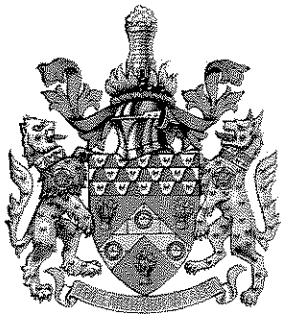


South Derbyshire Area Forum



Derbyshire Constabulary



South
Derbyshire
District Council

 **DERBYSHIRE**
County Council
Improving life for local people

Melbourne

Monday
7th February 2011

Weston-on-Trent
Village Hall
Main Street
West-on-Trent
DE72 2BL

7pm

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।

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SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM MELBOURNE

(Covering Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Calke, Elvaston, Foremark, Ingleby, Melbourne, Shardlow & Great Wilne, Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge, Stenson Fields, Swarkestone, Ticknall, Twyford & Stenson and Weston-on-Trent)

**Meeting to be held at the
Weston-on-Trent Village Hall
Main Street
Weston-on-Trent
DE72 2BL
on Monday, 7th February 2011
at 7.00 p.m.**

(Light Refreshments will be available at 6.30 p.m.)

Members:

District Councillors: Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Mrs. Coyle, Hewlett, Murray, Pabla, Shepherd, Stanton, and Mrs. Wheeler M.P.

County Councillors: Councillors Ford, Harrison and Murray.

*South Derbyshire District Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote,
Derbyshire DE11 0AH
Minicom: (01283) 228149, DX 23912 Swadlincote.
Please ask for Paul Spencer, Tel: (01283) 221000 Ext. 5722, DDI (01283) 595722
E.mail: paul.spencer@south-derbys.gov.uk*

BUSINESS

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. Police issues.
4. Chairman's Announcements.
5. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th November 2010 (copy attached).
6. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
7. Public questions on issues raised by residents.
8. County Council issues.
9. District Council issues – 2011/12 Budget.
10. Date of Next Meeting.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

9th November 2010

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Hewlett, Pabla, Shepherd and Wheeler.

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

County Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer) and C. Slack (Children's' Centres).

Derbyshire Constabulary

PCSO C. Bromley.

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

J. Caulton and R. Brunt.

Census 2011

H. Balesford.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

E. Hicklin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), J. Wilcox (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council) and J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bayliss, S. Blatch, D. Calvert, E. Handy, G. Pollard and R. Saxby.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Mrs. Coyle, Stanton and Mrs. Wheeler M.P., D. Martin, F. Mitchell, M. Sharp, D. Smith and Sergeant Sutherland (Derbyshire Constabulary).

MA/10. **POLICE ISSUES**

PCSO Bromley provided a report on a number of recent incidents in the area covered by the Melbourne Forum. He explained the measures put in place, which had helped the Melbourne Wakes to pass without significant problems. The Officer spoke of a crime in Kings Newton and an operation in Shardlow,

resulting in the arrest of individuals growing cannabis. It was reported that the Safer Neighbourhood priority for the area was to tackle anti-social behaviour in Aston-on-Trent. The next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting would be held at the Barrow-on-Trent Village Hall on 1st December 2010 at 7.00 p.m. On behalf of Melbourne residents, the Officer was thanked for the work undertaken by the Constabulary to ensure the Melbourne Wakes had passed without incident.

MA/11. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was reported that the Communications Team had circulated a questionnaire, which sought public feedback on the services the District Council provided. Residents were asked to either complete the questionnaire and leave it on the Helpdesk after the Meeting, or to return it in the freepost envelope supplied.

The Chairman also spoke about providing publicity to ensure the wider community was aware of the area forums. Officers agreed to discuss this outside the Meeting.

MA/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 21st July 2010 were noted. Under Minute No. MA/6, a District Councillor enquired about Derbyshire County Council's policy on responding to correspondence. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate this and to provide a response to the Councillor in question.**

MA/13. **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. Arising from the item on Swarkestone drainage problems, a resident reminded of the earlier request for a footpath to be provided from Lowes Lane to the junction with the A5132/A514. Background was provided on this matter, which had been raised at a number of previous Area Forums. There had been confusion over land ownership and the scheme was no longer proceeding. **The Forum Liaison Officer was requested to reinvestigate this matter.**

At the previous Meeting, a local District Councillor had submitted a number of concerns. He had still not received a response to the issue raised about motorcyclists using the footpath between Gairloch Close and Holderness Close in Stenson Fields. The Councillor reiterated the concerns. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to pursue this matter. He would also refer it to the Derbyshire Constabulary as an anti-social behaviour issue.**

A further matter related to hedges on Stenson Road in Stenson Fields. Whilst some maintenance had taken place, the hedges were still very high. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to refer this matter back to Derbyshire County Council.**

MA/14. DERBYSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – SERVICE PLAN CONSULTATION

A presentation was made by John Caulton and Richard Brunt on the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan for the period 2011 to 2014. Information had been circulated for residents to read and feedback was sought through a questionnaire contained in the document. Mr. Brunt referred to the recent Government announcement on public spending and explained how the Service would need to reduce costs and deliver cost efficient services. Mr. Caulton explained how the role of the Service had been expanded in recent years, quoting a number of examples. These included the review of staffing of the Swadlincote Fire Station, the problems caused by automatic fire alarms and the challenge process introduced to prevent unnecessary calls for service. Charges were proposed for certain services and another issue raised was cross-border arrangements. Residents were asked to consider and respond to this consultation.

A number of questions were submitted about performance levels, particularly relating to response times, about the cross-border charging regime and arrangements for cover from the adjacent City of Derby. The Officers responded to each of the questions submitted, confirming that services would not be reduced. Proposals to improve the Fire Station at Ascot Drive in the City of Derby were also reported. The representatives of the Fire Service were thanked for the presentation.

MA/15. CENSUS PRESENTATION

Helen Bralesford from the Office of National Statistics advised those present that the next Census would take place on 27th March 2011. She gave background information on the Census, which was an account/estimate of the whole population, and had happened every 10 years, since 1801.

She provided details of who used the Census information, and the methods in which they attempted to contact the whole population, including hard to reach groups. There was currently an address register being compiled, which would be used for the delivery of questionnaires to every address in the United Kingdom. These would be delivered from 27th March 2011, and residents would have ten days to return the form. Once all questionnaires were completed Census information would be provided.

She confirmed that completing a Census form was fairly straightforward, and usually took around 10 minutes. She also assured those present that the Census information was never shared, and was totally confidential. It was used to produce statistics, kept confidential for 100 years, then was released.

She added that help would be available for anyone unable to complete the form. She asked that those members of the public who were able, assist vulnerable people and hard to reach groups. She added that further information could be found via the website 2011.census.gov.uk. Questions were submitted about the quality control mechanisms in place to ensure the accuracy of the census return and the opportunity for publicity through local newspapers.

MA/16. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – CHILDREN’S CENTRE PRESENTATION

Clair Slack from Children’s Services gave a presentation on the County’s Children’s Centres. She advised that their role had developed from a Surestart programme in 1999, and children’s centres now worked with all families, but also with targeted families. An aim was to try to narrow the gap of school attendance between affluent areas and poorer areas. Children’s’ Centres were monitored in the same way as schools through OFSTED inspections.

Detailed information was provided on the local services delivered and on the seven centres within the South Derbyshire and South Derbyshire Dales areas.

MA/17. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

A District Councillor for the Stenson Ward reminded of a number of issues that had been raised at the previous meeting. Responses were still awaited and further information would be passed to the Forum Liaison Officer, in order that these could be pursued. The matters concerned the footway between Gairloch Close and Holderness Close in Stenson Fields, reported earlier in the meeting, the provision of a speed limit sign in Witton Court and a request for an additional street light at Padstow Close. Finally, residents were concerned about large trees close to properties near to the junction of Wragley Way and Arleston Lane and it was questioned if these could be removed. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to pursue the matters raised.**

A resident referred to the Melbourne Civic Society annual litter pick. A comment was made that litter bins were used, but some were not large enough. The Director of Community Services offered to look at the frequency of emptying litter bins and the resident was asked to provide further information on the specific areas involved. Another reported problem was the practice of some dog owners to remove dog faeces, placing these in plastic bags, only to deposit the bags in hedgerows. **It was agreed that the matters referred to above be investigated.**

MA/18. DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES

The Chairman asked Officers about the District Council’s budget consultation arrangements. The detailed implications from the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review would not be known until early December. After this time, the Council would undertake its budget consultation, to help identify service priorities.

MA/19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Melbourne Area Forum would be held on Monday, 7th February 2011 at the Weston-on-Trent Village Hall.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MELBOURNE AREA FORUM

(Covering Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Calke, Elvaston, Foremark, Ingleby, Melbourne, Shardlow & Great Wilne, Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge, Stenson Fields, Swarkestone, Ticknall, Twyford & Stenson and Weston-on-Trent)

7th February 2011

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the Melbourne Area Forum held on 9th November 2010 at the Melbourne Leisure Centre, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made to date:-

Derbyshire County Council Issues

1. DCC POLICY RE RESPONDING TO CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr David Shepherd (SDDC), referring to Minute No. MA/6 from the last meeting, noted an omission where he had queried whether DCC had a policy regarding timescales in responding to correspondence. Cllr Shepherd had submitted a number of e-mails to officers at DCC and was disappointed at the length of time it took to get responses. A copy of the 'Putting People First' Customer Care Charter was forwarded via e-mail to Cllr Shepherd on 10th December and a copy is also attached to this report.

2. WOODSHOP LANE, SWARKESTONE: PROPOSED FOOWAY

A local resident again expressed disappointment that the footway that had been proposed by DCC some years ago was no longer going ahead. DCC Liaison Officer reiterated the situation, which had been outlined at previous Forums. A scheme had been drawn up and funding secured from the Capital budget approximately 5 years ago. However, the scheme relied on some land purchase, which had been halted over a dispute regarding land ownership (associated with a need to relocate the access to Swarkestone Cricket Club).

The resident contested this argument over land ownership and reported that a farmer here had proven the land was his. A representative of the Cricket Club was in attendance and also suggested there was no dispute from the Club – they acknowledged that the land between the road and the cricket ground belonged to the farmer. The Chairman asked that this matter be taken back to DCC to ascertain whether this information changed the situation.

Officers from DCC's Traffic & Safety section have again confirmed that the footway scheme was abandoned due to the land acquisition problem that had occurred at the time that the Capital funding was originally available for the scheme. There is very little likelihood that the scheme could be resumed, bearing in mind the current financial climate and the pressures on limited and reducing budgets.

However, since the abandonment of the scheme, other road safety measures have been introduced; namely in the form of a speed limit reduction. The speed limit on the A5132 has been reduced from 60mph to 50mph, whilst at Swarkestone itself the limit has been dropped from 60mph to 30mph.

Concerns have been raised by a resident, that the reduced 30mph speed limit is routinely ignored by motorists. In response to this, speed checks are to be undertaken within the 30mph limit at Swarkestone in the Spring (when the survey is likely to be more representative of the true picture – as speeds tend to be lower during the darker winter months).

Even if land acquisition was to proceed more smoothly now, there is no pedestrian injury accident history at Swarkestone to justify Capital expenditure (particularly in the current economic climate) on the provision of a footway.

3. STENSON ROAD, STENSON FIELDS: OVERGROWN HEDGES

Cllr Shepherd noted that the hedges had now been cut back from the highway, but reported that residents had raised issues with the height, which it was stated was uneven and overhanging their properties. Would DCC be able to level off the hedges at the top?

The area's Maintenance Manager has advised that DCC only cut the highway face of the hedging and that residents are required to maintain their side of the hedge; they may reduce the height themselves, if they so wish. A reply e-mail was sent to Cllr Shepherd.

4. GAIRLOCH CLOSE-HOLDERNESS CLOSE, STENSON FIELDS: MOTORCYCLES USING THE FOOTPATH

Cllr Shepherd asked for an update on the progress of a petition, which had been submitted at the last Forum. Residents continued to report problems with motorcycles being used on the footpath. An e-mail requesting a progress report had been sent, but no response had been received.

The DCC Liaison Officer advised that the petition had been submitted to Cllr Chris Jackson (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport) at his meeting on 12 August 2010. This was now being investigated by an officer from the Traffic & Safety section and a report of the findings would be submitted back to the Cabinet Member in due course. In the meantime, the Liaison Officer advised that he would pass this matter on to the police as it concerned anti-social behaviour.

An e-mail was sent to Sgt Andy Sutherland on 15th November requesting that local officers pay attention to this matter when patrolling the area.

The report was submitted to the Cabinet Member meeting on 16th December 2010 and a copy of the report is attached. The Cabinet Member resolved to accept the recommendations of the report - namely that features are not placed on the footpath to deter motorcyclists, as this may prevent pedestrians, wheelchair users or mobility scooter users from using the footpath; and that the issue be referred to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Safer Community Team at SDDC be asked to investigate the problem.

5. WITTON COURT, STENSON FIELDS: REQUEST FOR SPEED LIMIT SIGN

Cllr Shepherd submitted a copy of an e-mail sent to DCC on 14th October in relation to the above request for 30mph sign, but had not yet received a response. The DCC Liaison Officer agreed to follow up on the matter.

The following response was sent by email to Councillor Shepherd: "As you will know, Witton Court is within a 30 mph area and has a system of street lighting. Consequently, we are prohibited by National legislation from providing any further 30 mph signs or markings. The system of street lighting [in the absence of any other signing] is the indication to all highway users that the road is subject to a 30mph speed limit. That is not to say that 30mph is the target speed, but the maximum permitted speed. At all times, on every road anywhere, drivers should drive to the conditions as they find them and at a speed appropriate for the circumstances. You could usefully refer the resident who has contacted you to Rules 124 and 125 of the Highway Code which clarify these points.

Bearing in mind that Witton Court is a short residential cul-de-sac some 100m long off Glenmore Drive off Grampian Way and serves only 19 properties, apart from the residents themselves and their own visitors, there will be few other vehicles using this road [weekly refuse, Post Office and occasional delivery], thus I would suggest that it is relatively easy to identify any vehicles that the residents perceive is regularly being driven too fast or irresponsibly. They should forward this information and their concerns direct to the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team so they can determine if any enforcement is required or if appropriate advice needs to be given to identified drivers."

6. TREES ON WRAGLEY WAY, STENSON FIELDS

Cllr Shepherd submitted a covering note in regard to an issue he had taken up with DCC. The trees in question are located near the junction of Arleston Lane and Wragley Way. The County Council's Arboriculturalist has inspected the trees and, finding them to be healthy, proposes to take no action. Residents do not disagree with the health of the trees but believe that they have grown too big, the overshadowing being detrimental to enjoyment of their properties. I wish to thank the County Council for repairing the damage done to the footway by the roots. This is a step in the right direction, but the residents nearest the trees ask that they be felled. If the County Council agrees to this, I would request that trees of a smaller species replace them.

Officers have reiterated that the trees here are healthy and seem to be a reasonable size in relation to the properties at present, providing amenity value to the area. As such, there are no plans for the removal of these trees. A reply e-mail was sent to Cllr Shepherd on 19th November.

7. PADSTOW CLOSE, STENSON FIELDS: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTING

Cllr Shepherd advised that residents have asked that additional lighting be provided in Padstow Close. The existing lights are not sufficient to illuminate the western end of Padstow Close. Cllr Shepherd has suggested that a site visit be arranged in the hours of darkness so that residents may indicate their concerns and discuss location of any additional lights, etc.

A Street lighting request application form was forwarded to Cllr Shepherd via e-mail on 15th November, requesting that the form be completed and returned to the Community Safety Unit for consideration.

South Derbyshire District Council Issue

A comment was made that litter bins were not large enough or needed to be emptied more frequently. Another reported problem was the practice of some dog owners to remove dog faeces, placing these in plastic bags, only to deposit the bags in hedgerows. The appropriate officers were asked to contact the resident to discuss these problems in more detail.

Putting people first



Our key priority is to...
Improve life for local people by delivering high quality services.

All of us at Derbyshire County Council will:

- Try to provide the services you need when and where you want them.
- Be polite, helpful, open and honest in all our dealings with you.
- Treat you fairly and equally.
- Provide you with clear information about our services in plain language.

If you telephone us we will:

- Try to answer within five rings.
- Tell you who you are speaking to.
- Try to deal with your enquiry within one working day.

If you write, fax or email us we will:

- Acknowledge your email within 24 hours.
- Try to reply to you within 10 working days by telephone, fax, letter or email.
- Be clear and use plain language.
- Use Braille, large print and different languages if you need us to.

If you visit us we will:

- Welcome you on arrival.
- Be clean, tidy and dress appropriately for our job.
- Deal with you promptly keeping any delays down to 10 minutes.
- Keep our reception areas clean, warm and comfortable.

If we visit you we will:

- Be prompt and try to keep any delays down to 10 minutes.
- Show you our Derbyshire County Council identity card on arrival.
- Be clean, tidy and dress appropriately for our job.

We will ask for your views on the services you use. We will:

- Use your comments to help us improve.

If you are unhappy with the service you receive, we want to know. You can:

- Fill in a leaflet available from reception areas or Call Derbyshire on 08 456 058 058.

If you make a complaint we will:

- Acknowledge your complaint within five working days.
- Investigate your complaint.
- Provide a written response within 20 working days.

Some services have other standards in addition to this Customer Care Charter.

Derbyshire County Council

Meeting of Cabinet Member - Highways and Transport

16 December 2010

Report of the Strategic Director – Environmental Services

Petition – Stenson Fields, Gairloch Close to Holderness Close Footpath – Action Requested to Stop Motorcycles and Scooters using the Path

(1) **Purpose of Report** To advise the Cabinet Member of the results of the investigations and recommendations following receipt of a petition signed by residents of properties in Gairloch Close, Stenson Fields requesting action to stop motorcycles and scooters using the footpath that links Gairloch Close with Holderness Close.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Receipt of the petition was reported to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport on 12 August 2010. (Min No 152/10). The petition is signed by 15 residents from 10 different properties in Gairloch Close. The enclosed plan, as well as showing the location of the footpath, also indicates the location of the petition signatories. The petition was submitted by South Derbyshire District Councillor David Shepherd. The petitioners ...”request that action be taken to stop motorcycles and scooters being ridden, sometimes at speed, through the alley..... before some injury is caused to other users”.

Gairloch Close and Holderness Close are residential culs de sac located in the south of Stenson Fields in South Derbyshire. The area contains numerous linking footpaths enabling easy pedestrian access to other areas of the suburb, including the local Primary School.

Officer Comment

The footpath in question is approximately 67 metres long, 48 metres of which is enclosed on both sides by high wooden fences alongside gardens of adjacent houses. The footpath varies in width from 1.69 metres to 1.8 metres.

To enable a footpath to be used by mobility scooter users, wheelchairs and pushchairs, it is necessary for the footpath to have a minimum clear width of 1.2 metres; however, as the size of wheelchairs and mobility scooters increase and continue to increase in width, it is preferable to have a minimum clear width of 1.4 metres. To place any features on this linking footpath to prevent motorcycles and scooters from using it, would require barriers in the

form of a chicane or an 'A' type motorcycle barrier. Both of these features would have to be placed at such a distance apart, to accommodate wheelchair users, that it would be unlikely to prevent or deter motorcyclists from using the footpath.

In other locations where such features have been placed, they have not necessarily deterred motorcyclists but have encouraged groups of young people to gather. They have also acted as a "climbing frame" giving easy access into neighbours' gardens and, as such, are usually not welcomed by the owners of neighbouring properties.

Site visits made by officers at different times and on different days to monitor usage of the footpath revealed no motorcycle or scooter usage; however, local pedestrians were seen to be using the footpath.

There would undoubtedly be some conflict if pedestrians mixed with vehicles but the path is straight with good visibility and it is street-lit. It may be more appropriate for Police officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team to work with local residents and the motorcyclists to deter them from using the footpath, rather than introducing barriers or any other physical measures. It is recommended, therefore, that no barriers be installed at this site.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

(3) **Background Papers** Held on file 44XT in Environmental Services. Officer contact details - Karen Hair, extension 38454.

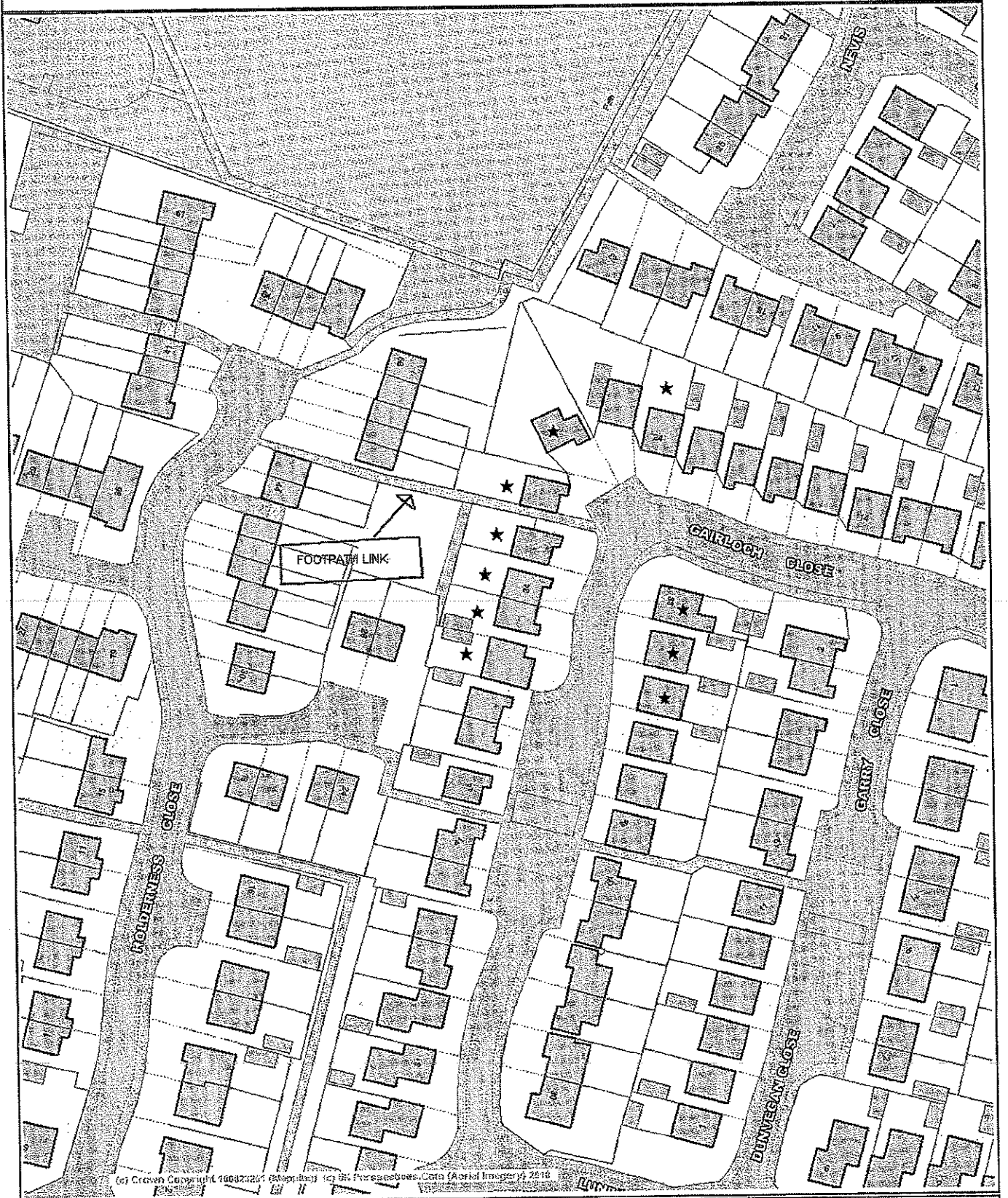
(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Officer Recommendations** That:-

- 5.1 Features be not placed on the footpath to deter motorcyclists, as this may prevent pedestrians, wheelchair users or mobility scooter users from using the footpath from Gairloch Close to Holderness Close, Stenson Fields.
- 5.2 The issue be referred to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Safer Community Team at South Derbyshire District Council be asked to investigate the problem.
- 5.3 The petitioners and Local Member be informed accordingly.

Title

Petition - Footpath Link - Gairloch Close/Holderness Close , Stenson Fields



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Date 8/11/2010

Scale 1/994

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