



Derbyshire Constabulary



Neighbourhoods



**South
Derbyshire**
District Council



Keeping our Community Safe

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership



**Safer Neighbourhood
Area 3 - North East
(6.15 pm - 7.15 pm)**

**Interval with light
refreshments 7.15 - 7.30 pm**

and

**Melbourne Area Forum
(7.30 pm - 8.30 pm)**

***Tuesday
10th June 2014***

***Barrow upon Trent
Village Hall
Barrow upon Trent
DE73 7HA***

South Derbyshire changing for the better

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ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਸਰੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ
ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ

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ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

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COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS 2014/15

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>
Planning	Tuesday 3rd June, 2014
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 5th June 2014
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 12th June 2014
Audit Sub	Wednesday, 18th June 2014
Finance and Management	Thursday, 19th June 2014
Planning	Tuesday, 24th June 2014
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 25th June 2014
Finance and Management (Special – Final Accounts)	Thursday, 26th June 2014
COUNCIL	Thursday, 3rd July 2014
Planning	Tuesday, 15th July 2014
Planning	Tuesday, 5th August 2014
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 21st August 2014
Planning	Tuesday, 26th August 2014
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 28th August 2014
Finance and Management	Thursday, 4th September 2014
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 10th September 2014
Planning	Tuesday, 16th September 2014
Audit Sub	Wednesday, 24th September 2014
Finance and Management (Special – Final Accounts)	Thursday, 25 th September 2014
COUNCIL	Thursday, 25th September 2014
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 2nd October 2014
Planning	Tuesday, 7th October 2014
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 9th October 2014
Finance and Management	Thursday, 16th October 2014
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 22nd October 2014
Planning	Tuesday, 28th October 2014
COUNCIL	Thursday, 6th November 2014
Planning	Tuesday, 18th November 2014
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 20th November 2014
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 27th November 2014
Finance and Management	Thursday, 4th December 2014
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 10th December 2014
Planning	Tuesday, 16th December 2014
Audit Sub	Wednesday, 17th December 2014

Committee**Date**

Environmental and Development Services (Special – Budget)	Thursday, 8th January 2015
Housing and Community Services (Special – Budget)	Tuesday, 13th January 2015
Finance and Management (Special – Budget)	Thursday, 15th January 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 20th January 2015
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 21st January 2015
COUNCIL	Thursday, 22nd January 2015
Finance and Management (Special – NNDR)	Monday, 26th January 2015
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 29th January 2015
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 5th February 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 10th February 2015
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 11th February 2015
Audit Sub	Wednesday, 18th February 2015
Finance and Management	Thursday, 19th February 2015
COUNCIL	Monday, 2nd March 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 3rd March 2015
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 5th March 2015
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 12th March 2015
Finance and Management	Thursday, 19th March 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 24th March 2015
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 25th March 2015
Audit Sub	Wednesday, 1st April 2015
COUNCIL	Thursday, 2nd April 2015
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 9th April 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 14th April 2015
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 16th April 2015
Finance and Management	Thursday, 23rd April 2015
Planning	Tuesday, 12th May 2015
Overview and Scrutiny	Wednesday, 13th May 2015
Finance and Management (Special – Provisional budget out-turn)	Wednesday 20 th May 2015
ANNUAL COUNCIL	Thursday, 21st May 2015
CIVIC COUNCIL	Thursday, 28th May 2015



AGENDA

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP - AREA 3

Tuesday 10th June 2014 at 6.15 pm
at Barrow on Trent Village Hall

(Light refreshments will be served between 7.15 and 7.30 pm)

1. Chair's introduction, Apologies
2. Minutes of last Meeting (to be agreed) and update on actions
3. Safer Neighbourhoods Sergeant's Overview /Priorities Update
4. Partnership Update / Funding / New project ideas
5. Local issues – open forum (20 minutes)
6. Agreed Priorities
7. Date of next meeting

Meeting close (7.15 pm)

AREA 3 - NORTH EAST AREA SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Present	Date of Meeting	Venue
Cllr Peter Watson (Chairman); Sgt Steve Todd; PC Victoria Ball; PCSO Emma Guest; Chris Smith (SSDP); Ed Hicklin; John Lawson; Cllr Neil Atkin; Paul Bickerton; Ellie Bickerton; Cavan McCready; Cllr Rob Davison; Tom Mills; Robert Parker; Christine Scott; Cllr Linda Chilton; Kavan Cross; Cllr Jim Hewlett; Mike Selby; Jean Longley; R Saxby; Trevor Scott; Graham Beadle; Ken Atkin; Catherine Blackmore; Adam Seal Also present: Sarah Winfield (Clerk)	Tuesday 18 th February 2014	Aston on Trent Memorial Hall

1	Chairman's Introduction and Apologies	Action
	Cllr Peter Watson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by the panel. Apologies were received from Insp. Nigel Lidsey and Cllr Ann Watson	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting (to be agreed) and update on actions	Action
	The minutes were agreed as a true record of the last meeting. Cllr Davison confirmed that no update was available on the pavements around Borrowash Bridge. This was deferred until the next meeting.	Cllr Davison to update
3	Safer Neighbourhoods Sergeant's Overview/Priorities Update	Action
	Sgt Todd welcomed PC Ball to the team, who replaced PC Buckley. Overall crime this year has reduced from 400 to just under 300 for the year. Drug offences are down by 54%, criminal damage has reduced by 56%. 22.6% of all crimes detected result in a positive outcome. ASB has reduced by 112 calls to service, which equates to 35.7%. Crime statistics can be obtained from the Police website www.police.uk , which can be down to area level. Total crimes for the area equate to 40-50 per month for the whole area. South Derbyshire remains a safe place to live. The Derbyshire Constabulary website www.derbyshire.police.co.uk includes a section which enables residents to nominate untidy areas such as graffiti, rubbish or public buildings in need of attention, for the community payback scheme. Non-dwelling burglaries have increased, mostly garden sheds, garages and business premises. Three individuals have been arrested in Melbourne recently. Patrol strategies are focusing on these types of burglaries. Sgt Todd highlighted the website www.immobilise.com where residents can register items with serial codes. Police check property against that website. Derbyshire Alert is also a Police initiative, which residents can easily subscribe to, which sends out crime alerts and useful information. PCSO Emma Guest uses twitter. Details are on the contact sheet attached to these minutes. Melbourne Parish Council raised parking on zig-zags outside schools. Sgt Todd	

	<p>confirmed this was enforceable by County Council by officers and are also looking at a camera car. Police can deal with obstructions. Cllr Chilton confirmed that she had met with PC Ball on site and raised this with County. This issue will now be monitored closely.</p> <p>Cllr Watson raised that a Smisby resident (at the Area 2 meeting yesterday) highlighted an issue with parking on Ashby Road, Melbourne, at a new housing development. The problem stemmed from contractors' vehicles. Sgt Todd confirmed that he had today spoken to the contractors about this</p> <p><u>Update on priorities</u> None were set at the last meeting. Anti-social behaviour in Melbourne has been monitored.</p>	
4	Partnership Update / Funding / New Project Ideas	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Internet Safety Day took place on 11th February. Primary and secondary schools were provided with advice and information on staying safe on the internet. • Relationships week involved domestic abuse providers attending schools to offer advice to pupils in secondary schools. Good feedback received. • On 7th March International Women's Day will take place at Sharpe's Pottery in Swadlincote between 10 am and 2 pm. • Smartwater is to be issued out to local businesses to address the non-domestic burglaries increase in the area. • Farm watch has been running in the area, which Phil Marriott will be involved in developing. • Restorative disposals have been revised that young people on community based punishments attend. 29 have been done since September and only 2 have re-offended. <p><u>Funding</u> Three bids have been received since the last meeting. The first was for CCTV at Barrow on Trent for £2,500; Aston and Weston Bowls Club for £500 towards security and alarm; Weston on Trent for Smartwater kits £500. These projects will receive funding from the big pot, which is the under-spend from the other areas. Any future ideas for funding can be directed to Chris Smith at the Partnership.</p> <p>Cllr Watson discussed funding of £50,000 per year, which is available from East Midlands Airport to spend in the community up to £2,000 per project. All parishes in the Aston and Melbourne ward are eligible to apply.</p>	
5	Local issues – open forum	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was questioned whether Police patrol Ambaston Lane as this was being used as a racetrack. Police confirmed that patrols have been carried out in the area. • Cllr Harrison raised why the Police do not view images from the CCTV footage in Melbourne. Sgt Todd stated that this system is not operated by the Police but belongs to the Parish Council. There have been issues with accessing the stored data, which is kept locked in the boardroom. Police and Parish Council to liaise over access. • Cllr Atkins raised if funding was available for other parishes to obtain CCTV. Chris Smith advised that Ian Hey, who was now in the Partnership team, could offer advice on available funding streams. • It was raised that Colwell Drive at Boulton Moor has issues with speeding. Police advised a group of volunteers together could be trained to use the community speedwatch scheme. The system was discussed and how to get involved 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Watson read a letter of thanks to the Police from a Melbourne resident whose motorbike which was stolen from their garage and successfully retrieved the same night. • Cllr Harrison questioned why the meetings could not run back to back and not have to wait so long for the Forum meeting to start. It was agreed that this was a matter for the District Council to decide. 	
6	Agreed priorities Farmwatch across the area Speeding on Ambaston Lane and Colwell Drive	
7	Date of next meeting	
	The meeting closed at 7.10 pm Next meeting date to be advised	

Area 3 Safer Neighbourhood Group – Useful Contacts

Safer Communities Manager

Chris Smith 01283 595961 chris.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk

Chairman Of North East Safer Neighbourhood Group

Cllr Peter Watson 01332 862301 peter.watson@south-derbys.gov.uk

Vice Chair of Safer Neighbourhood Group

Ed Hicklin farm@hicklins.co.uk

District Council

South Derbyshire District Council 01283 221000 www.south-derbys.gov.uk
Clean Team 0800 587 2349
ASB Hotline 01283 595795

District Councillors

Cllr Neil Atkin (Aston on Trent) 01332 700643 neil.atkin@south-derbys.gov.uk
Cllr John Harrison (Melbourne) 01332 862477 john.harrison@south-derbys.gov.uk
Cllr Peter Watson (Aston on Trent) 01332 862301 peter.watson@south-derbys.gov.uk
Cllr Jim Hewlett (Melbourne) 01332 863927 jim.Hewlett@south-derbys.gov.uk
Cllr Mrs Ann Watson (Aston on Trent) 01283 229115 ann.watson@south-derbys.gov.uk

County Councillors

Cllr Robert Davison (Aston, Weston, Barrow) 07969 144574 rob.davison@derbyshire.gov.uk
Cllr Linda Chilton (Melbourne) linda.chilton@derbyshire.gov.uk

County Council parking enforcement

parking@derbyshire.gov.uk

Police

south.neighbourhoods@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

Inspector Nigel Lidsey

Sgt Graham Summers

PC Victoria Ball

Team Mobile: 07802 771912

PCSO Catherine Guest

victoria.ball.14184@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

Catherine.guest.4627@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

Safer Neighbourhood Wardens

Gareth Evans, Stephen Yates, Darren Andre 01283 221000

Non – Emergency:

101

Emergency:

999

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

Website:

www.derbyshire.police.uk

Websites/Social Media

Police Area 3 SNT Twitter

www.twitter.com - @MelbourneSNT

Crime Statistics for your area

www.police.uk

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

www.south-derbys.gov.uk/ssdp

Safer SDP Facebook Page

www.facebook.com Search - Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM MELBOURNE

(Covering Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Elvaston, Melbourne, Shardlow & Great Wilne, Stanton-by-Bridge, Swarkestone and Weston-on-Trent)

Meeting to be held at: -

**Barrow on Trent Village Hall
Twyford Road
Barrow on Trent
DE73 7HA**

on

Tuesday 10th June 2014

Members:

District Councillors: Councillors Atkin, Harrison, Hewlett, Mrs Watson and Watson.

County Councillors: Councillors Mrs Chilton and Davison.

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AGENDA

1. To note the appointment of the Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Appointment of Vice Chairman.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Chairman's Announcements.
6. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th February 2014 (copy attached).
7. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
8. Public questions on issues raised by residents.
9. Update on Environmental Volunteering
Kate Allies – Environmental Development Manager
10. County Council issues.
11. District Council issues.
12. Date of Next Meeting.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

18th February 2014 at Aston on Trent Memorial Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

K. Stackhouse (Director of Finance and Corporate Services) and C Smith (Communities Manager)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Davison and Mrs Chilton.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

R Parker (Melbourne Parish Council); P Bickerton (Elvaston Parish Council); K Atkin, C Blackmore (Barrow on Trent Parish Council); T Scott (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council); C Scott, K Cross (Weston Parish Council)

Members of the Public

C Allen; K Whewell; S Madley; T Mills; G Beadle

MA/17 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Watson

MA/18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

MA/19 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

MA/20 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 13th November 2013 were noted.

Items of accuracy:

Amendment to Cllr Linda Chilton's name.

Item 2 of the report back should be deleted as it is covered at item 4.

MA/21 **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman handed over to the Forum Liaison Officer to report back on those items raised at the last meeting.

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

County Councillor Davison and representatives from Barrow on Trent Parish Council raised a query in regard to the required width for public footpaths.

Reference was made to a public footpath, leading off Chapel Lane, where a DCC officer had recently demanded that the landowner widen the access to just less than 1m, even though sections of the footpath itself are much narrower. It was also stated that other footpaths in the area do not have access as wide as this.

The Parish Council had concerns that the wider access makes it vulnerable to illegal use by motorcyclists and reported that a motorcyclist had in fact been seen using the footpath following the works.

A suggestion was made that an 'A' frame barrier could be installed to prevent motorcyclists while maintaining access for wheelchair users. A resident stated that such barriers are not livestock proof and also cause problems for high-backed wheelchairs.

It was queried on what grounds DCC insisted that the access to the footpath be widened and the apparent inconsistencies in regard to other footpaths (i.e. that have narrower accesses).

The Chairman advised Barrow Parish to write to the DCC Rights of Way Officer raising their concerns about widening the footpath.

Action: Forum Liaison Officer to report back on public rights of way

Cllr Davison referred to a query raised at the previous night's meeting (Repton Area Forum) in which concerns were raised in regard to the use of bridges at the Stenson Bubble by heavy goods vehicles. Reference was also made to the bridges at Barrow-on-Trent (Sinfin Lane). It was queried whether clarification had been received on the load capacity of the structures.

Forum Liaison Officer didn't think the structural limits on the bridges were being exceeded but was awaiting confirmation

Action: Forum Liaison Officer to report back on structural weight limits

Cllr Davison requested an update on enforcement of the weight restriction on the Causeway; he believed that there was a scheme to introduce cameras for enforcement purposes.

Forum Liaison Officer reported that DCC's Trading Standards officers continue to carry out enforcement checks of the Causeway, often in partnership with the Police. Capital funds have been made available to install a camera monitoring system which will allow for remote enforcement of the weight restriction. Currently advice is being sought from the Legal department and the Department for Transport in regard to the back office element of the system. They cannot progress with the introduction of the system until these issues are resolved.

Action: Forum Liaison Officer to report back on weight restriction monitoring on Swarkestone causeway

A Weston resident reported that the carriageway under the railway bridge between Swarkestone and the Cottages regularly suffers from flooding. It was believed that the cause of this was debris being washed into the carriageway from the banking and blocking the drainage. The resident also claimed that, when the drainage has been cleared previously, debris is left on the roadside only for it to be washed back into the system.

Action: Forum Liaison Officer to report back on flooding under railway bridge

A resident queried whether an application had come into the council for buying land around Elvaston Castle (Borrowash Road, Harrington Villas to right of Home farm) as it would limit the options available to Elvaston Castle.

The resident queried whether SDDC would apply for Parks for People grant on behalf of Elvaston Castle as they had been successful in obtaining funding for Swadlincote Park. The Chairman said the council wouldn't be able to do this, but there is currently a consultation on going with regards to the vision and plan for the Castle and to set up a trust for Elvaston Castle which will enable all funding opportunities to be looked at. An Elvaston Castle working party group meeting is to be held on 28th February.

The Chairman updated on current flooding issues – The District has 15 tonnes of sand in stock, 3000 unfilled sandbags and 100 filled ready in store. If any are required they can be obtained by contacting Chris Payne at SDDC. Of the 115 distributed already; 6 bags have been delivered to Trent Lane Weston, 40 to Riverside Walton on Trent and 30 to Cobster Cottage Swarkestone.

Councillor Watson stated the Local Plan is in final stages before submission. Comments from the previous consultation are being reviewed. The Pre-Submission Plan is to be consulted on in March through into April. The pre-submission consultation will go to a venue in each of the Area Forum areas for an afternoon/evening drop in session.

This area's local consultation event will be on 19th March at Aston Heritage Centre 2.30 – 7.30 pm and will be attended by Planning Policy Officers. There are no plans to change the amounts of housing in Aston, Weston, Melbourne, Barrow or any other village in this area.

The consultation is to be completed by 22nd April, It will be submitted to Full Council by 3rd July and submissions are to be with the Inspector by 10th July. A report should be received back from the Inspector by end of the year.

A resident stated that the Local Plan is a strategic plan which is disguising the fact there will be development in these villages.

Cllr Peter Watson replied that plan only considers major developments; ie; developments of more than 100 properties. There are other smaller developments which will be subject to regular planning regulations.

A resident from Elvaston stated he had contact with Chris Payne in 2011 regarding flooding issues in Elvaston and Borrowash and was still awaiting the issue to be resolved. He stated the reinstatement of ditch course on the B5010 is essential in flood management. The Fisherman's car park which has been put in has also affected the flood plain.

Councillor Watson stated that he and Chris Payne had met with him and the Parish Council and referred it to the Environment Agency who have said that although it is a situation it's not a current priority.

Considering flooding issues in other parts of country the situation in Elvaston will not be a priority but Cllr Watson stated he will continue to chase this on behalf of the residents of Elvaston.

The resident stated that the DCC Rangers are responsible for the flooding problems on Elvaston Castle site and that it should have an Estate Manager instead.

MA/23 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Forum Liaison Officer stated that the County Council needs to make £157m of cuts to its budgets by 2018 – something they are calling 'The Derbyshire Challenge'. Their Cabinet has been considering proposals on how they can

make these reductions; they are looking to make cuts totalling around £36.7m in the next financial year (2014/15).

Many of the budget reductions being announced will be subject to public consultations. You can visit the 'Derbyshire Challenge' page of their website to find out more and take part in our consultations launching throughout the year – www.derbyshire.gov.uk/challenge.

The Forum liaison officer highlighted two of the consultations currently open. Firstly, are changes to the Mobile Library Service; several options are being considered to make savings to this service which currently costs in the region of £720,000 per year to run. Four options have been put forward. One is to scrap the service completely (which will obviously make a saving of £720,000 per year). A further two options have been put forward which will involve various reductions in the fleet in order to make savings – they currently have a fleet of 10 vehicles; 2 MCV's (maximum capacity vehicles) and 8 standard mobile libraries. A fourth option is to transfer the service over to community based organisations. The consultation started on 13 January and ends 1 March 2014.

Members of the public can visit the 'challenge' webpage to find out more information and complete the online survey. For those without internet access, you can contact Call Derbyshire – 01629 533190 – to find out more.

DCC are also proposing a number of changes to the Adult Care services. The consultation launches today and will run for 12 weeks. Again, more information will be made available via the 'challenge' webpage.

Cllr Chilton requested an update in regard to the potential Swarkestone bypass. The Forum Liaison Officer confirmed that the bypass is still in the Transport Plan, but would require extensive external funding from the Department of Transport. The Forum Liaison officer believed that the next batch of funding for major schemes will be released in June/July of this year, through the Single Local Growth Fund. DCC will need to review priorities once the conditions for applying for this funding are established

The Chairman stated that in his own view the existing plan (in the DCC Transport plan) would not be suitable as it needs to access the A453 for airport and race track.

Councillor Watson stated that he disagreed with Chairman in that that one proposal would alleviate all transport issues. It would not alleviate Melbourne and Kings Newton issues, however accepts that for all areas to be covered by the bypass would cost in excess of £80 million

Councillor Atkin – what would be needed to get funding from external sources (Department of Transport). Forum Liaison Officer stated they won't know until June/July when funding details are released.

County Councillor Chilton added that the HS2 freight terminal may lead to more transport coming to Kings Newton and Melbourne. County Councillor Davison stated he doesn't think the HS2 will cause too many issues in his opinion.

Action: Forum Liaison Officer to report back on the Swarkestone Bypass

County Councillor Davison stated that the Chief Fire Officer original proposals have been extensively modified and now there are no plans to close newly built stations and any other proposed closures will only be done as a last resort. It was recognised however that this may only be a 2 year stay.

Councillor Chilton informed the meeting that North West Leicestershire have purchased land for a new Fire station in Castle Donington. The Chairman stated that cross boundary liaison with neighbour districts is important but both parties will want to keep their county identity.

MA/24 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Director of Finance & Corporate services gave an update on the Councils current financial position:

Nationally, there has been a reduction in government funding for local councils since 2010 and this is currently set to continue until 2018. For SDDC this has been approximately £1.25m to date or 20% from where we were in 2010/11 (*net after New Homes Bonus and Business Rates Retention*)

SDDC has been delivering budget savings since 2010 and has had 3 main phases, culminating this year with savings of £320k. Next financial year 2014/15 is ok but need another round to find further savings of up to £300k before this time next year ahead of 2015/16.

No major reductions in mainstream service provision so far – reductions in management and support services, together with general efficiencies have met the shortfall to-date.

Increase in services is continuing – recycling and capital investment in leisure facilities.

Next year's Council Tax still to be decided – Government offering some support for councils who freeze Council Tax again for a 4th year.

Possible future pressures – growth and demand for services – some will be paid for by increased funding but this is not certain.

The Chairman added recommendations will include Council Tax freeze, 2% rise for community and voluntary sector and no silly charges being introduced.

MA/25 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:30 pm

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MELBOURNE AREA FORUM

(Covering Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Elvaston, Melbourne, Shardlow & Great Wilne,
Stanton-by-Bridge, Swarkestone and Weston-on-Trent)

Tuesday 10th June 2014

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the Melbourne Area Forum held on 18th February 2014 at Aston on Trent Memorial Hall, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made to date:-

1. Public Rights of Way – required footpath widths

The width of a Public Right of Way can depend upon several factors. If a width is recorded in the legal description of the route (the Definitive Statement), then this is the minimum width required. Other paths are as wide as can be proven to have been from use by the public, prior to them becoming recorded on the Definitive Statement.

There is no width given in the Definitive Statement for the path referred to at the forum, but it does refer to field gates, which means that the public has a right to go through such gates for the purpose of a public footpath.

Following receipt of a complaint that a member of the public with a pushchair could not use the path because of a 'pinch-point', the area's Rights of Way Assistant met with the landowner to discuss these concerns. By way of a solution, it was suggested that widening one of the gaps next to two padlocked field gates might avoid the need for the landowner to unlock them. This work was carried out and the complainant who drew the issue to DCC's attention is satisfied with the outcome.

DCC has a legal duty to protect Public Rights of Way and it seeks to make them easier to use wherever possible. Stiles, gates, etc., belong to each landowner and therefore the Council will aim to work with them in both meeting the law and improving the network wherever possible. An example of this would be where a landowner agrees to replace authorised but defective stiles with 'wicket gates', which are a less restrictive option for pedestrians.

Any instances of unauthorised motor vehicles being witnessed on a public footpath should be reported to the Police (tel. 101), preferably with registration numbers where possible

2. Structural weight limits on bridges

Enquiries have been carried out with Network Rail who has confirmed that both their bridges have a 40-tonne capacity. The Stenson Road bridge is an unrestricted public road bridge that has been strengthened (by provision of a concrete saddle) to 40-tonne loading. An officer from Network Rail will take a look at the bridge in regard to the alleged damage, when they are next in the area.

The bridge on Sinfin Lane also has a 40-tonne capacity and no damage has been reported to this structure.

Concerns regarding the canal bridge have been passed to the River & Canal Trust but we are yet to receive their feedback.

3. Swarkestone causeway – weight restriction monitoring

DCC's Trading Standards officers continue to carry out enforcement checks of the causeway, often in partnership with the Police. Capital funds have been made available to install a camera monitoring system which will allow for remote enforcement of the weight restriction. Currently advice is being sought from our Legal department and the Department for Transport in regard to the back office element of the system. We cannot progress with the introduction of the system until these issues are resolved.

4. Swarkestone Road, Swarkestone-Weston on Trent – Flooding under railway bridge

DCC have a cyclic maintenance programme in operation and the drainage channel by the railway bridge is cleared of debris/silt at least once per month

5. Swarkestone Bypass

There is nothing further to report at this time. As explained at the last meeting, a feasibility study undertaken a few years ago identified a number of options, costing in the region of £20m. Such a figure is far beyond DCC's budgets and the realisation of such a scheme would be dependent on external funding from the Department for Transport and/or other sources.

The next batch of funding for major schemes will be released in June/July of this year, through the Single Local Growth Fund. DCC will need to review their priorities once the conditions for applying for this funding are established.

A bypass for Swarkestone is identified within DCC Local Transport Plan as one of a number of potential major schemes which would require external funding. Its inclusion in the Plan is an acknowledgement that a bypass would be of potential benefit.

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