

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

9th November 2010

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), C. Warburton (Communications) and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer) and C. Slack (Children's' Centres).

Derbyshire Constabulary

PCSO C. Bromley.

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

J. Caulton and R. Brunt.

Census 2011

H. Bralesford.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

E. Hicklin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), J. Wilcox (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council) and J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bayliss, S. Blatch, D. Calvert, E. Handy, G. Pollard and R. Saxby.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Mrs. Coyle, Stanton and Mrs. Wheeler M.P., D. Martin, F. Mitchell, M. Sharp, D. Smith and Sergeant Sutherland (Derbyshire Constabulary).

MA/10. **POLICE ISSUES**

PCSO Bromley provided a report on a number of recent incidents in the area covered by the Melbourne Forum. He explained the measures put in place, which had helped the Melbourne Wakes to pass without significant problems. The Officer spoke of a crime in Kings Newton and an operation in Shardlow,

resulting in the arrest of individuals growing cannabis. It was reported that the Safer Neighbourhood priority for the area was to tackle anti-social behaviour in Aston-on-Trent. The next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting would be held at the Barrow-on-Trent Village Hall on 1st December 2010 at 7.00 p.m. On behalf of Melbourne residents, the Officer was thanked for the work undertaken by the Constabulary to ensure the Melbourne Wakes had passed without incident.

MA/11. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was reported that the Communications Team had circulated a questionnaire, which sought public feedback on the services the District Council provided. Residents were asked to either complete the questionnaire and leave it on the Helpdesk after the Meeting, or to return it in the freepost envelope supplied.

The Chairman also spoke about providing publicity to ensure the wider community was aware of the area forums. Officers agreed to discuss this outside the Meeting.

MA/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 21st July 2010 were noted. Under Minute No. MA/6, a District Councillor enquired about Derbyshire County Council's policy on responding to correspondence. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to investigate this and to provide a response to the Councillor in question.**

MA/13. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Information had been circulated with the agenda to provide an update on the issues raised at the last Meeting. Arising from the item on Swarkestone drainage problems, a resident reminded of the earlier request for a footpath to be provided from Lowes Lane to the junction with the A5132/A514. Background was provided on this matter, which had been raised at a number of previous Area Forums. There had been confusion over land ownership and the scheme was no longer proceeding. **The Forum Liaison Officer was requested to reinvestigate this matter.**

At the previous Meeting, a local District Councillor had submitted a number of concerns. He had still not received a response to the issue raised about motorcyclists using the footpath between Gairloch Close and Holderness Close in Stenson Fields. The Councillor reiterated the concerns. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to pursue this matter. He would also refer it to the Derbyshire Constabulary as an anti-social behaviour issue.**

A further matter related to hedges on Stenson Road in Stenson Fields. Whilst some maintenance had taken place, the hedges were still very high. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to refer this matter back to Derbyshire County Council.**

MA/14. DERBYSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – SERVICE PLAN CONSULTATION

A presentation was made by John Caulton and Richard Brunt on the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan for the period 2011 to 2014. Information had been circulated for residents to read and feedback was sought through a questionnaire contained in the document. Mr. Brunt referred to the recent Government announcement on public spending and explained how the Service would need to reduce costs and deliver cost efficient services. Mr. Caulton explained how the role of the Service had been expanded in recent years, quoting a number of examples. These included the review of staffing of the Swadlincote Fire Station, the problems caused by automatic fire alarms and the challenge process introduced to prevent unnecessary calls for service. Charges were proposed for certain services and another issue raised was cross-border arrangements. Residents were asked to consider and respond to this consultation.

A number of questions were submitted about performance levels, particularly relating to response times, about the cross-border charging regime and arrangements for cover from the adjacent City of Derby. The Officers responded to each of the questions submitted, confirming that services would not be reduced. Proposals to improve the Fire Station at Ascot Drive in the City of Derby were also reported. The representatives of the Fire Service were thanked for the presentation.

MA/15. CENSUS PRESENTATION

Helen Bralesford from the Office of National Statistics advised those present that the next Census would take place on 27th March 2011. She gave background information on the Census, which was an account/estimate of the whole population, and had happened every 10 years, since 1801.

She provided details of who used the Census information, and the methods in which they attempted to contact the whole population, including hard to reach groups. There was currently an address register being compiled, which would be used for the delivery of questionnaires to every address in the United Kingdom. These would be delivered from 27th March 2011, and residents would have ten days to return the form. Once all questionnaires were completed Census information would be provided.

She confirmed that completing a Census form was fairly straightforward, and usually took around 10 minutes. She also assured those present that the Census information was never shared, and was totally confidential. It was used to produce statistics, kept confidential for 100 years, then was released.

She added that help would be available for anyone unable to complete the form. She asked that those members of the public who were able, assist vulnerable people and hard to reach groups. She added that further information could be found via the website 2011.census.gov.uk. Questions were submitted about the quality control mechanisms in place to ensure the accuracy of the census return and the opportunity for publicity through local newspapers.

MA/16. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES – CHILDREN’S CENTRE PRESENTATION**

Clair Slack from Children’s Services gave a presentation on the County’s Children’s Centres. She advised that their role had developed from a Surestart programme in 1999, and children’s centres now worked with all families, but also with targeted families. An aim was to try to narrow the gap of school attendance between affluent areas and poorer areas. Children’s Centres were monitored in the same way as schools through OFSTED inspections.

Detailed information was provided on the local services delivered and on the seven centres within the South Derbyshire and South Derbyshire Dales areas.

MA/17. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A District Councillor for the Stenson Ward reminded of a number of issues that had been raised at the previous meeting. Responses were still awaited and further information would be passed to the Forum Liaison Officer, in order that these could be pursued. The matters concerned the footway between Gairloch Close and Holderness Close in Stenson Fields, reported earlier in the meeting, the provision of a speed limit sign in Witton Court and a request for an additional street light at Padstow Close. Finally, residents were concerned about large trees close to properties near to the junction of Wragley Way and Arleston Lane and it was questioned if these could be removed. **The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to pursue the matters raised.**

A resident referred to the Melbourne Civic Society annual litter pick. A comment was made that litter bins were used, but some were not large enough. The Director of Community Services offered to look at the frequency of emptying litter bins and the resident was asked to provide further information on the specific areas involved. Another reported problem was the practice of some dog owners to remove dog faeces, placing these in plastic bags, only to deposit the bags in hedgerows. **It was agreed that the matters referred to above be investigated.**

MA/18. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

The Chairman asked Officers about the District Council’s budget consultation arrangements. The detailed implications from the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review would not be known until early December. After this time, the Council would undertake its budget consultation, to help identify service priorities.

MA/19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Melbourne Area Forum would be held on Monday, 7th February 2011 at the Weston-on-Trent Village Hall.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.