

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

21st July 2010

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Hewlett, Murray, Shepherd and Stanton.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), C. Payne (Communications) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Ford, Harrison and Murray.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Sutherland.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council) and J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council).

South Derbyshire CVS

J. Smith.

Members of the Public

D. Bayliss, S. Blatch, P. Burns, R. Knibb, A. Madeley, T. Mills, G. Pollard, R. Saxby, K. Whewell.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Atkin, Mrs. Coyle, Pabla, Watson and Wheeler and representatives of Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council.

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Watson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Melbourne Area Forum for the ensuing year.

MA/2. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sutherland gave an update on crime statistics for the area for the last three months. Overall, levels of reported crime had reduced by about a third when compared to the statistics for the previous year. The Officer gave specific reports on burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and violent crime. He also referred to anti-social behaviour and outlined plans to increase cover in Aston-on-Trent. There was a discussion about the Aston Well Dressings held the previous weekend and the problems with anti-social behaviour experienced between midnight and 3.00 a.m. A parish representative confirmed that there had been damage to one of the well dressings and CCTV footage was available. **Sergeant Sutherland agreed to pursue this matter with the Parish Council.**

The Officer confirmed that the Safer Neighbourhood priorities for the area were targeting anti-social behaviour at Aston, Elvaston Castle and Thulston and targeting both anti-social behaviour and car crime in the Boulton Moor area. He publicised a police initiative "Have your say", which would be held at the Sainsbury's Supermarket in Swadlincote on 14th August 2010 and was an opportunity for people to raise concerns on policing. The next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting for the area would take place on 14th September 2010 at 6.30 p.m. at the Melbourne Leisure Centre.

Following the discussion at the last meeting, the Officer gave clarification about pedlars' licences, which were issued by the Police. Where individuals were trying to sell items door-to-door, they had to have their licence with them and display it when requested. Such a licence was not needed when individuals were selling at fairs or if they were selling a service. In response to a resident's question, it was confirmed there was no time restriction on when they could sell, but if there was a persistent problem, the Constabulary could be called.

Problems were being experienced in the Stenson Fields area, with the use of mini motorcycles. The Constabulary had been provided with the registration numbers of some vehicles. The Officer responded, confirming the difficulty in catching those using mini motorcycles. **It was agreed that this matter would be referred to local police officers and the traffic police. Any further information or problems should also be reported to the Constabulary.**

A resident thanked the police for catching an offender who was damaging fencing. A question was then submitted about a circus located in Willington on Etwall Road, close to the Canal Bridge. There had been no consultation and it was questioned who the landowner was. **It was agreed that this matter be referred to the District and County Councils to investigate.**

In response to a question, further information was provided on the burglary problems in Melbourne between May and June. These now seemed to have ceased, but the Officer was not aware of a conviction yet being made. A further issue discussed, was the difference between actual and grievous bodily harm.

A District Councillor referred to the unauthorised occupation of land in Swarkestone and the rubbish left on the site after the travellers had been moved on. A particular concern was the violent threats that had been made to the landowner. Arising from this, there was discussion about the recent meeting on traveller issues, the powers available to the Constabulary and ensuring these were used effectively to move travellers on. Reference was made to a particular piece of land, which was currently occupied by travellers. The County Council was the landowner, but was unable to move these travellers presently, on welfare grounds. The need for hard evidence to secure convictions was a further aspect discussed.

MA/3. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made an announcement on behalf of the Chairman of Council, who had hoped to be at the Area Forum and was looking forward to visiting all parts of the District during his year in office. If he could be of assistance to local groups, they were asked to contact the Civic Office either by telephone (01283 595721) or via the Council's website (www.south-derbys.gov.uk).

MA/4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 17th March 2010 were noted.

MA/5. **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. A Swarkestone resident referred to the proposed footway scheme at Woodshop Lane and was perplexed by the difficulties in identifying land ownership. He repeated concerns made previously about the volume of heavy traffic using nearby roads and flooding problems. **It was agreed that the Chairman would speak with the resident after the Meeting to confirm details of the landowner, in order that this could be referred to Derbyshire County Council.** Thanks were recorded for the provision of a new litterbin in the Stenson Fields area.

MA/6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A District Councillor for the Stenson Ward had referred a number of issues to the Forum Liaison Officer prior to the meeting. These concerned a footway between Gairloch Close and Holderness Close, where residents had complained about people using motorcycles on this footway. There was a request for hedge maintenance on Stenson Road. Further issues concerned the reinstatement of a footway at Padstow Close and a residents only parking scheme for Heather Close to address current anti-social parking and health and safety issues. **It was agreed that the Forum Liaison Officer would refer these matters to the County Council and provide a report back to the next meeting.**

There was a discussion about road works undertaken along the A6 between Derby and Shardlow. These works had been commissioned on safety grounds due to there being five similar reportable traffic incidents, with vehicle collisions

at the Thulston Lane junction. It appeared that the road improvement scheme had solved the previous problems, but it was noted that advanced notice should have been given to the local parish council and residents.

MA/7. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chairman reported on potential budget cuts from the Coalition Government and the likely impact for Derbyshire County Council. He also referred to the Comprehensive Spending Review, which would take place in October 2010. He felt that the cuts imposed to date could be met without the need for redundancies due to the efficiency savings achieved previously. He also spoke about endeavours to keep the cost of school meals low within the County.

MA/8. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

It was confirmed that the Mercian Regiment had accepted the offer of the Freedom of the District of South Derbyshire. This would give the Regiment the right to parade through Swadlincote. A scroll would be presented to the Regiment at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 11th November 2010.

MA/9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Melbourne Area Forum would be confirmed in due course.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.55 p.m.