

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM
AREA 3 – MELBOURNE AREA

Tuesday, February 12th 2019 at Melbourne Sports Park

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) representatives

Councillor John Harrison (Chair), Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Peter Watson.

Frank McArdle, Chief Executive, SDDC

Ian Hey, Community Partnership Officer, SDDC

Ardip Kaur, Legal and Democratic Services Manager, SDDC

Matt Holford, Environmental Health Manager, SDDC

Jenni Briers - Clerk

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) representatives

Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton.

Derbyshire Police representatives

PC Joe Pilgrim, PCSO Emma Guest.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Catherine Blackmore (Barrow Parish Council), Edward Hicklin (Aston Parish Council), Avril Record (Weston Parish Council), Margaret Sharp (Melbourne Parish Council), David Smith (Melbourne Parish Council), Terry Summerlin (Melbourne Parish Council), M. Fitzpatrick (Melbourne Parish Council).

Members of the public

Eddie Bisknell (Derby Telegraph), Frank Hughes (Village Voice), Kerrie Fletcher (CVS), Suzanne Hewitt, Duncan Hewitt, Stephanie Harrison.

MA/15 Open meeting

a. Introductions and apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Jim Hewlett and Cllr Dr Hilary Coyle.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Councillor John Harrison updated the meeting:

Tom Sloan has left SDDC and has now joined Staffordshire Police; he was thanked for his work with the Area Forum.

Get Active has a range of new walks including Nordic walking at Elvaston Castle. Leaflets with all the walks are available at the back of the room.

Welcome to Ardip Kaur who was attending the meeting for the first time.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

On the proposition of Edward Hicklin, the minutes were seconded by Peter Watson and AGREED as a true and correct record.

MA/16 Safer Neighbourhood report

PCSO Emma Guest reported that:

- Melbourne SNT are now providing information via Twitter and Facebook.
- Speed checks had been conducted last week and advisory letters sent out.
- Two lads were caught stealing in Melbourne, they had given back the goods and did a litter pick as well as apologising to the victims. A house was also 'egged' and the three youths involved were made to wash it off.
- Parking checks at schools had taken place in Melbourne, local people had "named and shamed" those who are parking inconsiderately, this was not advised.
- A vehicle was seized with no insurance.
- There were two HGV prosecutions for vehicles on Swarkestone Bridge and Causeway which were over the weight limit
- A theft from Sainsbury's ATM was seen on camera and when put onto Facebook, the person involved admitted the theft and paid back the money taken.
- Complaints were received about vehicles using Woodshop Lane as a cut-through. Seven cars were issued with tickets.
- In Cockshut Lane advice was given to motorist regarding their parking
- A talk was given at a local nursery and also at Weston School on road safety.
- Derbyshire Alert is a messaging service which you can sign up to and receive information from the local Safer Neighbourhood police teams
- After an appeal in the media about ball bearings being thrown at cars in Aston, Weston and Elvaston, the problem seems to have stopped
- A50 - a driver was stopped for drug driving and remanded in custody
- PC Priddle noticed a vehicle with goods inside which looked suspicious. As a result a male was arrested, disqualified from driving, spent 16 weeks in prison and was made to pay costs
- Stolen vehicles were recovered in Swadlincote and Kings Newton
- In Stenson Fields van alarms were given out to the public, supported by the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership. It is likely there will be other similar events in other areas.

Councillor Neil Atkin reported that he had passed on a query to Chris Smith, Communities Manager regarding three accidents in Elvaston Village and asked for an update.

Action: CS to provide update to Cllr Atkin with regards to accidents in Elvaston

Dave Smith, Melbourne Parish Council, said that there had been parking issues since the schools have lost their crossing patrols and was pleased that it is being monitored by the police. Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton said that speeding in Station Road, Melbourne was a police matter, not a County Council issue. Speeding can be reported via the Crest website www.crestderbyshire.org

Councillor Chilton reported that there is to be a review by the Council and a public exhibition in late spring, and the Village Voice are taking comments. PC Pilgrim said that as there were only two PCs trained to use the speed gun, and he has asked the new SNT Sergeant for extra cover in the area.

PC Pilgrim reported that there will be three new PCs employed - two will cover rural crime - one in the South of Derbyshire. The rural crime officers will be targeting thefts and criminals travelling from other areas.

PC Pilgrim asked if parish councils would consider asking for volunteers to be trained in a community speed watch speed.

Police Q & A's

Councillor Peter Watson said that he was disappointed that lorries were exceeding the 7 ½ tonne weight limit on Swarkestone Bridge, which is a Grade A listed bridge. A response from Derbyshire County Council had indicated that they would only prosecute drivers of vehicles over 30 tonnes, it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Chilton will report back to County these concerns.

Avril Record, Weston Parish Council, asked if a person has CCTV at their home, do they had to display a sign? She was told that as a civilian a sign does not have to be displayed, unless it is on public land.

Councillor Peter Watson reported concerns about anti-social activities e.g. drug dealing, prostitution etc. occurring in Arleston Lane in Barrow-on-Trent. Mrs Suzanne Watson, a local resident, has been having issues for the last ten years with anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping. There had been six incidents of fly tipping in the last 10 days.

A discussion took place about these issues, with suggestions made, for example, a motion capture light or camera on the corner of the lane. Residents have been shining lights onto offending vehicles but obviously this was putting them at risk. The lane could also be made into a "green" lane. Another idea is the lane could be stopped off at one end to prevent the through traffic.

Matt Holford said that fly tippers were prosecuted wherever possible and one person was due in court this month with regard to tipping in Arleston Lane.

He said that camera surveillance had been tried out along the lane but the location made it challenging to capture individuals and their vehicles. Councillor Watson suggested that a meeting is convened with concerned parties, this was agreed and Chris Smith will be tasked to arrange a meeting.

Action: CS to arrange meeting with residents and relevant agencies

MA/17 **Communities update**

Ian Hey reported that: The Safer South Derbyshire Partnership had received two applications for grants, one of which has been successful for a CCTV upgrade in Aston-on-Trent. Across the area a total of £1,916 has been spent this year, with £8,000 still remaining to support any projects that would impact on reducing or preventing crime or anti-social behaviour.

CVS Update

Kerrie Fletcher reported that there were still small grants available for community groups to promote mental and physical well-being. The CVS has been awarded a contract to support people coming home from hospital and also to prevent hospital admissions for vulnerable adults. More details will follow.

MA/18 **Local authority issues and public questions**

Frank McArdle reported that: the budget has been proposed for 2019/2020 and will be presented to the full council on the 27th February for approval. South Derbyshire District Council has healthy reserves, with surplus income being re-invested in services. No services will be retracted. There will be an increase in Council Tax, recommended at 1.95% for next year. Also there will be a proposal to double the Council Tax on those properties which have been lying empty for two years. SDDC are investing in new social housing for residents, and are one of the fastest growing authorities for new housing outside London.

Dave Smith, Melbourne Parish Council, asked about the drainage on the rugby pitches and Mr McArdle replied that there is an improvement programme across the whole of that area to improve Robinson's Hill. He had met today with the Rugby Club to discuss the issues around the rugby pitches and is hoping that work will commence in the Summer, with the local community being involved in the process. Councillor Mrs Chilton said that there had been regular meetings with Severn Trent, and SDDC were responsible as it was a land drainage issue.

Councillor Neil Atkin said that he had been asked at Matlock to announce that a public consultation will be held about the A50 proposed link road to Infinity Park at the end of February.

MA/19 Open discussion/ Presentation

Councillor Peter Watson raised concerns about the safety issue on the A514 as there had been a number of incidents on the bridge. He asked if the County Council would look into the feasibility of a traffic light junction, similar to the one in Willington near the Sinfin Lane junction and the bridge. Peter was supported by Aston and Weston parish councils and was asked to raise this for the county councillors.

The District Council Elections will take place on the 2nd May and parish councillors were asked if they will provide the necessary facilities in their villages.

Ian Hey said that the Community Partnership Grant has benefited local projects such as Melbourne Assembly Rooms and Whistlewood Common, each project was only part-funded in order to encourage inward investment. There would be no additional monies for next year. Support for local groups still wishing to bid for grants can be given by Ian and also Kerrie Fletcher (CVS).

MA/20 Summary of any agreed priorities/actions

Chris Smith to contact Councillor Watson and arrange a meeting about the problems in Arleston Lane.

South Derbyshire SNT will target thefts of cars, vans and dwellings as well as travelling criminality in the area.

Finally, Councillor John Harrison announced that he is stepping down as Chair and as a District Councillor, having fulfilled the role for 20 years. There was a vote of thanks given to Councillor Harrison and Frank McArdle also gave his personal thanks for all the hard work he has done over the years.

MA/21 Close and Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be end of May / June 2019 – date to be confirmed.

Councillor John Harrison

CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8.00pm.