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1. Executive Summary

The process of producing this Parish Plan started in late 2007 when the Parish Council went to a presentation by the Derbyshire Rural Community Council (DRCC) in Repton. A public meeting followed in January 2008 with over 50 interested individuals attending; topics and interested volunteers were identified. All the topics were pulled into logical Project Groups with a team to follow them through.

The Project Groups then nominated one of their members to form a Steering Group to manage the process. This was formed within a couple of weeks and in March 2008 the first Open Day was held to get the public input to the key questions for each of the Project Groups. The principal result was a questionnaire that was distributed to every household in Melbourne. Nearly 400 questionnaires were returned, which is 15% of all households.

Following this the Project Groups analysed the data and formed a set of options for each topic. These were presented to the community in a second Open Day in April 2009. Following this consultation process the Project Groups produced their targets for the future with associated actions. These were split into two parts, short term actions and long term aspirations.

Short term actions:

- Arts & Leisure: the provision of more effective management of the Bill Shone Leisure Centre
- Business & Development: expand the provision of shopping to cover longer hours and a market and to improve the parking available to shoppers
- Community Safety: ensure the on-going safety of Melbourne's residents and property and improve street lighting, the cleanliness of alleyways & tree maintenance
- Education: ensure that parents have reliable information about school places and establish whether to broaden the range of adult education
- Health & Social Care: promote an improved two-way feedback between health professionals and patients
- Sport & Recreation (incorporating young people): improve the facilities at Cockshut Lane

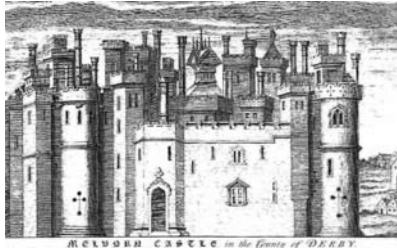
- Tourism: maintain and enhance existing facilities in the historic centre of Melbourne where visitors can eat, drink and stay. Improve "meeting and greeting" of visitors, for example by better toilets, town maps, historic interpretation etc.
- Traffic: address the problems of speeding vehicles and parking in the town centre

Long term aspirations:

- Arts & Leisure: develop a new centrally located facility for the performing arts and community activities
- Business & Development: increase the supply of affordable family and elderly housing and ensure that planning policy does not undermine the character of Melbourne
- Education: ensure that Melbourne children can rely on a good standard of education into the future
- Health & Social Care: increase the access to NHS dentistry
- Sport & Recreation: upgrade the play areas at Quick Close and Coronation Close, make better use of land on Lothian Gardens and develop recreational facilities for young people at Cockshut Lane
- Tourism: improve the network of public footpaths, permissive footpaths and bridleways etc., to make Melbourne an attractive destination for walkers, cyclists, canal boat users etc. Provide a central, focal facility for "meeting and greeting"
- Traffic: undertake a major redesign of key locations

Our Parish Plan demonstrates the potential for Melbourne to shape the next phase of its story and provides a clear direction for those individuals and organisations that are responsible for delivering on that potential.

2. A Brief History of Melbourne



Melbourne is an attractive, appealing and historic settlement, with a vibrant and varied social mix and a strong community spirit. With a population of about 4,500, the parish is large enough to have plenty of life of its own, yet small enough to preserve a village atmosphere.

Bounded to the north by the Trent valley, Melbourne sits in a stretch of picturesque countryside extending southwards into the parklands of Calke and Staunton Harold. Melbourne is also a gateway to the developing National Forest, whose newly-planted woodlands have augmented the existing natural appeal of other local features, such as the disused limeworks at Ticknall and Calke and the 20th century reservoirs of Staunton Harold and Foremark. The Staunton Harold Reservoir was created in 1960-64 by damming the millstream which gave Melbourne its name. The manorial mill at Melbourne, rebuilt c1632, still survives, and was powered by Melbourne Pool. The mill closed in 1968, so the pool's purpose is now purely ornamental.

Mediaeval Melbourne boasted a huge Norman church of St. Mary, a second church of St. Michael, a 14th century castle, a 13th century Royal hunting park, 13th century charters for a fair and market, and a secondary seat of the Bishop of Carlisle (now Melbourne Hall). Nevertheless, the village at that time was rural and agricultural. The agricultural roots of the settlement are still strongly in evidence near the Parish Church: the former farm buildings of Chantry House, the Dower House and Melbourne Hall remain key features of the street scene, despite conversion long ago to other uses. They include two mediaeval barns, one timber framed and the other of stone.

Melbourne's outstanding place in South Derbyshire's heritage is amply borne out by simple statistics. Three of the district's 22 conservation areas lie wholly within the parish, which also contains about a fifth of the 711 listed buildings listed in the district. Brick and tile buildings predominate, but from the mid 18th to the mid 19th century good use was also made of the gritstone from the quarries on Melbourne Common. Melbourne Hall gardens are listed Grade I in the English Heritage register of historic parks and gardens, and remains of the 14th century castle are a scheduled ancient monument. The Norman parish church of c1125 was rated among the top 100 in the country in Simon Jenkins' "1000 Best Churches", and the iconic view across Melbourne Pool towards the church and hall is one of the best-loved scenes in the district.

Melbourne's rich heritage is a reflection of its past importance. Before the growth of the Swadlincote area in the 19th century, Melbourne was the principal settlement in

the current administrative district of South Derbyshire, despite its rural nature. In the 17th and early 18th centuries it was described as a "poor town", but during the period c1770 – c1890 Melbourne grew from an agricultural village into a small and prosperous manufacturing town. New streets were laid out and its population doubled. Melbourne earned a reputation for the production of hosiery, silk gloves and shawls, boots, shoes and the commercial production of fruit and vegetables. It's no surprise, then, that the townscape is dominated by buildings of this period, most of them well-built and respectable, if plain. Brick and tile buildings predominate, but from the mid 18th to mid 19th century good use was also made of the gritstone from the quarries on Melbourne Common.

A walk around today's Melbourne reveals it to be a place of varied character. To the south are the picturesque environs of Melbourne Hall and gardens. To the east is the oldest part of the town, focused around Castle Square. To the west lie the streets developed in the Georgian and Victorian periods, radiating westwards from the Market Place, including a concentration of framework knitters' houses on Blanch Croft. At a little distance to the north lies King's Newton, a separate settlement within the parish, with a main street praised by Pevsner as one of the most attractive in Derbyshire. Its timber framed and stone built houses hark back to its time of greatest prosperity during the 17th century.

Melbourne today, like so many small English towns, has lost most of its historic industrial base. The last of the shoe and fabric companies have closed within the past ten years or so, and Melbourne's mighty legion of market gardeners has shrunk to a mere handful. Whether Melbourne is a town or village is a subject that is often debated, but bearing in mind the decline of its defining industries it probably deserved its "town" title more in the 19th century than it does in the 21st.

Nevertheless, it is the environment created by Melbourne's past prosperity, particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries, that continues to provide the backdrop of life there today, and there can be no doubt that Melbourne owes much of its appeal to its inheritance from the past. Awareness of this attractive part of South Derbyshire seems set to increase, given that the South Derbyshire district is one of only six local authority areas in the country where the population grew by 12% or more between 2001 and 2007.



3. Consulting with the Community

The process of producing a Parish Plan started in late 2007 when the Parish Council went to a presentation by the Derbyshire Rural Community Council (DRCC) in Repton. Hundreds of villages had already produced Parish Plans so the process was well understood and most important of all, the government support funding was due to cease at the end of April 2008. A public meeting followed in January 2008 with over 50 interested individuals and facilitated by DRCC, topics and interested volunteers were identified. All the topics were pulled into logical Project Groups with a team to follow them through.

The Project Groups then nominated one of their members to form a Steering Group to manage the process. This was formed within a couple of weeks and in March 2008 the first Open Day was held to get the public input to the key questions for each of the Project Groups. The principle result was a questionnaire that was distributed to every household in Melbourne. In addition, special interest groups were approached, young people being the largest group who would never respond to a formal written questionnaire. Nearly 400 questionnaires were returned, which is 15% of all households. Such a response for an opinion survey is very high for a village of 4500 people where door-to-door discussions are not possible and gives a very high statistical accuracy to the results.

This process took the summer and early Autumn at the end of which, the team analysed the data and formed a set of options for each topic. These were knocked about by the Steering Group to eliminate, or at least, understand, overlaps and in early April 2009 a second Open Day was held to present the 'Options for Action' and get public feedback.

The formal process was nearly complete with this plan genuinely reflecting the will of the people of Melbourne. The purpose of the plan, however, is action and the success can only be judged in a few years. Already, a number of projects are yielding results with the District Council's commitment to initiate a formal survey of sport and leisure facilities in Melbourne, being the earliest opportunity to drive the plan forward.

This plan will be formally handed over this Autumn 2009 to the Parish Council who as sponsors of the Parish Planning process have responsibility for taking it forward. They

have asked for the Steering Group to reconvene annually to support them and review progress. The main work is, nevertheless, left to the original Project Groups to keep working to implement their plans. It is their enthusiasm that will give the projects life; all that the Parish Plan does is to give authority to their work. They are simply, but very powerfully, implementing what the people of Melbourne have said that they want.

The following chapters are in, clearly, different styles. This reflects the individual project groups and their view of how their findings should be presented.

4. Business & Development

Following the survey responses (see appendix 2b), the options for action were presented for comment at the second open day. Written comments continued to show strong support for a 'farmers' market' for locally grown produce and locally made products and crafts, and support for the recommended housing and planning policies. Support for a new small out-of-centre business park was sustained, but there was a specific suggestion that the premises on Derby Road, until recently occupied by Doncasters, would be ideal converted to units to rent for small businesses with a central administration point.

However, some of the written comments raised issues that had not previously been aired. These were principally concerned with energy and car usage and the wider debate on the carbon economy. On the one hand it was asserted that Melbourne is ideally placed to become a transition town with an "energy descent action plan" to take on board the end of our cheap oil-based economy, and a suggestion was made that all existing car parks should be closed and moved to the edge of town with regular timed shuttle bus services.

Other comments suggested that, no matter how 'green' we try to be, living in Melbourne is not easy without a car and people working in Melbourne cannot rely on what is now a poor quality bus service. Thus, it was suggested, off-street car parking should be encouraged and insisted upon in all new buildings.

These two sets of comments are mutually contradictory; it was felt that the out-of-town car parking / shuttle bus suggestion is impractical in a small community like Melbourne. Research nationally has suggested that park-and-ride is only practicable in cities with a population of over 100,000 with a well-defined central shopping and business district. Melbourne's population is 4500 and it only takes ten minutes to walk from one side of the town to the other.

Two additional factors have developed throughout the consultation; these have influenced the final proposals:

Firstly, the national and local economic environments have deteriorated markedly since that Parish Plan process commenced at the start of 2008. There is now, in late Spring 2009, very considerable uncertainty about the future of the Donington Park racing circuit;

the Airport Master Plan forecasts of growth of air passenger and freight movements at East Midlands Airport look to be hopelessly unrealistic in the light of the global recession and recent actual numbers; Toyota car production at Burnaston has been scaled back, and both Rolls Royce and Bombardier are vulnerable to any international and national cutbacks in capital expenditures arising from the recession.

These, together with a decline in personal incomes derived from investments as a result of large reductions in bank interest rates, declining house prices and the imminent prospect of price deflation, all point to a weak local economy, though perhaps more resilient than some other parts of the country.

However, households with large mortgages have benefited from the fall in bank interest rates and their disposable incomes have increased, as government policy intended, and so it has to be recognised that there are gainers and losers from the current downturn. It would be sensible to assume that public and private expenditure in the next few years will probably be at much lower levels than immediately prior to the downturn, but that should not exclude well-thought-out local initiatives with strong community backing.

Secondly, South Derbyshire District Council has embarked on a review of its own Development Plan which will seek to guide new development in homes and the economy up to 2026. In the light of so much uncertainty about long-term forecasts of population and economic activity this may seem to be an extremely ambitious move by the District Council: at the very least, the views of Melbourne people should be taken on board at District Council level, and the Parish Plan is the best vehicle for getting these views across.





Housing

- There should be no major new housing developments in or adjacent to Melbourne.
- However, there is a demonstrable need for homes to rent by Melbourne's young people who wish to live independently from their parents and an existing and anticipated demand from an ageing population for good quality homes for elderly singles and couples who wish to down-size after their dependants have left home.
- Accordingly, two initiatives should be pursued
 1. South Derbyshire District Council, as the housing authority, should apply for social housing grant to purchase homes to rent on the Station Road new housing site: a figure of 20 new homes is suggested, spread over 3 years starting in 2010.
 2. The Council, as both housing and planning authority, should invite prospective developers to bring forward a proposal for a warden-controlled sheltered housing complex of energy-efficient homes for elderly and/or disabled people. This initiative would have the advantage of releasing family-size homes for larger families.

Shopping

The Parish Council, in partnership with South Derbyshire District Council and existing local businesses, should commission a study of Melbourne's existing shopping facilities and the potential for new retail developments, and this should also address the following issues:

- The need for additional public car parking provision and its availability for shoppers and visitors.
- The opening of all Melbourne shops and eating places on Saturday afternoons.

- The possibility of holding a regular market for locally grown produce and locally made products and crafts.

Business

- There should be no major new business development in or adjacent to Melbourne.
- However, existing Melbourne businesses should be encouraged to expand and small new businesses should be encouraged to locate here. Two initiatives should be pursued:
 1. Specific provision should be made for a small new-build business park outside the existing built-up area to encourage new start-ups and to facilitate the expansion of existing businesses currently operating in cramped and/or outdated premises.
 2. This new facility should not preclude the conversion of existing business premises in Melbourne into small 'incubator' units for new and existing businesses.
- Both initiatives could form part of a local economic development strategy, led by South Derbyshire District Council in partnership with a property development company and government and non-government agencies with responsibilities for encouraging rural enterprises. The conversion of existing premises into incubator units could involve a not-for-profit company which would own, manage and supply business support services.



Planning

In preparing its Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy the local planning authority (South Derbyshire District Council) should do nothing which would undermine Melbourne's special character and community spirit and in particular should locate no major new housing and industrial/business developments in or adjacent to this immediate area. In three policy areas, however, the planning authority should adjust its current Development Plan policies and make the necessary changes in its LDF Core Strategy:

- Strengthen its policies to prevent the demolition of substantial family homes with gardens and the subsequent erection of multiple new smaller homes, including preventing the building of new homes in back gardens.
- Relax its policies so as to allow local builders, self-build groups and private individuals to build individual homes on new sites within or adjacent to the existing developed areas of Melbourne and Kings Newton.
- Generally, to encourage the development of innovative designs for zero or low carbon new homes and, including within Melbourne's designated Conservation Areas, the application of new technologies and materials to improve the thermal efficiency of existing homes and businesses.



5. Arts & Leisure

Activity:

Over 78% of the survey respondents took part in these activities either as performers, participants or audiences. Melbourne people enjoy a wide range of activities, with concerts, plays, receptions, celebrations, arts & crafts and the Festival being particularly popular:

Half of all these activities take place in Melbourne. This seems a high figure, given the numerous professional and amateur activities within 20 miles of Melbourne. Since a number of Melbourne Groups have to go outside the Parish to find adequate venues at which to perform (for example Melbourne Operatic and the St. Michaels Players) the number of these activities that could take place in Melbourne if there were adequate venues is potentially much higher than the current level.

Facilities:

The most popular venue for these activities is the Bill Shone Leisure Centre, with the smaller halls (the Thomas Cook Hall, Liberal Club, British Legion and the Church Halls) playing a useful supporting role.

The Bill Shone Leisure Centre is used for a wide variety of activities, some of which are not available elsewhere in the village. Overall, when asked to rate the overall quality of the existing facilities for arts & leisure, few rated the facilities as excellent or good, with nearly three quarters rating them as poor or average. The Bill Shone Leisure Centre is the main facility in Melbourne, so we asked respondents for their views on the current situation.

There is clearly dissatisfaction with the existing arrangements. Opinion is divided between renovating the existing centre and demolishing it and re-building, with the single strongest preference being to renovate it rather than dispose of it. Clearly, the existing building is fondly, if sadly regarded..

As there is some possibility of future improvements in the provision of leisure facilities in Melbourne, we asked about views on where any future leisure centre should be located. There was a very strong preference for locating it either at the existing site or within central Melbourne, with much less enthusiasm for locating it on the outskirts.

We also asked, should the possibility of a new leisure centre arise, whether sports, arts & leisure should be in one combined building or in separate venues, recognising the different requirements for these activities. Opinion was divided on this with a small preference for combining these various activities into one facility.

We asked about the usage of the library. Only about half the respondents use the library with a mixed opinion on its adequacy. The main requests for improvements were for longer opening hours, a wider range of books and greater use and availability of internet facilities. It was not clear as to whether the library would get more use if it had longer opening hours, for example on Saturdays, to allow people normally at work to use it.

Financing the Future:

we asked about paying for improvements in Melbourne's leisure facilities by increasing the Parish Precept. The clear response was that people would be prepared to pay more to get better facilities.

Summary:

the main points that we can derive from the survey are:

- There is an active arts and leisure scene in Melbourne with a very large part of the population taking an active part in these activities
- Melbourne has a thriving tradition of providing its own entertainment. Recent developments such as the Festival and the on-going range of musical and theatrical activities suggest that this tradition should be self-sustaining.
- The demand for a proper arts and leisure centre in Melbourne spans a wide range of activities including the performing arts, arts & crafts, a venue for meetings, receptions & celebrations, a centre for information (library, tourism etc) and a focal point for civic functions.
- Any arts and leisure centre in Melbourne should include a wider remit to include community activities.
- The existing facilities are not adequate for the present arts, leisure and community activities in Melbourne or for the future development of these activities.
- The most popular location by far for an arts and leisure centre is near to the centre of Melbourne.
- The Bill Shone Leisure Centre is well located to act as a focal point for arts, leisure and community activities but suffers from years of neglect. It has had no significant physical or management input to turn it from an old school into a proper arts and leisure centre and currently represents a lost opportunity. It is seen as down at heel and lacking in pro-active management and marketing; conversely there is significant support within Melbourne for it to be properly renovated and made “fit for purpose”.



- The provision of suitable facilities for arts, leisure and community is a separate issue from the provision of sports facilities in Melbourne. If the opportunity arose, there is no reason why one venue could not provide for both but arts and leisure activities have at least as great a demand in Melbourne as sport and appeal to a wider age range and population range than most sporting activities. Therefore the provision of arts and leisure activities should not be subordinate to the provision of sports facilities.
- There is strong support to improve facilities within Melbourne by increasing the Parish Precept. However, the proviso is that the funds raised are kept within Melbourne and can be seen to improve facilities. Increases should be kept within reasonable limits, such as aligning our precept with other parishes in the area. Any increase should not prejudice funding from SDDC.

We need to recognise that there are a wide range of needs which have to be catered for through a flexible facility. Two examples illustrate this:

- Whilst there is a strong level of support for decent performing arts facilities, different performing groups have very different requirements. For example, the Melbourne Operatic need a venue holding about 300 or so to make their performances financially viable whilst the St Michaels Players often require a smaller, less formal facility.
- Similarly, there is a clear need to provide a decent meeting venue but meeting sizes can range from half a dozen people up to full scale public meetings. Thus a range of meeting room sizes has to be considered.



The Way Forward

The results generated by the Parish Plan responses clearly demonstrate that there is a demand and need for an adequate venue and organisation to support the arts, leisure and community activities within Melbourne. There are already a number of venues which cater for the small to medium size function but the main centre, the current Bill Shone Leisure Centre is clearly not fulfilling all that the people of Melbourne wish for. We have therefore put forward a proposal to the Parish Council to take action to meet the requirements of the people of Melbourne.

The Challenge

To create a Community Centre that fulfils the functions the people of Melbourne have requested:

- In a building that is suited to all the purposes required of it.
- That provides the quality facilities that a proper centre should provide.
- That is efficiently managed by a body that can apply for grants to fund improvements and future developments.
- That forms a living centre to our community of which we can be proud.

Initial Proposal

In the short term there should be a new management structure to run the existing Leisure Centre. The Centre is owned by South Derbyshire District Council, and Melbourne Parish Council has a new 5 year lease. During that time it should be possible to demonstrate, under new management, that the Leisure Centre - renamed the Melbourne Community Centre - can be run much more effectively to justify further substantial investment in the longer term. It has been suggested that a not-for-profit company be set up to manage the centre and, in the long term, take over the existing assets: that proposal is commended, but agreement will have to be reached with all the stakeholders and goodwill will be required all round.



Longer Term Aims

In the medium to longer term the objective is to secure a proper, centrally located venue for these activities which would include:

- Performing arts facilities (with theatre and associated features for concerts, plays and dance);
- Community facilities (for meetings & gatherings, Parish Council, activity groups & societies)
- Refreshment & catering facilities
- Keep fit & similar indoor leisure activities
- Functions facilities (for parties, weddings, celebrations and civic events)
- Library facilities
- Joint facilities covered by other sections of the Parish Plan (e.g. tourist information, public toilets etc).

The means to achieve this may include retaining and improving the existing Leisure Centre or it may involve some form of redevelopment. This is the subject of a forthcoming study by the District Council on the provision of Leisure facilities for Melbourne and District. Our objectives must therefore include adequate representation on this study to ensure that the message and requirements arising from this Parish Plan are properly represented and are not submerged under pre-conceived ideas from the District Council.

In particular, it is important to ensure that the term "Leisure Activities" does not just mean sports facilities but truly provides for the community, arts & leisure requirements by the Melbourne Community, which is a requirement "from cradle to grave" and not just for the able bodied.

Allotments

When the Parish Plan was being started allotments were the last thing on anyone's mind as there were vacant plots on the largest site at Hilly Field owned and managed by the Melbourne Allotment Holders' Association Ltd . However, in the first half of 2008, requests began to exceed supply and a waiting list appeared. This grew into double figures with almost no movement and the Secretary of Melbourne Allotment Holders Association (MAHA) consulted the South Derbyshire District Council's website, only to find that they also had a waiting list and no more applications were being accepted.

Their officer responsible was contacted and informed that people on Melbourne waiting list, of whom they were unaware, were also Council Tax payers and their requirements were receiving no consideration by the local authorities. The response to this was that SDDC thought that the Melbourne allotments were provided by Melbourne Parish Council and they were informed that, as far as anyone was aware, no local authority has ever provided allotments in Melbourne as, apart from the Association, all others are provided by private landlords. The response has been that, if more suitable land can be found, they may be able to assist if the Association would be willing to manage the site.

Most people are now aware, through considerable coverage in the media recently, that local authorities have an obligation to provide allotments if there is a demand from residents but, unfortunately, the law states no time limit and is unenforceable.

At present the MAHA has 13 people on the list, the first having already waited over 12 months.



6. Sport & Recreation (incorporating Young People)

Existing Facilities

Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground

Melbourne's only Recreation Ground is located on the edge of town on a windswept site, with a large stone surfaced car park. It contains pitches for three sports and houses a small pavilion building, which is largely used by Melbourne Cricket Club.

The facilities are as follows:

- Three rugby pitches: one in good condition, one heavy clay and wet and one sloping.
- Three football pitches: one recently drained but still heavy and deteriorates badly during the winter and also uses the outfield of the cricket pitch; one heavy and wet and a smaller junior pitch that slopes badly.
- One cricket pitch which shares its outfield with a football pitch.
- A brick built pavilion with two changing rooms, a small kitchen area, toilets and showers, score box and storage shed.
- One set of children's swings

In general the pitches are on a heavy clay base, very wet in the winter and are overplayed.

The pavilion is totally inadequate, has to cater for too many teams, including children's teams, and constantly fills up with mud. It gets vandalised regularly.

Quick Close – Play Area

A small play area is located on the corner of a quiet residential street, with just one multi-purpose piece of fixed play equipment.

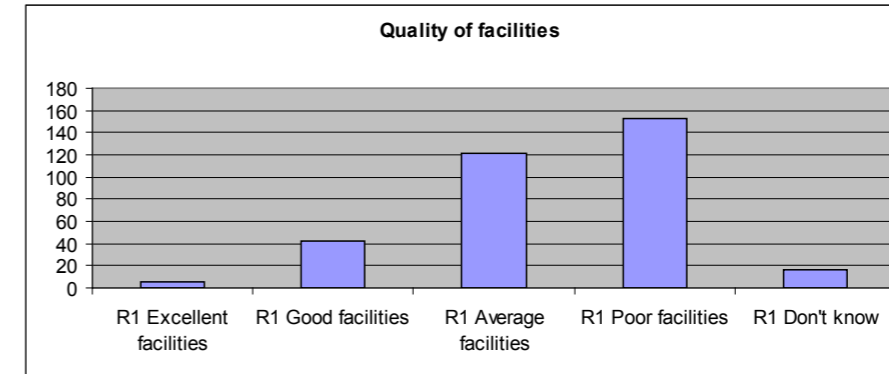
Coronation Close – Play Area

A fairly large grassed area located within a residential area. It contains 5 pieces of fixed play equipment and enough space to kick a ball around.

Lothian Gardens

A small park in the middle of the town, which was Melbourne's Millennium Project, completed in 2002 and has been very successful. It is operated by the Parish Council and is locked from dusk until early morning.

Play equipment provides good play opportunities for all ages, with a fenced off area for toddlers and infants, a multi-play area for juniors and a multi-use games area for ball games. Seating, a grassed area in amongst planting provides a pleasant setting for all ages to relax.



There is a hard surfaced tennis court to the rear of the gardens, leased by the Tennis Club, but which is overgrown and subsequently not used.

Staunton Harold Reservoir Play Area

A play area situated on the outskirts of Melbourne overlooking Staunton Harold Reservoir; it has seven large pieces of fixed play equipment suitable for a wide age group, a large picnic area and car park. There is a parking charge of £1.50.

Greenways

The Sustrans cycle track (Cloud Trail) runs along the Derby to Ashby disused railway line, which passes close by and is very popular with walkers and cyclists alike.

Public Rights of Way

Melbourne is on the fringes of the National Forest area, and there is a good network of public rights of way through the scenic countryside, which give ample provision for recreational opportunities such as walking, horse riding and off-road cycling.

Melbourne's Sports Clubs

There are a number of sports clubs to which the residents of Melbourne belong. Some of them actually use facilities in adjacent settlements as there is a dearth of quality facilities in the town.

Senior Football

There are two teams - Melbourne Dynamos Reserves (first team play elsewhere) and Streamline FC.

Junior Football

There are ten boys' and one girls' teams. The pitches can only accommodate five of these teams so the rest play elsewhere.

Senior Rugby

There are two teams.

Junior Rugby

Melbourne Rugby Football Club has thirteen junior & mini teams but the pitches can only accommodate two teams, the rest play elsewhere, mostly Chellaston.

Senior Cricket

There are two teams based at the club on the Recreation Ground.

Junior Cricket

Kwik Cricket has just started.

Badminton

There is no home team; casual games are played. One court is available for advance bookings at the Bill Shone Leisure Centre; there are no shower facilities.

Squash

There is no home team; casual games are played. One court is available for pay as you play hire at the Bill Shone Leisure Centre; there are no shower facilities.

Bowls - Crown Green

Kings Newton Bowls Club has a high quality Crown Green. Facilities include a Pavilion with bar, terrace and social area. There are approximately eighty playing members. There are several league teams and this is a very successful club.

Bowls - Flat Green

Single rink green unfit for league bowling due to size, but has an enthusiastic social membership.

Tennis

Melbourne Tennis Club has approximately ten members that play regular league tennis. They have one single, unused court that doesn't qualify for league status, so all matches are played away from home. Consultation feedback

Feedback from the local community and sports groups has been gathered from informal feedback given at the Parish Plan Open Day in April 2008, and subsequently the questionnaire circulated in late summer 2008.

The main focus for the consultation was the Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground, 'The Rec'. By far the largest concern amongst respondents was the lack of sports and recreation facilities available for a town the size of Melbourne.

The Bill Shone Leisure Centre is the subject of a separate theme group and has not been included here.

Parish Plan Open Day:

- 26 written comments were received, with a good deal more people passing by the stand and just talking.
- Most comments centred around the 2006 Melbourne Sporting Partnership plan, which was on public display for the first time since it was drawn up for the Partnership.
- The majority of comments supported the need to develop the Rec for a true Multisport facility
- There was some concern that the plans catered too much for organised club sports. These felt that a range of activities should catered for, including informal play.
- Hood Park in Ashby was an oft-cited example of a good facility, catering for a large age range and for a variety of activities.
- Many felt that there needs to be more provision for teens and young people and that the Rec could be a good place for this, e.g. skate park, teen shelter:
- Several comments referred to the previous attempts to develop the Rec, and suggested that work needs to be done to overcome the problems that have stalled progress previously. It was felt that all groups need to work together to create one inclusive facility, possibly managed by an independent trust.
- One respondent suggested that an annual sporting festival could be held on the Rec. This could help kick-start this project, and also help to recruit new members to clubs.

Specific comments:

More activities for Young people	7
Swimming pool	6
New / revamped Tennis courts	3
All weather floodlit pitch	1
More activities for toddlers / juniors (including soft play facilities)	1
Improved bowling facilities	1
Jog / cycle track around the perimeter of the Rec	1
Rebuild the Leisure Centre	1
Fixtures board at the Rec	1



Sports Ground:

In favour of the plan	14
In support of a Clubhouse	3
More informal activities rather than organised sports	3

Parish Plan Questionnaire

Sport & Recreation

274 (70%) rated current sport & recreation facilities in Melbourne either Average (121) or Poor (153).

159 (41%) said play facilities for toddlers were adequate, compared to 81 votes for juniors and 20 for teenagers.

Sporting activities undertaken in Melbourne include Badminton (23), Rugby (17), Football (21), Bowls (19) and Dancing (14). Swimming was the most common activity enjoyed outside of Melbourne, with 165 (43%) respondents who visited Ashby, or Derby for this facility.

325 (84%) people support the development of a multisport facility on Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground, and 298 (77%) respondents voted for a new Pavilion with facilities for sports, to include changing rooms, showers. The Recreation ground also gained support for more informal recreation provision such as a new play area (214) and a multi-use games area (281).

The responses demonstrate that there is a general level of dissatisfaction with provision in Melbourne, and that people often have to travel further afield to participate in the activities they enjoy.

There is a clear opportunity to develop the provision at Cockshut Lane, and further development work is required to ascertain the most appropriate way to proceed.





Young People

Prior to the questionnaire being created we did some preliminary research to find out what facilities were already available in the area for young people and what they wanted and needed or what issues remained. The survey was therefore more focused on space for young people to meet and socialise outside of current organised facilities.

325 people responded to this section of the survey.

25% thought that young people should meet and socialise in the Lothian Gardens.

36% said that the recreation ground could be a good place to meet.

92% agreed that new sports and recreation facilities should include a place for people to meet and play. People thought the facilities should have the following:

- 63% - Hard Court area
- 58% - Covered seating area
- 63% - CCTV
- 86% - Proper security facilities
- 32% - Skate or Bike Park
- 61% - Durable Fencing

Taking the project forward

Sports & recreation facility provision on Cockshut Lane

In 2005, the Melbourne Sporting Partnership had commissioned a design layout for the site, which looked at providing pitch facilities for a variety of sports. This plan was aired to the general public at the open day, and generated a lot of supportive comments. It is likely that this plan will form the basis for discussion for future proposals for the Cockshut Lane site.

In order to progress this project, there are a number of issues which need to be considered, namely:

- the land ownership of the site
- the number of groups which need to be represented
- the need to provide both formal and informal sports/recreation facilities on the site
- the provision of a built facility
- provision for young people

In addition, the capital costs for new purpose-built facilities are likely to be very high, perhaps over a million pounds, and all the sports clubs need to identify their realistic requirements and sign up to any new project. This will need to include agreement to the management structure and an agreed sharing of future revenue costs so far as they can be foreseen. It is important that the funding of consequential net revenue costs is addressed before potential funders are approached.

Play areas

South Derbyshire District Council has identified through a Play Audit that Quick Close and Coronation Close play areas require significant upgrade to improve the quality of provision. There is also scope to develop under-utilised land at the Lothian Gardens to meet additional play needs.

The Parish Plan supports the improvement of play provision. Each project will require local consultation with residents, children, young people and parents/carers to ensure that new equipment is sited appropriately and meets the needs of the users.

Youth provision

The main way forward is to support the sports & recreation provision for young people within the development of the new sports and recreation facilities on Cockshut Lane.



Clearly the majority of people believe that the play area provided at present is insufficient and better facilities for older children are needed in the area with the correct security and safety facilities.

Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground

South Derbyshire District Council are currently undergoing a review of Facility provision across the district, and will shortly be commissioning a Feasibility Study looking at Leisure provision in Melbourne. As the third largest settlement in the district, after Swadlincote and Hilton, Melbourne is already considered to be lacking in quality sport and recreational provision and it therefore makes sense to tie the potential Cockshut Lane site into these strategic studies.

On a practical level, the Sporting Partnership has ceased to meet over the past couple of years, and will need to be reconvened in order to be able to progress the project. There is reluctance to reconvene the group until there is a clear and strategic forward plan for the site and a notion of the likely sources for funding to make the project achievable.

Additionally, the Cricket Club are working to submit a bid for all weather practice nets, which would be supported by the Parish Plan.



7. Education

The main education priority for Melbourne is ensuring that people are confident that their children will be able to go to good secondary schools well into the future. There is some feeling that we should look to broaden the adult education available in Melbourne.

Secondary Education

The people of Melbourne are very concerned that our children cannot rely on being able to go to Chellaston School in future. 80% of people who returned a questionnaire gave their views on this. Many only filled out that part of the Education section.

Most people believe that the alternatives to Chellaston are not of a standard they consider to be acceptable. They strongly support the idea of another secondary school for the children of Melbourne and surrounding villages. Most believe this school should be in Melbourne itself.

Action There is a lot of concern about what might happen, rather than what has happened. We need to collect and distribute accurate information on Chellaston application and acceptance levels within the catchment area.

We need to pursue the setting up of a new school. We cannot wait until the first child is rejected from Chellaston before we act.

We should encourage Melbourne parents to play an active role in the governing body of Chellaston. This is the only way to influence future admissions policy.

Pre-school, Infant and Junior Education

We have no major issues to address in these areas. People are very happy with the quality of our pre-schools, infant and junior schools. Only around 35% of people who returned a questionnaire felt able to comment on education at these levels. However, those who did were very positive.

Most believe that we have enough places for the children in the catchment area, although there is a low level of concern that this may come under threat in future and that we may see class sizes like our current years 5 and 6.

Action We should ensure that the school governors are aware of this concern and can be sensitive to it in their communication. Applications and admissions information could be included with the Chellaston information.

Adult Education

There is some feeling that we need to provide a greater range of adult education courses and that more should be put on in the evenings. This was mentioned by a small number of people so should be a second priority. However, there are some actions we can encourage.

Action We should inform the local education authority of this interest so that they can establish what courses might be well supported.



8. Health & Social Care

The aim of the Health and Social Care group was to look at all aspects of health and social care services in Melbourne, across all ages. The project group consisted of health professionals, professional carers, volunteers and service users. Their starting point was that Melbourne has some excellent facilities and organisations which include:

- The Health Care Centre
- The Community care Group
- The Senior Citizens Centre
- Active Church Groups
- The Fitness Centre
- The Atheneum Youth Centre

The public view from the first Open Day was that people in Melbourne are well served by the Health Centre. They felt that problems were greatest for young people and people with disabilities, both physical and mental. Concern was expressed about the difficulties that young people experience in a small community with access to confidential health advice and a range of activities to keep their minds and bodies healthy. The ongoing problem of moving around the town and access to shops for people with physical disability is well recognised.

Survey Results

- **General health and social care:** people were broadly satisfied but saw access to care as a problem.
- **Degree of satisfaction with services:** again broadly satisfied but recorded a deficiency in exercise provision for young people (see Youth and Sports / Leisure sections).
- **Rentable accommodation:** more required for elderly, young adults, disabled people and families (see Business and Development section).
- **Sources of information:** information was lacking from the surgery, more use to be made of Village Voice, posters and leaflets.



- **NHS Dentist** – Many newcomers to Melbourne do not have access to an NHS dentist and have to travel to Derby or Ashby. This is unfair and unsatisfactory, and Melbourne should have an NHS practice. Either the existing dental practice should expand and re-open its list to NHS patients or the Primary Care Trust should encourage and fund another dentist to establish an NHS practice in the town.
- **Swimming Pool** – People would clearly like a swimming pool, but Melbourne is too small to justify such an investment. The best option would be to associate one in the long term with a local secondary school.

Specific Suggestions

- Make sports facilities available for young people, re-open the youth club and provide mobile clinics for alcohol and drugs advice.
- Improve the Senior Citizens Centre and make available exercise facilities for older people.
- Provide opportunities for both adults and children with special needs.
- Provide opportunities for alternative therapies, provide a sports physiotherapy service, provide “good health” clinics and provide a better service for GP appointments.
- Form a Patient Participation group to promote 2-way feedback between doctors and patients.
- Lobby the Primary Care Trust for better access to an NHS Dentist.
- Make better use of Community Care Centre as an Information Hub and integrate activities with the Senior Citizens Centre.
- Provide wider distribution of Surgery newsletter and the Melbourne Events Leaflet.

9. Tourism & Conservation

Melbourne is South Derbyshire's most important historic parish. It is also the only settlement in South Derbyshire that can hold the attention of general visitors for more than just a passing visit. These two bold statements are, of course, related; the historic buildings have produced an attractive environment, complemented by good walking country (including National Forest planting schemes), shops and farm shops, churches, pubs, restaurants, and a community spirit that is the envy of many settlements of larger size.

Melbourne's status in the district is underpinned by simple statistics. Of over 700 listed buildings in the district, approximately one in every five is in Melbourne. Three of the district's 22 conservation areas lie wholly within the parish, which contains one seventh of the 655.5 hectares of land covered by conservation area designation. These statistics become more meaningful when one considers that there are 52 parishes in the South Derbyshire district.

Melbourne also boasts one of the district's 22 scheduled ancient monuments (the castle site) and one of only five registered Historic Parks and Gardens in the district (Melbourne Hall). The Norman parish church is widely acknowledged as one of the finest parish churches in the country, and the church and hall as seen across the pool form an iconic view.

However, Melbourne cannot afford to be complacent. It has no immunity from the debilitating economic forces that threaten the viability of small town centres across the country. Moreover, Melbourne is not a seat of local government and has to fight for attention. Other settlements, seen as less well-heeled, have been priorities for government grant aid, local authority expenditure and the public sector staff time that is necessarily tied in with such expenditure.

To canvas public opinion at the first open day on 7th June 2008, some factual background information on the historic environment was presented, and comments were sought on a number of broad-based questions, which sought to stimulate ideas without suggesting their own answers. For example:

- What aspects of Melbourne's history and heritage interest you most? How easy

is it to find information about them? Which aspects would you like to know more about?

- What limits the visitor experience, or disappoints the visitor?
- How might we increase public enjoyment and appreciation of the natural environment? Do we do enough to protect, promote and enhance it?
- What are the environmental pressures on, or threats to, tourism and conservation?

Comments were invited on "post-it" notes and all were transcribed. The tourism and conservation section of the subsequent questionnaire was inspired by the comments made, to test whether or not there was widespread agreement with comments originally made by individuals.

The public questionnaire concerning Tourism and Conservation consisted of 18 statements inspired by comments made by the public at the first Open Day on 7th June, 2008. In the questionnaire, the whole community was invited to say how far they agreed or disagreed with the statements offered by fellow residents.

The degree of agreement or disagreement with all the statements was then analysed, and the statements were put into five categories, from 1 (the priority category with the highest level of agreement) to 5 (the priority category with the lowest level of agreement).

In the following summary, the statements have been grouped together under eight headings, as they are clearly related. They are listed in approximate priority order:

Public Toilets

The existing public toilets were built in 1933 and clearly need upgrading. It is now common to have public toilets associated with a meeting/greeting point in a town, where their management can be brought under the umbrella of the host building, with better supervision. It is suggested the way forward would be to house new public toilets in an improved community centre.





The Leisure Centre: Is It Really A Leisure Centre?

Melbourne Leisure Centre, with its current name, is doomed to disappoint its visitors. The concept of a Leisure Centre today is a venue for the sports arm of the leisure industry. With one squash court and one badminton court, Melbourne Leisure Centre cannot hope to live up to its present title.

In practice, Melbourne Leisure Centre has always been a community centre, a title which raises very different expectations, better suited to the facilities in the building.

Making More of our Location

Melbourne should make more of its National Forest location from a tourism point of view. There should be a room put aside for an exhibition explaining the history of Melbourne. Melbourne should publicise itself better in other Tourist Information Centres and publicity outlets.

These statements met with a consistently high level of support. They are all concerned with the “meeting and greeting” of visitors, which can only be sensibly done in a central location in the town/village, preferably close to the shops so that visitors can be encouraged to contribute to the economic wellbeing of Melbourne. From this point of view, the existing Leisure Centre is ideally placed, being central to the business end of the town/village, acceptably close to the Hall, Church and Pool, and alongside the principal through route and the principal car park. It is also convenient to the public footpath routes entering Melbourne from the west. It has been suggested that the library facilities could be expanded to take in the Tourist Information and Historical Exhibition facilities, though this has not yet been broached with the County Council.

Streets and Footpaths

Regarding public footpaths, the County Council can only take action if specific instances of a problem are reported, such as the recent removal of a new fingerpost at Woodhouses.

Any member of the public can report a problem. The address is David Adkins, Rights of Way Officer, Derbyshire County Council Environmental Services Dept., Shand House, Dale Road South, Darley Dale, Matlock DE4 3RY. Tel. 07900 445625.

This might have ranked as a higher priority, but respondents to the questionnaire were keen to point out that the Melbourne lengthsman does a good job. There seems to have been a feeling that criticism of the state of the streets might be interpreted as criticism of the lengthsman, and it was clear that no criticism was intended. On the contrary, several respondents went out of their way to commend the lengthsman.

SDDC could encourage more households to have small bins, to reduce problem of pavements being blocked by wheelie bins
More waste bins required, both for general purposes and for dog walkers (several endorsements of this sentiment).

Permissive footpaths can make a very beneficial addition to the statutory footpath network, as local examples show. These include the path from the circular car park by the Reservoir at Calke into Calke Park, and the footpath link from Melbourne Parks to Staunton Harold. Both of these examples provide valuable connections that do much to enhance the route of a walk. At Melbourne, the best example was the walk around Melbourne Pool via the Intake and Brown’s Field, now closed as a result of antisocial behaviour. Several respondents to the questionnaire specifically requested that this footpath should be reinstated, but this can only be done by the goodwill of the owners.

“Temporary” closure of footpath through Intake to Brown’s Field has spoilt one of the nicest walks in Melbourne and the footpath should be reinstated (many repeats of this comment).

Exploring Melbourne

There should be guided walks around the Melbourne Conservation Area during the summer months.





This statement was probably directed at the wrong audience. People who already live in Melbourne and know it perhaps cannot be expected to have a strong opinion about it. Given that there are other priorities for action, it is suggested that no action be proposed in the parish plan.

There are already existing town trails and leaflets, including maps. However, a free town plan should be achievable, and an inexpensive black and white sheet would be sufficient. Funding would be needed for the initial design and print runs, maintenance of supplies would need to be adopted by an organisation, and points of distribution would need to be arranged. These might include the Parish Church, Community Care, the Hall Visitor Centre, pubs/restaurants and the Library.

Places to Eat, Drink and Stay

The provision of such facilities is dependent on private enterprise and initiative. However, the overall positive response to these statements in the questionnaire is something that prospective providers of such services may take encouragement from.

It may also be used as evidence in support of any planning proposals made to the District Council for provision of such facilities, or to resist the loss of such facilities that we already have, such as pubs with or without letting rooms.

Car Parking

There should be a charge for car parking beyond the first hour. As the only statement in the Tourism and Conservation questionnaire that met with more disagreement than agreement, this idea clearly lacks support. The 41% agreement consisted of 27% "tend to agree" and only 14% "strongly agree".

There should be better parking for visitors. The District Council policy of allowing "infill" development in Melbourne, with barely enough private parking to serve the developments themselves, means that almost all the opportunities for further public car parks in Melbourne are now gone. Remaining patches between Potter Street and



Church Street, and between Penn Lane and Church Street, are difficult of access and may be unfeasible. A site on Blackwell Lane, between the allotments to the west and the brook on the east, may be the only site now realistically available, although its siting is peripheral. Pedestrian access to this site from Castle Square, which would be desirable, may not be possible.

Extra car parking required to encourage tourism (repeats of this comment)
There's definitely a need for more parking somewhere and if Blackwell Lane is the only place then so be it. The problem is definitely not going to go away

The Old Churchyard, Castle Street

The Old Churchyard on Castle Street should be better maintained.

The overall response to this statement was interesting, firstly because the "no opinion" element (41%) was far higher than for any other statement. Does this reflect indifference, or a lack of awareness of the old churchyard?

Secondly, there were a number of comments about the quality of the old churchyard as a tranquil and natural oasis, which are very valid.

On reflection the statement as put to the public was an ambiguous one, as it was not specific about the type of maintenance envisaged. From the comments about the current character of the space, it is clear that a carefully manicured approach to its maintenance would not be considered appropriate.

The background conditions that led to the inclusion of the statement in the questionnaire related more to the condition of structures in the churchyard, rather than the planting there. The wall alongside Castle Street requires re-pointing, and parts of the wall along the northern side are ruinous. The gravestones themselves are overgrown with ivy and illegible.

The statement should therefore be refined:



Actions

The most important priorities in the list above can be rolled into three general aims:

1. Improve the meeting and greeting of visitors. This encompasses the following themes as listed above: toilets, better use of Leisure Centre, making more of our location, parking and exploring Melbourne.
2. Maintain and augment places to eat, drink and stay.
3. Preserve and promote footpaths.

It was agreed that the actions should be divided into short term and long term actions. From a tourism and conservation point of view the proposals are therefore as follows:

SHORT TERM:

Maintain and enhance facilities where visitors can eat, drink and stay. This involves making the case for protecting and augmenting existing facilities including pubs, restaurants, cafes and tearooms, and encouraging the creation of B&B / self-catering facilities.

Advertise Melbourne better under the umbrella of the National Forest.

Improve the meeting and greeting of visitors by seeking improvements to the public toilets, provision of town maps and improved historic interpretation on an opportunistic basis, whether via town walks, literature, the web or exhibition space.

LONG TERM:

6 pt Improve the network of public footpaths, permissive footpaths, cycle ways and bridle ways to form circular routes and to improve links to transport routes such as the Sustrans cycleway, the Trent and Mersey Canal and routes that may be proposed in the Derbyshire Greenways Strategy.

Provide a central focus for the meeting and greeting of visitors. This should be a building that can provide facilities such as parking, toilets, cafe, exhibition space and tourist information.



10. Community Safety

Survey Results

1. There was an overwhelming response for blanket coverage throughout Melbourne to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NHW). Whilst it was recognised that Melbourne is a safe and quiet place to live and low in crime and “everyone looked out for everyone”, there would be benefits to be gained by the community for a scheme to be official.

2. Safer, brighter street lighting needs to be addressed. New, improved street lighting to be recommended to fit sensitively with the streetscape and character.

3. Cleaner alleyways: Evidence of used paraphernalia in alleyways especially around the Lothian Gardens and overgrown bushes needs to be addressed. It was appreciated that everything possible is being done by the lengthsman and various voluntary groups currently.

4. Community officers and police to update publicity of contact telephone numbers - as currently it is incorrect for non-emergency number and some of the officers publicised have moved area. Publicise the police station and opening times. Greater police presence on the street is requested.

5. Follow through from calls to the police, whether for emergencies or non-emergencies, needs to be quicker.

Options for Action

The options were presented at the second open day; the key outcomes are detailed below.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Leaflets for the NHW were given to interested parties and explanations of how the “watch” works. With the help of the local Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), general discussions took place regarding safety within the community, notably young children coming into Melbourne and causing a nuisance and people feeling intimidated. The local PCSOs also explained that Melbourne police station is not a manned police station, although many officers use it as a base and would gladly answer queries from a member of the community if they were based on site.

Other comments regarding safety included:

the general clean up of Melbourne down various alleyways around the town

- enforcement from the police regarding people dropping litter on the streets
- encouragement for the community to clean up their own space around their own houses
- greater police presence on the street.

Street Lighting: Written comments in the form of post-it notes proved that the community had the following concerns about the street lighting:

- Street lighting should be sustainable-ecologically designed, low energy and low light polluting.
- Lighting need not necessarily be on all night - we could save energy and costs with sensor activated systems which light up in response to movement after a set time, e.g. after 11pm between Sunday and Thursday and 1am on Friday and Saturday.
- Artificial light disrupts natural patterns of wild life. Night is supposed to be dark.
- Insensitive and intrusive styles of lighting are used in historic locations, for example on Blanch Croft and at the bottom of Penn Lane.
- Robinsons Hill is too dark, especially with new bus services.
- There needs to be additional lighting on the pathway between top of Jubilee Close and Palmerston Court / Potter Street and on Alma Street.
- The County Council must regularly cut the trees back which obstruct the lighting along the footpath from Station Road to Oaklands Way

As with all consultations and healthy discussions some contradictions did occur. For example, whilst most people wanted the lights to be brighter, some members of the community felt that lights should be switched off after a certain time of night. Most agreed that street lighting should be sustainable, ecologically designed, sensitive to the streetscape, low energy and designed to minimise light pollution.

11. Traffic



Key Issues

Traffic issues in Melbourne derive mainly from the tensions between the modern trend towards high car ownership and use, and a town infrastructure not designed for motor vehicles. The older streets are narrow with little off-road parking and narrow pavements. Street parking and two-way traffic flows lead to frequent congestion in these narrow streets.

In the town's more modern developments, levels of car ownership seem to be exceeding the designed off-road parking capacity, again leading to significant street parking. There is anecdotal evidence that parked cars may obstruct access of larger vehicles in some residential streets.

In contrast to the problems associated with vehicles moving too slowly (congestion), there are major concerns about traffic going too fast (speeding). Such concerns apply especially to the town's approach roads. Vehicles travelling at inappropriate speeds for Melbourne's streets are clearly a problem.

Users of electric buggies report difficulties in accessing some parts of the town as a result of high kerbs and narrow pavements. Such barriers also affect wheelchair users and those walking with prams and pushchairs.

Results of the Survey

The Traffic section of the questionnaire allowed the people of Melbourne to offer views on three aspects of traffic in the town:

- Concerns about traffic in Melbourne
- Possible changes to traffic management
- Bus services – frequency, routes, destinations

The questions were based on public comment at the first open day in June 2008, and the major results were presented at the second open day in April 2009. There were 378 responses to the Traffic section of the questionnaire.

Concerns

75% of respondents were concerned about traffic congestion, mostly in Derby Road (Market Place to South Street), Chapel Street and Market Place, though many other streets were also mentioned.

Speeding was reported as a problem by 66% of respondents, with Derby Road being most frequently cited. There was concern about speeding on most approach roads (Cockshut Lane, Station Road, High Street, Ashby Road, Blackwell Lane and Main Street, Kings Newton).

57% of respondents reported concerns about heavy vehicles – concerns concentrated in the centre of the village – Derby Road, Market Place, Chapel Street, Castle Street, though many other streets were mentioned less frequently.

Almost Almost half the respondents raised concerns about parking on pavements, pedestrian crossings, difficulties crossing streets, traffic volumes and dangerous junctions. Pavement parking caused concern in the older narrow streets. South Street, North Street, Derby Road and Commerce Street were particularly cited, but the concern was widespread with the most frequently cited location being was 'All or / Most streets'.

Concerns about the difficulty for pedestrians to cross streets were raised by 46% of respondents, the majority of these concerns being about the Market Place. Other streets frequently mentioned were Derby Road and High Street. Concerns about traffic volumes were predominantly around the town centre (Derby Road and Market Place), reflecting traffic congestion concerns above.

Respondents considered many junctions to be potentially dangerous. Most frequently mentioned was Newton Corner (the junction of Main Street and Derby Road) and Chapel Street / Market Place. In addition, Penn Lane / Ashby Road and Robinsons Hill / Cockshut Lane were frequently mentioned. Fewer respondents cited many other junctions.

25% identified disabled and pushchair access as a problem. In view of the relatively low proportion of the population directly affected, this represents a significant response. Difficulties identified were a lack of dropped kerbs, sharp drops, and narrow pavements, cars parked on pavements or across dropped kerbs. Such obstructions do present



a physical barrier to users of electric buggies, wheelchairs and pushchairs. With the growing number of users of electric buggies, this will be an increasing problem and it is considered that a full review of disabled access in Melbourne is needed.

Potential Changes in Melbourne

The survey explored respondents' attitudes to a variety of potential changes to traffic management in Melbourne. Respondents could offer views from strong support, to strong opposition for number of potential changes. In the following analysis 'in favour' or 'support' means a response of strong support or support. 'Against' means a response of oppose or strongly oppose.

Parking and Speeding: Of the suggested changes, Enforce Existing Parking Restrictions received the strongest support (76% in favour, only 6% against – Chart T1). Enforce Existing Speed Restrictions was also very popular (75% in favour, 10% against – Chart T2).

These two issues raised strong feelings. Many respondents considered speeding and illegal or inconsiderate parking to be irresponsible behaviour by motorists. Some respondents reported repeated examples of this behaviour, and described significant feelings of anger toward against offending motorists.

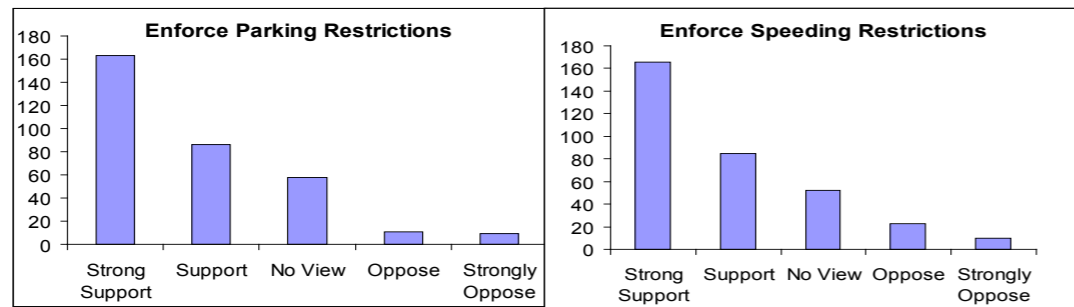


Chart T1

Chart T2

Parking on Derby Road and Chapel Street: Changes to parking restrictions, designed to allow better visibility and thus reduce congestion, in Derby Road and Chapel Street were also popular. 68% supported further parking restrictions on Derby Road with 18% against (Chart T3), while 65% supported Chapel Street restrictions with 15% against (Chart T4).

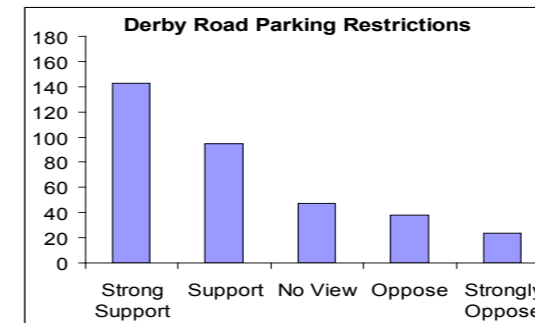


Chart T3



Chart T4

Public Car Parks: 59% of respondents agreed that more public car parking is desirable in the town centre, but very few people could suggest any suitable sites.

Additional Parking Restrictions: 48% were in favour of further parking restrictions in other parts of Melbourne, but 30% had no view on this. Suggestions on where restrictions should be applied were rather few, and concentrated on narrow streets such as South Street, North Street, Alma Street, and Potter Street and the Market Place.

One Way System: Opinions on a one-way system were sharply divided – with strong support but also some strong opposition (Chart T5). Those in favour (54% of respondents) recognised that a one way system may relieve congestion problems and allow more street parking. Those against (33%) tended to argue that a one-way system would encourage speeding. Suggested systems fell into three broad designs:

- Derby Road / Market Place with various adjacent streets
- Chapel Street / Potter Street / Church Street in varying combinations
- North Street / Alma Street / South Street

The balance of views is slightly in favour of a one-way system, but not strong enough to merit support for this option in the Parish Plan.

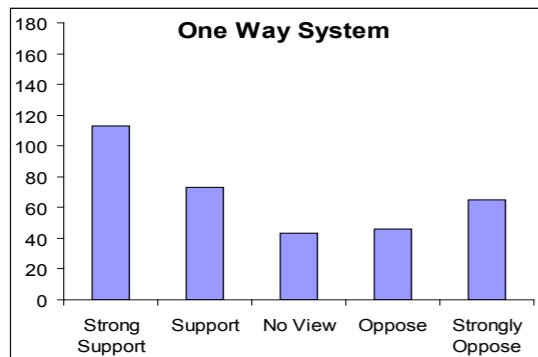


Chart T5

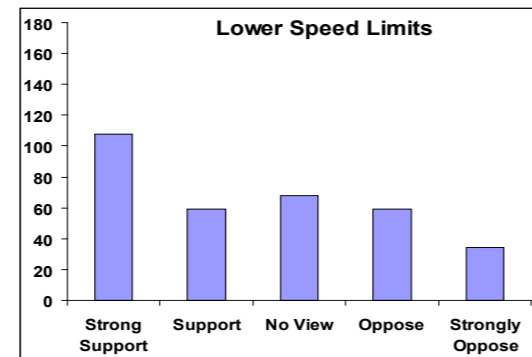


Chart T6

Lower Speed Limits: There was some support for lower speed limits (Chart T6); a 20mph limit in the Market Place was suggested by respondents.

Residents Parking Scheme: There were mixed views on the principle of residents parking schemes with only moderate support and significant concerns about possible charges.

Public Transport: There were low numbers of responses to public transport questions, probably reflecting the relatively low number of bus users. There was concern about the reduction in frequency of buses to Derby (now 1 per hour during the day). Respondents suggested that Derby buses should stop at Royal Infirmary: since the survey some buses are now routed via DRI, but hospital services are being transferred

to the New City General Hospital, so the need for a route to DRI may be replaced by a route to the City Hospital.

New destinations suggested were Ashby, East Midlands Airport (both for access to the airport and the transport hub), Nottingham and Burton.

Options and Actions

Actions supported by survey

- Enforce existing parking restrictions
- Address problems of traffic speeds – options might include:
 - Greater police enforcement
 - Fixed speed warning signals
 - Moveable speed warning signals
 - Community speed monitors
- Additional parking restrictions on Derby Road and Chapel Street designed to improve visibility and thus reduce congestion
- Review disabled access
- Modify Newton Corner to improve safety

Actions with partial support from survey

- Residents parking
- and a One-way system were only partially supported and are not included in the actions.

Town Centre / Market Place

The survey revealed a great concentration of concerns about traffic problems in the town centre: congestion, speeding, lack of opportunity for pedestrians to cross, heavy vehicles and disabled access. There is widespread concern about traffic congestion and consequent motorist anger in the southern section of Derby Road (Market Place to South Street). The survey did not specifically explore views on the physical state of the Market Place, but at open days people expressed dissatisfaction about broken inadequate kerbstones, slippery paving and the road surface breaking up.

A comprehensive approach to addressing several of the core issues might draw on experience gained in similar historic towns and villages in recent years. In many places throughout the UK and mainland Europe, new ideas are emerging that appear to help reconcile the need for traffic movement with the qualities of historic places. These principles, often referred to as shared space, typically involve less reliance on signs, road markings and the paraphernalia of highways, and greater emphasis on the distinctive qualities of place associated with an historic town.

The approach might involve:

- Agreeing a preferred design speed for traffic in the town. This might be between 15 and 20 mph
- Community initiatives to emphasize the streetscapes as public spaces
- Introduction of “courtesy crossings” on preferred pedestrian routes, rather than a reliance on formal, controlled crossings
- Careful redesign of kerbs to reduce their barrier effect, promote lower speeds, maintain guidance for pedestrians and improve accessibility
- Enhanced paving to increase the spatial qualities of Melbourne’s streetscapes, and to diminish the highway characteristics associated with asphalt
- Introduction of identifiable on-street parking bays and a reduction in reliance on yellow lines and associated parking clutter through the establishment of a Restricted Parking Zone.
- Establishing a protocol for deliveries by heavy lorries

Other county councils and highway authorities around the UK have begun to introduce combinations of such measures, including Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire,

Kent, Norfolk, Suffolk and Wiltshire. Considerable research and advice on best practice is available from specialists working in this field with organisations such as English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

There may be merits in drawing on the experience of rural towns where such initiatives have been introduced, and learning from emerging best practice from the UK and the rest of Europe. Ideas and knowledge gained through such consultancy might be of benefit to other local communities experiencing similar problems, and be of broader value to the County Council as highway authority.

Examples of such schemes were illustrated at the Open Day in April 2009 and received a generally favourable response from the public.



On behalf of the Parish Plan Steering Committee, I would like to thank the teams of volunteers who have put this plan together, the Parish Council and Melbourne's District Councillors for their support and the Derbyshire Rural Community Council for their expertise and the financial grant to enable the public consultation to take place and the associated documentation to be produced. However, most of all I would like to thank the people of Melbourne for their opinions, enthusiasm and ideas. This is their plan.

*Phil Dobby
Chairman Parish Plan Steering Committee:
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