

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

AREA 3 – MELBOURNE AREA

Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 at Barrow on Trent Village Hall

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor John Harrison (Chair), Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Mrs Hilary Coyle, Councillor Jim Hewlett.

Ian Hey (Community Partnership Officer).
Frank McArdle (Chief Executive).
Tom Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council representative

Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton.

Derbyshire Police representatives

PC Joe Pilgrim, PCSO Emma Guest.

Parish Council / Meeting representatives

Anne Heathcote (Barrow Parish Council), Alison Hicklin (Barrow Parish Council), Ed Hicklin (Aston Parish Council), Jean Longley (Aston Parish Council), Robert Parker (Melbourne Parish Council), David Smith (Melbourne Parish Council), Robert Wheat (Stanton by Bridge Parish Meeting).

Members of the public

Eddie Bisknell (Derby Telegraph), Nick Broster, Vanessa Earith, Barrie Evans, Kerrie Fletcher (CVS), Frank Hughes (Village Voice), Mark Hunt (CVS), Jackie Marsh, Jan Robinson.

MA/1 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Councillor Peter Watson.

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Councillor Watson was elected as the meeting's vice-chair for the ensuing 12 months.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

On the proposition of Ed Hicklin, the minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record.

MA/2 **Safer Neighbourhood report**

PCSO Emma Guest reported that:

- Complaints had been received from residents of Sevenlands Drive around pizza delivery drivers using alleyways on their motorbikes, causing a hazard to pedestrians and damaging grass. All of the takeaways in the Alvaston area had been warned and signs put up.
- Cannabis warnings had been issued at Staunton Harold Reservoir a few weeks previously
- The occupants of three cars loitering around the back of Melbourne Assembly Rooms had been spoken to the previous night. They were known youths, but hadn't committed any offences.
- Positive drug swabs had been taken from drivers in Barrow, Shardlow and Swarkestone. All offenders had been dealt with.

PC Joe Pilgrim introduced himself to the meeting. He reported that:

- He was still finishing off two investigations which he'd taken into the job from a previous posting.
- He'd been involved recently in putting two burglars in prison, one for two years after a break-in in Aston and the other for three years for an attempted burglary in Aston and some other offences.
- CREST (speed camera team) was working with Special Constables to do speed checks in Shardlow.

A resident reported concerns about anti-social behaviour behind the bowls club at Kings Newton, with Friday nights particularly bad. The previous week a lot of youths had to be evicted from the away team's shelter. The club was looking to put up CCTV and had told him that the police had given the youngsters permission to be there. PC Pilgrim said that police would never give anyone permission to stay where they weren't wanted on a club's land. He would keep an eye on the site.

A resident raised a car which had been parked on Derby Road, Melbourne, for several months without tax or an MOT. Could the police bring any pressure to bear? PCSO Guest replied that the car had been reported several times. It had insurance. The resident said surely if the MOT had run out it invalidated the insurance?

ACTION: PC Joe Pilgrim to report back on status of car

A member of the public reported an incident in Barrow three weeks earlier when police attended an attempted break-in to a garage, with some damage caused. Officers left no notification that they'd attended – was this correct? PC Pilgrim replied that it depended on whether the officers had seen any sign of attempted forced entry. If they hadn't they may not have left a notice.

A resident asked for crime statistics to be provided. Councillor John Harrison replied that they were available on a website called www.inyourarea.co.uk. The data came from www.police.uk.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to provide crime statistics at future meetings

MA/3 **Communities update**

Ian Hey reported that:

- The Community Partnership Scheme, a new £250,000 fund for capital projects in South Derbyshire, had been launched. Projects seeking funding needed to show how they would impact on SDDC's Corporate Plan and Community Strategy and be for a minimum of £1,000 out of an overall minimum £4,000 spend. They also had to provide benefits for the residents of South Derbyshire. He was available to help with advice for projects and potential applications. The cut-off date was September 19th.
- Safer and Stronger Neighbourhood Grants were still available, with all six areas in South Derbyshire receiving £4,000 per year. Projects which had an impact on community safety were encouraged, but a broad view was taken on what was eligible. Two applications had been submitted from the Melbourne area, one for £420 from the Friends of Aston Brickyard Plantation and one for £496 from the Centaura Field Bowmen. Both schemes were approved by the meeting.
- An Adult Activities Brochure had been published by SDDC and copies were available at the back of the meeting.

A resident asked if the grants were separate to those provided by Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. Mr Hey confirmed they were.

Kerrie Fletcher from the CVS reported that:

- A self-help grant fund had been set up.
- DCC had just launched its own Action Grants for up to £10,000.
- East Midlands Airport had a community fund which bidders could apply to for money.
- The CVS was undertaking loneliness and isolation work and an event was taking place in Chesterfield in July.
- With the introduction of Universal Credit in the autumn, the CVS expected much greater utilisation of its food bank. Anyone able to make a donation should get in touch. A list of shortage products was available.
- DCC's consultation on the future of libraries as community-run ventures was under way. Focus groups were trying to pull together people interested in running the county's libraries. The CVS could offer support to people looking to run a library. Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton added that there was a meeting at Melbourne Library on the subject on June 28th at 2pm.

Mark Hunt from the CVS explained what the Safer Homes Scheme was and how it allowed the over-60s and vulnerable members of society free security upgrades to their properties.

MA/4 **Local authority issues & public questions**

Frank McArdle reported that:

- New refuse vehicles and grass cutting equipment were in operation around South Derbyshire, with 13 new operatives taken on to deal with the extra workload. He hoped to see an improvement in the service offered.
- Retention of the Business Rates was likely to be beneficial to SDDC.
- Allison Thomas had been recruited as SDDC's Strategic Director (Service Delivery) and had made a good start in improving services for the residents of South Derbyshire.
- The Festival of Leisure at Maurice Lea Memorial Park, in Church Gresley, would take place on June 23rd and 24th. It was a fantastic community event and free at the point of entry.
- An historic cricket match – South Derbyshire v The Aboriginals – had been recreated on its 150th anniversary at the County Ground, Derby. The visiting side won by six wickets, unlike the original match, which was won by South Derbyshire by 134 runs.
- Heritage trails were being launched in Swadlincote, with plaques commemorating historic figures from the town.

A resident said there'd been a flurry of grass cutting in March and April and since then the verges had become overgrown. Mr McArdle replied that the grass cutting service was changing to a more responsive outlook. It was a

task for Mrs Thomas to undertake but the service had already improved to work more responsively and intelligently. Councillor Harrison added that SDDC was conscious of the need for improvement. Councillor Mrs Hilary Coyle said it would be useful for parishes to see a schedule of works. Mr McArdle said he would see if it was possible.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to report request for published schedule of work to SDDC depot

A Melbourne resident said the quality of the cuts in 2018 had improved greatly on previous years.

Councillor Neil Atkin reported that:

- DCC had produced a document showing where money had been spent throughout the various divisions.
- The Elvaston Castle masterplan had gone out for consultation. Plans included a 'craft village' to increase rental income to £5,000 a year.
- There had been serious issues at Elvaston Castle during the previous bank holiday with parking in local villages to avoid the charge. Enforcement action was required to find a solution.

Councillors Mrs Linda Chilton said it was frustrating that much of what Councillor Atkin said about Elvaston had been proposed four years earlier. Councillor Mrs Coyle added that South Derbyshire as a district didn't charge for parking. Could DCC not come up with a more creative solution with no parking charges levied?

Mr McArdle again expressed his disappointment that there wasn't a DCC officer available for Area Forums. Councillor Mrs Chilton replied that South Derbyshire was more or less in a unique position when Paul Jameson attended as Area Forum Liaison Officer. If an officer was needed for a specific issue then someone would be sent. Ms Fletcher requested an officer to discuss the changes to the library service provided by DCC.

ACTION: Tom Sloan to request DCC officer Sue Brailsford for the next meeting

MA/5 **Presentation on local community initiative**

Anne Heathcote delivered a presentation on the church at Barrow, which was being turned into a more functional building to serve the whole community. The National Lottery had provided £600,000 to help with the work. The project had until August to provide detailed plans, with a backstop date of March 2019. It was likely plans would go in early in 2019. The Diocese was key to the project as it required ecclesiastical permission.

MA/6 **Summary of any agreed priorities / actions**

- PC Joe Pilgrim to report back on status of car parked in Derby Road, Melbourne.
- Tom Sloan to provide crime statistics at future meetings.
- Frank McArdle to report request for published schedule of grass cutting work to SDDC depot.
- Tom Sloan to request DCC officer Sue Brailsford for the next meeting.

MA/7 **Close and date of next meeting**

Tuesday, October 23rd, at Melbourne Assembly Rooms.

Councillor John Harrison
CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 8.08pm.