

# **MELBOURNE**

## **AREA MEETING**

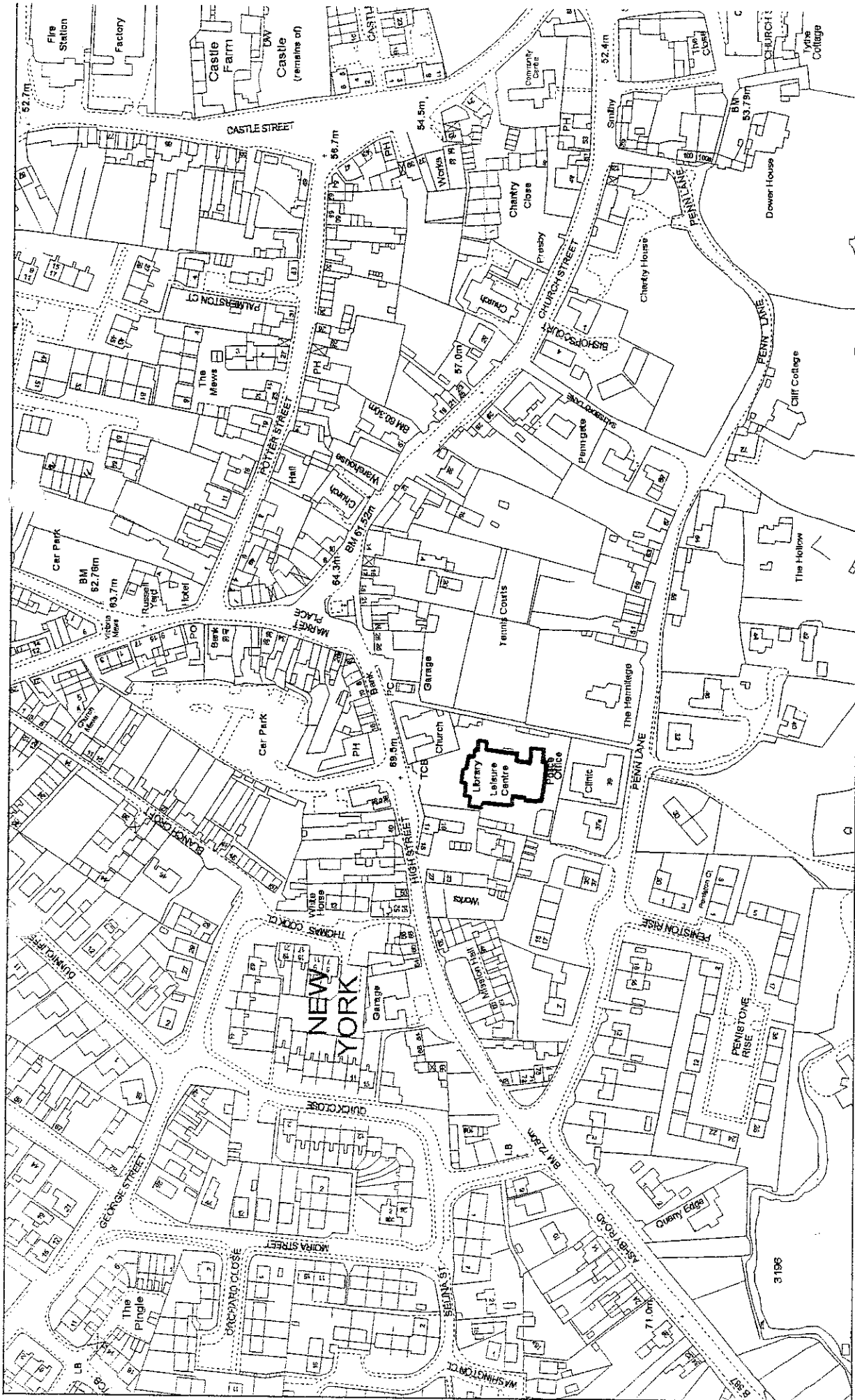
### **AGENDA AND REPORTS**

**TUESDAY, 20TH JANUARY 2004**

**BILL SHONE LEISURE CENTRE,  
HIGH STREET,  
MELBOURNE**

**7.00 p.m.**





# South Derbyshire District Council

## Estates Management

O.S. Copyright Licence LA079375  
Based upon Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown Copyright.  
Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.



# 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 the  
Bill Shone Leisure Centre,  
High Street,  
Melbourne  
on Tuesday, 20th January 2004  
at 7.00 p.m.

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

### Members:

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

County Councillor: Councillor Harrison (Vice-Chair).



## BUSINESS

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd October 2003 (copy herewith).
3. Chair's Announcements (if any).
4. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
5. Public Question Time and suggestions for future local discussion items.
6. Date of Next Meeting.
7. Presentation by the Derbyshire Youth Service.
8. Review of Refuse Collection & Recycling.

9. Draft Revision of Supplementary Planning Guidance.
10. Consultation on the Council's Budget.

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

22nd October 2003

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Carroll (Chair), Councillor Harrison (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Jones, Pabla, Shepherd and Mrs. Wheeler. T. Neaves (Chief Finance Officer), P. Spencer (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representative**

Councillor Harrison.

**Parish Council Representatives**

A. Keefe (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council) and F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council).

**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Sgt. A. Wright.

**Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group**

S. Spencer.

**Members of the Public**

D. Bellis, L. Brooks, J. Burden, P. Burdan, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, R. Knibb, F. Madeley, B. Mayhew, P. Mitchell, J. Morrish, C. Peck, R. Saxby, J. Whelan and K. Whewell.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Nalty and Mrs. Renwick (South Derbyshire District Council) and representatives of Shardlow Parish Council.

MA/10. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Meeting held on 6th August 2003 were noted.

MA/11. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair reviewed those items raised at the last Meeting and provided an update on the progress made to date. Derbyshire County Council had considered the request for traffic lights on the A514 at Cuttle Bridge, but as County Councillor Harrison explained, the request had been declined as there were safety concerns about the potential for queuing traffic along this section of road. He confirmed that there were no planned improvements to cycling facilities in the Elvaston area.

The Chair reported on alterations to the recycling centre on the Melbourne Public Car Park. An update was given about the untidy site in the Stenson Fields area and Councillor Pabla reminded those present of the problems with this site. The Chair explained the action taken to date and it was

expected that progress would be made over the coming weeks, otherwise formal action would be taken. The Chair then gave an update about composting and refuse collection arrangements. A working group had been formed and an outline was given of the issues discussed to date.

At the last Meeting, a request had been made for Beat Officers to attend parish council meetings. Sgt. Andy Wright of Derbyshire Constabulary was invited to comment and he confirmed that most Beat Officers attended parish council meetings. Where there was a specific policing issue and advance notice was given, the Officers would always try to attend. However, there were only twelve Beat Officers for the South Derbyshire area and they had to balance their time between attending meetings and patrolling their areas.

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler was critical that Beat Officers for the Bretby, Newton Solney and Repton areas did not attend parish council meetings or provide crime statistics as promised previously. Sergeant Wright undertook to pursue this and ensure that these statistics were provided. Mr. Mitchell of Elvaston Parish Council and Councillor Pabla praised their respective Beat Officers. A resident of Shardlow asked whether there was any formal way of requesting a police presence to address known problems. It was suggested that residents approach the Beat Officer initially, so that the activities could be programmed. Councillor Harrison congratulated the Constabulary on the preventative action taken to deter anticipated nuisance problems associated with the recent Melbourne Wakes. Councillor Pabla complained that poor service was provided by the Constabulary's call centre. He referred to a specific youth nuisance problem. Sgt. Wright accepted that call centre staff might not always appreciate the priority of some incidents. He agreed to pursue the matter reported. The Chair thanked Sgt. Wright for his attendance. An update was then given on the flooding problem in Elvaston, which had been raised after the last Area Meeting.

MA/12. **PRESENTATION BY THE DERBYSHIRE GYPSY LIAISON GROUP**

The Chair introduced Siobhan Spencer who gave a presentation on the work of the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group (DGLG). This voluntary group was formed in 1987 and sought to provide a liaison between the travelling community and authorities. She gave an outline of the previous legislative requirements and the duty on local authorities to provide sites for travellers. She then spoke of the duties now in place including the need to assess welfare issues. Derbyshire County Council had co-ordinated a multi-agency protocol and the DGLG had contributed to the document. The Group assisted travellers who sought planning consent to establish small family sites, typically for four to six caravans. Copies of the DGLG annual report and other documents were made available for those wishing to find out more information about the Group.

She referred to unauthorised sites and accepted that some travellers caused problems, which reflected badly on the Gypsy community in general. She spoke of the Group's liaison work, its lobbying role and its support for planned legislation to recognise the needs of the travelling community. She then referred to specific projects including the production of health information leaflets, education projects abroad, raising awareness of gypsy cultural issues, work with the Constabulary and a cultural reading scheme to encourage school attendance. There was a shortfall in site provision both Nationally and within the County of Derbyshire.



Mrs. Spencer then responded to residents questions, referring to the cultural change for gypsies and the desire for many to establish small family sites. The disposal of refuse was a particular problem for gypsies, who could not make use of local authority facilities and excessive packaging created even more waste. Mrs. Spencer explained that identifying areas of land suitable for small family sites often proved difficult and there was the need to secure planning consent and compliance with councils toleration policies.

Councillor Pabla referred to a specific problem in Stenson Fields where travellers had occupied a school playground. The Chair spoke of the Council's efforts to work with the travelling community, having provided two sites within its District and recently granted two planning applications for small sites. Mrs. Spencer clarified that the recent planning approvals had only been granted after an appeal. Nationally, Council site provision had not been expanded in recent years, despite increases in traveller population.

Councillor Harrison referred to the Derbyshire County Council multi-agency protocol and the duties placed on the District Council as a planning authority. As with society in general, he accepted that there were good and bad travellers, but sadly those inhabiting parts of South Derbyshire often seemed to cause a range of problems. Typically these comprised the transportation of waste and that left on site, pollution caused by fires, nuisance and disruption. He was unaware of any site occupation which had not resulted in some problem and felt that this led to the reluctance to grant planning consent within the District. Mrs. Spencer responded that Inspectors often restricted planning consent to a specific family and she gave examples of known traveller occupations within the District where problems had not been experienced. Where illegal activities took place, these matters should be referred to the Constabulary for action.

Councillor Shepherd referred to a specific problem in Arleston Lane and he sought advice to pass on to his electorate on how to resolve the problems experienced. Mrs. Spencer confirmed that many of the complaints reported were valid and that the Police should be involved where illegal activities took place. Complaints were made about the refuse left when sites were vacated and it was questioned what action the gypsy community could take. The DGLG was a voluntary group and only had limited resources. A practical solution might be to provide skips on each site occupied to encourage responsible disposal of waste. Mrs. Spencer was thanked for her attendance and the presentation.

MA/13. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE FOR LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Bellis complained about the removal of a recycling bank for plastics from a recycling centre in Melbourne and he was urged to contact the Council's Recycling Officer to discuss this. He referred to the planned kerbside collection scheme and understood that this would not include the collection of plastic bottles. Mr. Bellis felt that the United Kingdom was behind many other European countries in terms of recycling.

Mr. Mitchell, a resident of Shardlow referred to the earlier discussion about refuse collection and the formation of a Working Group. He enquired about the Group's composition and felt that British Waterways should participate,

as he had concerns about the way the company dealt with litter on its land. The Chair explained the nature of this Working Group, to consider the Council's refuse collection activities, but a letter would be sent to British Waterways to express the concerns raised. The Chair also publicised the Council's Clean Team, which provided a responsive service for problems such as fly-tipping. Further discussion took place about recycling and a resident referred to the recently issued 'Yellow Pages' directory. It was questioned whether the Council could co-ordinate the collection of old directories to enable them to be recycled. It was agreed to include an item on the next agenda to give further consideration to the review of refuse collection and recycling.

On behalf of Shardlow Parish Council representatives, concerns were voiced at the choice of Bretby Conference Centre as the venue for the Local Strategic Partnership meeting. It was felt impossible to access this site by public transport, but the Chair explained the merits of this venue, which was on a bus route and had excellent facilities.

MA/14. **DRAFT REVISION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE: HOUSING AND DESIGN**

It was reported that supplementary planning guidance (SPG) was used by local planning authorities to add detail to and aid the application of policies contained in the Local Plan. The Council was required to consult widely on the format and content of such guidance, prior to its adoption. SPG's were a material consideration when planning applications were considered.

The Housing and Design SPG required revision due to the publication of a revised Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note No. 3 on housing. The basic thrust of the PPG was that new development should be located within urban areas wherever possible and in sustainable locations, having regard to local distinctiveness. The PPG placed greater insistence that new housing layouts should be more intensive in terms of the number of houses per hectare and that there should be a higher quality of design and layout promoted. The draft SPG sought to interpret this and moved away from the Council's traditional stance, which sought to ensure that spaces about and between dwellings were at a set level, to a position where only existing dwellings were protected from intrusive and overbearing forms of new development. This would allow developers to accommodate a larger number of houses within new developments, with innovative and interesting designs, whilst maintaining existing standards for occupiers of existing dwellings. The draft SPG reflected the stance of the PPG and the latest revision to the Local Plan in promoting lower levels of car parking provision, reflecting the Government's intention to reduce reliance on the private motor vehicle. Comments on the draft guidance could be submitted to the Planning Services Manager at the District Council.

In receiving the document, comments were made about "overlooking" and "overshadowing" developments. Councillor Shepherd responded as Vice-Chair of the Council's Development Control Committee. Mrs. Barker referred to the density requirements stemming from PPG 3, whilst Mr. Bellis referred to open space provision on developments and minimum play area requirements for children. Former District Councillor Brooks provided further information on open space requirements as part of residential developments. Mr. Mitchell of Elvaston Parish Council referred to the

planned housing developments in that area. Councillor Pabla explained the need for careful design of play areas and within his own Stenson Fields Ward, homes surrounded areas of public open space, which led to disruption for residents. A resident of Shardlow felt that the document included some contradictions and he was urged to respond formally to the Council's Planning Services Manager. The Vice-Chair clarified the wording in the draft document, which was necessary to comply with PPG 3 and he confirmed that it would only apply to new developments. It was agreed to invite the Council's Planning Services Manager to attend the next Melbourne Area Meeting to discuss the implications of the revised Supplementary Planning Guidance in more detail.

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

It was noted that the next Melbourne Area Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 20th January 2004 at the Melbourne Leisure Centre. It was requested that in future, liaison take place with parish councils regarding the dates of Area Meetings.

J. CARROLL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 9.15 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)

Tuesday, 20th January 2004

**REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

At the last Area Meeting held on 22nd October 2003, at Stenson Fields Primary Community School, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made to date:-

<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>
1. Refuse Collection and Recycling Issues.	1. Removal of plastics recycling bank and suggestion to collect old "Yellow Pages" directories was referred to Recycling Officer. 2. An item is included on the Agenda to enable further discussion.	Deputy Chief Executive (Recycling Officer)
2. Complaint about litter on land owned by British Waterways.	An update will be provided.	Chief Executive (Paul Spencer)
3. Supplementary Planning Guidance.	Item included on the Agenda.	Deputy Chief Executive (Planning Services Manager)
4. Dates of future Meetings.	Liaison has taken place with parish clerks.	Chief Executive (P. Spencer)
5. Flooding problem, Elvaston	An update will be provided.	Deputy Chief Executive (C. Payne)

