

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

15th July 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Mrs. Coyle, Hewlett, Shepherd, Stanton, Watson and Mrs. Wheeler.

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

County Council Representatives

Councillors Harrison.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant M. Sisman.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), J. Wilcox (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Mitchell and G. McLaughlin (Elvaston Parish Council) and R. Parker (Ticknall Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bayliss, S. Blatch, P. Burns, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, S. Madeley, G. Pollard, P. Waters and K. Whewell.

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Harrison had been appointed Chairman of the Melbourne Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District and County Councillors Ford and Murray and Mr. B. Wheat.

MA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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

MA/3. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant M. Sisman reported that he had recently taken over from Sergeant A. Wright as the seconded police officer working with the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership. He commenced his update by reporting on a Post Office robbery recently, for which enquiries were ongoing. He spoke about damage to allotments in Weston-on-Trent, advising that allotment and garden damage seemed to be a recent trend. There had been a slight rise in crime rates in recent months and a number of examples were given. He spoke particularly about burglaries and a recent arrest made. Statistics were provided on vehicle crime and reductions in violent crime and anti-social behaviour. He referred to the priorities set recently at the safer neighbourhood meetings and spoke of particular problems at the Elvaston Steam Rally, caused by drunk and disorderly people. Feedback was encouraged on such anti-social behaviour problems. The Officer reminded those present of the local police officers for this part of South Derbyshire and concluded by explaining plans for Operation Relentless, when the evenings started to draw in.

Questions were invited and a District Councillor referred to anti-social behaviour problems in the Stenson Fields area. It was confirmed that the area at Pilgrims Way had been recognised as a priority. Sergeant Sisman was welcomed in his new role on the Safer South Derbyshire partnership. **It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Andy Wright, recognising his service, following his recent retirement.**

MA/4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On behalf of Derbyshire County Council, the Chairman gave an apology for the traffic disruption caused on 10th April, due to re-surfacing works along the Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway. He explained that the works should have been undertaken over night, but had not been completed until 10.30 a.m. on the Friday, which had caused significant disruption. This matter would be investigated by Derbyshire County Council. A local District Member commented that stone repairs on the Causeway over the last six-weeks had necessitated the use of traffic lights, but these should have been removed during periods when no work was taking place. **The Chairman agreed to refer this issue to the County Council's Highways Department.**

MA/5. **MINUTES**

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

MA/6. **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 resident was critical of the feedback provided by Derbyshire County Council with regard to weight restriction enforcement along the Swarkestone Bridge. The Chairman confirmed the County Council's policy and then questioned how many fines had been issued over the last three years. It was requested that the County Council look into this and the problems caused by satellite navigation equipment and how programming could be reviewed to prevent vehicles being directed through this

area. Other issues raised were prosecuting companies that sent vehicles through the area and approaching delivery depots to remind them of the weight restrictions in force. There were also problems where foreign drivers were not able to understand road signage and a suggestion was made to provide mapping in appropriate locations showing the weight-restricted areas. **It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council pursue the suggestions above.**

There was a discussion about the Highways Agency's policy not to erect signage on trunk roads showing weight-restricted areas. However, on some County Council roads, particularly in Leicestershire, such signage was used. The Police were asked to help from an enforcement aspect. **Sergeant Sisman agreed to approach the District Councillor outside the Meeting.**

A further suggestion made was a periodic police presence, to provide a deterrent and direct vehicles away from this weight restricted area. Such requests would have to be prioritised against other service needs. Reference was made to the plans for Formula 1 Racing at Donington Park. It was confirmed that the park and ride arrangements would not involve the use of the Swarkestone Bridge or Causeway. A District Councillor referred to the Local Development Framework consultation and the longer term plans for an alternative route across this part of South Derbyshire. Residents were encouraged to comment on such proposals at appropriate stages of the LDF process.

MA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

There were concerns about highway safety, due to overgrown grass impeding visibility on the A50/A6 spur road, traffic island and central reservation. It was identified that these maintenance responsibilities lay with the Highways Agency and similar problems had been pursued last year. There was a need to argue for more frequent maintenance on safety grounds and for the removal of ragwort in this area. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to pursue this matter.**

A Swarkestone resident repeated previous concerns about flooding problems in an area of the Village and the lack of a pavement along Barrow Road. **The Chairman agreed to send the resident a copy of his current correspondence on these matters.**

MA/8. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer reported that Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council had jointly begun preparing new plans, which would set out where and when new minerals and waste development would take place over the next 20 years. Information was circulated to those present, which explained more about the plans. The County Council was carrying out further consultation and asked, if any residents had opinions about what the minerals and/or waste plans should contain, that they express their views. In addition, they would include any person or organisation that wished to be consulted regularly in their list of consultees. It was pointed out that residents could get

involved at any stage, but it was important to register interest early in the process, if they wished to influence the plans from the start.

To express a view or to register, it was requested that people email: wasteminsldf@derbyshire.gov.uk or write to Andrew Hollyer, Development Plans Team, Environmental Services Department, Derbyshire County Council, Shand House, Dale Road South, Matlock, DE4 3RY.

The Chairman confirmed that the District Council would also be a consultee and residents were encouraged to copy their representations to the Authority. He encouraged local parish councils to get copies of the document and to respond appropriately. There was discussion about the consultation deadlines. An Elvaston resident explained that feedback had been provided to a number of previous County Council consultations on this subject. He felt that the issues raised in response to each consultation remained relevant and questioned why residents needed to repeat their feedback. The Chairman encouraged the resident to make their contribution and to request an acknowledgement of it.

MA/9. DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES: FEEDBACK ON VISION AND PRIORITIES

Sasha Ryan of the District Council's Organisational Development Department advised that a booklet had been circulated entitled "Local Priorities Consultation – Summary of Key Findings". She reported that during 2008 and early 2009, the District Council had consulted key stakeholders on priorities for the District. A wide range of consultation methods were used and the results had informed two key documents, being the Council's Corporate Plan and South Derbyshire's Sustainable Community Strategy. The booklet gave a summary of key findings following this consultation. Residents were thanked for giving their views.

The Chairman provided background on the philosophy of the District Council, that it was there to provide the services that residents needed. He highlighted a number of the key areas and referred to the Council's Corporate Plan, which was refreshed each year. The key priorities were incorporated in the document and funding was directed to those areas. The Council appreciated residents' participation. A question was submitted about how parish plans linked into this document and response was duly provided.

With regard to the priority of reducing crime and particularly anti-social behaviour, a resident spoke about problems in Elvaston. There was discussion about a particular incident and the Police support provided. It was clarified that this issue concerned the Elvaston Castle. A number of problems had been reported to the security company responsible for the site, but it was suggested that such concerns should have been reported directly to the police. Even minor incidents would provide statistics, which would help with the future targeting of resources. **It was suggested that liaison take place between the Constabulary and the security company responsible for Elvaston Castle and Sergeant Sisman agreed to ask Officers to look into this.**

The Sergeant then gave further examples of how the police tackled anti-social behaviour and spoke of the need for "joined-up" working between the different

agencies. A further resident suggested an occasional police or PCSO presence to provide a deterrent. Residents could report any concerns to the Constabulary by calling (0345) 1233333 or via its website. There was also an anti-social behaviour helpline (01283 595795), which residents could call.

With regard to the priority of clean streets, and particularly litter enforcement, praise was recorded to the Council's Clean Team and there was discussion about a recent prosecution. Further action was being pursued against commercial fly tipping and for the future, it was suggested that the amounts of fines imposed be publicised, to provide a deterrent to others. The Vice-Chairman of the Council was present at the Meeting and made an offer to parishes for the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council to attend village events.

MA/10. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was reported that Melbourne Area Forum Meetings would be held on:-

21st October 2009 at Weston-on-Trent Village Hall
2nd February 2010 at Melbourne Leisure Centre
17th March at Stenson Fields Primary School

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:10 p.m.