

## SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY MEETING

### MELBOURNE – AREA 3

Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2023 at 6:30pm

#### St Wilfred's Church

#### PRESENT: -

##### South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillor Neil Atkin (Chair), Councillor Daniel Corbin, Councillor Jane Carroll

Heidi McDougall – Strategic Director, Chris Smith – Communities Manager, Paige Robinson – Communities Team Service Assistant

##### Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor David Muller

##### Derbyshire Police Representatives

PCC Angelique Foster, Insp Mike Sisman, PC Todd Bennett, PCSO Finn Greville

##### Parish Council/ Meeting Representatives

Terry Summerlin – Melbourne Parish Council, Catherine Blackmore – Barrow upon Trent Parish Council, Toni Chapman – Barrow upon Trent Parish Council, Jean Longley – Aston Parish Council, Mark Brown – Elvaston Parish Council, Alison Hicklin-Barrow on Trent Parish Council, David Smith – Melbourne Parish Council, Fiona Keppel-Spoor- Aston, Elvaston and Shardlow Parish Councils, Frank Hughes – Melbourne Village Voice

##### Members of the Public

Julie Collett, Claire Newman, Mike Day, Linda Chilton

##### M/A 1. Open Meeting

###### **a) Introductions and Housekeeping**

**b) Apologies;** Councillor Martin Fitzpatrick, Councillor Peter Watson

###### **c) Chair's Announcements**

##### Free Tree Scheme (Parks and Green Spaces)



The details for the Councils Free Tree Scheme are currently being finalised. Anyone interested will be able to apply online for up to two trees in their garden, whilst organisations can apply for up to ten. The choice of tree species will be confirmed at the start of October, at which point you will be able to make an application online via the Councils Website. The closing date is the end of October.

### **Council Information**

There are a variety of information leaflets at the back of the room by the signing in sheet so please have a look on your way out.

### **New Chairs Charity**

The new Chair of the Council Sean Bambrick has chosen Miles for Smiles as his chosen charity for this year. The Charity's mission is to relieve the needs of people with life limiting or life changing health conditions or who are disabled living in south Derbyshire, North-West Leicestershire, or East Staffordshire by providing grants and memorable experiences, through days out or mini breaks to individuals in need to enhance their quality of life.

#### **d) To Receive the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

All received as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **e) Matters Arising from the Last Minutes**

No matters from the last minutes were raised.

### **M/A 2. Police Crime and Commissioner Presentation**

The Police and Crime Commissioner was elected back in May 2021. She also has served as the Leader of Dronfield Town Council since 2015 and from 2017 to 2021, PCC Foster was a cabinet member for Corporate Services at Derbyshire County Council.

#### **Roles of the Police and Crime Commissioner include:**

1. Setting key strategic priorities for policing in Derbyshire
2. Publishing a Police and Crime Plan for the county
3. Setting the Force budget and set the Council Tax
4. Holding the Chief Constable to account
5. Commissioning Victim Support Services
6. Leading and facilitating partnership working

#### **Roles of the Chief Constable:**

1. Implementing operational strategy for the Force (Operational independence)
2. Delivering on the Police and Crime Plan set out by the Commissioner.

The budget for 2023/24 was around £220million. 75% of this funding is spent on pay and allowance for police officers and staff. Around 11% of the total Council Tax bill



goes towards policing, with 0.59% going to the Police and Crime Commissioner's office.

The Derbyshire Police and Crime Plan was published in November 2021 which reflects the views of people in Derbyshire and helps to set the key policing strategic priorities.

Residents say they want:

1. More officers on the streets
2. Budget efficiencies to reinvest in frontline policing
3. A reduction in anti-social behaviour, burglaries, and theft
4. Improved road safety for all
5. Improvements to reduce waiting times for 101 and 999
6. A more robust response to rural crime

One priority area for the Police and Crime Commissioner is Strong Local Policing. This is being delivered through having 351 additional officers and 100 extra officers trained to use tasers. There is also a significant investment going into improving 101 and 999 such as reduced waiting times (the average triage wait is 54 seconds and control works are around 3 minutes and 26 seconds). There is also investment in police stations across Derbyshire, such as funding for extra equipment (e.g., Laptops, e-bikes, drones).

Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour is another priority. The PCC is delivering on this by making home burglaries a priority, creating a new Acquisitive Crime team and the creation of two new ASB co-ordinators roles, as well as a dedicated ASB hub. There has been a 53% reduction in ASB and 32% reduction in home burglaries. The Derbyshire Action plan for 23/24 focuses on extra police patrols and a Local Reparative Justice Scheme. There is also Safer Streets funding and support for Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

There is Commissioner' Grant Funding which puts £300k into communities to tackle ASB in the County. Organisations can apply for up to £5000. 56x community groups, town and parish councils have received funding in the first three rounds for things such as CCTV cameras, security measures and youth provisions with a further £100k being launched for the 23/24 year towards tackling ASB.

The PCC gave £25k for each District and Borough Community Safety Partnership along with £50k for Derby city with a total spend of £250k per year.

The PCC has also worked to deliver on road safety through equipping extra vehicles with ANPR, having over 1000 hours invested into tackling speeding and dangerous driving through Op Sparta and Op Cruiser. Funding to Bike Safe to educate motorcyclists with 256 receiving training in 2022. There has been an increase in support and funding for Community Speed Watch. These have helped to bring fatal casualties down by 16% from 2019.

There has been work to introduce new policy at Derbyshire County Council; the scheme has made Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) directly accessible to Parishes and Community Groups. £150k is to be invested into SIDs through the Road Safety Grant. These devices have a proven track record in reducing speeding and keeping



communities safe. A total of 65x SID's have been funded and installed across Derbyshire so far.

Increased resources have been provided to the Rural Crime Team with increased training for the specialist officers. There is also a new online rural crime reporting form that has been launched. Targeted specialist support for victims of domestic abuse has been provided through the Willow Project.

There is now also better coverage of North/South Derbyshire with an extra officer now in Swadlincote. A future Derbyshire Rural Crime Partnership HUB is planned in the near future.

For Victim support and safeguarding, over £4.3 million per year has been invested into community safety and victim support services and £4 million planned investment in crime reporting services (101 and 999). There is also a new Missing Persons team. Strategies such as the Young People Strategy and Violence Against Woman and Girls Strategy have been put in place alongside the creation of a Victims App and Serious Violence unit. The Government's 10-year Drug and Alcohol Strategy has also been implemented.

The PCC has also delivered a new countywide multi-agency Derbyshire specific strategy to reduce violence against women and girls. A dedicated Stalking Co-Ordinator post has been funded alongside funding for two new independent Stalking Advisor posts and Safer Streets Funding.

£3 million of efficiency savings are being reinvested into frontline policing with f cost savings within the Commissioner's office (£75k reinvested in Victims Support for 2022/2023). £800k of further savings have been identified for 2023/24. There is ongoing scrutiny of the force's spending through the creation of a Financial Assurance Board. Lastly, a mental health triage has saved officers 3500 hours over a four-month period.

#### The 'Golden Threads' in the Police and Crime plan:

1. Have a working partnership through improved engagement and communication
2. Then, the relationship between police and communities will be strengthened
3. As a result, there will be better and stronger policing

#### Going forward, the Safer Neighbourhood Team will:

- Provide a clear point of contact so that two-way engagement can be maintained
- Support effective engagement by providing information on who deals with different issues and concerns
- Clear local priorities based on community feedback

### **M/A 3. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Report and Police Q&A**

There has been an increase in resources based in Melbourne and Swadlincote. Two new PCSOs are currently in training with one of those to be stationed in Area 3 with two trained officers already on the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Sgt Frearson recently left, so a new sergeant is being recruited. The police have attended the download debrief recently following issues at this year's event.



Speeding has been an issue across South Derbyshire and Area 3 is no different. There has also been vehicle crime on the A50 with lorry thefts, but it is hard to police. Anti-social behaviour has been low within the Melbourne area with it being down by 53%, the Safer Neighbourhood Team have done some work with young people and since then, a decrease in the level of ASB has been seen. Within the last seven days, there was only one crime reported in Area 3. Figures are low for burglary, but it still remains a police priority alongside domestic abuse. Problems regarding traffic are also being dealt with. In Barrow, ASB and fly-tipping are issues have been reported, but they are being tackled as it is a constantly patrolled area, there has been a reduction in the number of fly-tips. Another issue in Barrow was regarding off road bikes but the police dealt with the situation and there haven't been reports since. Dog on dog crimes (e.g., dogs biting other dogs) are a priority and there is work with the Council Community Safety Enforcement Wardens to reduce this, such as distributing leaflets.

Community Speed Watch within Area 3 needs more interest and promotion to gain volunteers, there are plans to get events/stalls set up to inform people about it. Speed Watch is important because it gives results on the level of the issue which allows for the right resources to be used to try and reduce speeding.

### Q&A

1. Councillor Daniel Corbin thanked the PCC due to their funding which allowed the Parish Council to put cameras up which have helped to significantly reduce the ASB issue in the area.
2. Mark Brown from Elvaston Parish Council asked what good the Speed Watch scheme does.

PCSO Greville answered that it helps them out as they are aware speeding is an issue in every area, but they can't be out in any area all the time to ticket everyone so if there are volunteers it increases the areas that can be monitored. Alongside CREST, they can have a better representation of what's going on regarding speeding. PCC Foster added that Speed Watch is an extra tool for communities that helps to provide local safety and that it helps to deter speeders as the scheme becomes more well known, national reports show that 70% of people surveyed said it changed their behaviour. Finally, SGT Sisman added that the areas with active Speed Watch communities provide data which can be used to evidence the need for more permanent traffic calming measures. Also get a letter if they are caught speeding using the speed guns and if they are repeat offenders they will get a visit from a Police Officer.

3. Frank Hughes, a resident, raised an issue regarding anti-social behaviour. Whilst the presentation given by the PCC is going to be down by 53%, people in the area believe that it is actually rising but people aren't reporting the issue.

SGT Sisman responded that ASB issues should always be reported to them. However, there are only certain places where a report is considered formal (places like Facebook don't result in formal reports). There can also be a misconception on what anti-social behaviour is. Sometimes, what people think is ASB, is actually



kids just being loud whilst not actually causing any issues. PCC Foster adds that it is difficult to tackle the issue of public perception as it just creates fears within communities, so it is better to look at the statistics provided by the police.

4. Resident Linda Chilton, who is part of community Speed Watch, raised a problem with speeding cars as one police officer can only deal with one vehicle at a time so some vehicles may be getting missed.

Sgt Sisman informed that everyone who is reported via Speed Watch does get sent a letter if the numberplate is caught. More officers are also now able to go out as the Safer Neighbourhood Team is fully staffed whereas it wasn't before.

5. An issue was raised regarding speeding down Derby Road, particularly by young people, and asked what measures would be taken to try and prevent it as it has been reported.

Sgt Sisman informed that the police have many priorities, including speeding. There are many locations across the district where speeding is a priority and they try and target as many areas as they can. The issue should keep being reported.

A request to have the PCSO attend parish council meetings again since they no longer do.

The PCC added that the police are trying to improve the relationship with local authorities but would rather have police officers out on the job rather than have officers attending meetings.

6. Councillor Muller raised that Derbyshire Police have now had more input with Download festival committee so as of the next meeting, there should be more input. There were also issues surrounding parking such as the price so would like that to be sorted. Councillor Corbin added that the festival impacted traffic throughout the area, making it difficult to travel.
7. Parish Cllr Dave Smith requested reports about police priorities and successes be sent to local Parish Councils so they aware of the police are doing within their area.

#### **M/A 4. Local Authority Update and Public Q&A**

##### **Housing**

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 1 is now approaching completion, providing improved insulation, doors, and windows to 89 properties in Swadlincote, Melbourne, Hartshorne and Netherseal.

Wave 2 will provide similar improvements to around 103 properties in: Hilton, Church Broughton, Scropton, Smisby, Hartshorne, Netherseal and Lullington.

The tenants of the properties that may be included are being written to informing them of the scheme and will be consulted with before any works commence.



### **Legal and democratic services**

The Annual Canvass for 2023 has started - this is the process where the Council contacts every household to check we've got the right information on the Electoral Register. The process also gives anyone who isn't registered to vote yet, the chance to do so.

The Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and therefore we will be using on-line methods of contact where possible. Online contact will also reduce costs by reducing postage, paper, and processing time.

You will receive an email or letter asking if your household's details on the Electoral Register are correct. All you need to do is follow the instructions, and you'll be ready to have your say in upcoming elections. You can reply online, by phone, text, or by returning the paper form.

If you can reply online, we encourage you to do this. If you have to respond and do not respond, we will try to contact you by telephone or make a property visit.

### **Cultural and Community services**

The new South Derbyshire Community Grant Fund is now open for applications (leaflets with details are available on the table by the signing in sheet.)

This scheme, administered by South Derbyshire District Council, is financed by part of South Derbyshire's allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) monies.

The Fund has a total of £350,000 available over the next two years until March 2025.

Capital grants of between £2,000 and £25,000 are available (up to 80% of total project costs) with a minimum project cost of £2,500. Match funding of 20% is required.

Applicants must demonstrate that their project meets one or more of the Shared Prosperity Fund outcomes and further information including a Guide to the Criteria, Application Process and Conditions of Funding is available on the Community Grants section of the Council's website, when you search "Community Grants".

It is an open rolling application process until the 31 December 2024 (to allow for completion of projects) or until all funding has been allocated.

### **Customer Services**

South Derbyshire District Council is currently developing its Customer Access Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to shape how the Council will serve its customers, and to define the projects and initiatives it needs to deliver in order to achieve its ambitions.



We want local people to feel valued by their Council, trust us and have excellent customer experiences in their dealings with us, whatever channel they choose.

The Customer Access Strategy will set out how we will improve access to our services for our customers. We want to make dealing with the Council as quick and easy as possible, making the best use of technology whilst working in a cost-effective way.

The document can be found on the Councils Website, or if you speak to us after the meeting, we can take your details and email you a copy of the document.

### **Q&A**

1. First matter concerned the local parish elections. A Parish Councillor requested that a better method be implemented when registering for elections. In the past, there has been a long wait for forms to be scrutinized despite the small window of time for the forms to be put in. It is also inaccessible for some applicants so there needs to be a quicker process since it has to be presented in person.

**ACTION: Feedback regarding the local parish elections to be passed onto the elections team to review comments and see what changes could be made.**

2. Parish Councillor Dave Smith is concerned about empty Council properties since there are people waiting for houses that can't find anywhere whilst Council houses sit empty.

Heidi responded that there has been a backlog due to the pandemic as it caused issues with getting labour and materials to make modifications to properties, but if there are particular addresses that there is a concern about, an update can be provided on those.

3. There were many concerns regarding weeds growing on and being ingrained in the curbs in Shardlow. The Councillors and public want the weeds to be dealt with as there has only been one grass cut so far this year.

Cllr Corbin added that despite there being a cut this year, the quality of the first grass/weed cut wasn't great.

There were similar issues regarding overgrown verges raised in Aston, Barrow and Swarkeston, some of the weeds that are left to grow can get into Farmers fields and damage crops.

Heidi Mc Dougall replied that the 'No mow May' is a national campaign that isn't particularly tied to SDDC, but there will be further cuts later in the year and information can be provided regarding the cuts if requested. The weeds are also treated a few times within the year to prevent invasive species from growing.

Heidi also added that the first cut of the year is usually the hardest due to the weeds and grass being left over the winter; there has also been a change of who





is cutting the weeds. If there are any further problems, then contact SDDC and inform them of the locations as it can give help with feedback.

### **M/A 5. Summary of Agreed Actions**

ACTIONS
1. Feedback regarding the local parish elections to be passed onto the elections team to review comments and see what changes could be made.
2. Derbyshire Police to do a street speeding survey on Derby Road.
3. David Smith (Melbourne PC) requested for a short report from Derbyshire Police be submitted for Parish council meetings
4. Heidi McDougall to look into the situation of the overgrown grass verges and provide an update.

### **M/A 6. Close and Date of Next Meeting**

TBD.

**Councillor Neil Atkin**  
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8:30pm

