

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE

October 29, 2015 at Melbourne Assembly Rooms

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

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

Stuart Batchelor (Director of Community and Planning), Tom Sloan (Clerk).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Rob Davison, Paul Jameson (Area Forum Liaison Officer).

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

Rachel Cheshire (Barrow on Trent Parish Council), Wendy Earp (Melbourne Parish Council), Ed Green (Weston on Trent Parish Council), Margaret Sharp (Melbourne Parish Council).

Members of the Public

Dave Calvert (Melbourne Civic Society), Lucy Stephens (Village Voice).

MA/11 **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Jim Hewlett.

MA/12 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

MA/13 **Chairman's Announcements**

None.

MA/14 **To note the minutes of the meeting held on July 22, 2015**

The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton and were seconded by Councillor Rob Davison.

MA/15 **Report back on issues raised at the last meeting**

Councillor Peter Watson reported that a second brown bin can be given to residents after a request from a householder in Weston on Trent. Councillor Watson stated that an extra brown bin can be awarded, but an extra black bin cannot. Councillor John Harrison added that extra brown bins could be justified on the basis of them encouraging recycling.

MA/16 **Public questions on issues raised by residents**

- Swarkestone Causeway Enforcement Project

Councillor Mrs Chilton asked for an update from Paul Jameson (AFLO) on the Swarkestone Causeway Enforcement Project. The AFLO had spoken to Neil Bennett (Derbyshire County Council Transport Data Manager) and Sgt Brown but the issue had not been furthered recently due to staffing issues but a meeting was due on November 11.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to report back at a future meeting.

- Footpaths at Swarkestone Causeway

A member of the public asked what progress had been made with regards to diverting a footpath away from Swarkestone Causeway and out onto Ingleby Lane. Councillor Mrs Chilton reported that a deed involved is with the Church Commissioners and no progress could yet be made. There is also a technical question involved, with the rights of way team at the county council involved, a team which has seen a reduction in head count, hence the delay. Councillor Harrison asked the AFLO to urge an early decision on the matter.

ACTION: Paul Jameson to pursue the issue with relevant officers.

- Works at Swarkestone Bridge and resulting tailbacks

Councillor Neil Atkin reported that works had taken place on Swarkestone Bridge, causing traffic chaos when a generator powering a set of temporary traffic lights failed. He stated that by the time the lights were up and running, traffic was backed up into Chellaston in one direction and to a similar distance the other way. Councillor Atkin complained that the works were not publicised and asked in future for the public to be kept informed. Councillor Harrison stated that 48 hours' notice was required and Councillor Mrs Chilton stated she had not been informed. Councillor Watson reported that the works were "under bridge" and it was another reason why Swarkestone needs a bypass, with the nearest crossing five miles in either direction. He argued the need to push for a new £30 million causeway. The AFLO reported that road closures have to be advertised but temporary traffic lights do not. He said the problem with such works was the sheer number of them happening at any time in Derbyshire, precluding their advertisement. Councillor Harrison asked the AFLO the name of the contractor, but the AFLO was unsure who it was. The AFLO confirmed that the county

council has to be consulted over work, and it is encouraged away from peak traffic hours of 7.30am to 10am and 3pm to 6pm. Councillor Harrison asked for the meeting's sentiments to be taken back to county HQ, a request to which the AFLO agreed.

- Junction at humpback bridge from A514 to Weston on Trent

Councillor Watson asked if the junction off the A514 towards Weston on Trent could be improved after three to four serious but non-fatal accidents in recent times. He asked if better signage of a ghost island in the centre of the carriageway could help matters. The AFLO said the junction would have to be reviewed but that there would be no consistent data if there had been no injuries at the junction. Ed Green from Weston on Trent Parish Council reported a high number of minor incidents at the junction. Councillor Mrs Chilton requested the AFLO ask if the road is wide enough for a ghost junction. Councillor Harrison made the point that there will soon be more buses on the road, with services to expand to a bus every half hour. A member of the public stated the problem with the junction would get worse with houses being built at Barrow on Trent. Councillor Harrison added that two fatalities in the area had special circumstances attached as a driver and passenger drowned after crashing through the causeway wall when they were rushing to get petrol. A member of the public added that there have been two fatalities near to the kennels. The AFLO stated that he could only answer questions in general terms. Related to housing, he said that all applications go through the local authority, in this case SDDC. The AFLO said that Section 106 agreements are agreed in the case of large developments to improve highways. In such cases, the county council has to demonstrate that housing will have an impact on a particular highway. Often, substantial sums of money can be obtained. Stuart Batchelor added that SDDC has briefing sessions for parish councils and members of the public to give them more information on how things work. The next meeting, entitled Planning and Enforcement, was set for December 2, with a representative from the highways authority (DCC) speaking. Mr Batchelor said that as South Derbyshire was the fourth or fifth fastest-growing district outside the south east, the bottom line is that traffic levels are going to rise.

MA/17 **County Council Issues**

Councillor Mrs Chilton had nothing extra to report.

Statistics regarding traffic enforcement on Swarkestone Causeway

The AFLO presented figures for 10 investigations into HGVs illegally crossing the causeway using a combination of enforcement checks and photographic information from local residents.

As a result of these investigations:

- Four drivers have received Letters of Warning.

- Three drivers have received a Simple Caution.
- Two drivers are due in court in November.
- One company has been reported to the Traffic Commissioner for using a foreign driver not resident in the UK.

A report against one driver is still under consideration and six other drivers are currently under investigation – a total of 17 investigations commenced since April 1, 2015.

A driver appeared in court in September and was fined £447 with £159 costs for an offence committed in March, 2015.

Councillor Watson recorded his pleasure at the number of prosecutions and asked for the figures to be publicised locally to ensure residents were aware that action was being taken. Councillor Harrison said a press release should be sent to the trade press as well as the local press to maximise the effects of the campaign.

Swarkestone Bridge signage

A member of the public stated that signage regarding Swarkestone Bridge and its weight limit does not start early enough to prevent transgressions. Councillor Mrs Chilton reported that there is a sign at Sandcliffe Road before the Clock Island, giving HGV drivers plenty of warning not to use the A514.

Councillor Rob Davison:

- Works at Swarkestone Bridge and resulting tailbacks

Councillor Davison reported two HGVs caught in the tailbacks and stated it was unfortunate police weren't present to catch the drivers. He also said having a faulty satellite navigation system was no excuse for taking an inappropriate route and that the county council needed to take a tougher stance on the issue.

- Swarkestone Causeway Enforcement Project

Councillor Davison asked for he and Councillor Mrs Chilton to be told as soon as possible the outcome of the meeting on November 11.

- South Derbyshire Local Plan

Councillor Davison stated that South Derbyshire's local plan is placing large amounts of housing on the southern fringe of Derby, transferring problems from the district to the city. Housing developments of 500 units are approaching completion in Stenson Fields and until integrated transport links are completed traffic will get heavier through Swarkestone and across the causeway.

- Kerb stones at the Bay Tree in Melbourne

Councillor Harrison recorded that for 10 years he had tried to get the kerb stones outside the Bay Tree fixed, with every repair job “botched”. He argued that if granite was used instead of sandstone (the latter is required in the conservation area) they would stand a better chance of surviving impacts from vehicles. He wished Councillor Mrs Chilton well in her attempts to get the kerbs fixed.

MA/18 **District Council issues**

- Parish Briefing

Stuart Batchelor reported that a briefing for parish councils, sports clubs and community organisations on funding for sports facilities had taken place. There was an excellent turnout of 30 people, with Area Three well represented.

- Open Space Community Facilities Strategy

Mr Batchelor reported that the closing date is approaching for the Open Space Community Facilities Strategy, with it vital that any community project is included to ensure Section 106 money is allocated from developers. A member of the public asked if a Scout hut at Melbourne could be included and Mr Batchelor responded by recommending the project is included in the plan so it doesn't miss out on Section 106 money.

- Corporate Plan

The new Corporate Plan is currently being developed by SDDC. Mr Batchelor reported that by the time of the next Melbourne Area Forum the document would be published, identifying priority projects. The Melbourne area, he said, featured heavily in the previous Corporate Plan, with the Assembly Rooms benefiting from the associated external funding.

- Council budget

Mr Batchelor reported no news on council budgets with a 40 per cent cut expected in the central government grant over the remainder of this Parliament. The expected cuts won't kick in until the next financial year 2015-16. Councillor Harrison pointed out that this cut would, at least in part, be offset by the New Homes Bonus and Business Rate Retention.

- Funding

Mr Batchelor cited the village of Overseal as what can be done with external funding. The village received a £50,000 grant from Sport England and ended up with more than £100,000 – because SDDC had a development plan in place. He wants intelligence on every playing field in the district. He also stated that £17 million has been spent in the last decade on open space and leisure, with £15 million of that from external sources. Councillor Atkin asked who would fund

the maintenance of these projects. Mr Batchelor said pitch hire would help to pay for upkeep.

- Combined Authorities

Councillor Harrison Cllr Harrison reported that discussions were already under way about creating a Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire Combined Authority. He stated more would be known by the time of the next area forum.

MA/19 **Date of Next Meeting**

To be advised in due course.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 8.25pm.