

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

7th February 2011

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Coyle, Hewlett, Shepherd and Stanton.

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

County Council Representatives

Councillors Harrison and Lacey.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Sutherland.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council), R. Parker (Ticknall Parish Council) and K. Cross and C. Scott (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

C. Allen, D. Allen, K. Atkin, D. Bayliss, R. Beardsley, S. Blatch, J. Caisley, S. Cooper, R. Knibb, L. Lancashire, S. Madeley, E. Peapell, J. Sowter, J. Walters, K. Whewell.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Atkin, County Councillor Ford and D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council).

MA/20. **COUNCILLOR BILL LYTHGOE**

The Chairman reported with sadness, the recent death of Councillor Bill Lythgoe of Elvaston Parish Council who was also formerly a Member of both the District and County Councils. Those present observed a minute's silence in his memory.

MA/21. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Sutherland gave an update on crime statistics for the area for January and comparative figures from April 2010 to present. Statistics were

provided on burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour. At the recent Safer Neighbourhood meeting, priorities for the area had been reviewed. Previously, anti-social behaviour in Aston-on-Trent had been targeted through an operation and there had been no reports of anti-social behaviour in Aston in January. It was understood there were still some concerns locally and the Officer requested that any incidents be reported to the Constabulary. The new priority for the area was anti-social behaviour in Melbourne.

A request was made for village-based crime statistics to be provided for future meetings. In response to a question, the Officer explained the difference between burglary, theft and robbery.

MA/22. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman referred to a circulated document inviting residents to attend events about neighbourhood planning. A number of "drop-in" events were planned and the Chairman advised of an additional event at Mickleover, which had been arranged since the document had been produced. On behalf of the Chairman of the Council, he also publicised the availability of tickets for a Charity Valentines Concert.

MA/23. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 9th November 2010 were noted.

MA/24. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

A report had been circulated, which gave an update on the issues raised at the previous meeting. Thanks were recorded for the responses provided by Derbyshire County Council, to a number of issues. With regard to the issue of motorcyclists using a footpath between Gairloch Close and Holderness Close in Stenson Fields, a local Member referred to the response submitted and noted that the request for barriers to be installed had not been approved. He read an extract of an article from the Derby Telegraph about the installation of barriers in alleyways in Oakwood to combat problems with nuisance motorbikes, whilst still allowing access for pushchairs and motorised wheelchairs. A copy of this document would be passed to Officers following the meeting.

MA/25. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident sought to submit questions with regard to the Weston Hill Chalet Park. However, these could not be considered at the Area Forum due to ongoing planning and legal issues. There was a discussion about the damage to roadways in the Lowes Lane and Moor Lane area of Swarkestone. The Chairman gave an update on enforcement action being taken by the County Council to ensure that reinstatement works took place to the road surfaces. In the same area, it was reported that a car had gone into the canal adjacent to Deepdale Lane and it was questioned whether any further works were planned to improve safety barriers at this location. The Chairman was not aware of any

further planned works, but would report this issue to Derbyshire County Council.

Concerns were reported about the “Clock” road traffic island at Woodville, particularly about congestion at peak periods and safety for motorists using it. It was questioned whether traffic lights could be installed at this road junction. This had been considered by Derbyshire County Council, but there was not sufficient room for traffic lights to be installed, without the compulsory purchase of land and demolition of some adjacent buildings. **However, it was agreed to seek statistics on reportable accidents at this location, which would be reported to a future Area Forum.**

MA/26. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer publicised the Kilomathon Road Race, which would be held on Sunday, 20th March 2011. Its route was mainly in the City of Derby, but entered South Derbyshire near to Findern, travelling towards Barrow-on-Trent and then Stenson Fields before returning to the City of Derby. An outline was given of the planned publicity for this event.

A District Member reminded of previous reports to the Area Forum about providing an alternate route to bypass the Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway, together with proposals for advanced weight limit signage from the A50, to deter heavy goods vehicles from travelling through this area. He advised that he had received “in principle” support from the County Council to the alternate route proposed through the area. However, he had still not received a response regarding the advance warning signage. It was noted that similar signage was in place on trunk roads in neighbouring counties and indeed, further along the A50 trunk road. The Forum Liaison Officer gave an update that more prominent weight restriction signage would be placed on the slip roads off the A50 and negotiations were taking place over the permitted size of this signage. Derbyshire County Council was pursuing this with Balfour Beattie, the agent of the Highways Agency. **It was agreed that this further information be submitted to Derbyshire County Council and that the local District Member be kept informed of any progress.**

MA/27. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Area Forum received a presentation on the Council’s budget for 2011/12. Information had been circulated at the Meeting showing current council tax levels and the proportion that was received by the District Council. Charts also showed how the District Council was funded, its net General Fund expenditure for 2010/11 and the initial budget for 2011/12. A key issue was the financial settlement for 2011 – 13 and the reduction in Government grant funding levels. This had resulted in key challenges for 2011/12 and the need to identify savings and efficiencies. The Council’s aims were to reduce the deficit, maintain reserves and keep council tax low, through cutting costs not services. The presentation concluded with the budget timetable and where residents could find out more information on the budget process.

MA/28. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7:50 p.m.