



Derbyshire Constabulary



Neighbourhoods



**South  
Derbyshire**  
District Council

**teamwork**

*Keeping our Community Safe*

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

**DERBYSHIRE**  
County Council  
Improving life for local people

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

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

**and**

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

***Monday,  
October 10, 2016***

***Barrow on Trent Village Hall  
34 Twyford Road  
Barrow on 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

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬ੍ਰੇਅਲ ਜਾਂ ਆਡਿਉ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ  
ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

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**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS**

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
<b><u>OCTOBER 2016</u></b>		
Housing & Community Services	Thu	06.10.16
Finance & Management	Thu	13.10.16
Heritage Lottery Fund Grant Panel Board Meeting	Mon	17.10.16
Planning	Tue	18.10.16
Overview & Scrutiny	Wed	19.10.16
Heritage Lottery Fund Grant Panel	Mon	24.10.16
Employee Health & safety Committee	Wed	26.10.16
<b><u>NOVEMBER 2016</u></b>		
COUNCIL	Thu	03.11.16
Planning	Tue	08.11.16
Environmental & Development Services	Thu	17.11.16
Housing & Community Services	Thu	24.11.16
Planning	Tue	29.11.16
<b><u>DECEMBER 2016</u></b>		
Finance & Management	Thu	01.12.16
Overview & Scrutiny	Wed	07.12.16
Audit Sub	Wed	14.12.16
Planning	Tue	20.12.16
<b><u>JANUARY 2017</u></b>		
Environmental & Dev (Special-Budget)	Thu	05.01.17
Etwall JMC	Mon	09.01.17
Housing & Com Services (Special-Budget)	Tue	10.01.17
Finance & Management (Special-Budget)	Thu	12.01.17
Planning	Tue	17.01.17
Overview & Scrutiny	Wed	18.01.17
COUNCIL	Thu	19.01.17
Employee H & S Committee	Wed	25.01.17
Environmental & Development Services	Thu	26.01.17
<b><u>FEBRUARY 2017</u></b>		
Housing & Community Services	Thu	02.02.17
Planning	Tue	07.02.17
Overview & Scrutiny	Wed	08.02.17
Audit Sub	Wed	15.02.17
Finance & Management	Thu	16.02.17
Planning	Tue	28.02.17
<b><u>MARCH 2017</u></b>		
COUNCIL	Wed	01.03.17
Environmental & Development Services	Thu	02.03.17
Housing & Community Services	Thu	09.03.17
Finance & Management	Thu	16.03.17
Planning	Tue	21.03.17
Overview & Scrutiny	Wed	22.03.17
Audit Sub	Wed	29.03.17
<b><u>APRIL 2017</u></b>		
COUNCIL	Thu	06.04.17
Etwall JMC	Mon	10.04.17
Planning	Tue	11.04.17

Housing & Community Services	Thu	20.04.17
Employee Health & Safety Committee	Wed	26.04.17
Environmental & Development Services	Wed	26.04.17
Finance & Management	Thu	27.04.17
<b><u>MAY 2017</u></b>		
Planning	Tue	09.05.17
ANNUAL COUNCIL	Thu	18.05.17
CIVIC COUNCIL	Thu	25.05.17



## **AGENDA**

### **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP - AREA 3**

**Monday, October 10, 2016 at 6.15pm**  
**at Barrow on Trent Village Hall**

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

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 (7.15pm)

**AREA 3 – MELBOURNE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP**

Present	Date of Meeting	Venue
<p>Ed Hicklin (chair), Sgt Graham Summers, PCSO Emma Guest, Shaun Woodcock (SDDC Community Engagement Officer).</p> <p>Councillor Neil Atkin (SDDC), Graham Beadle (Thulston NHW), M Beadle (Elvaston Parish Council), Paul Bickerton (Elvaston Parish Council), Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton (DCC), Councillor Rob Davison (DCC), Wendy Earp (Melbourne Parish Council), Nancy Hawksworth (Shardlow &amp; Great Wilne Parish Council), Councillor Jim Hewlett (SDDC), Alison Hicklin (Barrow Parish Council), Barbara James (Recreation in Aston), Jean Longley (Aston Parish Council), Alicia Mitchell (Shardlow &amp; Great Wilne Parish Council), R Russell (Elvaston Parish Council).</p> <p>Also present: Tom Sloan (clerk).</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 26, 2016</p>	<p>Shardlow Village Hall</p>

1	<b>Chair's Introduction. Apologies.</b>	Action																								
	Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Hilary Coyle, Councillor John Harrison, Avril Record and Councillor Peter Watson.																									
2	<b>Minutes of last meeting (to be agreed) and update on actions.</b>																									
	The minutes were proposed by Councillor Jim Hewlett and agreed.																									
3	<b>Safer Neighbourhoods Sergeant's Overview / Priorities Update.</b>																									
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Crime Statistics for Area 3</b> Latest year to date – April 1 to June 30, 2016</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">This year</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Last year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Violent crime</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assault</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robbery</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sexual offences</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Theft related</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dwelling burglary</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non dwelling burglary</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		This year	Last year	<b>Violent crime</b>			Assault	10	5	Robbery	0	0	Sexual offences	0	0	<b>Theft related</b>			Dwelling burglary	9	4	Non dwelling burglary	16	7	
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Sexual offences	0	0																								
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Dwelling burglary	9	4																								
Non dwelling burglary	16	7																								

Theft of motor vehicle	0	1
Theft from motor vehicle	10	11
Shoplifting	4	2
All theft (incl. other)	54	40
<b>Damage (incl. arson)</b>	7	15
<b>Drug offences</b>	3	4
<b>All crime (incl. misc.)</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>ASB</b>	33	35

Sgt Graham Summers updated the meeting on the capture of a ring of thieves who had been operating in multiple areas. Staffordshire Police captured the people responsible and they were convicted of a number of offences.

Regarding the latest figures, Sgt Summers said that everything was as it should be, with crime incredibly low. Assaults and dwelling burglaries appeared to have 'spiked' but this was a national trend, particularly with assaults. Large numbers of matters were being dealt with which historically would not have involved the police, in particular domestic violence. These figures did not mean the streets of Area 3 were more dangerous to walk.

Burglaries had reduced quarter after quarter and had finally risen. This was the first rise in a significant length of time. The figures could not keep dropping forever.

Police in Swadlincote had a meeting every morning and patterns of crime were discussed. Offences committed in Area 3 would elicit a police response. Unfortunately, the victims weren't helped by a reactive strategy.

Regarding the use of Facebook (update on actions from previous meeting), Sgt Summers said the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams were still favouring Twitter. Derbyshire Alert, the old email update on crimes, was due to be restarted by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Shaun Woodcock reiterated that a weekly email would soon be circulated. Additionally, Chris Smith (Community Safety Manager) was writing a policy on communication between the partnership and the public. Councillors Mrs Linda Chilton asked that Derbyshire County Councillors were copied into the emails.

Sgt Summers reported that PC Gemma Thursfield, the beat officer for Area 3, was recovering from an operation on her hip. She had been replaced by PC Oliver Priddle, an extremely proactive officer and an asset to the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

PCSO Emma Guest reported that, going back to February, a high profile leaflet drop had been conducted in Aston using the Police Cadets. A burglary had been committed in Boulton Moor, but two men well known to police had been arrested for the offence after an alert member of the public rang in.

	<p>Two Section 59s had been issued to youths racing around on motorbikes, with one also getting a CPN (Community Protection Notice) warning due to previous offences. Sgt Summers added that CPNs meant that if someone was using their vehicle in an anti-social fashion, after their second warning it could be impounded.</p> <p>PC Priddle had conducted a stop and search behind Melbourne Assembly Rooms and found a youth in possession of cannabis. It was a second offence and he was due to go to court.</p> <p>Two overweight vehicles had been caught using Swarkestone Bridge in contravention of the weight limit.</p> <p>A break-in had recently taken place at Aston Post Office. CCTV in the village had been reviewed but the offenders were wearing balaclavas.</p> <p>Councillor Rob Davison said that while he agreed it was a low-crime area and that officers dealing with Sinfin or Normanton would dream of having such figures, there had been a doubling of assaults. How did residents know it was domestic violence-related and not other kinds of assault? Sgt Summers said the figures were simplified before being presented to the meeting. Councillor Davison said the explanation about the doubling of assaults was related to increased reporting of domestic violence. He asked to see a breakdown showing that. Sgt Summers said a lot of people were now more comfortable in coming forward to report offences to the police, even historic ones. Councillor Davison said he was concerned that if the figures were aggregated up to national level, or even divisional or county level, everyone would be worried about them – why not at the local level? Sgt Summers said that there had only been an extra five offences when the figures were low in the first instance. The increase could have been down to one fracas in a pub, for example.</p> <p>Regarding burglaries, Councillor Davison said he was slightly concerned about the increase in reported offences, with all thefts up from 40 to 54. Going back to 1981, he said these meetings were the only interface with the police. Were residents expected to accept that burglaries doubling was only an aberration? Sgt Summers replied that because the figures were so low, it made percentage rises look ridiculous. Similar trends could be observed in other parts of Derbyshire and nationwide. Four out of the six areas in South Derbyshire had witnessed similar patterns. Police were encouraging people to do as much as possible to protect themselves from theft. Ed Hicklin added that people had been lulled into a false sense of security by years of low crime levels. Sgt Summers said that South Derbyshire was near several trunk roads, providing quick and easy escape routes.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Partnership update / funding / new project ideas</b>	
	<p>Mr Woodcock reported that there had been applications for funding from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barrow Parish Council for CCTV cameras to be used down Arleston Lane, a known dogging and fly-tipping hotspot (£500).</li> <li>• Melbourne Assembly Rooms for an entrance system, alarm and</li> </ul>	

	<p>CCTV (£1,000).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation in Aston, who had suffered a recent break-in, got a metal fire door and shutter to replace a poor quality wooden one (£568).</li> </ul> <p>All projects were unanimously approved by the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Woodcock reported that the Safer Homes Plus scheme, free to over-60s, was going to be widened to include overgrown gardens for council properties.</p> <p>Swadlincote Heritage Trail’s consultation documents were published.</p> <p>Mr Woodcock, a retired police inspector, added that anyone present who needed to contact the police did not need to wait for the next meeting date to do so.</p> <p>Councillor Hewlett asked if the Melbourne Sporting Partnership was eligible to apply for Safer Neighbourhoods funding. A resident asked if the money could be used for flood protection. Mr Woodcock answered that it had to be related to crime and disorder. Councillor Davison said people were not sure what the criteria were and that examples were needed. Mr Hicklin replied that examples were available online. Councillor Neil Atkin added that he had recently sat on a licensing hearing and a license was granted to the Melbourne Sporting Partnership, which had CCTV in its bar and outside. He said he assumed funding had already been secured for the security measures. Mr Woodcock said he would find out.</p>	<p>ACTION: Shaun Woodcock to update Councillor Neil Atkin on fund-raising situation</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Local issues – open forum (20 minutes)</b></p> <p>A resident asked how quickly CCTV footage was viewed? They claimed that PCSO Guest took two weeks to access some footage of an incident and, by the time she did, it had been overwritten. Sgt Summers said usually footage would be viewed much more quickly. PCSO Guest said she had visited twice and was told the footage would be available for 28 days. Sometimes it was difficult to arrange a time to view footage.</p> <p>A member of the public asked for advice on drivers parking in an anti-social fashion in Thulston and Elvaston. Visitors to the castle in particular were parking opposite drives and on corners. The problem related to Silver Lane, Brook Road and the Village Green in Thulston. Sgt Summers asked if anything illegal was occurring. The resident confirmed there was not and asked if vehicles could be targeted with flyers asking them to be parked elsewhere. Sgt Summers replied that he would not encourage that. If it wasn’t illegal, signs couldn’t be put up either. Councillor Davison said it was important that people knew the difference between what was anti-social and what was illegal. The only thing which would help, in his opinion, was a change in the law, giving police the equivalent of a dispersal order. A sympathetic MP was needed to push it in parliament. If nothing changed, residents in 20 years’ time would be attending the same meeting, complaining about the same thing. He also thanked SDDC and the police for attending a meeting regarding Ambaston Lane.</p>	

	<p>A resident complained about speeding in Area 3. Sgt Summers asked if it was in a 30mph zone or elsewhere. When told it was in a National Speed Limit area, he responded that police would not be stood in a 60mph trying to catch people over the limit. However, PC Priddle would be trained in the use of the speed gun for operations in other parts of the area.</p> <p>A resident of Great Wilne reported a man with four dogs worrying their sheep. She claimed there was a high rate of trespassing by dog walkers. Sgt Summers asked if it was being reported and the resident confirmed it was.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Agreed priorities</b></p> <p>Sgt Summers stated that he didn't believe Area 3 warranted any priorities. He asked that any parked cars causing a danger be photographed.</p> <p>Councillor Davison asked if priorities from elsewhere in the county could be adopted by Area 3. Sgt Summers said they couldn't.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 7.20pm.</p> <p>Next meeting date and venue to be advised.</p>	

## Area 3 Safer Neighbourhood Group – Useful Contacts

### **Safer Communities Manager**

Chris Smith 01283 595961 [chris.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:chris.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk)

### **Chair of Safer Neighbourhood Group**

Cllr Peter Watson 01332 852301 [peter.watson@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:peter.watson@south-derbys.gov.uk)

### **Vice Chair of Safer Neighbourhood Group**

Ed Hicklin [farm@hicklins.co.uk](mailto:farm@hicklins.co.uk)

### **District Council**

South Derbyshire District Council 01283 221000 [www.south-derbys.gov.uk](http://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](mailto:neil.atkin@south-derbys.gov.uk)  
Cllr Peter Watson (Aston on Trent) 01332 862301 [peter.watson@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:peter.watson@south-derbys.gov.uk)  
Cllr Mrs Hilary Coyle (Aston on Trent) 01332 792740 [hilary.coyle@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:hilary.coyle@south-derbys.gov.uk)  
Cllr John Harrison (Melbourne) 01332 862477 [john.harrison@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:john.harrison@south-derbys.gov.uk)  
Cllr Jim Hewlett (Melbourne) 01332 863927 [jim.hewlett@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:jim.hewlett@south-derbys.gov.uk)

### **County Councillors**

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

County Council parking enforcement [parking@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:parking@derbyshire.gov.uk)

### **Police**

Inspector Kate Bateman [south.neighbourhoods@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:south.neighbourhoods@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk)  
Sgt Graham Summers [graham.summers.735@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:graham.summers.735@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk)  
PC Oliver Priddle [oliver.priddle.14293@Derbyshire.PNN.Police.UK](mailto:oliver.priddle.14293@Derbyshire.PNN.Police.UK)  
PCSO Emma Guest [emma.guest.4627@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:emma.guest.4627@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk)  
Team Mobile: 07802 771912

### **Safer Neighbourhood Wardens**

Mansoor Swati: 01283 595968 [neighbourhood.wardens@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhood.wardens@south-derbys.gov.uk)

Non-emergency: 101  
Emergency: 999  
Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111  
Website: [www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk)

### **Websites/Social Media**

Police Area 3 SNT Twitter [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) - @MelbourneSNT  
Crime Statistics for your area [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)  
Safer South Derbyshire Partnership [www.south-derbys.gov.uk/ssdp](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/ssdp)  
Safer SDP Facebook Page [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) Search - Safer South Derbyshire Partnership  
SDDC Environmental Health Facebook [www.facebook.com/southderbys](http://www.facebook.com/southderbys)

# **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 the  
Barrow on Trent Village Hall  
34 Twyford Road  
Barrow on Trent  
Derby  
DE73 7HA  
on Monday, October 10, 2016  
at 7.30pm.**

Members:

District Councillors: Councillors John Harrison (Chairman), Neil Atkin, Mrs Hilary Coyle, Jim Hewlett and Peter Watson.

County Councillors: Councillors Mrs Linda Chilton and Rob Davison.

*South Derbyshire District Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 0AH  
Minicom: (01283) 228149, DX 23912 Swadlincote.  
Tom Sloan – Tel: (01283) 595984  
Email: tom.sloan@south-derbys.gov.uk*

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of interest.
3. Chairman's announcements.
4. To note the minutes of the meeting held on July 14, 2016 (copy attached).
5. Report back on issues raised at the last meeting.
6. Public questions on issues raised by residents.
7. County council issues.
8. District council issues.
9. Date of next meeting.

**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM**

**AREA 3 – MELBOURNE AREA**

**Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Shardlow Village Hall**

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Jim Hewlett (Chair), Councillor Neil Atkin.

Frank McArdle (Chief Executive), Tom Sloan (Clerk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Rob Davison.

Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

**Parish Council / Meeting Representatives**

Paul Bickerton (Elvaston Parish Council), Rachel Cheshire (Barrow Parish Council), Wendy Earp (Melbourne Parish Council), Nancy Hawksworth (Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council), Jean Longley (Aston Parish Council), Alicia Mitchell (Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council).

**Members of the public**

None.

**Election of chair**

In the absence of Councillor John Harrison (Chair) and Councillor Peter Watson (Vice-Chair), Frank McArdle asked for nominations for Chair from the floor. Councillor Neil Atkin nominated Councillor Jim Hewlett.

MA/01 **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Mrs Hilary Coyle, Councillor John Harrison, Avril Record, Councillor Peter Watson.

MA/02 **Declarations of interest**

None.

MA/03 **Chairman's announcements**

Councillor Hewlett announced that Local Plan Part One had been adopted by SDDC and Part Two was currently being consulted upon.

MA/04 **The minutes of the meeting held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The minutes were proposed by Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, seconded by Wendy Earp and approved.

MA/05 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

**Swarkestone Causeway Enforcement Project**

Paul Jameson (AFLO) provided a report back on the project, stating that DCC was considering providing vehicle-activated signs (VAS) on main routes approaching the causeway. DCC had been obliged to review the project in light of police being unable to carry out enforcement. By the time of the next Melbourne Area Forum in the autumn, DCC would hopefully be in a position to provide clear proposals.

Councillor Rob Davison reported that he had spoken to Neill Bennett in DCC's Transportation Team and been told that the next step was a tendering exercise to see how much the signs would cost. A sum of £48,000 had been set aside for it. However, what the public needed to know was that these signs did not help with prosecutions and were merely a deterrent to HGVs using the route.

Mr Jameson provided the latest enforcement figures for the causeway since the previous meeting in January. Five drivers had been prosecuted for breaking the weight limit, paying a total of £1,400 in fines and £725 in costs. Another driver was due to appear in court for sentencing on July 14<sup>th</sup> and one further case was being investigated. Mr Jameson noted that several of the prosecutions were aided by photographic evidence provided by residents. Councillor Hewlett asked if a photograph and a statement from a resident were enough to bring a prosecution and Mr Jameson confirmed that they were.

**Double yellow lines outside Melbourne Senior Citizens' Centre**

Councillor Mrs Chilton had been tasked to raise the question with DCC but reported that the county council was no longer taking such measures.

**Poor state of road in Thulston**

Councillor Davison reported that he had notified DCC about the roads in Thulston in general terms. A large pothole opposite the Harrington Arms

had been fixed very quickly. Mr Jameson added that patching works were due to take place shortly in Ambaston Lane, Thulston.

### **Sandstone kerb stones at the Bay Tree, Melbourne**

Councillor Hewlett said the issue centred around the replacement of a sandstone kerb with one made from granite which could withstand the weight of a truck. Sandstone kerb stones had repeatedly broken but been replaced like for like because of the constraints of Conservation Area policies. Councillor Hewlett reported that SDDC was currently without a Conservation Officer so a decision on the kerb would have to wait until someone was in position.

### MA/06 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident complained about weeds being at least 5ft high on the 'old A6' before they were cut on the morning of the meeting. Weeds had also grown so high they had obscured the bus stop opposite the end of Thulston Lane. Before the recent cut, they had not been done at all in 2016, the resident claimed.

A member of the public reported a similar situation in Melbourne, saying the cuts got later and later each year.

Councillor Atkin reported complaints from around the Aston Ward in 2016 and linked accidents in Chell Lane to a lack of visibility from long grass on the verges. He questioned whether two cuts a year in rural areas was enough.

Mr Jameson confirmed that verge cutting was a DCC issue, with SDDC acting as agents. It was undertaken for safety reasons to ensure adequate visibility splays. The wet weather had worked against the county council this year, something several residents dismissed as an excuse.

A member of the public raised concerns about the state of a footpath running from Shardlow to Thulston which she claimed was overgrown with nettles and other weeds. It had also subsided in places. Another resident added that along a country lane between Shardlow and Ambaston, gullies for drainage had overgrown, presenting a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

Mr McArdle said he shared residents' concerns, living in a rural area himself. He did, however, believe the weather had been exceptional this year. He would seek some clarity on the situation regarding the number of cuts per year and report back to parish councils.

**ACTION: Frank McArdle to raise issue with relevant SDDC department and seek clarity on the council's responsibilities**

A resident said that road signs in the area were increasingly obscured by hedgerows and other vegetation and asked whose responsibility it was to clear them. Mr Jameson asked where and said if a sign was covered, a resident should ring DCC's call centre on 01629 533190 and the job would be assigned to a rapid response team. Currently, the team was limited by the bird nesting season.

A resident asked if there had been a rise in fly-tipping. They claimed there had been two loads of asbestos dumped in Barrow, one in the middle of the village and the other in Swarkestone Road. There was also the issue of continual dumping of furniture in Lowes Lane. Mr McArdle replied that SDDC was using every piece of technology it had available to combat the illegal dumping of waste. CCTV was being used and successful prosecutions brought as a result, some of which had attracted national publicity. However, the problem would never be eradicated as there would always be someone willing to take a risk to avoid paying to dump waste officially.

MA/07 **County Council issues**

Councillor Mrs Chilton said recent rainfall was a concern for Swarkestone Causeway, with the potential it had to damage what was an ancient monument. She would continue to beat the drum for the causeway, whose smooth operation was key for inward investment into South Derbyshire.

MA/08 **District Council issues**

Mr McArdle updated the meeting on the Community Governance Review taking place in Stenson Fields, Barrow and the unparished areas of Twyford and Stenson, where a range of options on redrawing parish boundaries was being considered. Letters containing a sizeable document were on their way out to every household in the areas affected. It contained numerous alternatives but Mr McArdle and his officers at SDDC could not make any recommendations to residents, it was for the public to have its say. The views of residents were needed by September, whereupon a second phase of the consultation would take place on the draft proposals. What had been decided would come into existence on April 1, 2017. A meeting would be held in the early part of September at a neutral venue – probably in Willington – to discuss the issue further. A resident thanked Mr McArdle for clarifying the review while Councillor Mrs Chilton agreed it was a complex issue which had been succinctly summarised. Councillor Davison asked how the public could make sense of such a complex document. He also warned that Twyford and Stenson was at great risk because if the new estate being built there was not absorbed into Stenson Fields, there would be no one to represent the new residents. That would result in Twyford and Stenson being governed by a semi-urban area. Mr McArdle replied that the

review was being conducted according to law. He asked for patience and reiterated the importance of people's responses to help his members reach the right decision. Councillor Davison asked if an FAQs sheet could be produced and Mr McArdle replied that it was impossible due to the constraints of the law.

Councillor Hewlett reported that an area of yellow hatchings in the car park behind the Lamb Inn, in Melbourne – where there used to be recycling bins – was now safe for parking. Motorists had previously been ticketed for parking there.

Councillor Hewlett added that the official opening of 45 new council houses, the first to be built in South Derbyshire since 1992, had taken place. A second phase would involve 11 more homes behind Swadlincote Fire Station which were currently being refurbished. There were also eight flats in Alexandra Road, Swadlincote, being considered for refurbishment.

MA/09 **Date of next meeting**

To be advised in due course.

**Councillor Jim Hewlett**  
CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 8.32pm.

## **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MELBOURNE AREA FORUM**

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

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

#### **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

At Melbourne Area Forum held on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Shardlow Village Hall, the following issues were raised. They are listed below, together with progress made to date:

#### **South Derbyshire District Council issues**

##### **1. Grass Cutting by SDDC**

Concerns were raised at the number of grass cuts being carried out per year by SDDC. Ideal growing conditions in the summer had caused rapid growth across the Melbourne area.

**We are on schedule for the rural verge cutting. However, we are behind on urban cutting by approximately two weeks, the main cause of this being the eight working days lost due to dealing with flooding issues. Below is a general guide to grass cutting.**

##### **General Guide to Grass Cutting Frequencies**

SDDC has a number of different frequencies for cutting various grassed areas throughout the district. The various frequencies can generally be identified by the location of the grassed areas and fall into two main categories:

##### **Urban Areas – built-up areas generally within the 30mph speed limit zones.**

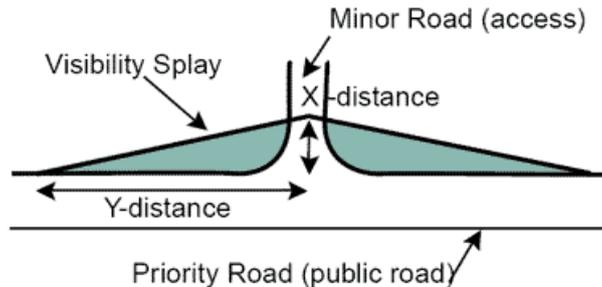
These include public open spaces, parks, roadside verges on estates, sheltered housing sites and general housing land. All of these areas are cut 16 times per year on a 10 working day cutting schedule. There are some exceptions for sports pitches and each of the three main urban parks (these all have individual maintenance plans).

##### **Rural Verges – generally outside built-up areas and recognised village/town boundaries, outside the 30mph speed limit zones.**

The responsibility for cutting grass on rural road verges sits with Derbyshire County Council. Like many county councils, DCC contracts some of this work out to the districts. The contract we have is as follows:

'C' class roads (referred to by DCC as minor roads). We are contracted to undertake one cut per year. SDDC pays for an extra cut, and therefore the grass verges to minor roads receive two cuts per year.

'A' and 'B' class roads (referred to by DCC as major roads, but not including the A38 and other 'trunk' roads). We are contracted to undertake two cuts per year. SDDC pays for an extra cut, and therefore these verges receive three cuts per year. All designated visibility splays receive four cuts per year. Please note, this does not apply to all road junctions, only those where DCC sees there being a road safety issue and therefore create by design a recognised visibility splay as shown in the diagram below.



DCC Highways regards its contract as being sufficient for road safety purposes. If any additional work is required over and above that undertaken by ourselves, at their request, this must be referred to DCC. County has its own workforce which will take on additional works not covered by the contracts delivered by the districts. It should be noted that we only have the resources to deliver our current programme of two cuts to 'C' roads, three cuts to 'A' and 'B' roads, and four cuts to designated visibility splays.

**Adrian Lowery**  
Direct Services Manager  
Housing & Environmental Services  
South Derbyshire District Council