

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

15th August 2001

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Carroll (Chair) and Councillors Brooks, Harrison, Pabla, Mrs. Robbins and Shepherd.

I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), N. Betteridge (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor Harrison and N. Elliott (Emergency Planning).

Derbyshire Constabulary

P.C. A. Sutherland (Community Police Officer).

South Derbyshire Member of Parliament

M. Todd.

Parish Council Representatives

S. Graham (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), M. Harrington and A. Jackson (Melbourne Parish Council), N. Hawksworth (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council), L. South (Smisby Parish Council), I. Baker (Stenson Fields Parish Council) and V. Shaw (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bellis, F. Briggs, M. Briggs, P. Dagley, C. Ford, P. Garratt, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, R. Knibb, A. Madeley, B. Monk, G. Monk, R. Saxby, C. Scott, J. Smedley, P. Waters, K. Whewell and A. Wood.

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

The Meeting noted the appointment of Councillor Carroll as Chair at the Annual Council Meeting.

MA/2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mrs. C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council) and Mr. W. F. Lythgoe.

MA/3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was agreed that District Councillor Brooks be appointed Vice-Chair of the Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

MA/4. **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

The Chair introduced Andy Sutherland, the Community Police Officer for Melbourne, Ticknall, Smisby, Calke and Barrow-on-Trent. He advised that he had been in post since April, during which crime had reduced in the majority of the area. Following a question, he advised that one of the main problems within the Melbourne area concerned car crime, which previously

had been in excess of twenty incidents per month but had now been reduced to three or four incidents per month. There had also been a problem concerning gangs of youngsters congregating in the streets and this situation had now also improved, possibly due to an increased police presence on the streets, thereby acting as a deterrent.

A resident expressed concern at an apparent abuse of the Weight Restriction Order on the B5010 in the vicinity of Elvaston at Ambaston Lane. P.C. Sutherland advised that he would pass this matter to the Community Police Officer for that area.

To conclude his report, P.C. Sutherland reported that he was currently trying to encourage the establishment of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, following a recent decline in the number of schemes. According, he requested any resident interested in this matter to contact him.

MA/5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 7th February 2001 were noted. With regard to Minute No. MA/20 regarding Donington Race Circuit, the Chair advised that this matter had subsequently been considered by the District Council's Planning and Economic Development Committee and requested residents to contact the Helpdesk, if they required a copy of the Minute relating to the matter.

With regard to Minute No. MA/20 concerning the meeting regarding flooding, the representative of Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council enquired as to progress on a larger meeting with those Parishes particularly affected by flooding. The District Council's Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that this was being pursued and following further comments in connection with smells from the site of Bellington Hill Quarry, County Councillor Harrison advised that the matter would be raised at a forthcoming Liaison Meeting. In the meantime, the Chair encouraged residents to continue complaining to the District Council's Environmental Health Department.

MA/6. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Meeting reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made in each case. With regard to the speed limit in the vicinity of Stenson Road Bridge and drainage problems at Weston Road, Aston-on-Trent, County Councillor Harrison advised that these matters were still ongoing and he would continue to pursue action in both cases. A resident expressed his dissatisfaction at the lack of action in connection with the drainage problems at Weston Road, Aston-on-Trent, particularly as all roads in Aston-on-Trent had recently been resurfaced, with the exception of Weston Road. County Councillor Harrison advised that County Council Engineers had confirmed that the problem still existed, although certain measures had been undertaken. With regard to the speed limit in the vicinity of Stenson Road Bridge, a resident considered that the speed limit should also be imposed onto the road surface and County Councillor Harrison agreed to pursue this matter accordingly.

With regard to works to fibre optic pipes and associated highway problems in Melbourne, County Councillor Harrison confirmed that rules and regulations existed in connection with this matter and contractors had a duty and

responsibility to reinstate the highway to a satisfactory condition. However, not all cases were inspected if they were not reported and County Councillor Harrison offered to provide a copy of the regulations to any resident concerned. He encouraged residents to report complaints to him in order that they may be registered with the County Highways Authority.

MA/7. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Following a query from a resident regarding the current position on the District Council's proposals for the sheltered housing service, the Chair reported that the consultation process was still ongoing and tenants had been invited to a meeting at Melbourne Leisure Centre on 16th August 2001 at 2.00 p.m. Accordingly, she encouraged tenants to attend this meeting and Councillor Harrison advised that this matter was currently under examination by the District Council's newly established Overview Committee.

A resident queried whether there was any information available on the proposed extension to the A50 through Raynesway together with information in connection with a freight hub at Castle Donington. No information was available for the meeting and County Councillor Harrison agreed to pursue details of the proposed extension to the A50. Further information would be obtained from North West Leicestershire District Council regarding the freight hub.

In response to a query regarding the future of Elvaston Castle, County Councillor Harrison advised that prior to the Parliamentary Election in June, the County Council had agreed to give an opportunity to Seasons Holidays for a period of twelve months to assess proposals in connection with timeshare accommodation and a leisure club. This would be reviewed after a period of six months to assess progress but County Councillor Harrison had not been content with this and had voted against the proposal. He had recently written to the Director of Resources at the County Council requesting an update together with clarification on the commencement dates of the six and twelve month periods. In the meantime, the County Council was committed to the continuation of public access, to which Seasons Holidays had no objections. A Heritage Lottery Fund Bid of £8 million was to be submitted in association with English Heritage to develop the historic gardens together with the remainder of the Park and the County Council was continuing to discuss proposals with other interested parties if the proposed venture of Seasons Holidays failed.

MA/8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Residents would be advised of the date of the next Meeting shortly.

MA/9. **COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN FOR CIVIL EMERGENCIES**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Nick Elliott of Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning Division. He explained that increasingly, the public expected a proactive response to emergencies, irrespective of legal obligations and potential costs. The County Council was seeking to raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies and to highlight the potential for a new partnership approach where the community could help to protect themselves and each other during an

incident. The document had been produced in conjunction with the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils and the County's Emergency Services. The document would be made available to town and parish councils throughout Derbyshire to provide guidance on dealing with emergency incidents and the collation of local information.

It was stressed that the emergency services should always be contacted and details were provided of the County Council resources available to respond to incidents. Potential hazards and threats for Derbyshire included road and rail accidents, air disasters and terrorist attacks. There were a number of companies throughout Derbyshire which handled potentially dangerous chemicals and details were provided of those statutory and non-statutory hazardous sites throughout the County. The potential for football stadia disasters and incidents resulting from large organised events such as open air concerts was also recognised.

Arising from this item, a detailed discussion ensued on flooding issues. The Member of Parliament advised that a Flooding Liaison Meeting had been arranged at the end of September and it was hoped that all agencies could work together effectively in the future. Mr. Elliott advised residents that the County Council had arranged a Flood Defence Fair on 18th September 2001 at Bakewell. Admission would be free and visitors could obtain advice and information on flooding protection measures and flood defence plans for the County. The current range of flood protection products would be exhibited and insurance companies would also be present.

The Chair and residents thanked Mr. Elliott for the informative presentation.

MA/10. **BEST VALUE**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Ian Reid, Deputy Chief Executive at the District Council. Information had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting to provide a summary of the Best Value process. Mr. Reid gave an outline of the requirements placed on local councils by Best Value, the need to publish a Best Value Performance Plan and to establish a Best Value Review Programme to examine all services over a five year period. Details were provided of those reviews completed in year one of the Programme and those proposed for the current year which were either underway or due to start shortly. Each service would be subject to an inspection by an independent assessor appointed by the Audit Commission. The inspector would make a judgement on how good the service was and whether it would improve in the future. For South Derbyshire, the two services inspected to date were the Development Control function and Sheltered Housing and the results of both reviews were reported. Information was provided on the community consultation requirements for the Best Value Process.

MA/11. **CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON THE MODERNISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Two documents had been circulated prior to the Meeting to provide information on this subject. Ian Reid, Deputy Chief Executive at the District Council explained the options available to the Council in implementing the Government's Modernising Agenda. There had been widespread consultation through the publication "Which Way, Have Your Say". Some 32,000 copies of

this document had been circulated through the local free newspapers. Consultation had also been undertaken with parish councils and details were provided of the responses to the consultation exercise.

Since that time a modernised committee structure had been introduced and information was provided on the key features of this structure. There was increased notice of meetings and new rights for the public including a question time slot at all meetings. Mr. Reid also explained the roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The new structure would provide for open and transparent local government.

J. D. CARROLL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 9.05 p.m.