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MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS**

WEDNESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER, 2006

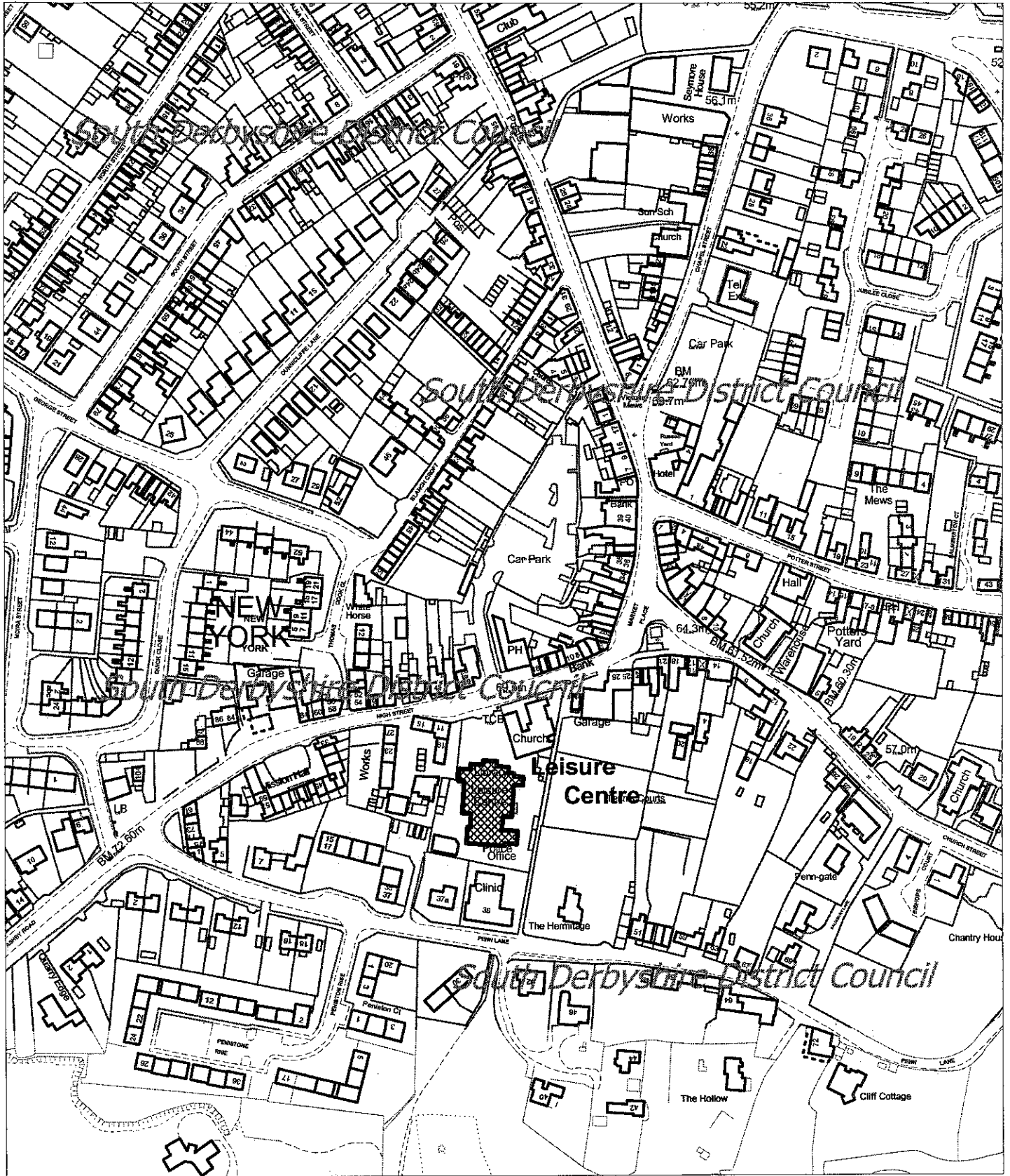
**Bill Shone Leisure Centre,
High Street,
Melbourne**

7.00 p.m.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL:

Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 16 th November 2006
Development Control	Tuesday, 21 st November 2006
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 23 rd November 2006
Finance and Management	Thursday, 30 th November 2006
Community Scrutiny	Monday, 4 th December 2006 – 4.00 p.m.
Corporate Scrutiny	Monday, 11 th December 2006 – 4.30 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 12 th December 2006
Overview	Monday, 18 th December 2006 – 4.00 p.m.
Environmental and Development Services (Special – Budget)	Tuesday, 9 th January 2007
Housing and Community Services (Special – Budget)	Thursday, 11 th January 2007
Etwall Leisure Centre (at John Port School, Etwall)	Monday, 15 th January 2007 – 5.00 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 16 th January 2007
Finance and Management (Special – Budget)	Thursday, 18 th January 2007
COUNCIL	Thursday, 25 th January 2007
Corporate Scrutiny (Special – Budget)	Monday, 29 th January 2007 – 4.30 p.m.
Finance and Management (Special – NNDR)	Monday, 29 th January 2007
Environmental and Development Services	Thursday, 1 st February 2007
Housing and Community Services	Thursday, 8 th February 2007
Corporate Scrutiny	Monday, 12 th February 2007 – 4.30 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 13 th February 2007
Community Scrutiny	Monday, 19 th February 2007 – 4.00 p.m.
Finance and Management	Tuesday, 20 th February 2007
Overview	Monday, 26 th February 2007 – 4.00 p.m.
COUNCIL	Thursday, 1 st March 2007

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the Council's Civic Offices and will start at 6.00 p.m.



**South Derbyshire District Council
Policy and Economic Regeneration**

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Date Plotted 13/9/2005

Civic Offices, Civic Way,
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 0AH

Please ask for Paul Spencer
Tel: (01283) 221000 Ext. 5722
DDI (01283) 595722
Fax (01283) 228711
Minicom: (01283) 228149
DX 23912 Swadlincote
E.mail: paul.spencer@south-derbys.gov.uk

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

(Covering Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Calke, Elvaston, Foremark, Ingleby,
Melbourne, Shardlow & Great Wilne, Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge,
Stenson Fields, Swarkestone, Ticknall, Twyford & Stenson and Weston-on-Trent)

**Meeting to be held at
Bill Shone Leisure Centre, High Street,
Melbourne
on Wednesday 22nd November, 2006
at 7.00 p.m.**

(Light Refreshments will be available at 6.30 p.m.)

Members:

District Councillors: Councillor Carroll (Chair), Councillor Pabla (Vice-Chair) and
Councillors Atkin, Bell, Bladen, Harrison, Jones, Nalty, Mrs.
Renwick, Shepherd and Mrs. Wheeler.

County Councillors: Councillors Ford, Harrison and Jones.



BUSINESS

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th August 2006 (copy herewith).
3. Declarations of interest.
4. Chair's Announcements (if any).
5. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
6. Public Question Time and suggestions for future local discussion items.
7. Date of Next Meeting – 7th February 2007 at Weston on Trent Village Hall.
8. Getting Your Ideas Into Action – Feedback.
9. Community Scrutiny Needs You.

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

15th August 2006

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Carroll (Chair), Councillors Bell, Pabla and Mrs. Wheeler.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), G. Hague (Head of Planning Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillor Jones.

G. Duckworth (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant Wright.

Parish Council / Meeting Representatives

C. Barker and D. Seed (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), H. Coyle and F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council) and P. Watson (Ingleby Parish Meeting).

Members of the Public

D. Bayliss, D. Bellis, J. Burden, P. Burden, C. Ford, J. Hinds, R. Knibb, A. Madeley, P. Mitchell, G. Pollard, R. Saxby, P. Waters and K. Whewell.

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was noted that Councillor Carroll had been appointed Chair of the Melbourne Area Meeting at the Annual Council Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Atkin and Shepherd, County Councillor Ford, District and County Councillor Harrison, Inspector Fairbrother (Derbyshire Constabulary), N. Hawksworth, C. Peck, J. Rex and M. Wilson.

MA/2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was agreed that Councillor Pabla be appointed Vice-Chair of the Melbourne Area Meeting for the ensuing year.

MA/3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Meeting held on 9th May 2006 were noted.

MA/4. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Information had been received from Derbyshire County Council to provide an update on issues raised at the previous two Area Meetings. The Chair read this report about footpaths in Ticknall and with regard to leaflets and publications. Mr. Watson of Ingleby Parish Meeting had originally raised the concerns about certain publications. He advised that this issue was now closed as he had disposed of the publication in question.

The reinstatement of Long Horse Bridge, a bridleway crossing the River Trent, was discussed in some detail. There were plans to reposition the bridge, moving it approximately 140 metres. Mr. Mitchell of Shardlow explained the original purpose of this bridge and felt its realignment would cause a health and safety hazard. He also spoke about the costs of this project, which were approaching £1 million. It was noted that the County Council was considering a compulsory purchase order, to acquire land needed for the new bridge crossing and this would increase costs further. The revised alignment would form part of the Midshires Way and would link to a crossing over the Derwent Mouth Lock. However, this was a narrow platform and it was considered an impractical proposal. The Chair noted the obvious concerns and anger of local residents. She suggested that a representative of Derbyshire County Council attend the Shardlow Parish Council Meeting to seek a solution to this problem. Shardlow residents wished to see the reinstatement of the bridge, but not at the point proposed by the County Council. **It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council be asked to meet with Shardlow Parish Council and the public to discuss this issue further.**

A report was provided on the request for additional pavements in the Swarkestone area. The County Council had considered this request, but could not justify additional footways at the locations specified. A resident of Swarkestone restated the problems being experienced, particularly in Woodshop Lane, with speeding traffic and vehicles parking on this "access only" road. He disagreed with the County Council's findings and spoke of another request for a 30 mph speed limit to be imposed, which had also been rejected. The Chair questioned whether traffic calming measures would assist, but this was not favoured. The County Council's representative was asked to feedback these views. **Following a suggestion from Mrs. Barker of Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council, it was agreed to invite a representative of Derbyshire County Council's Highways Department to attend the next Melbourne Area Meeting.**

County Councillor Harrison had also provided a report following the concerns about intrusive estate agent signs in the north eastern parishes. There was a discussion on the legislative powers available to the County Council as highway authority and to the District Council under advertising legislation. The Chair suggested that where there were specific problems, the parish council should write to Derbyshire County Council's Highways Department, to request the removal of the signs.

MA/5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Watson of Ingleby Parish Meeting voiced his concerns, as he had requested information at a previous Area Meeting and had not received it.

This concerned the cost of producing the Council's newspaper "The News" and feedback on the consultation exercise to determine priorities as part of the budget process. He reported that he had only received one copy of "The News" to date. The Chair questioned whether any other residents were not receiving this publication and it appeared that this was the case. Frank McArdle, Chief Executive of the District Council was alarmed as there was a contract to deliver "The News" to 37,000 properties across the District. **He gave an undertaking to provide details of the cost of producing the newspaper to Mr. Watson and to provide a report back to the next Meeting.** With regard to the budget consultation exercise, Mr. Watson spoke about the lack of support for "The News". The Chief Executive explained how the feedback received from the consultation process was used to shape the Council's budget. **He offered to give feedback on this consultation exercise to the next Meeting.** Another resident agreed that there was a lack of support for this Council publication and he questioned whether this was the case throughout the District. Mr. McArdle felt there was the opportunity to debate this at a future Meeting and to discuss the effectiveness of "The News". He spoke of the feedback received to date and the relative cost of this publication, compared to the Council's financial turnover. He felt this publication gave the Council the opportunity to interact with the public.

Mrs. Barker was concerned about the incomplete distribution of "The News" and referred to the format of information publicising the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, which she felt could be improved.

Mrs. Burden voiced her thanks for action taken by a local authority to clear a footway in Ticknall and she gave an explanation of the works undertaken. Mr. Ford thanked the County Council's Highways Department for the removal of signage to the former Aston Hall Hospital. He explained that there was another sign for the Hospital adjacent to the village pub, which required removal and there was a sign for Weston-on-Trent at this location that needed replacing. There was a further sign for the Hospital located by the village phone box. Another resident suggested that a fingerpost be placed in the centre of the Village, with directions to the surrounding Villages. Concerns were voiced about signs advising of new road layouts, which were left in place for many years after the development had taken place. Similarly, there were concerns that signs advising of tar spraying were left in place too long and examples of this were at Holden and Compton Avenues in Aston-on-Trent. **It was agreed to refer these matters to the Highways Department at Derbyshire County Council.**

Mr. Watson referred to the survey of housing needs for rural areas, undertaken by the Midland Rural Housing Trust. He had advised Miles King of the Trust that it would be pointless undertaking the survey in Ingleby as it was not possible to get planning consent for development in that Village. He had subsequently received a substantial report from the Trust and was concerned that taxpayers' money was being spent on the production of such reports. Another speaker explained that this organisation was a registered charity, but it was subsequently confirmed that the Council had been charged for the surveys undertaken. Mrs. Barker explained that Mr. King had been invited to attend Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council, but had ignored this invitation. The Parish Council had read a copy of the report for Barrow-on-Trent and did not agree with some of its content. She felt that the District

Council should be aware that the housing needs report might not be accurate.

Gill Hague, Head of Planning Services responded to the points raised. Legislation required that a detailed housing needs survey was undertaken for use in both planning and housing functions. She explained the purposes of the Needs Survey. For example planning permission might be granted in exceptional cases, where development would not normally be permitted, for affordable housing, where there was a proven need.

Mr. Watson felt that through local knowledge, this process could have been achieved without substantial cost and he considered there was no need for additional housing in Ingleby. The Officer replied that the District Council needed formal evidence to demonstrate the level of housing need to Planning Inspectors.

Mrs. Coyle of Elvaston Parish Council felt the process had been more positive and Mr. King had given an address to that Parish Council. In response to further comments from Mrs. Barker about the accuracy of the reports, Officers confirmed that the validity of the results would be tested. It was explained that this rolling programme of surveys would be completed over a three year period.

MA/6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

MA/7. **“HOW WE DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS”**

A copy of the Head of Planning’s presentation was circulated to those present. The Area Meeting was advised of the process undertaken to determine planning applications. The presentation touched on:

- The consultation process, including statutory and other consultees.
- Determination of applications either by an Officer under a delegated power or by the Development Control Committee.
- Planning legislation and reasonableness in the decision making process for applications.
- A trial scheme for public speaking at the Development Control Committee.

A resident gave an example of a specific development adjacent to her property and the problems that had resulted from it. The Head of Planning Services gave an outline of the measures now in place, which would be taken into account in determining applications for development close to existing properties. It was difficult to comment on historic applications, because of changes in the legislation.

Mrs. Coyle of Elvaston Parish Council sought further information about the conditions attached to planning consents. She asked about enforcement action where conditions were initially complied with, but modifications then took place. It was confirmed that there was a time limit on the enforcement of planning conditions and the Council had only limited staffing resources for enforcement. A specific example was used of a known ongoing problem,

which the Head of Planning Services replied to. The Council needed to be informed of breaches of conditions, so that it could take appropriate action. Mrs. Barker sought further clarification regarding the party wall legislation, in relation to proximities of development, which was duly provided. In response to a question from Mr. Mitchell, it was confirmed that there was not an appeal mechanism against the grant of a planning consent. Clarification was also sought about the legal deadlines for enforcement of breaches of condition. Mr. Waters commented on the flooding risks associated with a specific development and gave an explanation of the circumstances. He was concerned that this was a breach of planning policy guidance and felt that the Council was the public's defence against such breaches. The Head of Planning Services explained that the District Council relied on expert advice, in this case from the Environment Agency (EA). The EA was not willing to pursue the case in question, which related to a non-residential property.

Mr. Barnes referred to developments of agricultural buildings in Smisby. The only condition applied to a specific development was for trees to be planted to screen the buildings. For a number of reasons, the trees had been destroyed and he would have thought it better to require leylandi conifers, to provide adequate screening. The Officer explained that such conifers were out of character, but there were requirements for the replacement of any tree that died within the first five years after development. She also commented that there might be permitted development rights in some cases.

Mr. Peck questioned whether letters of support for proposals could be submitted. The Officer confirmed that these were given weight and reported when determining planning applications.

Mr. Watson voiced his thanks for the presentation. He questioned whether there were sometimes conflicting opinions between planning specialists from the building control and design and conservation viewpoint. The Officer hoped that a complimentary approach was taken and sought feedback if there were specific problems. An example quoted was providing a disabled access to an older property. Mr. Waters compared the Development Control Committee process at South Derbyshire to that for Derby City Council. He praised the professional approach at the District Council. It was also questioned when notices of planning applications were taken down.

MA/8. **CONSULTATION – “GETTING YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION”**

The Chair introduced this item, referring to the launch of the new Corporate Plan. The Council wished to improve consultation with local people and communities. The “ideas into action” campaign had now been launched and details were included on a flyer, which had been circulated. This would also appear in the September issue of the Council's newspaper and on the website, where ideas could be submitted electronically.

The Chief Executive gave further information and he was alarmed by the earlier feedback that “The News” was not being received in some parts of the District. He gave an undertaking to pursue this. The Chair stated it was important for the Council to receive feedback from the public. The Chief Executive explained that through this mechanism, the public had a chance to influence Council spending. This was the most detailed consultation process within the County. The Council was determined to interact with the public and to receive feedback on the services people wanted. This would result in

direct spending in a short space of time. He urged residents to provide feedback and the Chair confirmed that the leaflets could be submitted with additional sheets, if further space was needed.

Mrs. Barker questioned whether a telephone contact number could be provided for those not receiving "The News". The Chief Executive intended to pursue this issue with the distribution company first. If residents had not received the next issue by the end of September, they should contact the Council. It would be helpful if feedback on "Getting your ideas into action" could be received by 4th October 2006.

J. D. CARROLL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

(Covering Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Calke, Elvaston, Foremark, Ingleby, Melbourne, Shardlow & Great Wilne, Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge, Stenson Fields, Swarkestone, Ticknall, Twyford & Stenson and Weston-on-Trent)

Wednesday, 22nd November 2006

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the Area Meeting held on Tuesday, 15th August 2006, at Stenson Fields Primary School, the following issues were raised and details are given below of the progress made to date:-

ISSUES	PROGRESS	ACTIONED BY
Derbyshire County Council Issues	An update will be provided on the reinstatement of Long Horse Bridge and a number of signage issues. Representatives of the Highways Department will be present at the Meeting to answer residents' questions.	Kay McIntyre, Democratic Services, Derbyshire County Council
"The News" and budget priorities	Feedback will be provided of the total cost of producing the Council's newspaper.	Paul Spencer, Democratic Services, South Derbyshire District Council

South Derbyshire District Council
Ideas into Action
Report to Area Meetings

AGENDA ITEM:

8

What are we trying to do?

During consultation on our Corporate Plan, a number of responses indicated that, as well as commenting on issues put forward by the Council, they wanted an opportunity to put forward their own ideas. The Council responded with "Ideas into Action", a campaign that asked for ideas from individuals, Parish Councils, community groups – anybody! We wanted to make sure that we were responding to the views of communities about the issues that concerned them, whether they were big or small.

How did we go about it?

We launched the campaign at the Parish Forum meeting and it featured at all the Area Meetings in the summer. Ideas were submitted on short simple forms, our website or handwritten notes. The closing date for submission was 4 October but this deadline was extended for Parish Councils to fit in with their meeting schedule.

We received 64 ideas, which included:-

- Specific complaints about issues such as untidy land
- Requests for improved services to the whole district, such as collecting plastics for recycling
- Ideas for local initiatives that require funding or other support to get the idea launched.
- Suggestions where the Council has little influence, such as dismantling electricity pylons and laying the cables underground

What have we done with the suggestions?

All suggestions have been acknowledged by letter and will receive a detailed response when we have decided the best course of action.

Where we can take action on a complaint straight away we are doing so and will inform the individual of what we are doing, when it will happen and a contact name of who is responsible.

Ideas for improving services across the district or developing local initiatives that will cost more money will be considered for the Budget later this year. Where there is no cost, we will review whether we can implement the suggestion sooner than that. In both cases, we will inform individuals of the outcome.

Where we are not responsible for the service, we have passed the suggestion on to the relevant body or partner. We try to ensure that the individual receives a satisfactory response to their idea.

What else are the suggestions telling us?

We have also analysed the suggestions to see whether there are common themes – and you will not be surprised to find that there are! We also want to

make sure that once we have responded to your concerns, we stay on top of things and the problem is not repeated. Top issues include

- Litter / Cleanliness
- Graffiti
- Better recycling facilities / collections
- Untidy Sites
- More trees, flowers and spring bulbs
- Highway maintenance and improvements
- Support for Neighbourhood Watch
- Better facilities for children and young people

We will now put these issues at the top of our list to make further improvements to South Derbyshire and the services we deliver.

So what will we do now?

We will respond to all individual ideas and suggestions and ensure that everybody who contacted us knows what action we will take.

We will use the list of "top issues" to tweak further improvements to our services and we'll let you know what we will do and when.

Thanks

Residents of South Derbyshire are always very positive and helpful in our consultation exercises and this helps us deliver what you want to see. Thanks for all your views and ideas in this exercise and all the other consultation work we do. We hope it makes South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit. If it doesn't – tell us!

Ian Reid

Deputy Chief Executive

25 October 2006

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REPORT TO: MELBOURNE AREA MEETING **AGENDA ITEM: 9**

DATE OF MEETING: 22 NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT FROM: CLLR RON LANE

**Chair Of South Derbyshire District
Council's Community Scrutiny
Committee**

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SCRUTINY NEEDS YOU!

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to tell you about the work of the District Council's Community Scrutiny Committee and to invite you to contribute or take part in any of our projects.

About the Committee

The Council has two Scrutiny Committees and an Overview Committee, which aim to improve the Council's performance by monitoring, questioning and making recommendations in the way that services are provided and decisions are taken.

A short guide to the work of all three committees will be circulated at the meeting. This also contains information about committee membership, dates of meetings and contact details.

The Community Scrutiny Committee focuses on community and environmental services, culture, leisure and the arts as well as housing, economic development and land use.

Progress in 2006

So far this year, the Committee has completed four important projects relating to:

- Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service
- Homelessness Service
- Waste Management Service
- Planning Application Service

The thrust of these reviews was to help your Council deliver better, more efficient and more effective Services to you the residents and to ensure continued best value for money spent on your behalf.

Future Projects

Over the period until May 2007, we will be working on the following projects:

- The future of our Post Offices
- How Health Services will be delivered by the new Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust
- Street Scene Review
- Cleaner Neighbourhoods

Post Offices

Post Offices seem to be at risk and face a variety of pressures including:

- Too few customers are using them
- Rises in running costs and loss of income from changes in the way benefits are paid; for example
- Retirements and resignations from sub post masters

The Committee is interested in what concerns you and what your views are.

You can have your say at any of the following three public forums being held:-

Melbourne Village Hall	13 November (3 pm to 6 pm)
Overseal Village Hall, Overseal	14 November (4.30 pm – 6 pm)
Hatton Centre	15 November (3 pm to 7 pm)

You can attend at any time on any of the days.

Alternatively, you can write to us using the reply paid forms/envelopes that are available at your meeting.

Health Services

Health Services are experiencing dramatic change, we are keen to establish contact with the new Primary Care Trust to find out how they will deliver services in South Derbyshire and what sort of services will be available.

If you have some points to make regarding what is needed or improvements in Health Services in your area, please let us know.

We will be working closely with our colleagues from Derbyshire County Council on these issues.

Street Scene

We are also working with county colleagues on a review of the 'street scene'.

This means a lot of things, but what is important to you in your street?

- ❖ Is it street lights?
- ❖ Clean and litter free streets?
- ❖ Provision of litter bins?
- ❖ Smooth and flat carriageways?
- ❖ Well-maintained pavements?
- ❖ Dropped curbs for prams and mobility vehicles?
- ❖ Trees or grassed areas on roadsides?

Or is there anything else that is important to you?

Why not tell us what your top three are.

How would you prefer to report problems, to the District Council or the County Council?

Should there be just one telephone number?

Cleaner Neighbourhoods

Your Council is considering its response to the new 2005 Act giving us greater powers, which came into force in April 2006.

What is important to you?

- ❖ Shutting nuisance alleys?
- ❖ Selling cars on roadside?
- ❖ Removing vehicles with no tax disc?
- ❖ Removing abandoned vehicles?
- ❖ Litter control?
- ❖ Prevention of fly posting and leaflets.?
- ❖ Stopping and searching vehicles suspected of fly tipping?
- ❖ Removal of fly tipped waste by landowner?
- ❖ Dog control orders?
- ❖ Dog fouling provisions?
- ❖ Audible intruder alarm nuisance?
- ❖ Night time noise problems?
- ❖ Abandoned shopping trolleys?

Getting involved

If you would like to contribute or take part in any of our projects, then we will be pleased to include you where we can.

You can contact:

- Members of the Community Scrutiny Committee via the web site [www.south-derbys.gov.uk/community scrutiny](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/community_scrutiny)

or you can contact:

- Neil Betteridge (Democratic Services Manager)
Phone: 01283 595895
Email neil.betteridge@south-derbys.gov.uk
- Sally Knight (Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration)
Phone: 01283 595728
Email sally.knight@south-derbys.gov.uk