

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY MEETING

MELBOURNE – AREA 3

Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2025 at 6:30pm

Barrow on Trent Village Hall

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillor Matthew Gotheridge (Chair), Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Jane Carroll, Alison Bennett, Karen Haywood, and Paige Robinson.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Alan Graves.

Derbyshire Police Representatives

PCSO Alex Boniface.

Parish Council

Terry Summerlin, Joanne Carlier, Chris Scott, Catherine Blackmore, Jean Longley, Alison Hicklin, Toni Kent-Chapman, Andy Dawson, David Smith, Julie Collett.

Members of the Public

Frank Hughes

M/A 7. Open Meeting

a) Introductions and Housekeeping

b) Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Daniel Corbin.

c) Chair's Announcements

Employability Programmes

Using UK Shared Prosperity Funding, the Council has supported two new employability programmes which will provide free support for unemployed residents to get back into work. The two programmes are '**Beyond Barriers**' which will be delivered by Groundwork Five Counties, and which provides long term one-to-one support for job seekers and '**Active Futures**' which will be run by the Councils Active



Communities and Health team, which provides short-term support based on increasing activity levels.

Rosliston Forestry Centre

Rosliston Forestry Centre are getting into the Christmas spirit and are lining up their Christmas Market for the holiday period.

The market will consist of 30+ stalls, and it will run across two weekends (29th-30th November and 6th-7th December from 10am to 4pm), giving you plenty of chances to fit in some last-minute Christmas shopping!

Entry is free but don't forget to bring along some spending money!

Arts Strategy

The Council is currently working on developing its first Arts Strategy, so if you're an artist, musician or someone who enjoys creative experiences, we are keen to have your input.

Public input is vital in helping shape its direction and priorities, so an online Survey has been developed to capture local opinion to ensure that the strategy reflects the needs, aspirations, and creativity of the local community.

The survey can be accessed via the Councils Website, a QR code taking you direct to the survey is also on the leaflets available tonight.

Information on this and the employability programmes can be found on leaflets at the Signing in table

d) To Receive the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes received as a true and accurate record.

e) Matters Arising from the Last Minutes

No matters arising from the last minutes.

M/A 8. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Report and Police Q&A

Derbyshire Police updated that, since that last meeting, priorities have been set in each area. In Area 3, the priorities are highway obstruction, speeding, and Nuisance vehicles. Patrols have been carried out, both high vis and plain clothes, during the day and at night. Police have also been carrying out stop searches during these patrols which has helped to pick up drug activity including three men in Melbourne who were



detained after officers in plain clothes searched them and they were sentenced to community service.

Crime prevention events have also been held within the community to raise awareness on how to prevent crimes such as vehicle theft.

ASB was an issue on Lowes Lane, so work is being done with South Derbyshire District Council to solve the issues taking place. Discussions have taken place regarding how to deter off-road bikes from cutting through Infinity Park and around Lowes Lane.

There has also been a rise in vehicle crime, so officers have been out on duty at night to deter offenders. A man who had been breaking into vehicles was sentenced in Leicester Crown Court and received a 21-month prison sentence.

Q&A

Councillor Neil Atkin asked if Waste Carriers are included in stopped vehicles. PCSO Boniface updated that Water Carriers can be stopped to check their licenses and they are stopped when reports are received as someone will be dispatched to check the vehicle.

Adrian Burkes raised a concern of potential drug dealers in Shardlow using the path network as it is in a rural area and not well lit. PCSO Boniface informed that reports had been received of that area prior and PCSOs are aware of it, but if there is any activity seen in that area, it can be reported to police via 101 or online.

A question was raised regarding the latest stance police have on E-Scooters. PCSO Boniface informed that that police are now able to seize the vehicles as they require a license and insurance. Any scooters seized will be crushed.

Concerns were raised over children in the area aggressively knocking on people's doors. PCSO Boniface informed that victims of this have been spoken to as it can be quite frightening and if someone is on duty, police can be sent but if they cannot attend, officers will look at doorbell footage where possible. When the children are identified, the Youth Engagement Team will be sent to speak with the parents regarding the issue.

M/A 9. South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership/ Safer Neighbourhood Grants Update

Community Safety Partnership update

Since the last meeting, our new Community Safety Officer, Karen Haywood, has been out across South Derbyshire to work with the community. Work done in the community includes working local pubs via the Pubwatch scheme to promote 'Ask Angela' as well as providing the pubs involved with free anti-spiking devices in order to tackle violence against women and girls, with the Domestic Abuse Hotline also being promoted in



each area across South Derbyshire. Details for contact regarding community issues can be found in the 'useful contacts' section of the circulated agenda pack.

Safer Neighbourhoods Funding

The following application has been received for Safer Neighbourhood Funding this financial year, so funding is still available for community projects for the 2025/2026 financial year. Anyone with any project ideas should contact Chris or Paige. Leaflets are available containing more information about the funding.

Melbourne Parish Council CCTV	A3.01	Melbourne Parish Council	£ 2,500.00	£ 18,748.00	£ 2,500.00
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M/A 10. Local Community and Voluntary Sector Projects/ Update

The CVS update has been attached with the minutes.

M/A 11. Local Authority Update and Public Q&A

1. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update – September 2025

At the end of 2024, the Government asked councils across Derbyshire to submit ideas for how local councils could be reorganised to better serve residents. The deadline for final proposals is Friday 28 November 2025.

South Derbyshire District Council has been working closely with the other District and Borough Councils in Derbyshire, as well as Derby City Council, to develop a joint plan. This group effort is called “**One Derbyshire, Two Councils**” and suggests creating two new councils—one for the north and one for the south of the county.

To help shape our final plan, we carried out a public consultation over summer 2025. Over 7,000 people took part, sharing their views through surveys and community engagement. This valuable feedback is now being reviewed, along with other evidence, to help finalise our proposal.

The final version will be considered by all involved councils before being sent to the Government by the end of November.



What Happens Next?

- The Government will look at all proposals for Derbyshire.
- A national consultation is expected to start in early 2026.
- A decision is likely by July 2026.
- If approved, elections for new councils would happen in 2027, with the new system starting in April 2028.

More information on LGR can be found on the Councils Website including the Stakeholder booklet and a frequently asked questions document. Just type in- LGR on the Councils search facility.

2. Canvass & Postal Vote Reapplication

South Derbyshire District Council's Electoral Services team is currently working on two key projects:

Annual Canvass:

Reminder letters are being sent to households that haven't responded. In October, council staff will visit non-responding properties to confirm who should be on the Electoral Register. The updated Register will be published on 1 December 2025.

Postal Vote Changes:

Voters whose postal vote expires on 31 January 2026 (due to changes from the Elections Act 2022) will be contacted soon with details on how to reapply.

3. Budget Setting – 2026/27 Update

Each year, the council must set a balanced budget. This involves reviewing last year's budget and making adjustments based on future plans and expected changes to income and spending. A draft budget will be presented to Councillors in November 2025, followed by a six-week public consultation. Residents, tenants, businesses, and organisations will be invited to share their views.

Feedback from the consultation will help shape the final budget, which will be approved early next year.

Fair Funding Review 2.0

The Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0, announced in June 2025, aims to reform how councils are funded from 2026/27. It will consider local needs, rural costs, and the ability to raise Council Tax, while resetting business rates income. A consultation on the proposed changes closed in August.



We expect more detail in late October/early November, which will help inform our draft budget. The Autumn Budget is scheduled for 26 November, and the provisional Local Government Financial Settlement will follow in December.

Early analysis suggests the changes may reduce the council's retained business rates and affect our share from the Derbyshire Business Rates Pool. While our forecasts broadly align with Government plans, there is still uncertainty.

Our Budget Principles for 2026/27:

1. Maintain a stable budget aligned with our Medium-Term Financial Plan
2. Use procurement to deliver savings
3. Invest in assets to support services and reduce costs
4. Maximise income opportunities
5. Assess the impact of national changes on local government

We'll keep residents updated and encourage everyone to take part in the upcoming budget consultation.

Q&A

Councillor Alan Graves raised that parish councils would like to know how they would fair under Local Government reorganisation. Alison Bennett updated that government guidance is being followed and parish councils are being consulted but more details can be provided regarding parish councils and their place in LGR in the report back.

ACTION: Alison Bennett to provide a report regarding how Parish Councils will be impacted by Local Government Reorganisation.

A question was raised regarding what will happen if councils disagree on how to handle Local Government Reorganisation. Alison Bennett informed that all councils would submit their suggestions to be voted on, any disagreements will be deferred to the minister for a decision to be made.

David Smith raised concern on how merging with Derby City will impact planning in South Derbyshire. Alison Bennett informed that there will be local plan adopted for South Derbyshire that will last until 2028 and will have a focus on longevity and eventually a larger local plan will be delivered but it is a big consideration of planning authorities.

A question was raised asking if planned infrastructure development will go ahead or if there will be threats like not meeting targets under Local Government Reorganisation. Alison Bennett updated that infrastructure would continue as there is still a number of homes to be built to meet a criteria set.

Another question was raised regarding the cost of LGR. Alison Bennett informed that a report can be put in the report back which will provide figures for the expected costs. Councillor Graves added that whilst there will be some upfront costs, the idea is to save money in the long-term.



ACTION: Alison Bennett to provide a report for the financial costs of Local Government Reorganisation.

An attendee asked if the District Council would do work to publicise the topic of Local Government Reorganisation more as most people aren't aware of what it is and the impact of it. Alison Bennett updated that she would take the feedback and work with SDDC's Communications team to publicise the issue.

A Parish Councillor asked if police could commit to attending one parish council meeting a year. Karen Haywood agreed to discuss the matter with police and provide an update in the report back.

ACTION: Police to provide an update on if they can attend a parish council meeting each year.

M/A 12. Summary of Agreed Actions

ACTIONS
1. Alison Bennett to provide a report regarding how Parish Councils will be impacted by Local Government Reorganisation.
2. Alison Bennett to provide a report for the financial costs of Local Government Reorganisation.
3. Police to provide an update on if they can attend a parish council meeting each year.

M/A 13. Close and Date of Next Meeting

January/February 2026.

Councillor Matthew Gotheridge

CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 19:15hours

