File

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

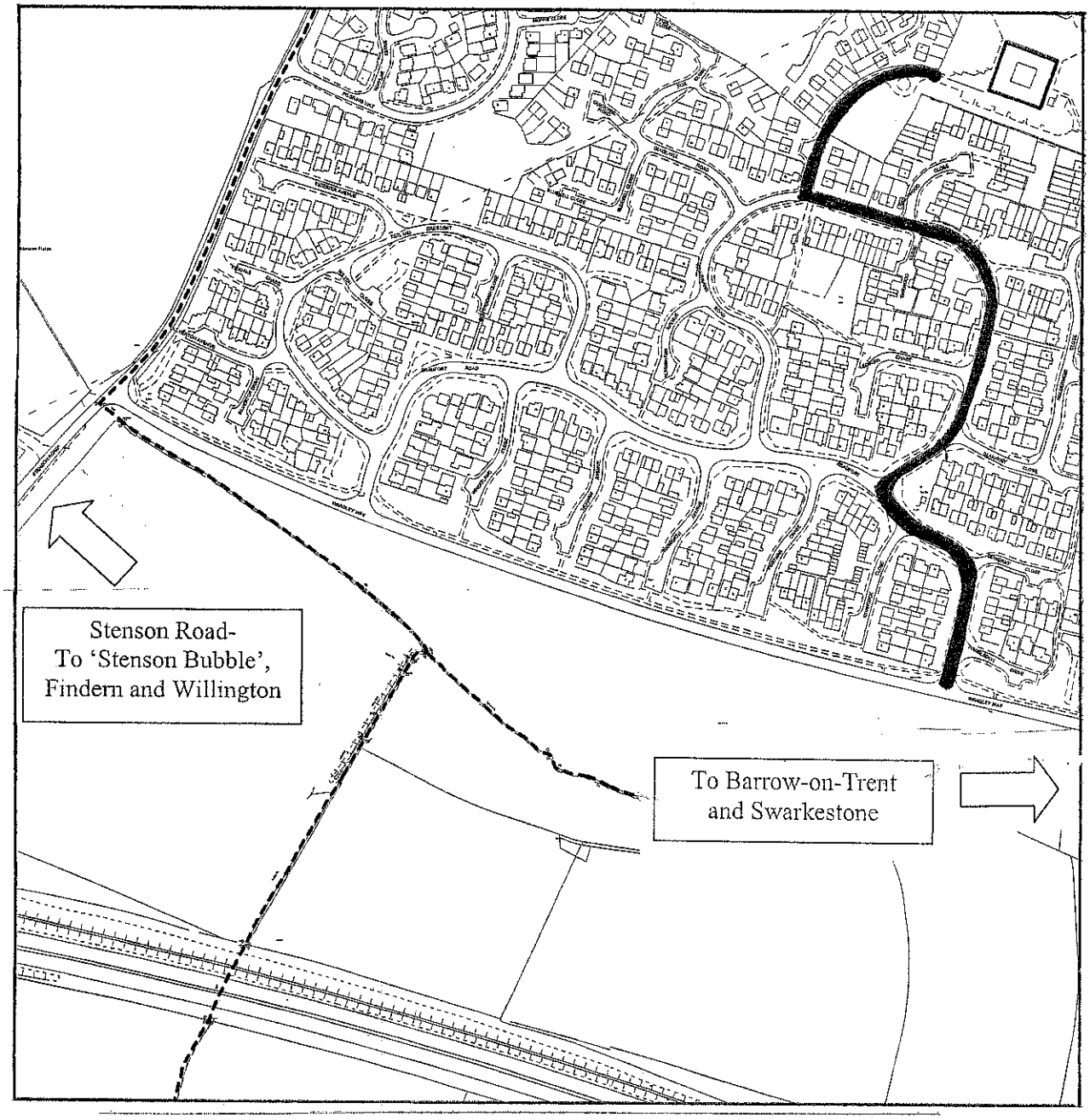
AGENDA AND REPORTS

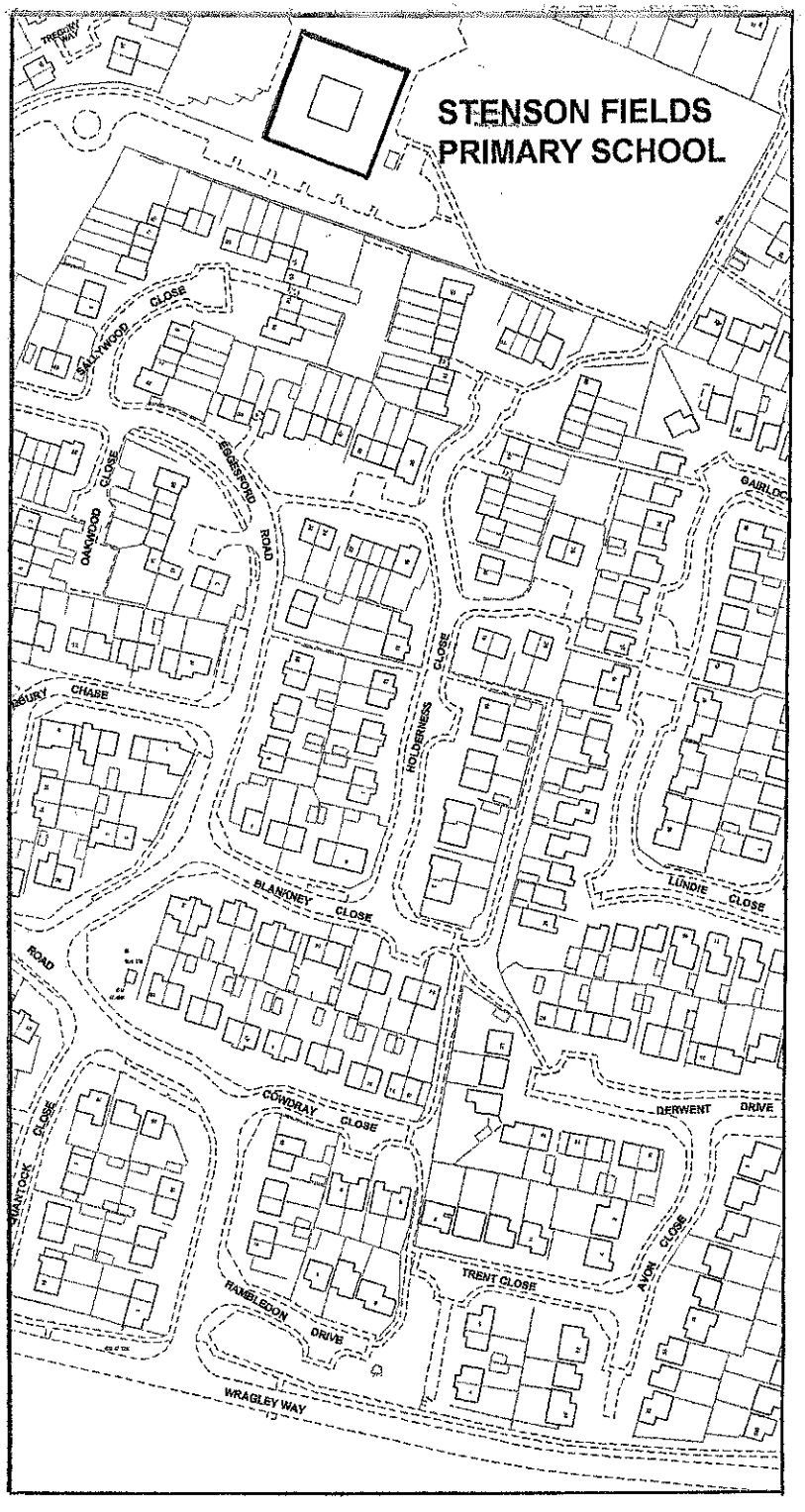
TUESDAY, 15TH OCTOBER 2002

**STENSON FIELDS PRIMARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL,
HEATHER CLOSE,
STENSON FIELDS**

7.00 p.m.

STENSON FIELDS, SOUTH DERBYSHIRE





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 Stenson Fields Primary Community School, Heather Close, Stenson Fields on Tuesday, 15th October 2002 at 7.00 p.m.

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

Members:

District Councillors: Councillor Carroll (Chair) and Councillors Brooks (Vice-Chair), and Councillors Harrison, Pabla, Mrs. Robbins and Shepherd.

County Councillor: Councillor Harrison.

BUSINESS

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st July 2002 (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 – 21st January 2003 at Melbourne Leisure Centre, High Street, Melbourne.

Community Items

7. East Midlands Airport. Councillor B. Whyman, Chair of the Airport's Liaison Committee, will be present to respond to questions about the Airport.

8. Crime and Disorder Initiatives. A presentation will be made by Stuart Batchelor.

OPEN

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

31st July 2002

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives
Councillor Carroll (Chair), Councillors Brooks, Harrison, Pabla and Mrs. Robbins.
T. Neaves (Chief Finance Officer), P. Spencer (Members' Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representative
Councillor Harrison.

Parish Council Representatives
C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), J. Thompson (Ingleby Parish Meeting), N. Hawksworth (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council), J. Barnes (Smisby Parish Council) and V. Shaw (Weston-on-Trent Parish Council).

Derbyshire Constabulary
Inspector Hargreaves and PC Corden.

Members of the Public
F. Briggs, M. Briggs, C. Ford, G. Hardy, F. Hinds, J. Hinds, R. Knibb, S. Madeley, G. Pollard, S. Robbins, G. Sandhu, R. Saxby, P. Waters, P. Watson, K. Whewell and A. Wood.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillor Shepherd and Mr. Dennis.

MA/1. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

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

MA/2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 17th April 2002 were noted.

MA/3. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair explained that later in the Meeting a presentation would be made to consult on the Council's budget proposals. A questionnaire had been circulated to seek feedback on its aims and priorities and those present were asked to complete the questionnaire and to return it to the Helpdesk at the end of the Meeting.

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

A progress report was provided on the issues raised at the last Meeting. The Vice-Chair gave a verbal report on developments at the East Midlands

Airport, particularly the DHL Freight Terminal and the proposed runway extension. Councillor Whyman, Leader of the South Derbyshire District Council and Chair of the Airport Liaison Committee would attend the next Area Meeting to provide a further update.

Mrs. Barker of Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council spoke of the recent Ministerial decision not to "designate" East Midlands Airport. She also voiced concern following recent announcements about future air transport developments. The Government had produced a Regional consultation document and she urged parish councils to obtain a copy of this document and to respond to it. The proposal document included a second runway for the East Midlands Airport. As the Airport had not be "designated", this proposal might provide the opportunity to impose conditions limiting the number of night flights.

At the last Meeting a number of highway safety issues had been reported. An update was provided and a further report would be made later in the Meeting. Following the request made at the last Meeting, action had been taken to remove broken glass from the Queensway Park in Melbourne.

MA/5. **DIVISIONAL POLICING CHANGES – A TWELVE MONTH UPDATE**

Inspector Hargreaves gave a presentation and reminded that Divisional Commander Hurrell had addressed this Meeting previously. He outlined the changes to the Police Service which had taken place since then. Traditionally the Police had acted in isolation, but this had changed in the 1990's with the introduction of Crime and Disorder Initiatives. A divisional review had been undertaken across the County of Derbyshire and particularly in South Derbyshire. The South Derbyshire Section's boundaries had been made coterminous with the boundaries of the District Council. This had resulted in an effective Crime and Disorder Partnership.

Inspector Hargreaves advised that a beat constable scheme had been introduced for certain areas. This provided a two-tier approach to policing. In addition to the traditional 'Reactive' officers, the beat officers could tackle local problems and there were ten officers for the South Derbyshire area. Four beat officers were located in the urban areas and six were located in the rural areas. Their role was to establish links in the community, to be visible, to be a local point of contact and to deal with ongoing problems.

In February 2002, two rural officers had been introduced into South Derbyshire. These officers covered the whole of the District, but concentrated on the rural areas. Their remit was to work with farmers and landowners to resolve localised issues.

In January 2002, a new call handling system was introduced to improve response times. This had led to more accurate crime statistics being recorded. A mobile police station had been provided for South Derbyshire and a rota for the mobile station was available on the helpdesk. All beat officers were provided with mobile telephones and could be contacted direct by members of the public.

Inspector Hargreaves emphasised the need for the Police to be kept informed of problems. It was important that people reported crime, as all incidents

were logged. Statistics were examined on a weekly basis to identify trends and 'hotspots', so that resources could be targeted appropriately.

Inspector Hargreaves reported on the long-term staffing plan. Ideally, he would like to see beat officers in post for three to five years, but he recognised that officers would move on to progress in their career. The Chief Constable was currently applying for funding to enable the recruitment of more police officers.

Inspector Hargreaves explained that a Melbourne Crime Group had been established to look at local problems and try to resolve them. This initiative was still in its early stages, but it was hoped that it would prove successful. Mrs. Barker recognised the improved policing service provided in Barrow-on-Trent, but she hoped that the beat officers would be able to patrol villages on foot. Inspector Hargreaves recognised the public relations benefits of beat officers meeting village residents, but he was also mindful of the large geographic area which each officer covered. The request would be taken on board where possible.

Mr. Mitchell of Elvaston Parish Council voiced his support for the new policing arrangements. He sought the assistance of the Constabulary to resolve a problem in Ambaston, alleging that the Village was being used by prostitutes. Inspector Hargreaves agreed to pursue this problem and he sought the assistance of residents in recording vehicle registration numbers and the times of incidents. The local beat officer felt that it was unlikely that the Village was being used by prostitutes, but it was noted that the parish lengthsman had resigned as a result of this problem.

In Ingleby, problems were being experienced with abandoned and burnt-out vehicles, with fly-tipping in verges, farmers' fields and field entrances. The resident made a comparison to Nottingham City Council which took a pro-active approach, collecting unwanted vehicles free of charge and arranging for their disposal. Inspector Hargreaves explained the powers available to both the Constabulary and local authorities to remove abandoned vehicles. Where the vehicle posed a danger to other road users, the police took action. Otherwise, the matter was referred to the District Council. The Government had recently enhanced the powers available to local authorities to deal with abandoned vehicles. An outline was given of the reduced time-scales before such vehicles could be removed and the revised procedures put in place to provide a more responsive service. With regard to incidences of fly-tipping, it was noted that witness evidence was required to enable prosecutions to be pursued. Two fly-tipping prosecutions were on-going at present.

Councillor Mrs. Robbins explained that a small part of the Elvaston Parish came under the jurisdiction of a neighbouring Constabulary division. She sought information on the liaison which took place and voiced concerns over the perceived lack of police presence in that area.

The Chair thanked Inspector Hargreaves and PC Corden for their attendance and the presentation made. It was noted that the next Police Liaison Meeting would take place on 2nd September 2002 at the Melbourne Leisure Centre.

MA/6. **PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident complained about works undertaken to cut hedgerows in Elvaston near to the Castle entrance. The hedgerow had been intended to screen a proposed gravel extraction site. The resident spoke of the need for a speed limit along this section of roadway. He was concerned for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, but had previously been informed that this section of roadway did not meet the required criteria for a 30 miles per hour speed limit to be imposed. County Councillor Harrison explained the requirement for a road to have built-up frontages on either side, to qualify for the 30 mph speed limit. It might, however, be possible to secure some speed restriction along this length of road and he offered to pursue this on behalf of the resident. It was questioned whether the proximity of a cycle path could result in the 30 mph speed limit being imposed. Comparisons were drawn with a section of road in Swarkestone where the 30 mph speed limit was in force. County Councillor Harrison understood the issues reported and agreed to hold a site visit with those concerned.

Thanks were voiced for the road improvements undertaken in Aston-on-Trent. There were however some minor flooding problems, particularly in the vicinity of the Memorial Hall.

Mr. Watson referred to works undertaken in Ingleby to replace drains and gullies. Some of the drains had been placed incorrectly and were ineffective. Mr. Watson also spoke of the safety barriers installed on the A514 between Swarkestone and Chellaston at Cuttle Bridge. These had resulted in the road being narrowed, had created a chicane and he felt that the alignment of kerbs could lead to a road traffic accident. The concerns were echoed by a number of people present at the Meeting including County Councillor Harrison who agreed to liaise with Mr. Watson and submit his views to the County Council, together with suggestions on how the problem could be resolved.

Further highway problems were reported in the Elvaston Parish and it appeared unlikely that any resurfacing works would be undertaken by the County Council. The roads were badly damaged, with deep potholes and no footways, which made it difficult for pedestrians. The County Council had received additional resources from the Government of £80 million over a five year period. It was understood that these monies had now been allocated and was unlikely that additional funds could be vired from another source. Councillor Harrison spoke of the responsive service available to provide basic repairs to potholes. He stressed that this was a temporary measure and compared it to the traditional approach to "patch" potholes, providing a more permanent repair. He intended to pursue this issue through the County Scrutiny function as he thought it was more cost effective to undertake permanent repairs at the first visit. Councillor Harrison was also asked to report that signage at the junction of the Swarkestone Bridge and Ingleby Road was repeatedly being hit by vehicles. At present the weight limit sign was missing. It was also noted that the damaged bridge wall had still not been repaired following an accident some years ago and Councillor Harrison agreed to report this problem again.

Councillor Mrs. Robbins spoke of the problems caused by the notifiable weed, ragwort. The weed was poisonous and could be fatal to certain types

of livestock. Councillor Harrison explained the County Council's responsibility to remove this weed from their land, including highway verges. Current maintenance arrangements exacerbated the problems and caused the weed to spread. It was agreed to write to Derbyshire County Council reporting the concerns raised.

Councillor Brooks submitted a request on behalf of a resident of Aston-on-Trent. Additional verge maintenance was sought beyond the bus shelter in Yates Avenue, Aston-on-Trent. At present, the overgrown verge was impeding visibility and causing highway safety concerns. Councillor Brooks explained that the speed limit sign had been moved approximately 100 yards towards Weston-on-Trent and he felt that the verge maintenance should similarly be extended. The District Council was pursuing Derbyshire County Council on this issue and Councillor Harrison's assistance was also sought to pursue the matter.

Feedback was sought on the outcome of a joint meeting to address flooding problems in parts of South Derbyshire. In particular, information was sought on flood protection schemes. Frank Mitchell of Elvaston Parish Council agreed to provide a copy of the documents that had been circulated to the resident concerned.

MA/7. **CONSULTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Terry Neaves, Chief Finance Officer at the District Council. The Finance Consultation sought to follow-up presentations made during the last budget round in January and provide the next stage in developing budget consultation. It sought to raise awareness about the cost of current services, the spending pressures which the Council faced and to seek feedback on priorities. The annual cost of general fund revenue services amounted to £9.61million. A breakdown was provided of the cost of Environmental Services, Community Services and Finance and Management Services. Details were given of current capital spending from the General Fund which amounted to £1.1million this year.

To provide a context, it was shown that South Derbyshire's expenditure amounted to only 11% of the resources generated through the Council Tax. Current spending pressures were reported and an outline was given of the Council's key aims. Feedback was sought about the Council's priorities and whether residents would be prepared to pay increased Council Tax for service improvements. A questionnaire had been circulated to gauge residents' views and it was hoped that this could be completed and returned either at the end of the Meeting or using the free-post reply service. Details were also provided of those revenue and capital spending proposals put forward by Members and Officers. This included details of those schemes submitted for approval to the Finance and Management Committee and those other schemes considered but excluded due to insufficient resources.

Clarification was sought on the costs of Finance and Management services and particularly central expenses, corporate management and democratic services. An explanation was provided of the functions which these costs related to. With regard to the Council's key aims, there was some confusion over the difference between providing Best Value and managing the Council's business. The Vice-Chair explained the difference between these two aims. Further clarification was provided on the proportion of Council Tax income

which was spent on District Council functions, the income that would be generated if the District Council precepted additional sums and the other sources of funding for District Council expenditure. The cost of Community Services was considered and further information provided about private sector housing and the concessionary travel scheme. A resident felt that greater efficiencies could be secured by reducing staff numbers. He was informed of the difficult decisions which the Council had to make some two years ago when a financial crisis meant that 43 posts had to be removed from the Council's establishment. Councillor Pabla explained the difficulties which could arise from reducing staff numbers and felt that ensuring the delivery of value for money services was of more importance.

MA/8. **HIGHWAY PROBLEMS**

It was reported that Derbyshire County Council had been considering a reserve list of capital schemes for highways. A resurfacing scheme for Ticknall was listed as a high priority, amongst a number of other proposals to be undertaken later this year.

Unfortunately, at a budget review meeting earlier in the day this scheme had not been included. However, John Waite the Area Manager for South Derbyshire was to discuss with Councillor Burrows, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways, how this could be resolved and he would provide a further update in due course.

MA/9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Melbourne Area Meeting would be held on 15th October 2002 at the Stenson Fields Primary School, Heather Close, Stenson Fields.

MA/10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Vice-Chair publicised a Flood Defence Fair that would be held at the Bretby Conference Centre on Monday, 23rd September 2002.

J. CARROLL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 9.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

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, 15th October 2002

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the last Area Meeting held on 31st July 2002 at Shardlow Village Hall, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made to date:-

ISSUES	PROGRESS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
1. East Midlands Airport.	Councillor Whyman, Chair of the East Midlands Airport Liaison Committee, will be present to respond to concerns about the Airport.	Councillor Carroll/Chief Executive (P. Spencer)
2. Highway Issues.	County Councillor Harrison has pursued the various highway issues raised at the last Meeting and will provide an update.	Councillor Harrison
3. Problems caused through ragwort.	A letter was sent to Derbyshire County Council Environmental Services to report residents' concerns. An update will be provided.	Chief Executive (P. Spencer)