

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

9th February 2009

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Mrs. Coyle, Hewlett, Shepherd, Stanton and Mrs. Wheeler.

J. Jones (Director of Corporate Services), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), and K. Ward (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

K. Atkin (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council) and C. Fellows (Stenson Fields Parish Council).

Members of the Public

D. Bayliss, D. Bellis, C. Ford, A. Madeley, G. Pollard and K. Whewell.

MA/23. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that the Chairman, Councillor Harrison was due to arrive shortly. In his absence, it was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Wheeler Chair the Meeting, in the interim.

MA/24. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from M. Todd M.P., County Councillor A. Jones, District Councillors Murray, Pabla and Watson, F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council) and C. Brooks (Derbyshire Library Service).

MA/25. **POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant A. Wright provided an update on policing issues and reminded those present of the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings. He explained that crime statistics were now available via the Derbyshire Police and District Council websites. He sought feedback from residents on the value of these statistics. He referred to the continuing reductions in crime levels and in South Derbyshire the crime statistics were below the County average. Other issues raised were the availability of graffiti removal kits, test purchase operations to

respond to concerns about young people purchasing and consuming alcohol and the links to anti-social behaviour. An update was also given on the Speedwatch scheme. In response to a question, further details were provided on how residents could access the crime statistics from the Derbyshire Police website.

MA/26. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Residents were reminded of literature that had been circulated on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

Note: At 7.10 p.m. Councillor Harrison joined the Meeting and assumed the Chair.

MA/27. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Meeting held on 30th October 2008 were noted.

MA/28. **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. A resident asked how the parish of Swarkestone could become involved in the Speedwatch initiative, as it did not have a parish council. It was suggested that Swarkestone residents liaise with the adjacent Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council, with a view to extending their scheme to cover Swarkestone. At the last Meeting, concerns had been reported about the condition of a footpath in Weston Road, Aston-on-Trent. It was noted that some repair works had taken place, but these were considered insufficient and a problem remained. The Chairman requested further information from the resident in question, so that he could pursue this at Derbyshire County Council. Complaints had been submitted about dog waste being thrown in the Stenson Fields area. A parish councillor explained that the problem occurred when the dog waste bin had been emptied and not re-secured properly. The Parish Council would continue to monitor this problem, but it was requested that the District Council ensure that the bin was locked properly, once it had been emptied. **It was agreed to refer this issue to the Council's Direct Services Manager.**

MA/29. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

An Elvaston resident explained the highway maintenance difficulties at the District Boundary with Erewash. This was at the Derwent Bridge on the B5010. The construction of a cycleway and bridleway had reduced the road to a single carriageway, controlled by traffic lights. Road sweepers were currently unable to clean this section of highway, as it would cause congestion. Over the years, this had resulted in the accumulation of detritus and fallen leaves. The resident was thanked for raising this issue. **It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council investigate this problem and provide a report back to the next Meeting.**

There was a discussion about the District Council's recycling calendar and there had been some confusion over the Christmas period. It was requested that a clearer, simpler calendar be provided to help residents participate in

the scheme. A comparison was made to arrangements in the City of Derby and that authority produced a calendar specifically for the Christmas period. **These comments were taken on board and would be referred to the appropriate officers at the District Council.**

Reference was made to the closure of the A514 at Ticknall for major road works. There was recognition of the efforts of Ticknall Parish Council and particularly its Chairman, Mr. Green to keep residents and others informed during this period of disruption. The Chairman gave an update on the works. A local District Councillor advised that the Royal Mail had sealed two of the Village's three post boxes. This was a cause of concern and there were no apparent reasons why this should be done, as vehicular access was still possible to the post boxes in question. **It was requested that Derbyshire County Council make representations on this issue.**

Reference was then made to the recent bad weather, which had impacted on the refuse collection service. Residents were advised to leave their wheeled bins out, as they would be collected as soon as was possible after such periods of bad weather. It was questioned why the District Council did not collect plastic materials for recycling. An explanation was provided on the costs associated with plastic recycling, the low resale value of plastics and the likely impact on the Council tax if such a service was introduced. Residents were reminded that plastics could be taken to recycling centres throughout South Derbyshire. Related to this, there was a discussion about the location of such recycling centres and a perceived need for publicity.

MA/30. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

The Area Forum was due to have received a presentation from the Derbyshire Libraries Service. However, due to the anticipated adverse weather, the Officer had submitted apologies. **It was requested that this presentation be submitted to the next Area Forum.**

Paul Jameson publicised the Trusted Trader Scheme. An initiative with Social Services to respond to concerns about certain service providers had led to the compilation of a database of different skilled trades people. Those involved in the scheme had been through rigorous checks and a leaflet and card were available to provide further details on how to access this service. A resident applauded this initiative and made a comparison to the scheme in the City of Derby. This went a step further by providing details of how to identify "rogue traders". Residents wishing to find out further information about the Trusted Trader scheme could ring 'Call Derbyshire' on 08456 058058.

An update was sought about the replacement of weight limit enforcement cameras on the Swarkestone Bridge. The Chairman provided further background information. **It was requested that Officers give a further update at the next Meeting.** Related to this, there was discussion about the problems caused by heavy commercial traffic travelling through this part of the District and the previous endeavours to secure advanced warning signage from the A50 trunk road. A local District Councillor was compiling photographic evidence of similar signage elsewhere in the Country, with a view to lobbying on this issue. **A further report would be provided at the next Meeting.**

A Swarkestone resident submitted a letter from 2004 from the then Cabinet Member at Derbyshire County Council. This related to providing a footway from Woodshop Lane to the A514, but this scheme had never been undertaken. **It was agreed that this matter be investigated by Derbyshire County Council and a response submitted to the next Meeting.**

MA/31. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES – PROGRESS ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

The Area Forum received a presentation from the Director of Corporate Services on the Council's priorities and budget for the period 2009/14. Initially, this covered the new Corporate Plan, explaining why it was being reviewed. Details were provided of the evidence base, the consultation undertaken and the top priorities identified.

The Director then referred to the budget for 2009/14, explaining the District Council's proportion of the Council Tax and the services, which it provided. This included the 2009/10 Draft Budget Plan, issues for the next five years, including a review of priorities and the fact that the Council was now debt free.

In response to questions, a definition was provided of affordable housing and clarification was provided about the Local Development Framework consultation. The Chairman referred to the County Council's consultation that had taken place at the previous round of Area Forums. There was some apparent mixing of District and County Council priorities highlighted in the feedback from this consultation exercise.

MA/32. **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman read correspondence circulated by the County Council's Cabinet Member for Environmental Services. This related to planned improvements to the M1 motorway in Derbyshire and specifically the use of the hard shoulder and creation of emergency refuge areas. Further information on this initiative could be accessed via the link <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/policy/motorways>.

The Area Forum noted with sadness the death of Councillor Pabla's wife and it was agreed to send a letter of condolence to Councillor Pabla. His fellow Ward Councillor commented on the moving service held the previous week.

At the last Meeting, concerns had been raised about the condition of a footpath in Main Street, Weston-on-Trent, leading out of the Village towards the Church. **It was agreed that this resident approach the Democratic Services Officer after the Meeting, to be put in touch with the Council's Public Rights of Way officer.**

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8:15 p.m.