially made in regard to this request (in 2008), agents for the Highways Agency advised that the requested signs were not consistent with the Highways Agency's policy on placing signs on a trunk road which is part of the national strategic road network.

After much discussion it was agreed that improved advanced weight restriction signs would be placed on the off-slips at the Jct. 3 roundabout. These signs would be 'doubled up', and advise of the weight restriction 3/4 mile ahead, giving any errant HGV drivers opportunity to cross over the roundabout and re-join the A50.

The above aside, and as reported to the last forum, the installation of signs on the A50 itself would have incurred significant costs (believed in the region of £20-50,000).

There are several existing signs on the northbound approach to the Causeway to alert drivers to the weight restriction ahead.

The approach from Melbourne (B587) has signage advising of '*weight limit enforcement cameras ahead*', as well as a directional sign informing drivers that the A514 towards Derby has a 7.5t weight restriction.

Similarly, the approach from Ticknall (A514) has a sign advising of a '*weight limit check area*', in addition to a directional sign to inform of the weight limited A514 to Derby.

The entries onto the Causeway itself have 7.5t weight restriction signage with supplementary 'Except for Access' plates. It is acknowledged that there are no accesses on the Causeway but the legal Order covering an Environmental Weight Restriction dictates that 'Except for access' signs must be used. In this situation, the 'exception' relates only to the small number of local operators who have approval to use the Causeway.

3. OVERGROWN WEIGHT RESTRICTION SIGN

Works to clear the vegetation have been issued and will be carried out in due course.

4. ENFORCEMENT POLICY OF THE CAUSEWAY

The local authority is not under a duty to enforce the provisions of the Road Traffic Act that make it an offence to breach a weight restriction. Accordingly, the Trading Standards division receives no funding from Government for monitoring breaches of weight restrictions or taking any action as a result of breaches detected.

The Police and Traffic Commissioner are both also empowered to take enforcement action and we do work regularly with both agencies to seek better compliance with this and other legislation. It could be argued that the Police are better placed to enforce 'Highway's' legislation as they have both the power to stop vehicles and to issue Fixed Penalty Notices, neither of which Trading Standards Officers are empowered to do. That notwithstanding, Derbyshire Trading Standards Service have for a number of years actively enforced weight restrictions to both protect the highway infrastructure and to protect local communities from the intrusion of heavy good vehicles. As you will appreciate, with budget cuts it has been necessary to prioritise our enforcement activity and to concentrate on those areas of the county generating the most complaints from local residents and representing the highest risk to the highway infrastructure.

The following link to our website explains our approach to weight restrictions:

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/business/trading_standards/weight_restrictions/default.asp

With regards to the specific points concerning our Compliance Policy; we have a range of sanctions that we can apply ranging from a letter of advice/caution through to the instigation of legal proceedings. The authority to prosecute has been delegated by Cabinet to the Head of Trading Standards and is regularly reviewed (see following link to a recent authorisation: http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/2013-07-30%20Authorisation%20Carry%20Out%20Enforcement_tcm44-228685.pdf).

The Compliance Policy sets out the rationale for decisions on what course of action is appropriate in line with Home Office Guidance and established best practice. Depending on the severity of the crime and the level of consumer detriment, we believe that it would be heavy handed to prosecute all offenders for a first offence. Records are kept of those that have breached legal requirements in Derbyshire. Indeed, this is the explanation for the reason that another driver and operator were prosecuted as reported in the press recently.

As previously mentioned and despite no specific allocation of funding to enforce the County's weight restrictions, the Trading Standards Division does continue to carry out enforcement checks – both on our own and with other agencies. The number of complaints received from local residents, the number of checks conducted and the enforcement action taken as a result of breaches detected is summarised in the table below [response provided 7 October 2014].

Number of complaints received identifying specific vehicles and enforcement outcomes from checks undertaken at Causeway:

Year	Complaints	Checks	Breaches	Warning Letters	Police FPNs	Police Warning	Prosecution
2008-09	2	5	11	10	1	-	-
2009-10	3	8	18	17	-	-	-
2010-11	2	3	17	22	-	-	1
2011-12	5	10	47	43	7	2	3
2012-13	10	9	30	41	2	3	1
2013-14	10	7	46	53	1	7	2
2014 on	6	5	17	16	-	-	1

Year	Prosecution Result
2010-11	Company fined £666 plus £115 costs, driver fined £210 plus £115 costs;
2011-12	Company fined £850 and £950 plus £115 costs (2 offences) Company fined 3 x £1000 plus £115 costs (3 offences) Operator (sole trader) fined £1000 plus £115 costs;
2012-13	Company fined £270 plus £115 costs
2013-14	Company fined £500 plus £115 costs Company fined £260 plus £115 costs;
2014 on	Report under consideration – previous breach by company

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