

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

30th July 2013

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Hewlett, Mrs. Watson and Watson.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive) and P. Spencer (Democratic Services)

County Council Representatives

Councillors Davison and Mrs. Chilton.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

C. Blackmor (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council), T. Scott (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council) and K. Cross and A. Record (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council).

Members of the Public

A. Madeley and K. Whewell

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that Councillor Harrison had been appointed Chairman of the Melbourne Area Forum at the Annual Council Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), K. Atkin (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council) and N. Hawkesworth and A. Mitchell (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council).

MA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that Councillor Watson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Melbourne Area Forum for the ensuing year.

MA/3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 4th February 2013 were noted.

MA/4. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman referred those present to the report circulated with the Agenda. An update was provided and questions were invited. There was discussion about the numbers of heavy commercial vehicles crossing the Swarkestone Causeway and the Forum Liaison Officer agreed to seek statistics from the County Council for the last three year period. Related issues raised were the signage on the A50 trunk road, which was a matter for the Highways Agency and the installation of enforcement cameras on the Swarkestone Causeway. It was noted that a section of road between the A50 trunk road and the Swarkestone Bridge was not subject to a weight restriction. There were also rights of access for some local businesses. The Chairman gave a verbal report as a follow up to the water leak in Melbourne and the remedial works undertaken.

MA/5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

From a parish survey, concerns had been raised about speeding traffic through the village of Weston-on-Trent. Reference was made to speed surveys in the adjacent village of Aston-on-Trent and a 30mph speed limit was sought between the two villages. There was discussion about the criteria that had to be satisfied when seeking to impose a 30mph speed limit. Differing views were expressed on whether this request should be supported or such a speed limit would be observed. The Forum Liaison Officer was asked take this matter back to the County Council's Highways Department, but it was explained that the setting of speed limits was a matter for the Department for Transport.

Surface water flooding problems were reported due to blocked drains, with particular reference made to the Old Chapel area of Twyford and Wilne Lane in Shardlow. It was explained that a gully mapping exercise was being undertaken, to identify those which needed more frequent maintenance.

There was discussion about repeated damage to the Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway when vehicles collided with the structure. An engineers report was sought on the condition of the Bridge and Causeway and the Forum Liaison Officer was asked to raise this with colleagues at the County Council. Related to this, there was discussion about the feasibility of providing a bypass, the financial implications and whether such a bypass was still on the list of County Council Capital Schemes.

An update was sought on the County Council's review of street lighting, specifically a proposal submitted for Shardlow where alternate street lights would be switched off overnight. An update would be provided to the next meeting.

A district councillor referred to flood warning signage. An Ingleby resident had approached him with an offer to erect and remove such flood signage, to provide a more responsive service. It was suggested that the Councillor speak to the Forum Liaison Officer after the Meeting.

MA/6. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

County Councillor Davison addressed the Meeting about the recently reformed Local Area Committees. He gave an outline of the issues covered at the recent Meeting and those proposed for the next Meeting. County Councillor Mrs. Chilton also commented on this matter.

MA/7. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chief Executive reported on the commencement of the “easy green recycling scheme”. Residents would shortly receive a green wheeled bin in which a variety of recyclable materials could be placed. He publicised road shows on 15th August at Melbourne and Boulton Moor, at which residents could find out more information about the revised arrangements. The Chief Executive responded to residents’ questions regarding storage of the bins and confirming that fortnightly collections would continue, with a collection calendar being provided to residents. The current collection arrangements for the elderly and infirm would also continue.

The Chairman also addressed those present. He gave a report about the decision to buy out of the national housing subsidy system and the benefits this would have for South Derbyshire. Related to this, the Council would start building some additional homes to address the significant affordable housing shortage. Finally, the Chairman gave an update on the Melbourne Sporting Partnership scheme.

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

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

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.