

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

4th February 2013

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin and Mrs. Watson.

M. Alflat (Director of Operations) and P. Spencer (Democratic Services)

**County Council Representatives**

Councillor Harrison.

P. Jameson (Forum Liaison Officer).

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), K. Atkin and C. Blackmore (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Mitchell and T. Scott (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council) and V.Hurt (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council).

**Members of the Public**

C. Allen, D. Calvert and T. Mills.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Hewlett, N. Hawkesworth and M. Sharpe.

MA/15. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman read a note advising those present how they could apply for a new travel "Gold Card" before their current card expired. Further information was available from the District and County Councils' websites or by ringing the District Council's Customer Services Team on 01283 595795. The Chairman also publicised the "2020 Vision" photography exhibition which would be held in Swadlincote Town Centre between 18th March and 7th April 2013.

MA/16. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Forum held on 3rd October 2012 were noted.

MA/17. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman referred those present to the report circulated with the Agenda. He highlighted the issues raised at the last Meeting and the Forum Liaison Officer gave a verbal update about the drainage scheme for Woodshop Lane in Swarkestone and repairs to the A5132 Barrow Lane in Swarkestone.

MA/18. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Concerns were reported about potholes particularly in the areas of Deepdale Lane and up to Wragley Way in the Barrow-on-Trent / Stenson Fields areas. The Chairman advised that additional Government funding had been received for the repair of potholes. The County Council had changed its approach and would prioritise such repairs, ensuring that a better quality of repair took place. The previous temporary repairs would only be used if there were safety concerns.

On Derby Road in Melbourne, a water leak was causing problems. Vehicles were splashing water on to the pavement and it was then freezing, causing a slip hazard for pedestrians. The issue had been logged with Severn Trent Water and the Chairman had asked Officers at the County Council to pursue this issue as a priority.

A resident questioned the works that were being undertaken by Derbyshire County Council at Cavendish Bridge at Shardlow. The Forum Liaison Officer agreed to research this and to provide a report back to Shardlow Parish Council.

An enquiry was submitted about the refilling of grit bins. Across South Derbyshire there were some 2,000 grit bins, of which 800 were owned and maintained by the County Council. For the remainder, there were local agreements with parish councils, which were responsible for refilling them. The Chairman offered to investigate this matter.

MA/19. **COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES**

Reference was made to the earlier Safer Neighbourhood Meeting, where issues had been raised about speeding traffic and inconsiderate parking. It was confirmed that the Civil Enforcement Officers could issue a Fixed Penalty Notice in some cases for parking offences.

The Chairman reported on draft proposals for a one-way traffic order in the Chapel Street and Potter Street area of Melbourne. He then spoke about issues raised regarding the Swarkestone Causeway, particularly enforcement of the weight limit and the installation of replacement covert cameras. The Forum Liaison Officer gave a brief update, offering to pursue both matters and would submit a report back to the next Area Forum Meeting.

There was discussion about the County Council's plans to turn off street lighting in certain villages overnight. Shardlow representatives had made a suggestion to turn off alternate lights to achieve funding savings and were urged to pursue this with the County Council. It was also noted that the plans

to turn off lights in areas of Weston-on-Trent had not yet been fully implemented.

MA/20. **DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES**

Mark Alflat, the Council's Director of Operations addressed those present on the budget proposals for 2013/14. Whilst the Council had a healthy financial position currently, Government cuts meant that further savings of £300,000 per year would need to be achieved to balance budgets. The Council budgeted over a 5-year period and corrective action would be taken to cut costs, but not services. Mr. Alflat spoke about the growth of the District and the positive effects of additional development. The Council was considering a freeze on Council Tax and reference was also made to the Council Tax Support Scheme.

It was stated that another Council had recently introduced a specific charge for emptying the brown compost bin, but it was confirmed that South Derbyshire District Council had no intention to impose such a charge. A resident enquired about the charging of business rates and Council Tax in commercial properties that also had living accommodation, and queried the implications when the commercial premises had closed. She was asked to contact the clerk after the Meeting to leave further details, so that a response could be provided. The Chairman praised the District Council's refuse staff for their service in the recent poor winter weather. Related to this, it was questioned whether a review of collection arrangements could be considered as for many households, the volume of compostable materials was very low at this time of year.

MA/21. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue for the next Melbourne Area Forum would be confirmed in due course, but was likely to be held in June.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.