

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS**

WEDNESDAY, 28TH MAY 2008

**STENSON FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
HEATHER CLOSE
STENSON FIELDS**

7.00 p.m.

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South Derbyshire District Council
Policy and Economic Regeneration

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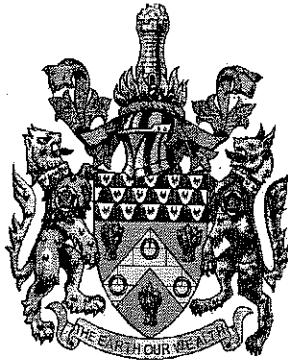


Date Plotted 13/9/2005

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL:

Meeting	Date of Meeting
ANNUAL COUNCIL	Thursday, 22nd May 2008
CIVIC COUNCIL	Thursday, 29th May 2008
Environmental & Development Services	Tuesday, 3rd June 2008
Housing & Community Services	Thursday, 5th June 2008
Development Control	Tuesday, 10th June 2008
Finance & Management	Thursday, 12th June 2008
Audit Sub	Wednesday, 18th June 2008 at 4.00 p.m.
Overview & Scrutiny	Wednesday, 25th June 2008 at 5.00 p.m.
Finance & Management (Special – Final Accounts)	Thursday, 26th June 2008
Development Control	Tuesday, 1st July 2008
COUNCIL	Thursday, 3rd July 2008
Etwall Leisure Centre to be held at John Port School, Etwall	Monday, 7th July 2008 at 5.00 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 29th July 2008
Development Control	Tuesday, 26th August 2008
Environmental & Development Services	Thursday, 28th August 2008
Housing & Community Services	Tuesday, 2nd September 2008
Finance & Management	Thursday, 4th September 2008
Overview & Scrutiny	Wednesday, 17th September 2008 at 5.00 p.m.
Development Control	Tuesday, 23rd September 2008
Audit Sub	Wednesday, 1st October 2008 at 4.00 p.m.
COUNCIL	Thursday, 2nd October 2008

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the Council's Civic Offices and will start at 6.00 p.m.



Civic Offices, Civic Way,
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 0AH

Please ask for Paul Spencer
Tel: (01283) 221000 Ext. 5722
DDI (01283) 595722
Fax (01283) 595854
Minicom: (01283) 228149
DX 23912 Swadlincote
E.mail: paul.spencer@south-derbys.gov.uk

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
Stenson Fields Primary School
Heather Close,
Stenson Fields
on Wednesday, 28th May 2008
at 7.00 p.m.

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

Members:

District Councillors: Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Mrs. Coyle, Harrison, Hewlett, Murray,
Pabla, Shepherd, Stanton, Watson and Mrs. Wheeler.

County Councillors: Councillors Ford and Harrison.



BUSINESS

1. To note the appointment of the Chairman at the Annual Council Meeting.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Area Meeting for the ensuing year.
4. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd January 2008 (copy herewith).
5. To note any declarations of interest from any items on the Agenda.
6. Chairman's Announcements (if any).
7. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
8. Public Question time and suggestions for future local discussion items.
9. Date of Next Meeting.
10. Presentation from Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service.
11. Derbyshire County Council Spending Priorities.

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

22nd January 2008

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Hewlett, Pabla, Shepherd and Mrs. Wheeler.

F. McArdle (Chief Executive), P. Spencer (Democratic Services), S. Ryan (Policy) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

County Council Representatives

Councillors Harrison and Jones.

D. Tysoe (County Secretary) and A. Bond (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant S. Clough.

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

D. Martin (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Heathcote (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), D. Smith (Melbourne Parish Council), R. Wheat (Stanton-by-Bridge Parish Meeting) and D. Bayliss (Swarkestone Parish Meeting).

Members of the Public

D. Bellis, P. Burns, D. Calvert, C. Ford, E. Hardy, R. Knibb, R. Saxby.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District and County Councillor Ford, District Councillors Mrs. Coyle, Murray and Stanton and C. Barker (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council).

MA/10. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Melbourne Area Meeting held on 14th November 2007 were noted.

MA/11. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman publicised two emergency planning exercises that were scheduled for 2008. He explained that information had been circulated on the new "in vessel" composting scheme. There would be the opportunity to discuss this matter later in the Meeting. The Chairman then referred to the review of Area Meeting boundaries, discussed at the last Meeting. He reminded those present of the difficulties caused by a boundary review and as no common view could be established amongst the various Area Meetings, the Council had decided to retain the status quo at this time.

MA/12. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

Mr. Tysoe, County Secretary was invited to provide an update on those issues referred to the County Council at the previous Meeting. He spoke particularly about the provision of a footpath in Swarkestone, the suggestion to reduce the weight limit across the Swarkestone Bridge and earlier discussions about a mile-post at Cuttle Bridge, Swarkestone.

MA/13. **CONSULTATION ON THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE BUDGET**

The Area Meeting received a presentation from Frank McArdle, Chief Executive at the District Council. Initially, he explained the purpose of this consultation, to inform and consult on the draft key priorities and actions within the 2008/11 Corporate Plan and the Council's financial position and budget proposals for 2008/09. A copy of the Corporate Plan had been circulated, together with a questionnaire to seek feedback and he urged residents to complete this and return it by 10th February 2008. Presentation slides had also been circulated, which the Chief Executive spoke to. He explained the Council's Vision and the six Corporate Plan themes, which emerged from extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders. Each year, the Council developed Corporate Plan priorities and actions for each of the themes and feedback was sought on this area.

The presentation then turned to the Council's budget proposals, with information provided on Council Tax and the sources of funding. He spoke particularly about the proportion of Council Tax that was used to deliver District Council services. The Chief Executive explained how resources were spent on Environmental Services, Community Services and Corporate Services. He then touched on the budget proposals for 2008/09, the cost pressures the Council was facing and the overall positive financial position of the District Council. Reference was made to the Council's improved use of resources rating and the open committee process on the budget, which the public could attend. He spoke about the ongoing efficiency savings being made by the Authority and the year on year improvements. The Council had a minimal amount of debt and its investments were earning interest. He closed by commending the Corporate Plan and sought residents' feedback on this consultation.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive for the presentation. In response to a question, Mr. McArdle provided an explanation about "Section 106" planning gain funding, as a mechanism for securing community benefit. The Council took a proactive approach, to secure funding at the earliest opportunity. It looked for business investment, including infrastructure, in appropriate parts of the District. Hilton was used as an example, with reference made to the recent announcement about new leisure facilities at Etwall.

Mr. Ford of Aston-on-Trent sought information about the cost pressures faced by the Council. He noted the reducing Government grant allocations over the coming years and there was discussion about the cumulative impact of this reduction. The Chairman was also Chairman of the District's Finance and Management Committee. He spoke about the respective grant settlements to district and county councils nationally. There were recognised pressures on social services and waste disposal issues. Comparatively, Derbyshire County Council had received a settlement of 10.2%, whilst district

councils were averaging 1.7%. South Derbyshire had received a settlement of 2.8% for 2008/09 reducing to 2.4% by 2010/11. The impact of this reduced level of funding was explained, but South Derbyshire had achieved the highest settlement in the County, due to the population growth. In response to a related question from Mr. Ford, it was confirmed that the subsidy formula still meant that the District Council was not receiving its full grant allocation.

A Melbourne resident commented on the amount of development in South Derbyshire. The Chief Executive referred to the Regional Spatial Strategy, which would have a significant impact in determining the amount of future development in South Derbyshire. There were issues for Swadlincote as an urban centre, but also for the southern Derby fringe, dependent upon the result of a conjoined planning inquiry. He spoke about the potential impacts for education and infrastructure needs. The District Council was doing what it could to influence this process.

A resident referred to the scale of housing development in Hilton and there was a discussion about the attraction of suitable businesses in the areas where people lived, to avoid the need to commute. The Chairman concluded this item by emphasising that the Corporate Plan was a living document, which was updated constantly. He then referred to the recent announcement regarding the Etwall Leisure Centre and there was a new priority to review and improve leisure facilities in the Melbourne area.

MA/14. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Initially, consideration was given to Police issues. Sergeant Clough reported on issues affecting South Derbyshire generally and more particularly “Area 3”, which included Melbourne. The key issue was problems with anti-social behaviour on Friday and Saturday evenings in Melbourne. Related to this, there was a “fear of crime”. Sergeant Clough advised that the area now had a second Police Community Support Officer, Kingsley Fox. This Officer would seek to reinstate confidence for residents about anti-social behaviour issues. Sergeant Clough advised that the number of reported crimes did not match the community’s perception. Meetings had been held and a plan of action prepared to work with the neighbouring Chellaston area and to target resources to Melbourne at weekend evenings. In recent months there had been a reduction in reported crime incidents, but this matter remained a priority.

Sergeant Clough advised that Police surgeries would be held in Melbourne and whilst the details were to be finalised, this would be launched shortly. He then referred to a recent police operation to disrupt drugs activity, that had been based largely on community intelligence. This had targeted suppliers and users of drugs, resulting in the issue of 22 search warrants and 19 arrests. The Sergeant gave details of the types of drugs and the amount of money seized.

Mrs. Hardy reported on a specific incident and the approach the police had taken in responding. She referred to the recent burglary at the Melbourne Hotel and the reduced police presence in the Village over recent years.

Sergeant Clough accepted that the police did not have the resources it once had and he responded to a number of related issues raised by Mrs. Hardy.

Jane Carroll praised the suggested police surgeries and asked how they would be publicised. This scheme was in its infancy, but the Sergeant outlined a number of potential mechanisms for publicising the surgeries. It might include using the mobile police station in a highly visible area within the Village.

Mr. Ford sought feedback from the Sergeant on levels of reported anti-social behaviour in Aston-on-Trent. The police officer responded that this was a general concern, but there was not a particular problem in Aston-on-Trent, when compared to some other villages. Mr. Ford also questioned the closure of Swarkestone Bridge in the evenings. It was understood that there was a local route for residents via Ingleby Lane, but when this was flooded, the bridge would not be closed.

Mrs. Hardy reported that a meeting had been held the previous evening at the Melbourne Leisure Centre, at which there had been no police attendance. The Chairman clarified that this meeting was to discuss the Melbourne Parish Plan and the Police had not been invited, but he was sure they would be involved in the Plan at the appropriate time. It was also suggested that problems of anti-social behaviour in the Village were not a new issue. This point was noted and the Police Officer confirmed that the number of reported complaints was reducing. It was hoped that this trend would continue.

It was reported that the Melbourne Civic Society had recently published a booklet containing fourteen footpath walks. One of the routes was adjacent to the Swarkestone Bridge and there were safety concerns where this route joined the road, as there was no footway. An incident had occurred where ramblers were using an alternate route. In the interests of public safety, it was questioned whether a footpath could be provided for the section of route in question. The Chairman recalled a meeting held on this matter the previous week between County Highways Officers and the Civic Society. He had reinforced this request, but explained that it was now late in the budget process to try and include additional schemes.

Mr. Bayliss reported that the Swarkestone Bridge was raised at each Area Meeting and he felt there was a need for a replacement route. The Chairman explained that this issue had also been raised with Highways Officers, but there appeared no support for providing an alternative route. Even if such a costly route was created, it would cause additional traffic volumes to come through this area. Mr. Bellis referred to the District Council's economic regeneration aims. He felt that the causeway inhibited growth in certain areas and he was critical of the County Council. The Vice-Chairman explained that there was a potential route involving a former goods railway line. In Nottingham, a former rail line had provided a relief route. He asked the County Council to look at the feasibility of this project, to provide an alternate route. The Chairman advised that he had pursued this idea on a number of occasions. A Melbourne Parish Councillor felt it was imperative to secure better access for business traffic to Melbourne.

The Chairman sought suggestions for future discussion items. He proposed a presentation from the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service at the next Meeting and was sure residents would find this of interest. It was also

suggested that Derbyshire County Council provide a presentation to the next Meeting on its spending priorities.

The Chairman announced that Arriva Bus Services had terminated the No. 69 service from Swadlincote to the East Midlands Airport. This route had proved to be uneconomic and whilst a temporary service had been provided in recent weeks, this would cease on 26th January 2008.

The Chairman also invited views on the revised composting scheme. Mr. Bayliss asked about the inclusion of tree branches in the brown wheeled bin and Mr. Bellis sought information on how the revised scheme worked. Further information was provided accordingly. Mr. Ford asked about the recycling of "valuable" metals. The Vice-Chairman reported that the current contract had been extended for one year, to enable a detailed review of all recycling arrangements. The recycling of plastics was discussed, together with the financial implications associated with recycling certain materials and providing a weekly refuse collection service.

It was agreed that the Agenda for the next Melbourne Area Meeting include a presentation from the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and a presentation from the County Council on its spending priorities. The Council's Direct Services Manager would be asked to respond to Mr. Ford on the recycling of valuable metals.

MA/15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and venue of the next Melbourne Area Meeting would be confirmed in due course.

J. HARRISON

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MELBOURNE AREA MEETING

(Covering Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Calke, Elvaston, Foremark, Ingleby,
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28th May 2008

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the last Area Meeting held on 22nd January 2008 at Melbourne Leisure Centre, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made to date:-

1. It was agreed that the Agenda for the next Melbourne Area Meeting includes a presentation from the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and a presentation from the County Council on its spending priorities.
2. Following the discussion at the last Meeting on recycling, The District Council's Direct Services Manager was asked to respond to Mr. Ford on the recycling of valuable metals.

