

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

15th April 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Hewlett, Murray, Pabla, Shepherd, Stanton and Mrs. Wheeler.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Harrison and Jones.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer) and C. Brooks (Libraries).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant T. Cadman.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Heathcote (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), M. Sharp (Melbourne Parish Council) and J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bayliss, J. Burden, P. Burden, M. Burns, C. Ford, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, A. Madeley, R. Saxby and K. Whewell.

MA/33. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Mrs. Coyle and Watson, D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council) and Mr. Piddock (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council).

MA/34. POLICE ISSUES

Sergeant T. Cadman provided an update on policing issues. He spoke about the Speed Watch initiative, the planned training and the scheme would be operated for one month in Ticknall from 16th May. He provided crime reduction statistics and detection rates for both the County as a whole and the South Derbyshire area. Sergeant Cadman reported that Emma Guest was the new Police Community Support Officer for the Melbourne and Ticknall areas. He then referred to a particular anti-social behaviour problem in Melbourne over the winter months, the increased patrols provided and the continued efforts through operation 'Edgware' to curtail these anti-social behaviour problems. Sergeant Cadman publicised the next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting, which would be held at the Ticknall Village Hall on 17th June 2009. There had been some confusion over the start time for this meeting, which was confirmed as 6.30 p.m.

With regard to the anti-social behaviour problems in Melbourne, the Police Officer was thanked on behalf of Melbourne residents for the action taken. A problem was reported with delivery vehicles to the Budgens Supermarket causing an obstruction. The Sergeant agreed to speak to the local beat officer to pursue this with the Supermarket Manager.

MA/35. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported the recent death of Marjorie Collis Hastie. He paid tribute to her service to the Ticknall area, her support for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and spoke about her former role at the Pingle School in Swadlincote. Those present observed a moment's silence in her memory. The Chairman then welcomed the return of Councillor Pabla following the sad death of his wife and Councillor Pabla thanked those present for the kind messages of sympathy and support he had received. The Chairman advised of the transfer of Accident and Emergency Services from the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary to the Derby City Hospital at 2.00 a.m. on 20th May 2009. It was confirmed that the Children's Emergency Department was also transferring to a new facility on the City Hospital site and the Chairman encouraged wide publication of this information. It was questioned what arrangements the bus operators were making to adapt their services and the Chairman understood there was a new transfer bus at Morledge, which would provide access to the hospital. This issue had been the subject of considerable coverage in the local press.

MA/36. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 9th February were noted. It was confirmed that Mr. D. Martin had been in attendance at the previous meeting.

MA/37. 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. The Chairman reviewed each item, inviting updates and comments on the feedback. There was continued concern about the condition of the footway in Weston Road, Aston-on-Trent and it was requested that the issue be re-visited. The Chairman agreed to speak to the resident in question after the meeting, to pursue this matter. It was requested that parish councils publicise the County Council's Trusted Trader Scheme, via their parish magazines. On enforcement of weight restrictions along the Swarkestone Bridge, there was continued concern about the use of this route by heavy commercial vehicles. Large volumes of traffic were also a concern and a particular issue discussed was events at the Donington Park Race Circuit and the additional traffic volumes this could create. Questions were asked about trading standards enforcement, prosecutions and available statistics. It was agreed that this issue be referred back to Derbyshire County Council Trading Standards and that statistics be submitted to the next Meeting on weight limit checks, the number of breaches and the actions taken over the last 12 month period. A similar point was made about the length of some vehicles. Residents were urged to take details of vehicles they considered to be abusing weight limits and to report these to Trading Standards or to the Police.

There was further discussion about the provision of a footway in the vicinity of Woodshop Lane and related to this, a resident spoke of recent flooding problems.

On the District Council issues, there had been no further reported problems about the dog waste bin in the Stenson Fields area. A resident gave an update on the highway maintenance works undertaken at the District boundary with Erewash, along the Derwent Bridge. The work had been partially effective and the resident explained the difficulties with site maintenance, due to the layout of this bridge, particularly because of signage and the single lane carriageway controlled by traffic lights. The Chairman offered to visit this site with the resident as part of a planned visit in the near future to the Elvaston Country Park. There was also a brief discussion on stock condition work at the Elvaston Castle. The Chairman then provided an update on plans to improve the Council's recycling calendar.

MA/38. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – PRESENTATION BY THE LIBRARY SERVICE

The Area Forum received a presentation from Carol Brooks of the Derbyshire Library Service. The County Council was seeking residents' feedback on how the service could be improved. She provided statistics on the number of visits to libraries both nationally and within Derbyshire. She explained the current range of services provided, which included free broadband, the free hire of books, the availability of other media and online facilities. She explained how library services were provided through a range of venues, referred to the awards the service had received and its Charter Mark status. There was a home library service, which delivered materials to residents and such things as publications in Braille, prescription books, the school libraries service and work with Surestart. Mrs. Brooks also publicised the Summer Reading Challenge, which encouraged young people to continue reading during the school summer holiday period.

Questions were invited and the first concerned the number of empty shelves at the Central Library in Derby. Whilst this was outside the County Council's control, the resident was asked to contact Derby City Council to pursue this matter. A question was asked on the availability of statistics, about young people using the Library Service. Also, questions were asked about how to request, reserve or even provide reviews on books and further information was sought on the home library service. Responses to all of these questions were provided. A suggestion was made that publicity be given of library opening hours, either via the County Council website, the literature used for this meeting and whether this could be passed to parish councils for publication on their notice boards.

MA/39. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no additional issues submitted.

MA/40. DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES – UPDATE ON VISION AND PRIORITIES

The Area Forum received a presentation from Mark Alflat, Director of Community Services at the District Council. This provided an update on the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2009-11. The Director explained the evidence and consultation undertaken prior to approving the Plan and actions for the next year. There was a new vision "Making South Derbyshire a Better Place to Live, Work and Visit" together with four new themes. These comprised Sustainable Growth and Opportunity, Safe and Secure, Lifestyle Choices and Value for Money. Examples were given to demonstrate each of the themes and their underpinning targets. The presentation concluded with information on the Council's values.

The Council's Leader explained the consultation that had been undertaken and the wish to ensure all public ideas and priorities were reflected in the Corporate Plan. Details were provided of how residents could get a copy of the summary document or the full Corporate Plan.

MA/41. OTHER BUSINESS

The Forum Liaison Officer had circulated an update on the Trusted Trader Scheme, reported at the previous Meeting. This had grown much quicker than anticipated. The County Council was waiving the first year joining fee for traders who wished to become involved with the scheme. A local Councillor publicised the next meeting of the Donington Racetrack Liaison Committee, which would be held on 9th June 2009. Forty racing events had been licensed at the track, of which six were the highest category 'A' events. The traffic management arrangements would include a trial of those planned for the Formula 1 racing in 2010. The Member also referred to a cycle racing event, which might affect the road network surrounding Donington Park on May 30th and 31st.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:20 p.m.