

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

22nd July 2015 at Shardlow Village Hall

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) Councillor Watson (Vice Chairman);
Atkin, Hewlett

K Stackhouse (Director of Finance and Corporate Services);
Sharon Dixon (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs L. Chilton, Councillor Davison; N. Bennett; J. Brown,
P. Jameson (Liaison Officer)

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

L. Collison (Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council); A. Mitchell
(Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council); T. Scott (Shardlow & Great
Wilne Parish Council); N. Hawkesworth (Shardlow & Great Wilne
Parish Council); C. Blackmore (Barrow upon Trent Parish Council); A.
Record (Weston on Trent Parish Council) D. Smith (Melbourne Parish
Council); M. Sharp (Melbourne Parish Council)

Members of the Public

Three members of the public were present

MA/1 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Coyle.

MA/2 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

MA/3 **Chairman's Announcements**

The **South Derbyshire Sport, Recreation, Community Facility Strategy** – The Chair reported that a strategy for the future provision of built community facilities, including formal open space and play is currently being developed. The Strategy will aim to provide a plan for the provision of community infrastructure for the growing population, building on the significant progress made in recent years. He reported that Parish Councils and Community groups will be consulted and a workshop will be held in September to allow more in depth discussion with stakeholders.

The **Derbyshire Cycle Plan** – The Chair reported that the cycle plan is being drawn up by Sustrans and other bodies to raise participation of cycling in the County significantly over the next decade. The District Council will give briefing sessions to any interested parties. A South Derbyshire Action Plan will be developed from that briefing session and will feed into infrastructure development and cycle participation and events.

Information can be found on the Derbyshire Sport website.

The **Members and Parish Council Briefings** – the Chair reported that there will be a new series of briefing sessions planned for the coming year, commencing with Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy and Development on 16th September. The full programme of dates will be sent out to parish councils in July.

No questions were received relating to the Chair's announcements.

MA/4 **To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th February 2015**

The minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 4th February 2015 were noted as a true and accurate record.

MA/5 **Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting**

The Chair reported on those items raised at the last meeting

1. **Swarkestone Causeway**

A question was asked at the last meeting of whether the fines on the Causeway were graduated and/or how they would be determined.

Fixed penalty fines were given as opposed to graduated one and were dealt with by the Magistrate's Court. Revenue would go back into the central government fund and not to the County Council or Police authority.

MA/6 **Introduction to the Chairman's Office**

The Chair told the meeting that there was an additional item on the agenda.

Councillor Atkin gave an introduction of the District Chairman's office. He brought to the attention of the meeting simple guidelines relating to how precedence works in the district.

He told the meeting that his theme for the civic year is "Unsung Heroes in the Community". He asked if people could take some time to consider if any voluntary group in the district could be acknowledged for their contribution to the community. This could also be on an individual basis.

Councillor Atkins wished the meeting to know that he welcomed any invitations to attend and support any local community events no matter how big or small. A policy is in place to pay towards the cost of tickets to attend events and functions unless otherwise stated. He also welcomes any contributions and support towards his two nominated charities; Rainbow Hospice for Young Adults and Children and SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Families Association).

Councillor Atkin can be contacted via Julie Titterton (Chairman's Office) Tel. 01283 595895 for by email chairsoffice@south-derbys.gov.uk Information can now also be found on the District Council's website.

No questions were received.

MA/7 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident was concerned about speeding and illegal activities that were taking place on Arleston Lane. She asked whether bollards could be positioned at the top of the lane to stop traffic coming out of Derby and thereby restrict access from the north (A50 junction). She was concerned that it was becoming dangerous for leisure users e.g. horse riders with near misses occurring. N. Bennett said that maybe an order could be imposed on Arleston Lane but he wasn't able to discuss this at the meeting.

N. Hawkesworth asked a question on behalf of the Shardlow Village Hall Management Team. She asked if they could have more than 2 grey/black bins as the excess rubbish is stacked in black bags and provides an attraction for vermin. Also when bags are torn it causes a nuisance by rubbish spreading to surrounding properties in windy weather. She also asked if there would be any extra cost incurred.

Councillor Watson said that he would get an answer for her before the Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council meeting the following week.

A question was asked when farmers of South Derbyshire would get a decent cattle market as currently it was too far to travel for a cattle market.

Derby market was due to close in May 2016 and a site off the A50 was suggested as a suitable alternative and thought this could provide the District Council with additional revenue.

The Chair asked if she would contact him after the meeting on this issue.

Councillor Atkins asked if 7.5 tonnes weight of a heavy vehicle was the total actual weight limit for Swarkestone Causeway. He was told that 7.5 tonnes was the maximum permitted weight of a vehicle when fully loaded.

He went on to ask about what happens to the information that the public supply when they record vehicle number plates. He was told that there was need for a legal process to be put in place so that owners of the vehicles in question can be written to. Also there was a necessity to look at exemptions and how they could be put in place relating to agricultural vehicles and agency drivers.

He also expressed concern about the causeway being too narrow to pass safely but was informed that there was no restriction on width only weight. It was advised that drivers should just be sensible. It was a concern that farmers which heavy, wide loads such as combine harvesters should exercise caution when crossing the causeway.

Councillor Watson asked when the enforcement arrangements were in place would it include vehicles from Eire and the EU. PC Brown said there would be certain access to vehicle information in Northern Ireland but it would be very difficult to enforce against foreign vehicles.

Councillor Watson pointed out that the signs on the causeway were incorrect and that the sign Except for Licensed Vehicles was ambiguous and unnecessary as farmers have exemption certificates. PC Brown said that exemption also applies when farmers are travelling from field to field.

Councillor Mrs Chilton reported that all weight restriction signage had been checked from M42/A42. She stated that it was important that all signage was correct as heavy vehicles were unable to turn around if they needed to change their route. Councillor Chilton went on to say that there was a document about weight limits on the Derbyshire County Council website that was very informative. It gave information about prosecutions and other various actions taken. She said that complaints from the general public were going down but offences had increased.

It was suggested that more signage was needed prior to reaching Swarkestone Causeway as there was sympathy for the drivers of heavy goods vehicles who realised they are in the wrong place and cannot turn around. It was suggested that appropriate signage should be placed at Woodville island. PC Brown was in agreement.

A resident of Weston on Trent asked if householders in the village could be supplied with a second brown refuse bin. Councillor Watson said that he would look into it and let her know.

MA/8 **County Council Issues**

Swarkestone Causeway Weight Restriction Enforcement Project

N. Bennett gave an overview of the Swarkestone Causeway Weight Restriction Enforcement Project.

The issue of traffic flows and weight enforcement on the bridge and causeway had been raised. It was questioned whether an automated system could be put in place to effectively monitor the weight of vehicles on the causeway. A lack of resources had so far limited this but a further possibility was being reviewed with the Police.

PC Brown said that the new system needed to be fit for purpose. It was necessary to look how offenders were prosecuted and to also look for any loopholes in the process. He said that the system was a good system with potential provided that everything fitted into place; how to capture offences, how to put resources in place and the need to make sure processes are legally sound.

MA/9 **District Council Issues**

K Stackhouse (Director of Finance and Corporate Services) reported on the following;

Programme of Training Sessions for Parish Councils by SDDC

A number of training sessions for Parish Councils had been developed by South Derbyshire District Council. A training session in Emergency Planning had recently taken place. The feedback given was that the session was good, having been well received by parish council members.

Combined Authority for Derby and Derbyshire

Ten councils in Derby and Derbyshire have made a submission to central government for the establishment of a combined authority for Derby and Derbyshire. The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive have been asked to take leading roles in the process.

Budget Cuts for Local Authorities

It had recently been confirmed that there would be further cuts to local authority budgets. Funding could be reduced by a worrying 40/45% and that further details would be known about Christmas time. The Council needed to be careful in the meantime to try to lessen the effect on the finances later in the year.

Council Housing Stock

Central government had in recent years given greater flexibility to councils who still had their own housing stock. As a result of this, the Government was allowing councils to increase their own rents, possibly with gradual increases and monies invested back into housing. Unfortunately, the Government had recently announced that local councils should reduce rents, thereby giving SDDC less money to invest on housing stock.

Government Announcement

The Government had announced a new living wage. This would take effect from April 2016 and would be set at £7.20 per hour for employees 25 years and over. It was thought that SDDC did not have many employees that would be affected by this increase but would remain an extra cost to the council.

The Chair asked K. Stackhouse to explain how the budget would offset reductions elsewhere. He replied that many new houses and growth in business would help and that SDDC was fortunate to receive the New Homes Bonus. This is a grant paid by central government to local councils for increasing the number of homes and their use. It is calculated on council tax revenue. The revenue received would go back into service provision.

MA/10 **Date of Next Meeting**

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

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 pm