

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

28th May 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillors 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 and Harrison.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

G. Tomlinson.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), D. Seed (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council), J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council) and K. Butterworth (Stenson Fields Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bayliss, D. Bellis, P. Buckley, C. Ford, S. Harrison, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, R. Saxby, P. Waters, K. Whewell and J. Younger.

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Harrison had been appointed Chairman of the Melbourne Area Meeting at the Annual Council Meeting held on 22nd May 2008.

MA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Atkin, County Councillor Jones, J. Carroll, N. Hawkesworth, and E. Hicklin.

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

It was agreed that Councillor 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 22nd January 2008 were noted.

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

The Chairman introduced Paul Jameson, the County Council's Forum Liaison Officer, who would present at all future Area Meetings. He also referred to an accident on Deepdale Lane in Barrow-on-Trent, resulting in a vehicle falling into the Canal. He paid tribute to a passer-by who had rescued a young child from the rear of the vehicle. A joint investigation would be held to establish the cause and look at urgent safety improvements. It was noted this problem would not be solved easily, as there were technical issues preventing the erection of crash barriers along this narrow road.

MA/6. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Wright provided an update about police surgeries, the staffing arrangements and dates of forthcoming surgeries, together with the next round of Safer Neighbourhood Meetings. Sergeant Wright then spoke about police cover for the more rural areas of the District and a repeat of operation "relentless", which targeted violent anti-social behaviour and domestic violence.

Questions were invited and Swarkestone residents explained the problems experienced along Woodshop Lane, which was an "access only" road. This comprised motorists using the route improperly and inconsiderate parking adjacent to the Crewe and Harpur public house. Advice was provided and residents were urged to contact the police by telephone (0845) 1233333 when these incidents occurred.

Sergeant Wright agreed to refer this issue to the local beat officer.

District Council Members expressed residents' concerns over the perceived lack of a police presence in some areas. It was reported that crime statistics were provided to parish councils, but these would be more useful if they included the rates of solved crimes.

Sergeant Wright agreed to pursue this suggestion with Inspector Cuttell.

Following the Chairman's announcement, a resident suggested a solution on the erection of barriers adjacent to the canal bank, but felt enforcement was needed to deter speeding drivers. Another resident expressed a contrary opinion that a barrier could deflect a vehicle into oncoming traffic.

Following a recent news article about the publication of police reports, it was confirmed that some statistics were published via the Derbyshire Police website. As an example, local beat officers would be able to place sanitised reports on the Constabulary's website.

Sergeant Wright agreed to pursue this suggestion and would report back to a future Meeting.

MA/7. PRESENTATION FROM THE DERBYSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The Chairman introduced Gavin Tomlinson, a Group Manager with the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service. It was explained that the Service had undergone radical changes in recent years. Details were provided of the fire stations within the Derby South area, the number of appliances and specialist appliances, together with details of operational staff. An East Midlands-wide Regional Control Centre was being introduced and this would be based at Castle Donington.

The Officer reported on recent changes to the Fire Service, including new statutory duties and roles on flooding, road traffic collisions, water rescues and chemical incidents. Fire safety compliance and risk assessments were further areas where there was both an advisory and enforcement role. There were three key strands to the Fire Service's work, comprising intervention, prevention and protection and further information was provided on each of these areas.

A question was asked about the monitoring of fire hydrant pressures. The Officer explained changes to highways legislation resulting in a requirement for specialist officers to undertake such monitoring. It would be useful to receive information about how often the hydrants in the area were inspected and checked.

There was discussion about training provided in schools, at key stages 1 and 2, arrangements for recruiting fire fighters and their training programmes. There was further discussion about the regional call centre and a question about calls for service. Whilst these were increasing overall, it was noted that the number of fires was reducing consistently. The Chairman thanked Mr. Tomlinson for the presentation.

MA/8. HIGHWAYS FORUM

It was reported that Officer discussions on highways issues had lead to the establishment of a Joint Highways Forum. Its first Meeting would be held on 26th June 2008. This body would have a strategic approach to look at issues like planning, road improvements and street cleansing. Its format would be similar to that for the Parish Forum, involving Parish, District and County Council representatives. This was a pilot project which would be reviewed after twelve months.

MA/9. REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman summarised the issues raised at the last Meeting. With regard to the recycling of valuable metals, a reply had been provided and the resident spoke particularly about the energy required to smelt certain metals like aluminium. It was recognised that this was a national issue and there should be a collection framework for such valuable metals.

MA/10. DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET AND CORPORATE PLAN

The Chairman reminded of the presentation at the previous Area Meeting on the District Council's budget. A question had been submitted from the floor about the County Council's consultation arrangements for its budget and

plans. Information had been circulated retrospectively and it was hoped that this could be included in the consultation arrangements for future years.

The Chairman took those present through the documents circulated. He referred particularly to waste disposal issues, the scarcity of sites suitable for landfill and the costs of landfill. There was a need to minimise waste through greater recycling. The County Council had received a significant Revenue Support Grant for this year to address such issues and to improve adult services. The Chairman demonstrated this by reference to the aging population and the projected strain on resources. He then referred to priority services, preventative services and making services easier to access.

A District Member spoke about the increasing proportion of waste in South Derbyshire that was being recycled and there was a discussion about the recycling of plastic bottles. Financial issues associated with recycling were also discussed. A resident commented that the United Kingdom was behind many European countries in terms of recycling, with Germany being mentioned in particular.

MA/11. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

At the last Meeting, there had been discussion about the provision of a footway in the vicinity of the Swarkestone Bridge. This matter was ongoing and would be pursued with the appropriate County Council Officer. It was suggested that a site visit be arranged to discuss this matter further. The Chairman referred to a recent archaeology and conservation publication that had included an article about the Swarkestone Causeway. He praised the article by Mrs. Foster and copies of the publication were available via email: sara.whiteley@peakdistrict.gov.uk or by telephoning 01629 812034.

An update was sought on the missing milepost at Cuttle Bridge. Officers explained that this could not be discussed, as it was the subject of legal action and the residents recorded their disappointment at this advice. An update was provided about the Elvaston Castle, which was a matter of continuing concern. Assurances had been received that efforts would be made to find a breakthrough and some £3million of County Council funding had been provided over recent years. A Thulston resident suggested that Government help be sought on this matter and spoke about the condition of a set of gates and footpaths within the Castle grounds.

There was a discussion about the weight restriction signage in the vicinity of the Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway. Following the removal of a sign, difficulties were being experienced in the Ingleby area, as vehicles were trying to use this route. There was a need for advanced warning signage to direct drivers of large vehicles away from the Swarkestone Bridge area. In particular, signage was needed from the A50 trunk road, to show the weight and height restrictions.

It was agreed that these matters be referred to Derbyshire County Council and that a report be provided to the next Area Meeting.

It was suggested that representatives of the East Midlands Airport be invited to attend the next Meeting, to give an update on noise from night time flights and training flights.

MA/12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Melbourne Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course. It was proposed to use the Aston-on-Trent Village Hall for this meeting, subject to availability. It was also hoped to timetable dates for Area Meetings for the rest of the year.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 9.05 p.m.