

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 8.30 pm

**AREA PANEL 3 (ABBEY, ARBORETUM AND NORMANTON)
16 NOVEMBER 2005**

Present: Councillor Dhindsa (Chair)
Councillors Afzal, Burgess, Khan, Lowe, Rehman and
Williamson

Derby City Council and other officers:

Isabella Stone	-	Assistant Director, Community Policy
Sarah Turner	-	Constitutional Services Officer
Jody Kirkpatrick	-	Constitutional Services Assistant
Rachel Levy	-	Constitutional Services Assistant
Inspector Parkin	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
David Gartside	-	Head of Traffic
Vickie Butler	-	Area Panel Support Officer

60 members of the public were in attendance.

27/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hussain and Nath.

28/05 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100 (B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following as a late item as a matter of urgency:

Area Panel Funding application for Stockbrook Recreation Ground Crime Reduction Project.

29/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30/05 Minutes

The minutes of the Area Panel 3 meeting held on 7 September 2005 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

31/05 Petitions

New petitions

a. Petition requesting the replacement of railings at the North end of Gladstone Street.

The Panel received a petition from residents of Gladstone Street asking that the railings that had been removed be reinstated with gated access. The area was plagued by antisocial behaviour including drug dealers, which resulted in discarded needles, threatening behaviour and cars being vandalised.

Councillor Burgess advised that he supported this petition as he had been battling with the Parks Department to get the railings replaced for some time now. The railings had been removed for safety reasons, but this had resulted in a lot of graffiti and litter in the area.

Agreed to ask the Director of Commercial Services and the Community Safety Partnership to investigate the petition and respond at the next meeting.

b. Petition requesting the removal of speed bumps on Upperdale Road and Stanhope Street

The Panel received a petition from residents of Upperdale Road, Stanhope Street and the surrounding area, asking that road humps along these roads be removed. Over a number of years complaints had been made regarding damage to cars and the discomfort when travelling by bus on these roads. The petitioners did not have an objection to traffic calming measures but objected to the type of measure that was being used. The petitioners asked that alternative measures of traffic calming be considered.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the petition and respond to the next meeting.

c. Anti-social behaviour on St Chad's Road, Byrant Street, Stonehill Road and Cromwell Road.

The Panel received a petition from residents of St Chad's Road, Byrant Street, Stonehill Road and Cromwell Road asking for:

1. CCTV camera to be installed on the corner of Breadon Hill Road and St Chad's Road.
2. The removal of the phone boxes from St Chad's Road and Cromwell Road.
3. More police patrols to be put in the area to deter gangs of young people.

Councillor Khan advised that residents in this area were constantly plagued by anti-social behaviour resulting in vandalism to vehicles, litter being thrown into gardens, noise in the early hours of the morning and drug dealing taking place on the corner of St Chad's and Cromwell Road. The police were

aware about these issues and nothing seemed to have been done about this.

Agreed to ask the Community Safety Partnership to investigate the petition and report back to the next meeting.

Petitions received since the last meeting.

d. Petition relating to requested improvements to Meynell Street.

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Meynell Street requesting action on various issues to improve the street.

Isabella Stone, Assistant Director – Community Policy, reported that the Highways department had advised that they had inspected Meynell Street following the request for resurfacing. No defects had been found and the street will be inspected every six months. Meynell Street would be considered for slurry sealing in the program for next year. The gully's did need cleaning out and this would be done. The department would be writing to residents advising when the gully's would be cleaned so that vehicles could be moved to improve access for the gully cleaning to take place.

A resident of Meynell Street stated that they felt very neglected and when money was available they wanted to be considered for the works requested.

e. Petition asking for various improvements to the Stockbrook Street.

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents in the Stockbrook Street area asking for a number of improvements. Councillor Williamson advised that he had attended a meeting of the Stockbrook Street residents group where they had decided to work with the Crime Prevention Group to address the issues raised in the petition. It had been agreed that updates and progress on the issues raised will be reported directly to the Stockbrook Street residents group. They had already received initial feedback and a number of the issues raised in the petition will be addressed.

32/05 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

Hedges and Fences

A member of the public asked that the Council consider passing a by-law to make owners of properties with boundary hedges maintain both sides of the hedge.

David Gartside, Head of Traffic, advised that the Council did have powers under the Highways Act to force people to maintain their boundaries that were overhanging the highway but could not intervene where the issue raised was related to hedges between properties.

Agreed to investigate the Council's current powers for ensuring people maintained their own boundaries and to respond directly to the questioner.

Pedestrian Crossing/Mount Street

A member of the public asked if a pedestrian crossing could be sited at the top and bottom of Mount Street. A survey had been carried out by the Police 4-5 years ago and the road had been assessed as not needing a crossing. The road was extremely busy and people did not like crossing the street if they didn't have to. There was no crossing in the area until you reached Normanton Road. David Gartside responded that a zebra crossing needed a lot of space and caused delays for vehicles, in the short term it would be best to find an alternative solution. Derby was two years away from connecting Derby and David thought this was the best solution. Councillor Dhindsa asked that this request be incorporated in the Connecting Derby process. A member of the public asked if a survey could be carried out in the meantime.

Overhanging branches-Kenilworth Avenue

A member of the public expressed concern about a 14ft high conifer in their neighbour's garden. They had spoken to their neighbour in the past about the overhanging branches, and asked if they could prune the tree. The member of the public had contacted the mediation centre who had written to the neighbour asking them to prune their tree and nothing was done. She was advised that if the neighbour cut down the tree it would cost £480 and she had been told she would have to contribute £240. There was also a flood light in the neighbour's garden, which was extremely bright, and because of this items have been stolen out of her garden. Age Concern was going to let her speak to a solicitor about this. She asked if the Council could look into these issues with the neighbour. She had been advised that she could cut down the branches on the tree and give them back, but she would still have to pay someone to do this. Councillor Dhindsa advised that he would look into what powers the Council have to assist in this matter and report back to the next meeting.

Parking on Stenson Road

A member of the public advised that 35 years ago the Council compulsory purchased land to the front of houses at the end of Stenson Road. Over the years the traffic has increased and cars and vans parked on the opposite side of the road going up towards the traffic lights and blocked the pavements. This parking totally negated what had been done originally and he asked that the Council investigate restricted parking in the daytime for this area. Cars had to travel up the middle of the road to the crossroads and this was dangerous. The crossroads would also benefit from proper traffic light control.

Cityscape

A member of the public asked if the Chief Executive of Cityscape will be invited to the next meeting.

Councillor Williamson responded that the Chief Executive of Cityscape will be invited to a future meeting of the Panel.

Cameron Road - Homezone

A member of the public stated that the money that the Council had spent on creating the Homezone on Cameron Road had been wasted. A lot of the work was still unfinished. There was not enough parking provision being created by the Homezone and emergency vehicles would not be able to get down at some times during the day. Residents were finding it difficult to park near their own homes. They asked if anything was going to be done about this and could it be put back to how it was.

Councillor Dhindsa responded that the issues in the delay in the work needed to be progressed. He asked that these issues be passed onto the Homezone team for comment. The member of the public asked if the limited car parking spaces issue to be looked at also.

A member of the public advised that they had petitioned about not wanting the Homezone. What was the sense of having a Homezone if you could not get up or down your own street? There was a garage on the corner of Cameron Road and there were constantly a number of cars parked outside the garage. Children had to walk out of their houses and straight into on-coming traffic which was dangerous. Councillor Dhindsa commented that one of the main reasons Homezone was introduced was to improve traffic and create a community atmosphere. Councillor Dhindsa asked for details of the garage where parking was an issue as this needed to be looked into.

Another member of the public advised that there was no footpath outside homes and a car with no tax had been parked right outside their house for two weeks. They had contacted the police who had put them in touch with the DVLA who advised that a car could park wherever it wanted with no tax. Homezone was never wanted by a number of residents and people felt they had not been listened to.

Councillor Dhindsa advised that the issue with the DVLA needed to be looked at. Councillor Williamson added that the issue of Homezone had been discussed on many occasions. The Council had sought the views of residents in the area. Some supported the Homezone and some didn't. The Council did say they wouldn't do a Homezone if the street was dead set against it. The idea behind the Homezone was to try and improve the environment and reclaim the streets for pedestrians. A Homezone would make the occurrence of accidents less likely. Councillor Williamson made a commitment to the residents of Cameron Street to ensure that any outstanding work was completed as quickly as possible. Councillor Dhindsa advised that he would meet with residents next week.

Lights on Village Street

A member of the public advised that he had approached Councillor Williamson about trees that needed pruning on Village Street. He had received a letter from the Arboricultural Officer who had advised work had been done on some of the trees. A member of the public advised that he could not see where any of the trees had been pruned and there was an issue with street lighting being hidden by trees. Although the Arboricultural Officer has said that the trees did not

impinge on the light from the street light.

Agreed to ask the Director Commercial Services to investigate this issue and report back to the next meeting.

33/05 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2005/06

A report of the Assistant Director Community Policy was considered which set out details of eight applications for funding, which had been received:

- to consider whether to support the application received from Dean Street Methodist Church for the Stockbrook elderly persons Christmas lunch. Amount requested £400.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Guru Nanaka Istri Sabha for Healthy Living and Community Involvement for Asian Women. Amount requested £1880.
- to consider whether to support the application received from the the Intercultural Social Group for a lunch club. Amount requested £2554.
- to consider whether to support the application received from the Persian Cultural Association for persian music and Arts Group amount requested £2450.
- to consider whether to support the application received from Sathi Group Derby for a Grand Dad Walk – Activate and Life Project. Amount request £2000.
- to consider whether to support the application received from UMOJA Women's Group for a cultural a social event. Amount requested £1564.
- to consider whether to support the application received from the Councillor Afzal for Crime Reduction on Stockbrook Park. Amount requested £1600.

Agreed to award funding to the applications in the following way:

- 1. Deanstreet Methodist Church – granted £400.**
- 2. Guru Nanaka Istri Sabha – granted £1200 items requested except Hydrotherapy and the hiring of a professional chef to teach cooking.**
- 3. Intercultural Social Group - £754. Which incorporated £504 towards rent and £250 towards meals. It was agreed if the group increased their individual contribution of 25p each towards a meal, to 50p each towards a meal then the Panel would increase their founding towards meals to £500.**
- 4. Persian Cultural Association – Granted £1270. Which incorporated £470 towards rent, £575 towards musical and arts**

equipment and £225 towards cultural displays.

- 5. Sathi Group. Agreed to defer consideration of this application to the next meeting and that Officers assist the Group in submitting a clearer more detailed application to include evidence of sustainability.**
- 6. UMOJA Women's Group – Granted up to £500 for their Christmas event only, subject to the group providing relevant information and a breakdown of the costs of the event.**
- 7. Crime Reduction on Stockbrook Park – Granted £1,600.**

34/05 Neighbourhood Policing

I received a brief presentation from Inspector Gary Parking regarding neighbourhood policing.

Agreed to note the presentation.

35/05 Deliberate Set Fires

The panel received a presentation from Adam Hind, Station Manager at Nottingham Road Fire Station on about deliberate fires.

Resolved to note the presentation.

36/05 Proposed Operation of Trial for Cosmetic Work to Trees

A report of the Director of Commercial Services was considered, which stated that the Council's Tree Management Policy allowed cosmetic work to trees, such as pruning, of no more than 15% of the crown, usually when the tree was blocking light. The existing base budget was inadequate to accommodate cosmetic work and was fully committed to works addressing health and safety risks. Councillors had become frustrated that there was no means of appealing against the decisions of the Arborecultural Officers to carry out work. It was recognised that the Arborecultural Officer's decisions were influenced by the availability of budget, as well as the tree management issues. To address the concerns, a budget virement of £5,000 had been made available from the grounds maintenance budget allocated to Area Panels for cosmetic work to trees. People wishing to appeal against the decision of the Arborecultural Officer would be advised of their right to do so and that they should contact their ward councillor. If the ward Councillor believed the appeal was merited, the Area Panel Manager would be advised accordingly and he would request an estimate from the Arborecultural Officer for cosmetic work to trees. No estimate for work outside that permitted under the tree management policy would be provided. The appeal would be heard by the Area Panel meeting. Once the

budget was being committed no further cosmetic work would be commissioned.

The Panel were advised that the £5,000 had been split equally between the Area Panels which meant that Area Panel 3 would have £1,000 to spend on cosmetic work to trees.

Resolved to note the report.

37/05 Portland Street Area – Traffic Surveys.

The Panel considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services advising that concerns had been raised through the Peartree Residents Group Meeting regarding traffic speeds and the flows on Portland Street, Peartree Street, Rutland Street and Harrington Street. As a result the Council were asked to look at the traffic management options.

Agreed to support the undertaking of a full consultation with residents and business within the area examined, to determine the preferred method of traffic management.

38/05 Health Briefing From Greater Derby and Central Derby Primary Care Trusts

A briefing paper on Health Services was considered.

Agreed to note the contents of the briefing paper.

39/05 Area Panel Update

Graffiti in Crompton Street/Arboretum

A member of the public asked whether NTL payed the Council for re-painting the boxes.

Agreed to investigate this matter and report back to the next meeting.

Petition – Activate Project, Carmel Street, Arboretum.

Ian Fullagar, Housing Strategy and Performance Manager, advised that security providers would be providing a concierge service starting in December.

Petition – turning area on Dexter Street, Arboretum

Councillor Khan advised that he had spoken with the lead petitioner who had agreed to the proposals submitted which allowed a turning area to be created.

Incinerator, all wards

A member of the public asked if it was true that Derby's waste would be transferred to Nottingham. Councillor Williamson responded that this is incorrect. There were also no plans for an incinerator in the city.

Bonfires and litter all wards

A member of the public asked if Derby City Council could ban bonfires as they were an ongoing issue and one bonfire affected hundreds of people.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate and respond to the next meeting with the current legislation changes recently.

Alcohol free zone, all wards

A member of the public advised that there were not enough signs advising people that there is an alcohol free zone in effect. Inspector Parkin had said there were plenty of signs but the member of the public advised that they did not know where they were. No one was taking any notice of the alcohol free zone.

Agreed to investigate the matter and report back to the next meeting.

40/05 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 January 2006 at Rykneld Activity Centre, Bedford Close, Derby. Councillor Burgess will be the Chair.

MINUTES END