

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

13th November 2001

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Brooks (Vice-Chair in the Chair) and Councillors Harrison, Pabla and Mrs. Robbins.

I. Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), N. Betteridge (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**County Council Representatives**

Councillor Harrison.

**Parish Council Representatives**

C. Peck (Aston-on-Trent), C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent), F. Mitchell (Elvaston), M. Sharp (Melbourne), M. Clifton (Shardlow and Great Wilne) and V. Shaw (Weston-on-Trent).

**Members of the Public**

F. Briggs, M. Briggs, D. Brown, J. Brown, K. Clamp, S. Cooper, R. Coviello, P. Dagley, A. Darbyshire, R. Dennis, A. Essex, E. Gregson, R. Hart, S. Highton, F. Hinds, J. Lovejoy, P. Lovejoy, A. Madeley, L. McNicol, J. Morrish, E. Newbold, S. Robbins, J. Smith, C. Tunstall, J. Tunstall, P. Waters, K. Whewell, A. Wood and R. Young.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Carroll (Chair) who was unwell, A. Jackson (Melbourne Parish Council). I. Baker (Stenson Fields Parish Council), D. Bellis and R. Saxby.

MA/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 15th August 2001 were noted. With regard to Minute No. MA/5 concerning flooding, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that a meeting had recently been held at the Civic Offices, Swadlincote with those parishes particularly affected by flooding. Severn Trent Water was not represented at the Meeting and several issues had been raised which were not answered to the satisfaction of the parishes present. The Deputy Chief Executive also advised that a meeting was held in Shardlow on 12th November 2001 between the Parish Council and the Environment Agency, which was also not particularly productive. However, the District Council would continue to assist in pursuing an appropriate response to the various issues raised.

With regard to Minute No. MA/7 relating to a freight hub at Castle Donington, the Chair advised that this facility may be accommodated at Castle Donington on the site of the former power station at Sawley Cross, Hemington or east of the M1 (to the north of the A453). The Inquiry to consider the above sites was held during February and March 2001. The Government Office had now received the Inspector's recommendation and

had a period of 13 weeks ending on 28th December 2001 to consider it before announcing its decision.

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

The Meeting reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and noted the progress made in each case.

With regard to the drainage problems at Weston Road, Aston-on-Trent, County Councillor Harrison advised that he had also raised this matter at a recent County Council Area Highways Meeting at Melbourne, at which Senior Highways Officers were present. It was hoped that this project would be included in next year's budget and County Councillor Harrison confirmed that he would continue to seek a high priority rating for the project.

MA/14. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident expressed concern at the single carriageway status of Cavendish Bridge, Shardlow and the District Council's Deputy Chief Executive advised that as this was classified as a trunk road, the Government was the responsible body, with Leicestershire County Council being the appropriate agents.

Several residents expressed grave concern at the constant smell in Shardlow arising from the nearby quarry site operated by Biffa Waste. It was claimed that this may also be responsible for health problems experienced by several children involving the symptoms of colds. The matter had now been ongoing for many years and despite several letters and constant complaints, residents were dismayed at the lack of action. County Councillor Harrison shared the concern of the residents at the ongoing problem and considered that recent flooding incidents had contributed to the problem. The County Council had attempted to secure the draining of the water from the quarry by the relevant authorities and in his capacity as the Chair of the Liaison Committee, he advised that considerable efforts had been made to alleviate this unacceptable smell. It had been anticipated that the problem would be solved by capping with clay, but this had not been the case. The continuing problem appeared to be mystifying the authorities concerned and County Councillor Harrison reiterated that he would continue to pursue the matter vigorously.

Residents expressed further frustration at the lack of action by the Environment Agency and reported that the smell was evident prior to recent flooding occurrences, which had merely exacerbated the problem. County Councillor Harrison advised that a full Meeting of the County Council was to be held in Matlock on 14th November 2001, at which he would now raise the matter with County Councillor Burrows, the Cabinet Member for environmental issues.

A resident reported that the District Council had commenced enforcement action relating to a statutory nuisance in respect of the ongoing problem but had suspended such action in good faith when Biffa Waste appeared to be taking steps to resolve the matter. As such action had failed, the resident now considered that the District Council should reinstate the enforcement proceedings and should also undertake a proper scientific analysis of the

problem. In this regard, the Chair advised that the Environmental Health Department would be contacted in the light of residents' concern.

A resident suggested that representations should be made to the Secretary of State for the Environment and Ian Reid, the District Council's Deputy Chief Executive reported that at a recent meeting regarding flooding, the Environment Agency had reported that a flood study was being undertaken for this catchment area. However, the Agency had not undertaken consultation on the terms of reference of the study but had now agreed to consult on the matter to enable local communities to be aware of the issues. The study would outline areas of protection and it would now be possible to submit representations on the proposals. Mr. Reid also suggested that residents may wish to involve the local Member of Parliament in this matter and if residents felt aggrieved at the lack of action by the Environment Agency, an appropriate complaints procedure should be available from the Agency. In the meantime, he would ensure that the Environment Agency was aware immediately of residents' concern and possible consequent action.

Residents expressed concern at the speed of vehicles in the grounds of Elvaston Castle being driven by the County Council's Rangers. County Councillor Harrison agreed to pursue this matter accordingly.

Following a query, it was advised that the District Council may be responsible for the area of public open space on Glenn Way, Shardlow. In this regard, a resident advised that several trees had recently been felled and the stumps of the trees remained, presenting a danger to safety. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that this matter would be addressed but the provision of any new trees would require the inclusion of a growth item into the budget for next year. However, County Councillor Harrison advised that the County Council was currently offering the provision of several thousand trees at no cost.

MA/15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next Area Meeting would be held at Melbourne Leisure Centre on Wednesday, 23rd January 2002 at 7.00 p.m. and would include a presentation on the District Council's budget process.

MA/16. **CRIME AND DISORDER INITIATIVES**

Ian Reid, the District Council's Deputy Chief Executive, referred to a Teamwork newsletter which had been circulated to attendees. This outlined the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which required the Council and the Police to work together with the Police Authority, Probation Service, Health Authority and other organisations set down by the Secretary of State in order to reduce crime and disorder in South Derbyshire. The Teamwork newsletter provided details of a recent audit carried out on crime and disorder in the District, which highlighted that overall, South Derbyshire was a safe place in which to live and work. Derbyshire had the second lowest recorded crime rate in the East Midlands of 84 crimes per 1000 population in 2000/01 and it was noted that in South Derbyshire, the recorded figure was 54 crimes per 1,000 population. The information gathered outlined in the Teamwork document prepared by the South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Partnership was to be utilised to set priorities for the types of crime to be tackled and in which particular order.

A full copy of the South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Audit 2001 was available from the District Council and a resident enquired as to the results in response to crime, which he considered to be a measure of success. Mr. Reid advised that such results should appear in the Annual Report and/or Policing Plan of the Police Authority and the Chair advised that a Community Police Officer usually provided a brief report of crime responses to Parish Council Meetings. It was agreed that a copy of the Policing Plan containing such results be obtained from the Police Authority for distribution to Parish Councils.

A resident expressed concern that crime reports were not accepted if the matter did not concern the complainant's property, which was confirmed by other residents. This comment would be conveyed to the police accordingly.

A resident was surprised that a low priority rating appeared to be given to drugs problems, as he considered that a considerable number of offences were drug-related. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that it would be helpful if this comment could be reflected on the response section in the newsletter and advised that more attention was now to be given to drug-related activities throughout the District following funds awarded to the District Council for this purpose.

L. J. BROOKS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.35 p.m.