

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

2nd February 2010

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

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

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

**County Council Representatives**

Councillors Harrison and Murray.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

PCSO E. Guest.

**East Midlands Airport**

N. Robinson and L. Parkin.

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council), J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council and R. Parker (Ticknall Parish Council).

**Members of the Public**

A. Baker, D. Baker, D. Bayliss, S. Blatch, J. Burden, P. Burden, D. Calvert, E. Clayton, B. Foster, A. Madeley, R. Saxby, K. Whewell,

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from representatives of the Barrow-on-Trent and Melbourne Parish Councils, Mark Todd M.P. and District and County Councillor M. Ford.

MA/17. **POLICE ISSUES**

PCSO Emma Guest gave an update on the policing priorities for the Division, notably car crime and anti-social behaviour. She spoke about the proactive work undertaken, including leaflet drops, visits to mobile libraries and a school poster campaign. She confirmed that the next Safer Neighbourhood meeting

for the area would take place on 9th March 2010 at the Smisby Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. Additionally, police surgeries were held, but these tended to be poorly attended. The next was due to take place on Monday, 22nd February 2010 at the Shardlow Village Hall. An update was then given on crime statistics, which were reducing in nearly every category.

It was suggested that more publicity was needed to encourage attendance at the police surgeries. Suggestions were made regarding press publicity and the use of local village newspapers.

Concerns were raised about damage to the waste recycling containers on the Melbourne car park. The District Council had looked to relocate the containers within the car park, but this would affect the number of car park spaces. There was discussion about anti-social behaviour and the problems experienced when young people from Chellaston came into the area. It was questioned whether suspending the Chellaston Dispersal Order would assist, but as this was an infrequent problem, it might be difficult to justify this course of action. Where young people were seen congregating in certain areas, residents were asked to report this to the Constabulary. A further suggestion made was proactive schemes to provide activities for young people, such as that operated at Granville School. The lack of suitable venues in some areas of the District was noted.

MA/18. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed representatives of the East Midlands Airport to the Meeting who would later respond to questions. He paid tribute to the County Council's Gritting Team for the services delivered during the recent severe weather. He also paid tribute to the District Council's Refuse Operatives for their efforts in maintaining services over this period. Finally, he explained that Sergeant Sisman, the Officer seconded to the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership had taken a position at Constabulary Headquarters and been replaced by Sergeant King.

MA/19. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 21st October 2009 were noted.

MA/20. **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. The Chairman reviewed each of these items, providing further updates. With regard to enforcement cameras on the Swarkestone Bridge, a local District Councillor reiterated a number of concerns. He explained the responsibilities of the various agencies, both for the Swarkestone Bridge and nearby A50 trunk road. He reminded of previous representations about signage in this area and the responses received and felt issues discussed at the Area Forum had not been responded to adequately. He suggested that a senior official from the Highways Agency be invited to attend a future Area Forum. A further issue was statistics regarding weight restriction enforcement, which the Chairman confirmed had been provided to

an earlier meeting. An offer was made to seek a separate meeting in the locality between interested parties and the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Jackson. The Forum Liaison Officer added that it was still hoped to secure funding for weight restriction monitoring equipment for the Swarkestone Bridge.

With regard to Woodshop Lane in Swarkestone, there was further discussion on the problems caused by people using this "access only" road as a shortcut to avoid the junction of the A5132 and A514. Concerns were repeated about the lack of enforcement activity and it was requested that Trading Standards undertake monitoring. It was also stated that the road junction at the A5132/A514 needed improvement. A Swarkestone resident displayed a letter from 2004, which advised that such improvements would take place, but these had never been implemented. Similarly, redevelopment of the Cricket Club was conditional upon such works being undertaken. The resident was asked to contact Officers after the Meeting so that this issue could be pursued.

MA/21. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Your Area – Options for future developments and Place Survey results

The Chief Executive gave an update on the Place Survey results 2008/09. He reported that this was a new statutory survey, which all English local authorities were required to carry out every two years. A total of 4,000 questionnaires were mailed out to randomly selected addresses between October and December 2008. Some 1,616 questionnaires were completed, which at 41% was a good response rate. Results had been analysed by Community Forum Area and the key issues for Melbourne were included within the presentation. Results were reported under various headings and included satisfaction with the local area, crime, community involvement and satisfaction with the District Council.

The Chief Executive also gave a presentation on the District Council's Core Strategy, which was currently out for consultation. He advised those present that the Council's Core Strategy would guide development and investment in South Derbyshire over the next 20 years. The options looked at how much development should take place in South Derbyshire up to 2026 and where it should be built. A summary leaflet was available for residents and this provided highlights of some of the main points and advised on how to find out more information. The consultation document was available at the Council's offices, public libraries and some post offices. In addition it could be downloaded from the Council's website. The Chief Executive encouraged residents to respond and responses had to be received by 31st March 2010.

Presentation on the Council's Budget

A presentation was also given on the District Council's budget for 2010/11. Information was provided on how Council Tax for a Band D property was split between the District and County Councils, the Police, Fire Authority and parishes. The Council's net running costs were confirmed, together with how they were financed and also how those funds were used. The 2010/11 initial budget showed a deficit of £484,250, which would need to be funded from

reserves. Challenges faced by the Council included the effects of the recession, a review of Government grants and also the uncertainty of future forecasting. The District Council had accumulated cashable efficiencies to date of £677,000. Other savings would come from restructuring, partnering, streamlining the central purchasing and procurement, the disposal of assets and lower pay awards and general inflation.

The aims of the District Council were reported together with the timetable for the budget proposals. A full copy of the Consolidated Budget Proposals 2010/11 and the Financial Plan to 2015 could be accessed via the Council's website [www.south-derbys.gov.uk](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk).

There was further discussion about what made an area a good place to live, a perception that there was a lack of sense of community in Swadlincote Town Centre and a question was submitted on the proportion of Melbourne respondents to this survey. Another resident asked about allotment provision, explaining that there was a waiting list in the Melbourne Area. Further information was given on responsibilities for providing allotments and the process that would need to be followed. In the first instance, the resident was urged to petition the local parish council.

In response to the budget presentation, questions were submitted about the proposed partnering of certain District Council services. This included the implications for staff and whether services would continue to be delivered locally. The Chairman provided further background on the current budget deficit, which was due to reduced income, particularly from Planning and Land Charge fees. The Council was actively trying to grow services in South Derbyshire and its staff had an excellent track record. The Council was now in the top 29% of authorities nationally and private sector companies were interested in working with the authority. He then spoke about Council Tax levels and endeavours to limit Council Tax rises, because of the impact on residents.

#### **MA/22. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

An Elvaston resident explained the problems being experienced due to a change of locks on access gates to certain areas of the Elvaston Castle Grounds, where residents needed to gain access. Further concerns were police enforcement of parking restrictions in certain areas of the grounds and the installation of additional fencing and stiles. Residents were not able to make contact with the site's managers and were also concerned about damage to bridle paths and other amenities, which had not been repaired for some time.

The Chairman responded, explaining that this site was now part of his County Council Cabinet portfolio responsibilities. He updated on the amount of County Council expenditure provided for maintenance of Elvaston Castle and endeavours to resolve the long-term future of the site, surveys to assess the costs of necessary repairs and efforts to ensure public access for the future. Further aspects were proposals for a golf course and protection of the nature reserve. The resident raised further concerns about dangerous trees on the site and was asked to speak to the Chairman after the Meeting.

Another Elvaston resident complained about the condition of the pavement adjacent to the B5010 through the Village. He had recently spoken to an Area Highways Officer on this matter and requested information on when the footway would be improved. He also referred to a Government initiative to reduce speed limits in such areas to 40 mph and felt the section through Elvaston to Borrowash warranted such a speed reduction.

The Chairman introduced Neil Robinson from East Midlands Airport and asked whether there were any questions, which residents wished to raise. Mr. Robinson advised that the Airport now produced a handout with answers to frequently asked questions on environmental matters and he had limited copies available. This information was also available via the Company's website – eastmidlandsairport.com. There was discussion about the short-term car parking fees imposed, which were frustrating for people dropping off or collecting passengers. It was confirmed that people could park for up to ten minutes free of charge. Where there was a queue at the car park exit barrier people might exceed this time limit and incur a charge. This was an issue that the Airport had found difficulty in getting right. There were plans to change the arrangements, with a drop-off point further away from the Airport terminal, that would be free for a longer period. Other suggestions were separating taxis from other motorists and displaying flight arrival times at the nearby Donington Service Station, to avoid motorists waiting longer than was necessary at the Airport.

The impact of the recession on the numbers of freight and passenger flights was questioned. The Airport had held its market share, but overall there had been a reduction of about 10% in the number of flights and related to this, a similar impact on employment levels. With regard to noise from night-time flights, this also seemed to have reduced. It was confirmed there had been a decrease in the number of freight and passenger flights overnight. Improvements had also been made, as the types of aircraft used were much quieter. A notable exception was the Anotov aircraft, which was still used occasionally to carry very large freight. Questions were also submitted about integrated transport solutions and the number of training flights operating from the Airport.

MA/23. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next Melbourne Area Forum would be held at 7.00 p.m. on 17th March 2010 at the Stenson Fields Primary School.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 9.05 p.m.