

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

10th June 2014 at Barrow upon Trent Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

F. McArdle (Chief Executive); Alan Bates (Environmental Development Assistant); Mandy McKeon (Services Assistant)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillors Davison and Mrs Chilton.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

W Earp (Melbourne Parish Council); David Smith (Melbourne Parish Council); P Bickerton (Elvaston Parish Council); C Blackmore (Barrow on Trent Parish Council); T Scott (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council); A Record (Weston on Trent Parish Council);

Members of the Public

A Madeley; K Whewell; E Bickerton;

MA/1 **TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Noted as Councillor Harrison

MA/2 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ken Atkin and Councillor Ed Hicklin

MA/3 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Peter Watson was happy to be appointed as Vice Chairman, nominated by Councillor Mrs Watson, Councillor Atkin was happy to second the nomination.

MA/4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

MA/5 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

MA/6 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 18th February 2014 were noted as an accurate record.

MA/7 **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.

Structural weight limits on bridges

Concerns regarding the canal bridge were passed to the River & Canal Trust who have confirmed that both bridges can take the 40-tonne capacity.

From a Highways perspective there are no restrictions to stop construction traffic.

South Derbyshire District Council planning enforcement team have been looking into this further because the Section 106 Agreement for that development does state that the Developer should provide a routing plan for construction traffic and as at a couple of weeks ago that had not been provided.

Swarkestone causeway – weight restriction monitoring

The Department for Transport has now responded but could not offer any advice and have informed us to seek our own legal advice. Officers are now looking for a way forward but there is nothing further to report as yet.

Action: Chairman to write to Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin who is a Derbyshire MP and will copy in the legal team at Matlock and Heather Wheeler, MP for South Derbyshire.

Action: Councillor David Smith requested for the letter to include advanced warning signs for drivers of vehicles over 7.5-tonnes on the A50.

Action: Councillor Davison to liaise with legal team at Matlock.

Action: Forum Liaison Officer to report back and get clarification on whether Highways Agency refused to put the large signs on the A50

because of a safety issue (it wasn't a necessary warning sign) or indeed a financial problem.

Councillor Atkin said he previously asked members of the public to write in giving details of number plates of lorry drivers going over the bridge in order to follow-up a possible prosecution. Although there is a DVLA database in the UK, would a foreign plate be prosecuted?

Forum Liaison Officer believed that Trading Standards do not have the powers to pursue vehicles from abroad. Trading Standards will issue warnings to drivers/operators found in breach of the restriction - and can prosecute on any further breaches – but it was suspected that foreign operators fell outside of their jurisdiction.

Action: Chairman said he would investigate further.

MA/8

UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING
(ITEM BROUGHT FORWARD SO A BATES COULD LEAVE MEETING)

This project aims to help local groups like Parish Councils and Footpath/Wildlife Groups find volunteers to do environmental tasks on their land, or land they manage. It will also provide suitable tasks for businesses and other groups (e.g. Derby University students) wishing to volunteer for ½ day (or more) on an environmental task.

South Derbyshire Partnership and South Derbyshire District Council have been approached by groups needing tasks doing and groups looking for tasks and aim to match them up.

The aims are to: -

- provide support & training to voluntary community environmental groups, Parish Councils and individuals
- improve biodiversity and the visual attractiveness of South Derbyshire by supporting community environmental tasks/ projects
- support businesses in their community investment and 'business in the community' work
- enable more environmental volunteering to take place in South Derbyshire

This project will not replace other means of getting environmental tasks done - it is for tasks that are difficult to achieve through existing methods either for financial or practical reasons. Templates for organisations with an environmental task that they need help with are downloadable from the web link. (www.south-derbys.gov.uk/environmentalforum - then click on the Environmental Volunteering link). The completed project templates will be used to create a list of tasks for businesses (and other volunteer groups) to choose

from. The templates should then make it quick and easy for businesses to book their volunteer day with the voluntary organisation, forest site, park or parish that needs the job doing. A charge to cover basic costs and any extras like risk assessments will be made to the business groups. The 'matching' service will be free for groups needing tasks doing unless they need extra support (at £30 hr). Charges are clear on the templates and notes.

Swadlincote Townscape Heritage Scheme

South Derbyshire District Council receive a grant from Heritage Lottery of £8,200 to prepare a plan for repairing and restoring some buildings in Swadlincote Town Centre's conservation area, following on from previous schemes. The District Council will also be working on this with Derbyshire County Council. More information will follow over the next six to eight months. We are consulting with the schools and the public about activities and certain parts of the project to ensure everyone is informed.

First part of the consultation is about the Diana Memorial Garden in Swadlincote. We are asking people how they would like to see the garden developed and how they would like to use it. Further information will follow via parish council meetings, consultation in Swadlincote, Festival of Leisure, markets, website and social media.

MA/9

PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Councillor Earp raised an issue from a Melbourne resident who contacted her that day regarding the positioning of an electricity substation, which has been moved from another location in Melbourne. The company, Western Power had approached South Derbyshire District Council with various locations where they would like to relocate this substation and were refused on 12 occasions. This substation has now been 'plonked' on the pathway next to a resident's house and is quite a substantial structure. It is not an acceptable place to be moved to due to children playing nearby. (1) Is County Council aware of this and (2) what are South Derbyshire District Council's reasons for refusal?

Action: Parish Council should write to the District Council and ask why the District has refused access for this structure on any of the properties.

Action: Forum Liaison Officer will look into it from a County Council perspective.

A resident asked for an update on whether an application had come into the council for buying land around Elvaston Castle (Borrowash Road, Harrington Villas to the right of Home Farm) for buying land on Home Farm.

Councillor Chilton commented that 10-year vision is going to cabinet on 17 June.

Action: Forum Liaison Officer had no information but would make enquiries and report back to the Forum.

A resident asked for a sign to be put up at the bottom of the bridge for cyclists to re-join the main carriageway. He is having a few problems with passers-by and his property is being damaged and rubbish being thrown outside his home. The Police have been informed.

Action: Councillor Watson agreed to notify the District Council's Green Team to request the removal of rubbish to be removed outside this property. He also gave the resident contact information for Green Team and the Police so he may contact them directly.

Councillor Atkin mentioned a problem in Melbourne with overhanging trees on Robinsons Hill. They need to be cut back for a safety point of view. A call has been put through to call Derbyshire but there seems to be a lack of reaction.

Action: Forum Liaison Officer will report back and ask for a Highways Inspector to have a look into this.

Councillor David Smith asked for some clarification on Melbourne toilets.

The Chief Executive summarised:

The Council is under a duty for all of its properties in the whole of South Derbyshire to sweat its assets and obtain the best possible use of them for the benefit of the people it represents. The Council have been approached by a buyer to purchase the site of the toilet. A valuation was requested, by the Council, to find out how much the land is worth and the offer from the buyer is a good one.

The toilets will never be taken away from Melbourne. The Council are looking to improve the facilities within the village and have enquired into relocating to the Assembly Rooms, who are in favour of this decision, should it go ahead. The Chief Executive mentioned that money from a potential sale could be ring-fenced for Melbourne and the facilities could be better, brighter, modern and more accessible.

A report had been prepared and sent to Members to look into the Assembly Room relocation. The consideration has not gone through. The Chief Executive would be prepared to sit down with his officers and the Parish Council to discuss further.

Councillor David Smith accepted the offer of the opportunity for a meeting with the Parish Council and the Chief Executive to take the matter forward.

Councillor Linda Chilton - Swarkstone Causeway, at the southern end before Wards Lane there is a tiny gimp in the wall which is noticeable coming northbound direction. The stones are off and have been for many weeks. Can action be taken?

Action: Forum Liaison Officer will look into this and report back.

Councillor David Smith - Wards Lane/Hollywell Lane from Stanton to Kings Newton there were reports it is blocked/overgrown and is impassable.

Action: Forum Liaison Officer will look into this and report back.

MA/10 **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

Councillor Davison mentioned a County Council South Derbyshire Local Area Committee - Oakland Village at 6pm – 11 June 2014.

Councillor Watson stated he was disappointed that he was not made aware of this.

Chairman suggested more details could be published in local newspapers etc.

Chairman – Reminded meeting of two outstanding consultations taking place. One on the future of Children's Centres with a closing date of 17 June and the other on the future of mobile libraries with a closing date of 9 August to make a response for consultation.

MA/11 **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Councillor Watson gave an overview of The Local Plan.

MA/12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN