

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

AREA 3 – MELBOURNE AREA

Tuesday, October 24th, 2017 at Recreation in Aston

PRESENT:-

District Council representatives

Councillor John Harrison (Chair), Councillor Mrs Hilary Coyle, Councillor Jim Hewlett, Councillor Peter Watson.

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

Derbyshire County Council representative

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Nancy Hawksworth (Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council), Chris Holt (Barrow Parish Council), Avril Record (Weston Parish Council), Mike Selby (Aston Parish Council), Dave Smith (Melbourne Parish Council),

Members of the public

Steve Aynsley, David Brown, Hilary Forber, Tony Hurrell, Barbara James, John Parkes,

MA/10 **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Neil Atkin

MA/11 **Declarations of interest**

None.

MA/12 **Chairman's announcements**

None.

MA/13 **The minutes of the meeting held on June 19, 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor Peter Watson, the minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record.

MA/14 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

Missing sign in Weston on Trent

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton updated the meeting that the missing sign was part and parcel of a bigger issue. An officer would come to the next Area Forum and explain the situation. The signage in the area was going to change and some signs would become much larger, but there was nothing definitive to report yet. A resident said signs were all well and good, but what was going to be done about the Cuttle Bridge junction? Councillor Mrs Chilton said there was a possibility the junction would change.

Traffic issues in Chapel Street, Melbourne

Councillor Mrs Chilton reported that Highways officers had visited from DCC along with local members and there was a project under way which encompassed the whole of Melbourne. A one-way system had been mentioned. It was fortunate that on this occasion there were problems for officers to witness. The whole of Melbourne was dangerous and inconsiderate parking was a major problem. It wouldn't be cheap or quick, but there was a project in the pipeline.

Pinch points on Swarkestone Causeway

Councillor Mrs Chilton said she was waiting on a response from Julian Gould of Heritage England, but it was highly unlikely changes to Swarkestone Bridge would be sanctioned. Repairs to damaged parapets were also awaited. A resident added that practicality had to come before anything and traffic wasn't going to go away. Councillor John Harrison said that work would continue at the junction of the A453 and M1 for another two years, meaning a rat run through Stanton by Bridge would continue to be used. A volume check of local roads was long overdue. Councillor Mrs Chilton said a survey was being waited upon. There were 7,000 jobs coming to the area in the next 10 years and the East Midlands Gateway location was ideal for it. Melbourne would be affected. She added that Cuttle Bridge was part of the bigger picture relating to Swarkestone Causeway.

Frank McArdle added that HS2 could also increase development and add extra traffic onto the network. Infrastructure improvements were needed.

Councillor Peter Watson agreed that a traffic survey was required to discover the true volumes using Swarkestone Causeway. Cars were also

considerably wider than in the past, worsening the effect of the pinch points. He added that the sooner a new bridge was built, the better.

A resident added that the roads serving Swadlincote were terrible. With the new interchange being built at the M1, drivers would move easily from city to city but a short journey from Melbourne to Chellaston would take 40 minutes. The roads in the area were atrocious.

Weeds in Chapel Street, Melbourne

Councillor Harrison stated that it could be a job for the lengthsman employed by Melbourne Parish Council.

MA/15 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

A resident asked how much notice statutory authorities had to give regarding road closures. A notification had appeared in a newspaper stating that London Road between Cheal Close and Glenn Way in Shardlow would be closed between November 5 and 14 by Severn Trent Water. It would necessitate changes to a bus route and affect schools traffic coming from Alvaston, Boulton and Chellaston. Councillor Harrison replied that lots of communication was needed regarding road closures and if it was inadequate there was a case for postponing the work. Councillor Watson was unsure whether it was a month or two months' notice which was normally required. When a road was closed, the alternative involved a road of the same category.

ACTION: Councillor Peter Watson to make enquiries at SDDC and find out if the road closure notice was correct

A resident asked if anyone could plant trees on a grass verge? Councillor Mrs Chilton replied that a Cultivation Licence was needed to plant a tree on public land.

A Barrow resident raised the issue of Willington development traffic coming through Swarkestone to avoid a low bridge in Willington. There were too many HGVs coming past. They also reported an HGV doing a U-turn to avoid Swarkestone Bridge – the new signs weren't working. Councillor Mrs Chilton replied that DCC was attempting to get satellite navigation software updated. The problem was mainly with drivers from abroad using older sat-navs – and, if turning back, they had taken notice of the signs. A Moving Traffic Order allowing camera installation was being sought.

A resident reported that the cycle lane between Shelton Lock and Swarkestone (part of Network 6) wasn't lit. They were concerned that more accidents with cyclists would result at the Bonnie Prince island. Councillor Harrison added that it would involve Derby City Council as well and it was

always difficult doing cross-border operations. Mr McArdle added that Section 106 money could be available from a new development.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to provide a report back into possible lighting of the cycle path in the area of the Bonnie Prince island

MA/16 **County Council issues**

Councillor Mrs Chilton reported that most of the issues she was dealing with were work in progress.

MA/17 **District Council issues**

Mr McArdle proposed to invite four representatives from both Aston and Weston to come into the Chamber at SDDC to discuss possible boundary changes between the villages. A change had to be mutually beneficial and issues had to be explored with both parishes.

The Chamber of Trade in Swadlincote and District had agreed to look at reaching out into the Melbourne area for new members.

The Swadlincote Air Training Corps had recently completed 45 years' service to the district. A recommendation had been made for a Freedom of the District award and the decision would be made by members.

MA/18 **Date of next meeting**

To be advised in due course.

Councillor John Harrison
CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 8.18pm.