

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

17th November 2004

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Carroll (Chair) and Councillor Harrison (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Atkin, Pabla and Shepherd.

I.Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and Mrs. K. Ward (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Acting Inspector A. Wright and Sergeant D. Abbott.

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Harrison.

Parish Council Representatives

A. Keefe (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), H. Coyle (Elvaston Parish Council), M. Sharp (Melbourne Parish Council), L. South (Smisby Parish Council), V. Shaw (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council) and P. Watson (Ingleby Parish Meeting).

Members of the Public

C. Ford, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, A. Madeley, F. Mitchell, R. Saxby, D. Seed, P. Waters, K. Whewell and A. Wood.

MA/11. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Bell, Mrs. Renwick and Mrs. Wheeler, Inspector Fairbrother (Derbyshire Constabulary) and R. Wheat (Stanton-by-Bridge Parish Meeting).

MA/12. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Meeting held on 18th August 2004 were noted.

MA/13. **CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair advised that a presentation would be made later in the Meeting on the Draft Community Strategy for South Derbyshire.

MA/14. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and provided an update. Mr. Watson of Ingleby Parish Meeting confirmed that Mark Todd, M.P. had provided further information regarding the Cabinet Office Consultation on proposals to review the collection and disposal of waste. It was confirmed that Weston-on-Trent Parish Council was not charged for the bio-degradable sacks and had received an apology from the Council. With regard to recycling in Ingleby, this area was now served by the multi-material

kerbside collection scheme. Problems had also been reported about refuse collection in Ingleby and any complaints about service or the crews' behaviour should be reported at the time, in order that these could be dealt with effectively. Mr. Watson confirmed that residents were monitoring this issue. Officers would contact Shardlow Parish Council in December following the request for a recycling facility for Christmas trees.

Under Minute No. MA/6, a number of highway problems had been raised. Councillor Shepherd gave a report following his meeting with the County Council's Cabinet Member and the responsible Officer, to pursue some of these problems. A response had been received addressing concerns in the Stenson Fields area and a further response was awaited on the highway problems in Ticknall.

A resident enquired whether any further information had been received regarding the future use of the Aston Hall hospital site. Councillor Atkin advised that the Inspector's report had now been received on the revised Local Plan. Mrs. Shaw added that the Inspector's report strengthened the District Council's position and that any future development of this site would have to utilise the existing buildings.

An update was sought on the action taken by the Council to respond to a comment within the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Report, that the Council was spending too high a proportion of its resources in Swadlincote, as compared to the rural areas. The Council's Deputy Chief Executive, Ian Reid responded that a fairly extensive piece of work was to be undertaken. He explained the planned approach to address issues arising out of the CPA assessment in liaison with the Derbyshire Rural Community Council. This work was timetabled to be completed by the end of the current financial year. The resident was surprised at the seemingly slow response. Ian Reid clarified the statements that had actually been made in the CPA report. The District Council would commission work to look at the perceived gaps in rural service provision and he gave examples of the types of services involved. He confirmed that this was not just about analysing levels of expenditure in the urban and rural areas.

MA/15. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Whewell reported concerns relating to the use of guns in the Elvaston Castle grounds. This had been reported to Park Rangers and he questioned whether the Police had been informed. The Officers present at the Meeting were not aware of this issue and agreed to speak to the resident after the Meeting. Sergeant Abbott added that the Constabulary had targets to address fire arms issues and Acting Inspector Andy Wright stressed the importance that these matters were referred to the Police promptly.

Mr. Whewell also raised highway safety concerns, particularly relating to junction priorities at traffic islands linking the A6 to the new bypass, near to Elvaston. These concerns were echoed by another resident. Councillor Harrison suggested that this matter be considered by Elvaston Parish Council, so it could lend support and then write to the Highways Agency and Derbyshire County Council. It might be appropriate to seek a full traffic survey, to identify what could be done. Mr. Mitchell referred to previous site meetings with the Highways Agency and the various promises made at different stages of the road's development. The Highways Agency did not

consider there to be a problem with the road's design. The Chair sought the assistance of the Constabulary by providing details of accident statistics to the Clerk, in order that this matter could be pursued. Ian Reid supported County Councillor Harrison's suggestion, that the matter be considered initially by Elvaston Parish Council. He understood that this section of the A6 was no longer a trunk road and therefore, this was a matter for Derbyshire County Council. Mr. Mitchell felt that reductions in speed limits should be sought for this area.

Councillor Atkin referred to a recent road traffic accident on the Swarkestone Bridge, which had resulted in damage to the bridge wall and the need for temporary traffic lights. He asked when the bridge repairs were likely to be completed. Councillor Atkin had also received a complaint from a Swarkestone parishioner regarding abuse of the weight limit along the Swarkestone Causeway. The parishioner had questioned whether the Police safety camera vehicles could be used to gather evidence of abuse of such weight limits. Clarification was sought on whether the vehicles were staffed by civilians or police officers. Sergeant Abbott explained the operational arrangements of the safety camera team. With regard to Swarkestone Bridge there were certain difficulties, particularly around access to areas in the vicinity of the Swarkestone Bridge. Ian Reid was aware that drivers of Council refuse freighters had been stopped by the Constabulary when entering a weight restricted area and on one occasion, the driver had been served with a fixed penalty notice. Sergeant Abbott advised that the Police had monitored the Swarkestone Bridge area on occasions, but this usually caused substantial traffic delays. Ian Reid felt that if residents were concerned about the perceived abuse of weight limits, then this should be reported. Acting Inspector Wright added that some large vehicles might appear to be heavy commercial vehicles, but actually be below the restricted weight limit.

County Councillor Harrison reported that Government funding had been secured for maintenance of the Swarkestone Bridge, which was an ancient monument. He explained the works being undertaken to re-point the bridge and advised that a further funding bid had been submitted to enable works to the causeway. He was supported by another resident in the view that the current work was not to repair the damage caused by the road traffic accident. Residents commented on the traffic delays being experienced presently along this section of road.

Further reference was made to the abuse of weight limits and a resident felt that inadequate Police enforcement currently took place. A particular incident was quoted where two heavy commercial vehicles had become "jammed" in a constricted area. Residents felt there was a need for advanced warning signage to avoid such incidents in future. County Councillor Harrison agreed to speak to the resident concerned after the Meeting, to pursue the specific problems reported.

Mr. Watson of Ingleby Parish Meeting advised that the first multi-material kerbside collection had taken place during this week. Residents had questioned the arrangements for recycling plastic bottles. Ian Reid advised that residents should continue to use existing plastics recycling banks. He added that when considering arrangements for the kerbside collection of materials, the Council Working Group wished to include the collection of plastics where possible. To collect plastic bottles would effectively double the cost of the kerbside collection scheme. Mrs. Keefe of Aston-on-Trent Parish

Council commented that Derby City Council's scheme allowed for the collection of plastics. The Chair explained that South Derbyshire's scheme sought to provide cost effective recycling. Ian Reid added that Derby City Council's recycling targets were substantially higher and therefore it was incurring the additional costs associated with the collection of plastics. Mr. Ford reported the problem, during kerbside collections when recyclable materials fell into the roadway and the vehicle operatives had no equipment to clear the debris. Ian Reid agreed to pursue this matter with the contractor.

The Chair sought suggestions for future discussion items. Councillor Harrison explained that the Nottingham East Midlands Airport was currently consulting on a number of issues. A further consultation was planned for the following year on the Airport's 20 Year Strategic Plan. He suggested that this issue could be considered by the Area Meeting in the spring of 2005. The Derbyshire Fire Service had also expressed an interest in attending a future Area Meeting. Mrs. Barker supported the suggestion to give consideration to the Airport's master plan at a future Meeting and it was proposed to invite Graham Keddie and/or Neil Robinson from the Airport to attend that Meeting. There was a discussion about the current consultation from the Nottingham East Midlands Airport. In response to a question from Mr. Madeley, Mr. Watson of Ingleby Parish Meeting explained that various consultation meetings were being held. Mrs. Barker confirmed that a "roadshow" approach was being taken to explain the Airport's proposals. Effectively this involved an extension to the controlled airspace, changes to some flight paths and the relocation of "holding" areas used by aircraft waiting to land at the Airport. Mrs. Barker confirmed that the consultation documents were available on the Airport's website and Councillor Harrison offered to get copies of the documents for any person interested.

MA/16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue of the next Melbourne Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MA/17. **DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on the Council to work with its partners to produce a Community Strategy that would help to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of South Derbyshire. The South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership (SDLSP) was taking responsibility for preparing the Community Strategy and for making sure that the plans in it were put into action. The Meeting was advised that the SDLSP was established in October 2003. It consisted of a forum, which met twice a year, was open to all residents and any organisation with an interest in the area. The Partnership Board (made up of representatives from public, private and voluntary sector organisations) carried out the day-to-day work of the partnership. This included developing the Community Strategy.

The draft Strategy was made up of a number of building blocks which included:-

- (1) An overall vision
- (2) Six broad themes
- (3) Priorities for action

- (4) Examples of the types of action that could be taken

The overall vision for the strategy (which would cover the next five years) was “Working together for a better South Derbyshire”. To help the partnership to deliver this vision, six broad themes had been identified relating to:-

- (1) Safe communities
- (2) Healthy communities
- (3) A vibrant economy
- (4) A sustainable environment
- (5) Lifelong learning and culture
- (6) Creating opportunities for all

These themes were intended to cover the issues, which were important to local people. The Meeting received a presentation on the contents of the draft Strategy, on a theme by theme basis. A short questionnaire was circulated and those present were encouraged to complete the questionnaire and return it to the Council to assist the SDLSP find out more about local priorities. The SDLSP would be consulting local people and groups across South Derbyshire until early December 2004. The feedback would then be analysed and used to shape the final version of the strategy, which would be presented for approval to a meeting of the Partnership Forum in January 2005.

A question was submitted about the comparison of themes and their respective priorities. The Deputy Chief Executive responded that if the feedback highlighted certain themes or priority areas then resources could be targeted appropriately. A representative of Elvaston Parish Council sought guidance on the form of response to this consultation. Ian Reid confirmed that parish councils were welcome to submit additional information as part of this consultation process. Similarly, there was space on the final sheet of the questionnaire circulated at the Area Meetings for respondents to provide additional information on the other priorities that the LSP should consider. Following a question from Mrs. Keefe, Ian Reid explained the planned timetable to consider feedback from the consultation and enable the strategy to be finalised. An action plan would also be produced with measurable targets. He explained how the strategy would be rolled forward and responded to further questions about the LSP. The Chair urged residents’ feedback by completing the questionnaire. Councillor Harrison commented that no specific mention was made of the Nottingham East Midlands Airport within the environment theme of the strategy.

J. D. CARROLL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.05p.m.