

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

17th April 2002

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Carroll (Chair), Councillor Brooks (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Harrison, Pabla, Mrs. Robbins and Shepherd. I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative

Councillor Harrison.

Parish Council Representatives

C. Peck (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), M. Harrington and A. Jackson (Melbourne Parish Council), I. Baker (Stenson Fields Parish Council) and V. Shaw (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bellini, F. Briggs, M. Briggs, D. Desborough, C. Ford, M. Gilbert, M. Hawkins (Member of Youth Parliament), W. Hewell, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, A. Madeley, R. Saxby, P. Waters, and A. Wood.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from R. Dennis, M. Sharp and Representatives Shardlow Parish Council.

MA/21. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 23rd January 2002 were noted. Under Minute Number MA/19, Public Question Time, the issue of abandoned vehicles had been discussed. It was noted that this matter had been considered by the Council's Community Scrutiny and Environmental Services Committees. A response had been sent to the Government supporting its proposals to assist local authorities in dealing with abandoned vehicles more speedily.

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

The Chair welcomed Marie Hawkins, the Youth Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire. An update was given on the process to review the Local Plan for South Derbyshire. The Chair advised that District Council elections would take place in May 2003 on revised Ward boundaries. A Parliamentary Boundary Review was also to take place and this would commence on 15th May 2002.

At the next Meeting, an item would be included on the agenda to commence consultation on the Council's budget for 2003/04. Presentations and updates would also be sought for future Meetings from the Derby Primary Care Trust and Divisional Commander Hurrell on policing priorities. The Chair informed of an initiative being pursued by District Councillor

Harrington, to identify the need for and existing problems relating to dropped kerbs throughout South Derbyshire. Those present were encouraged to advise their Ward Councillor(s) or County Councillor Harrison of known problems in order that a prioritised list of needs could be prepared.

MA/23. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and gave an update on the request for a Traffic Warden in the Melbourne area. County Councillor Harrison gave a progress report on the site operated by Biffa Waste at Shardlow. The clay and membrane capping works had now been completed and it was understood that this had resolved the problems reported at the last Meeting. With regard to Cell 10 at the site, Councillor Harrison outlined a proposal to resolve ongoing difficulties and this was the subject of an application to Derbyshire County Council. Concerns were voiced by Councillor Harrison that this proposal might result in further smell nuisances. There had been some reported smell problems which the Environment Agency was in the process of pursuing. However, it was understood that the nuisance had not arisen from the Biffa site on this instance. The provision of a dedicated pipe link to the sewage pumping station and installation of a larger pump at the site were also discussed. Councillor Harrison reported on the restoration and strengthening of footways at Swarkestone. These works were now underway and would not be completed until 3rd May, which would result in traffic delays, particularly at peak times.

At the January Meeting, enquiries had been made about the development of a freight hub at Castle Donington. County Councillor Harrison was not aware that the report into this development had yet been produced. He requested the resident to contact him after the Meeting to pursue this and the Chair offered to seek an update through the Council's Planning Department also.

An update was requested on the redevelopment of Elvaston Castle. Seasons Holidays had been asked to give a progress report on the grant applications being pursued and this was due imminently. The matter was to be considered at a Cabinet Meeting of Derbyshire County Council on 30th April and the Company had until 9th August to finalise its proposals. Otherwise the County Council would have a duty to restart the bidding process for future use of the Elvaston Castle. The current proposal would convert the building to provide time-share apartments and an education centre for use by school parties and the public generally. An Elvaston Castle Trust had been formed and was developing proposals, to be in a position to submit an alternate bid. Councillor Mrs. Robbins commented on the dispersal of items from the former museum located at Elvaston Castle.

MA/24. **PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Councillor Shepherd reported the concerns caused by speeding traffic through the Village of Ticknall. There was a particular section of the A514 through the Village, in the vicinity of a petrol station where several accidents had occurred in recent years. Councillor Shepherd explained the endeavours to resolve these problems with the Highways Department at Derbyshire County Council. Mr. Bellini, a resident of Main Street, Ticknall also voiced

his concerns for the safety of residents and visitors to the Village. In recent years there had been a number of accidents with vehicles mounting kerbs and causing damage to his boundary wall. He felt that the speed monitoring undertaken by the Derbyshire Constabulary was inadequate and referred to the road resurfacing works undertaken in another part of the Village. Mr. Bellini explained his own endeavours to seek the resolution of these problems and was disappointed at the lack of action to date.

County Councillor Harrison explained that the Highways Department was seeking to purchase improved monitoring equipment which would assist the prioritisation of road improvement and safety schemes. He understood that the resurfacing works undertaken in the Village were to replace the worn road surface rather than as a safety measure. Mr. Bellini circulated a petition, seeking enforcement of the current speed limits. It was agreed to write to the County Council seeking the resolution of the problems being experienced. It was also suggested that a meeting be held between the local community, County Councillor Burrows and appropriate officers of the Derbyshire County Council. Residents were urged to keep records of accidents and to submit these to the Derbyshire Constabulary as this information would given greater weight to traffic calming proposals.

A number of other highway related problems were reported. The Member of the Youth Parliament had received requests for pedestrian crossings to be provided in Weston Road and Shardlow Road, Aston-on-Trent. Councillor Brooks supported this proposal referring to traffic volumes in this area at the start and end of the school day and the proximity of school bus services. Ian Reid, Deputy Chief Executive at the District Council explained that the method used by the County Council to determine the need for pedestrian or pelican crossings or a central reservation was based on both pedestrian and vehicle movements.

Concerns were voiced about the methods used to repair ‘potholes’, with particular reference made to recent works undertaken in the Elvaston and Ambaston areas. County Councillor Harrison understood that revised working practices had been put in place to give a more professional approach to such repairs. He also commented that resource availability restricted the ability to respond to road resurfacing requests. The reinstatement of road surfaces following works by the former utility companies was an issue of further concern. County Councillor Harrison explained that there were minimum standards required for the reinstatement of the road surface. Derbyshire County Council undertook a monitoring role for approximately 20% of those works undertaken. He urged residents and parish councils to report problems to himself or to the County Council.

The Member of the Youth Parliament had received complaints about broken glass on the park at Queensway, Melbourne. The Chair agreed to refer this matter to the Council’s Leisure Services Section. The provision of lighting at the Park had also been sought, but this request was unlikely to be approved due to the proximity of houses on three sides. The lack of such facilities in the Melbourne area had been recognised and representations made for inclusion in the Local Plan. Miss. Hawkins also sought support for the provision of a motorcycle track in the Swadlincote area. It was felt inappropriate to circulate the petition for this scheme at the Melbourne Area Meeting.

A resident commented on the levels of employee absenteeism at the District Council. Clarification was provided on the current sickness levels and that action was being taken to seek its reduction. Waste recycling was also discussed and information provided on the current levels of recycling, as contained in the recent Best Value Performance Plan Summary. Mr. Reid explained the Council's proposals to expand composting activity to meet the required Government targets. There was a perceived role for parish councils to encourage use of the "blue bag" paper recycling scheme and to assist the District Council in identifying sites for other recycling initiatives. Parish councillors and residents were asked to leave details on the Help Desk if they wished to find out more about the paper recycling scheme or to obtain a supply of the "blue bags".

Complaints were made about aircraft noise from night and training flights, particularly in the Weston-on-Trent and Shardlow areas. Councillor Brooks explained that he had been in correspondence in recent months in an attempt to pursue the problems reported and had received a final reply that morning. He was unsure what else could be undertaken. Some parish councils felt the noise problems had reduced since the flight paths had been re-aligned. Consideration was given to inviting representatives of the Airport to address a future meeting. It was noted that a presentation had been made to a recent Repton Area Meeting. The Chair offered to liaise with District Councillor Whyman, who was Chair of the Airport Liaison Committee and to submit a report to the next Area Meeting.

Consideration was given to the agenda for the next Meeting. It was agreed to invite representatives of the County Council's Highways' Department to respond to the problems reported earlier in the Meeting. An invitation would be extended to Divisional Commander Hurrell to provide an update on policing priorities in the County and it was noted that consultation on the Council's budget would be submitted to the next round of area meetings. It was suggested that a presentation be sought for the autumn meeting on the work of the Primary Care Trust.

MA/25. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Melbourne Area Meeting would be held on 16th or 17th July 2002. The final date and venue would be confirmed in due course.

J. CARROLL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.55 p.m.