

## **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM MEETING**

### **MELBOURNE – AREA 3**

#### **Meeting Minutes - July 14, 2022**

#### **Melbourne Sporting Partnership**

#### **PRESENT: -**

##### **South Derbyshire District Council Representatives**

Councillor Martin Fitzpatrick (Chair), Councillor Dan Corbin, Councillor Jim Hewlett, Councillor David Muller.

Kevin Stackhouse – Strategic Director of Corporate Resources  
Chris Smith – Communities Team Manager  
Rosie Collins – Communities Team Service Assistant (Taking Notes)

##### **Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor David Muller

##### **Derbyshire Police Representatives**

PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite  
PCSO Claire Robbins

##### **Parish Council/ Meeting Representatives**

Andrew Dawson – Melbourne Parish Council  
Lin Freeman – Weston on Trent Parish Council  
Michelle Gardiner – Barrow on Trent Parish Council  
Liz Gumbley – South Derbyshire CVS  
Chris Scott – Weston on Trent Parish Council  
Dave Smith – Melbourne Parish Council

##### **Members of the Public**

F. Hughes – Melbourne Village Voice, Max Higton, A. R. Jefferies, Andy Playton, Paul Sturges.

#### **1. Open Meeting**

##### **a) Introductions and Housekeeping**

##### **b) Apologies**



Councillor Neil Atkins, Nigel Collier – Melbourne Parish Council, Terry Summerlin, Councillor Peter Watson.

### **c) Chair's Announcements**

#### **Parklife**

The Parklife Project has been developed to get local people more active in our parks by offering a range of free and low-cost events and activities.

The project aims to:

- Encourage more families to use the parks
- Attract people to the parks who are physically inactive and would like to be more active
- Work towards local ownership and greater community involvement
- Educate local people in the history and natural environment of the parks
- Improve the natural environment and biodiversity

#### [Parklife leaflet](#)

#### **Children's Activity Leaflets – Summer Scheme**

The South Derbyshire Summer Playscheme makes a return this year, after two years of absence due to the pandemic. Over 100 sessions of FREE activity have been booked and funded by Parish Councils and Safer South Derbyshire, across the whole of the district.

This will see the Play, Sport and Adventure Mobiles return to offer a programme of fun, active, engaging sessions for all the family to get involved in.

The Summer Activities 2022 leaflet can be downloaded from the below link (which will be circulated after the meeting), or hard copies are available and will be distributed to every school in the district.

[Active young people - School holidays | South Derbyshire District Council](#)

#### **Festival of Leisure**

The Festival of Leisure was back this year following a two-year absence due to Covid-19. The special Jubilee themed event took place last weekend at Maurice Lea Memorial Park and attracted thousands of visitors into the area. There was some great coverage of the event in the Burton Mail and attractions included local brass bands, motorcycle stunt display, gun dog display and a variety of local stalls.

Chair, Councillor Fitzpatrick took the time to thank the previous Chair of the Melbourne Area Forum Meetings, Councillor Jim Hewlett.

### **d) To Receive the Minutes of the Last Meeting**



The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### **e) Matters Arising from the Last Minutes**

All can be found in the report back as part of the Agenda Pack for the meeting.

## **2. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Report and Police Q&A**

PCSO Supervisor Wallington-Waite and PCSO Robbins gave the following update:

Since the last round of Area Forum Meetings, we have been working on our neighbourhood priorities for the last quatre which were set as:

- 1) Speeding
- 2) ASB in Open Spaces
- 3) School Parking

New priorities will be set after this round of forum meetings for the next quatre.

Regarding ASB in open spaces, regular patrols around open spaces and ASB hotspots in and around the area have been completed and there have been no increased concerns raised or found.

In terms of school parking, patrols have been completed at all schools. PCSO Robbins also ran a school parking safety competition with Chellaston Fields Spencer Academy, and the winning pupils design was turned into posters that have been put up on the school gates.

We have been attending a variety of crime prevention and engagement events.

We have also attended numerous events relating to the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations and conducted patrols throughout the weekend celebrations.

Since the last Area Forum meeting your local SNT have taken part the Nationwide Bi-Annual 'Op Sceptre' week which relates to knife crime prevention and enforcement. During this week SNT completed test purchase operations at shops throughout the area of which no shops failed. We set up shop keeper pledges providing posters and leaflets on not selling knives and challenging ages. Also, knife surrender bins were advertised and in different locations on different dates. We also visited a variety of schools to complete talks around knife crime. Pavements on local parks were temporarily painted with the #OpSceptre with chalk spray and stencils kindly donated by South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership.

E-Bikes have been provided to SNT to help us with patrols, the bikes have been funded by South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership, so a huge thankyou to them for our E-Bikes.



SNT have given out banners to local schools which were funded by South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership and have been put up by many of the schools highlighting safe parking outside of schools.

We have completed numerous school talks on 'How We Help', 'Stranger Danger', 'ASB', 'Knife Crime' and 'E Safety'.

Our SNT 'strike day' resulted in five wanted persons being arrested, which was a great result for the team.

We have been carrying out joint targeted patrols around Rural Areas which have been conducted alongside the Rural Crime Team Officers. A couple of our own Officers have recently completed their Rural Officer Training too.

You can call 101, visit [www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk), report via @derpolcontact on twitter and via the main Derbyshire Constabulary Facebook page via Direct Message.

Numerous vehicles have been seized for no insurance and/or no driving licence. One drink driver was arrested in Melbourne and has since been banned at Court from driving for 12 months.

In response to the actions set from the last meeting, patrols were put in place in Melbourne re: Download Festival which caused no issues. The organisers worked hard to address all the concerns raised.

With regard to 101-, the force are aware that at times there can be a delay in answering. Call takers who answer 101 calls actually take a lot more information than previously, which enables them to complete a lot more checks and often where no lines of enquiry are available for investigating, they will resolve the report where previously this would have been allocated out for an Officer to do that work.

There has also been a new team called Crime Resolution Investigation Management Team set up to investigate certain crimes, frees up officers on the street to respond to the crimes and incidents which need a more urgent response. You can use [www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk) to report online rather than calling 101, you can also report via @derpolcontact on Twitter and via direct message to Derbyshire Constabulary main face book page.

PCSO Supervisor Wallington-Waite took the time to thank PCSO Robbins for all her work and dedication to the Force as she moves on with her career.

PCSO Greville will be the new PCSO for the Area who has a great depth of knowledge and experience.

A member of the public raised concerns over a recent matter of ASB at Boulton, St. Mary's Church, local to Alvaston and asked if there is likely to be an increased PCSO presence.



PCSO Robbins updated she attended the location and made a referral to security and Safer Homes. PCSO Robbins added that site is part of their Patrol, but people should be assured that it was only a slight incident of ASB. In April, for the whole Melbourne area there were nine calls for service, six in May and seven in June. All mostly concerning off road bikes.

PCSO Supervisor Wallington-Waite explained that Officer numbers are down however, by March 2023 they should be back up to numbers. There is currently recruitment going on.

A member of the public raised concerns over a permissive footpath leading to the grounds at Staunton Harold which people would like to see reopen. It is due to high levels of ASB which lead to the closure. What are the levels of ASB like there now and would the landowner be in a position to reopen the footpath?

PCSO Robbins updated that the levels are the particular sport are now low and only increased when everyone came out of lockdown. The Police do not have a say on closure of footpaths in a scenario like this and it would be down to the landowner. PCSO Greville is in speaking with the landowner, so the matter is in hand.

Chair, Councillor Fitzpatrick addressed that it would be helpful to have access to the statistics of ASB in the area.

**ACTION: Councillor Fitzpatrick to pick up data link from the Police regarding ASB statistics.**

A member of the public raised concerns over speeding on Derby Road, Melbourne.

**ACTION: SNT to complete a speed check on Derby Road, Melbourne.**

Chair, Councillor Fitzpatrick raised that the community of the area could start a Community Speed Watch Group in the area.

Councillor Muller added that Derbyshire County Council (DCC) recommend Community Speed Watch Groups. DCC are aware of the speeding issues in Melbourne as well as bus stops, accessibility etc. We are trying to be proactive and do what we can at DCC.

A member of the public raised concerns over anti-social driving in the area, explained as 'boy racers'.

**ACTION: SNT to look out for 'boy racers' on Derby Road, particularly of an evening.**

PCSO Supervisor Wallington-Waite added that a Section 59 warning can be issued for ASB in areas and anti-social driving. If caught, we can seize the vehicle.

A member of the public raised concerns over weekend drinkers within the Melbourne area and their rowdy behaviour, early hours of the morning. Additionally, the beer bottles and litter in ally ways.

**ACTION: Chris Smith to liaise with licensing/ pubs RE: beer bottles and littering.**





A member of the public raised concerns over a 'drug problem' in Melbourne and wished to understand the presence of the SNT.

PCSO Supervisor Wallington-Waite explained the SNT work until midnight on shifts and there is 24/7 coverage from Swadlincote 999 Response Team.

A member of the public asked if the shift coverage as a PCSO is on patrol or office based.

PCSO Robbins answered that the PCSO's are out in the community with BEAT Team.

In response to the drug dealing in Melbourne, we have had no reports in the last couple of months of drug dealing in the area. Unless people report it, we do not know about it. We encourage people to report it if seen. When out on patrol, we haven't found anything which raised concerns.

Chair, Councillor Fitzpatrick acknowledged that drug dealing does go on in the area and encouraged everyone to report it if seen. Chair explained the Police react to data, so the more it is reported the more the Police will focus on it.

PCSO Supervisor Wallington-Waite explained, we have done successful warrants in the area before now, we will be proactive if the matters are reported.

### **3. South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership/ Safer Neighbourhood Grants Update**

Chris Smith provided the following update: -

#### **Communities Team Service Assistant**

Rosie Collins has now started her new role as Service Assistant in the Communities Team and is already proving to be a great addition to the team.

#### **Community Partnership Officer**

Sally Hemsley has now started in the role of Community Partnership Officer replacing Ian Hey who has now started in his new role as Section 106 Officer. Sally's main role will be liaising with Community and Voluntary Sector organisations and managing the annual grants they receive, developing community projects and administering the Councils Community and Environmental Grant Scheme.

#### **Street Whyze Project**

We have been working closely with the South Derbyshire Support Centre (previously known as Newhall Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) to commission knife crime education input into the centre. A local organisation known as the Street Whyze who have previously worked in Birmingham, have been approached to provide the input. The delivery will include twelve weekly group sessions and six identified individuals will receive six weekly one-to-one sessions.



## **Electric Bikes**

In response to a request made by PC Robert McGlade, two new Electric Bikes have been funded by the South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership for use by the South Derbyshire Police Safer Neighbourhood Team. It is planned that the bikes will be used in and around the Urban Core as well as in more Northern Areas of the District.

## **Banners**

Thirty new road safety banners, also funded by the South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership are being distributed to Schools across the District by local SNT Officers. Two different designs were purchased, one which states 'DO NOT STOP ON THE ZIG ZAGS' and another which states 'THINK BEFORE YOU PARK'.

## **Operation Sceptre**

Operation Sceptre, a National Knife Crime Awareness Week dedicated to tackling and preventing knife crime took place between Monday 16 and Sunday 22 May, 2022. During the week of action there was a series of press releases, knife sweeps in local parks, social media posts, a knife amnesty bin located in Swadlincote and chalk paint stencilling in our Urban Core parks and open spaces.

## **Pubwatch**

There was a great turn-out to the latest South Derbyshire Pubwatch meeting held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, whereby sixteen pubs were in attendance. An informative presentation was given by the Licensed Trade Charity (LTC) and the Police provided an update on fake ID's.

## **Anti-social Behaviour Prevention Grant**

Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Angelique Foster has launched a second round of funding from her Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention Grant worth £100,000 for projects that take positive action against Anti-Social Behaviour. These could include sports and creative arts diversionary programmes, drop-ins for young people, CCTV, community clean-ups, and mentoring projects.

Grants of up to £5000 will be allocated to successful applicants who can show evidence of how they will make a difference to the local community. More information can be found on the PCC's website.

## **Scams Awareness Fortnight**

Between June 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, we supported Scams Awareness Fortnight; social media posts were created to promote this via the Councils website and social media channels as well as on the South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership Facebook page.

## **Safer Neighbourhood Funding**



There is still money available, so please contact us with your applications.

Councillor Corbin thanked Chris Smith for his part in the Grant for the Camera Project in the Aston Ward.

#### **4. Local Community and Voluntary Sector Projects/ Update**

##### **Active Travel**

This service supports people who have no transport and are unable to use public transport to take them to medical appointments (GP's and hospital appointments). In the last 3 months we have supported 94 individuals and had 313 contacts. Referrals and enquiries can be made to, 01283 219761 or [projectsupport@sdcv.org.uk](mailto:projectsupport@sdcv.org.uk).

##### **Befriending**

Since March 2020 our Befriending Service has been carried out through telephone calls. We are beginning to talk to volunteers and service users who want to resume face to face visits. In the last three months we have supported 50 individuals, 600 contacts based on one visit per week. Referrals and enquiries can be made to, 01283 219761 or [connect@sdcv.org.uk](mailto:connect@sdcv.org.uk).

##### **Handy Person Help at Home Support Service**

This service provides practical solutions for those who need a bit of help to stay independent in their own homes. We can help with grab rails, key safes and other minor adjustments. In the last three months we have received 70 referrals. Referrals and enquiries can be made to, 01283 219761 or [handysupport@sdcv.org.uk](mailto:handysupport@sdcv.org.uk).

##### **Home From Hospital**

This service has been continuing to support people throughout the pandemic. We have been helping people with shopping and prescription/ medication collection doing doorstep deliveries and these are continuing too. In the last three months we have supported 135 new clients across all the areas (South Derbyshire, Derby City & Chesterfield). We are beginning to plan to introduce home visits again, but we will be doing so with caution and with procedures in place to keep everyone involved safe. Referrals and enquiries can be made to, 01283 817417 or [home@dhfh.org.uk](mailto:home@dhfh.org.uk).

##### **Safer Homes**

This service is available to offer advice and practical assistance to people who have been victims of crime or are vulnerable. People will feel safer at home and have some things in place to protect their home. Over the last three months we have supported 93 people. We deliver Safer Homes in South Derbyshire District Council area and Erewash. Referrals and enquiries can be made to, 01283 219761 or [projectsupport@sdcv.org.uk](mailto:projectsupport@sdcv.org.uk).





## Food Bank

Our Food Bank is now operating from Hill St Baptist Church in Swadlincote and collection of food parcels is by appointment only on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8am - 3:30pm. The service provides free emergency food parcels to families and individuals in the South Derbyshire area. In the last three months the Food Bank have supplied 356 food parcels and supported 449 adults and 260 children. Please telephone 07458 305314 for referrals or information.

## Community Development Team

The team support local communities, not-for-profit groups and volunteers in South Derbyshire. Our aim is to provide support, information and advice to volunteer trustees, voluntary and community groups, registered charities and social enterprises. We help new groups to set up with the appropriate governance (constitution, trustee board, policies and procedures and funding). For further information please email, [development@sdcv.org.uk](mailto:development@sdcv.org.uk).

## Connected South Derbyshire

This project aims to connect, engage and socialise local citizens in South Derbyshire with the volunteers, groups and organisations providing social connection in their communities. Since September 2021, we have set networks up in Hilton, Etwell and Hatton and will be developing more networks in Repton and Willington in the next few weeks. For further information please contact [BethanyO@sdcv.org.uk](mailto:BethanyO@sdcv.org.uk).

## Volunteer Force

The Volunteer Force helps to develop and promote volunteering in South Derbyshire with particular reference to the advertising, recruiting, training and referring potential volunteers and providing recruitment support to voluntary and community groups and social enterprises. For more information, please contact [Volunteer@sdcv.org.uk](mailto:Volunteer@sdcv.org.uk).

## Covid Connectors Project – to set up a Covid Connectors Network throughout South Derbyshire

Since January 2021 the team have been working with 32 Covid Connectors in South Derbyshire. Through these networks, Covid related information has been shared with the Connectors who then disseminate the information to their local communities. The funding has now been extended until December 2022 and will be focusing more on health and wellbeing and moving into recovery from the pandemic. For more information please contact, [Selinaw@sdcv.org.uk](mailto:Selinaw@sdcv.org.uk).

## Communications

### Digital (Website, Facebook and Twitter)

We have just launched our new website which holds information about our services as well as news, CVS events and how to contact us at [www.sdcvs.org.uk](http://www.sdcvs.org.uk).



As well as:

- Sending out regular e-bulletins
- External events/training
- Job vacancies
- Volunteering opportunities
- Funding

You can sign up to receive these communications via the homepage of our website [www.sdcvs.org.uk](http://www.sdcvs.org.uk) , and if you would like anything advertised, please email [communications@sdcv.org.uk](mailto:communications@sdcv.org.uk).

### **Non-Digital**

- Sharing information through our outreach work – handing out leaflets and posters which can be displayed on parish notice boards
- We've been looking at using the different community magazines which have an enormous reach out to local people in South Derbyshire.
- Attending more community events to chat to local people and raise our profile

### **Surveys**

#### **Digital Inclusion**

SDCVS want to understand the challenges and extent of digital exclusion in South Derbyshire. We need the local community to help us establish why some people are digitally excluded. What are the barriers to connecting and using digital equipment and how can we help people become more connected?

#### **Accessibility**

SDCVS are keen to understand the issues and concerns residents of Swadlincote may have in relation to access to the retail and leisure facilities in the town centre.

We're undertaking a survey to help us understand the needs of the community we serve. We are especially keen to engage with people who have a disability or mobility issues, which make accessing the Swadlincote town centre difficult.

#### **Office Move**

46-48 Grove Street has now been sold and we are currently looking for new premises in Swadlincote where we will also re-locate the Food Bank.

Chair, Councillor Fitzpatrick thanked for the CVS for their service.

A member of the public thanked the CVS for the Volunteer Day which the CVS held. In terms of Ukrainians which have moved to the area, are there any special arrangements being made.



Liz Gumbley explained, there is the food bank which is there to help individuals and the CVS has housed two families as the CVS has worked closely with a Landlord in Swadlincote.

## **5. Local Authority Update and Public Q&A**

Kevin Stackhouse provided the following update: -

### **Heathy Homes Assistance Fund (Housing)**

As the cost-of-living crisis worsens, members should be aware of the availability of the Healthy Homes Assistance Fund. This is a project, funded through the Better Care Fund, which has now been successfully operating for two years.

The Fund provides funding of up to £10,000 as discretionary assistance to ensure vulnerable or disabled households living in private sector properties can live in homes that are safe and free from serious defects or hazards, are warm and secure.

The purpose of this assistance is to remove significant hazards in people's homes or to provide security and/or energy efficiency measures to reduce fuel poverty.

Works eligible for assistance is at the discretion of the Council and in general relate to the removal or help to remedy defects or deficiencies within the home that impact on health. Work typically involves:

- Essential repairs to make the property safe, warm, weatherproof or healthy.
- Installation or replacement central heating systems or improve the energy performance of the home.
- Work to prevent falls around the home.
- Additional security measures.

All works must be deemed as reasonable and practicable having regard to the age and condition of the property.

In the last two years the Fund has been used to help 92 different households across the district.

Referrals generally come from colleagues working in Social Services, the Fire Service, and the Police, however anyone (Councillors included) are welcome to make referrals.

The Fund is administered through the Public Health and Private Sector Housing Team in Environmental Services who employ Stephanie Thandi to run the project. Stephanie has many years of experience of working with highly vulnerable clients and has an extensive network of connections across the region to get the best possible set of interventions to help people in need.



Referrals to the project can be made by contacting:

[environmental.health@southderbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@southderbyshire.gov.uk)

### **The Hospital Discharge Scheme (Housing)**

A discretionary assistance for people in hospital or health or social care funded placement whose discharge is delayed due to the conditions of their home, or the assistance will prevent emergency admission into one of these places.

The applicant must be deemed capable as living independently and works will be determined on case-by-case basis. Eligible works can include:

- Urgent adaptations that allow access in or around a person's home
- Urgent repairs to remove serious hazards
- Heating repairs or improvement
- Property clearance and one off deep cleans of hoarded goods etc.
- This not exhaustive and any works will be considered that reduces bed blocking.

Again, referrals can be made to [environmental.health@southderbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@southderbyshire.gov.uk).

The aim of both the Healthy Homes Assistance Fund and the Hospital Discharge Scheme is to:

- Increase the number of people living at home independently and safely
- Reduce the number of serious hazards
- Improve the health and wellbeing and quality of life of people living in our district.
- Improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty.

### **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund**

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) is a Government/ Local Authority funded initiative to install energy saving measures in Council properties. In total South Derbyshire District Council has £1.6 million to spend in this wave.

Approximately 111 properties are included in South Derbyshire District Council Wave 1. Installed measures may include cavity, loft and external wall insulation, A+++ window glazing, insulated doors but could include other appropriate measures that will raise the overall energy performance to a 'C' rating.

Surveys are complete and installation is expected to start in August 2022 and be complete by March 31, 2023.

South Derbyshire District Council will be bidding for Wave 2 Funding in the late Summer of 2022.

### **Community Survey 2022 –Shaping Future Services**



South Derbyshire District Council is asking people who live or visit the District to complete a short online survey to help shape future leisure and community services.

The Council is reviewing its leisure offer across the District to ensure it is fit for purpose, and meets the needs of residents and the growing population.

A vital part of this review process is for the Council to understand how South Derbyshire residents and visitors use the current local leisure facilities alongside people's general attitude towards physical activity and exercise.

Answers provided will help the Council understand what barriers may be preventing people from being more physically active and using local leisure facilities more, and what can be done to help overcome these.

The survey's questions focus on people's leisure, sport and physical activity habits. All responses are anonymous, and the survey is open to people aged 15 plus who live or visit South Derbyshire.

To complete the survey, please visit [Online Community Survey 2022](#) or there is a QR code which can be scanned on your mobile phones.

The survey is open until 22 July 2022.

### **South Derbyshire Local Plan**

The decision to commence a formal review of the Local Plan Part 1 was agreed at Committee in August 2021. The first consultation as part of this review will be the publication of an Issues and Options document; this consultation document is expected to go to Committee in September 2022 for approval.

The responses made to the Issues and Options consultation will be used to help shape the draft Local Plan. It is through consultation on the draft Plan that proposed allocations (for example for housing and employment) are first publicly set out. The draft Plan will go to a Committee either during or after June 2023.

Chair, Councillor Fitzpatrick explained the importance of initiatives such as Healthy Homes and Hospital Discharge Scheme and encouraged people to spread the word.

Councillor Fitzpatrick asked if people can self-refer?

Kevin Stackhouse explained it is normally done by an agency as they help with support for the referral but doesn't see why people couldn't self-refer as a last point of call.

Kevin Stackhouse addressed the Council's priority to become Carbon Neutral and the way in which the grant schemes can be applied for to support the introduction of charging points into older houses for cars etc. He added, Council Officers are extremely good at gaining external funding. Charging points have been installed in Melbourne and Swadlincote and the Council are in the bidding process for the money which will help with more of this in the future.





A member of the public asked if it is likely that there will be such access to charging points in Boulton Moor area.

Councillor Corbin responded there are some to be installed in the Aston Ward and there are enquiries about Alvaston area too. At the next Aston Parish Council Meeting, a full update will be given.

A member of the public raised concerns over the building of infrastructure with all the new housing developments going on.

Kevin Stackhouse explained that SDDC support infrastructure around new developments and point in the way of Doctors etc in the future. Within South Derbyshire, the Council will try and secure Section 106 funding which will help with infrastructure.

A member of the public raised a question concerning the way in which the Area Forum Meeting are publicised.

Chair, Councillor Fitzpatrick explained it would be great for the Area Forums to be 'packed to the rafters', however, with other ways of communication – it is not always convenient for individuals to attend.

Chris Smith added that we have six meeting every four months, within another area we had over 55 people in attendance because in that area there is a huge concern amongst the people who live there. If people do have an issue, they do attend these meetings.

A member of the public asked when SDDC staff will be returning to work in the offices rather than working from home.

Kevin Stackhouse explained that staff are back in the offices and there is a Flexible Working Policy in place for staff which falls in line with other organisations. The Council Offices are open and reception is back open as pre-Covid.

A member of the public raised concerns over the Planning Department not responding to people.

Kevin Stackhouse explained there have been issues within the Planning Department and after lockdown, there was a huge increase in applications. There is currently a huge amount of pressure on the department. A lot of work has been done to make planning more accessible with a new phone system. Kevin Stackhouse reassured attendees that there has been mitigating circumstances within the department, but there should start to be an increase in response and development going forward.

A member of the public raised concerns over call times at the SDDC.

Chair, Councillor Fitzpatrick reassured the individual that improvements have been made after the huge demand on Customer Services in lockdown.



A member of the public raised concerns over HGV's going through the Melbourne area.

Chair, Councillor Fitzpatrick explained there are no weight restriction within the area.

## **6. Summary of Agreed Actions**

Action	Person responsible
Councillor Fitzpatrick to pick up data link from the Police regarding ASB statistics.	Councillor Fitzpatrick
SNT to complete a speed check on Derby Road, Melbourne.	SNT
SNT to look out for 'boy racers' on Derby Road, Melbourne, particularly of an evening.	SNT
Chris Smith to liaise with licensing/ pubs re: beer bottle & littering.	Chris Smith

## **7. Close and Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at Aston Recreation Centre.

**Councillor Martin Fitzpatrick**  
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7:35pm

