

Time commenced – 6.30pm
Time finished – 8.45pm

**AREA PANEL 1
(CHADDESSEN, DERWENT, OAKWOOD AND SPONDON WARDS)
3 SEPTEMBER 2003**

Present: Councillors Ahern, E Berry, Bolton, Brown, Gupta, Latham,
MacDonald, Redfern, Roberts, Smalley and West.

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Bill Reed – Area Panel Manager
Richard Smail – Area Panel Manager
Pete Southall – Derby Homes
John Edgar – Development and Cultural Services
Steve Medlock – Derby City Parks
Sgt Ryan Henderson – Derbyshire Constabulary

29 members of the public were in attendance.

20/03 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P Berry.

21/03 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

The Chair agreed to admit a budget application relating to the Oakwood Ward. This item was admitted to enable members of the public to be aware that an application was being submitted for Area Panel budget funding.

22/03 Declarations of Interest

Councillor E Berry declared a personal interest in Minute number 31/03 relating to a budget application submitted on behalf of Spondon Community Association, as she was a member of the Association. Councillor Roberts declared a personal interest in Minute number 25/03 as he was a Director of Midland Co-op.

23/03 Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of Area Panel 1 meetings held on 28 May and 19 June 2003 be confirmed as correct records subject to the amendment of Minute no 03/32 to read 03/03.

24/03 Update on Progress Regarding Community Issues Raised at Area Panel Meeting

The Panel considered an update report on the progress of Community Issues raised at the last meeting. The report included details of the issues raised, various actions, progress to date and detailed which Council Officer was responsible for the issue.

Agreed to note the report.

Specific Issues

Parking Problems in Cherry Tree Hill Area - Chaddesden

It was reported that the parking problems related to parking on football match days and was not linked to a school travel plan. Councillor Bolton confirmed that no recent complaints had been received.

Proposed Skateboard Park – Spondon

It was reported that the Spondon Youth Project were meeting on a regular basis, to find potential buildings for a youth centre in Spondon.

Albert Road Bus Service – Chaddesden

Councillor Bolton reported that this issue had been raised at the Cross Party Bus Working Group at its meeting of 14 August 2003. They had agreed to have further discussions with Trent Barton about possible courses of action.

Petition – Pelican Crossing on Hampshire Road, Derwent

It was reported that the site had been reassessed in accordance with the new Pedestrian Crossing criteria but unfortunately had been refused. Councillor Redfern was concerned about why the area did not meet the criteria and how far it was from meeting the criteria. She reported that there was an underpass at the particular site but this was not well lit. This would be reviewed as a cycle route and the lighting upgraded in the future. It was confirmed that there were no crossings from Hampshire Road to Max Road. The ward Councillors for Derwent would pursue this issue, as they were unhappy with the response.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate why the crossing application did not meet the criteria and report back to the next meeting.

Petition – Request for Pedestrian Crossing, Dale Road, Spondon

It was reported that the Dale Road site had been reassessed in accordance with the new pedestrian crossing criteria but unfortunately had been refused. The Councillors for Spondon would ask Council Cabinet to investigate if anything could be done at this particular location

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate why the crossing application did not meet the criteria and report back to the next meeting.

Motorcycle Problems – Oakwood

It was reported that the police had run a major operation over the summer, which had involved a number of officers working in the Oakwood area, together with the Road Traffic Department and the police helicopter. Three people were arrested and two motorbikes confiscated.

A member of the public reported that a police car had been seen driving down a footpath from Smalley Drive and it was felt that this created a bad example. It was felt that consideration should be given to reducing the scope of what vehicles could travel down footpaths. Some areas, improvements could be made to prevent access by narrowing the paths and introducing chicanes/bollards to make sure that people needed to dismount to get on to the footpaths. There was particular concern about the possibility of accidents. Councillor Latham reported that she had raised the issue with Council Officers some time ago but had not received a response. Areas particularly affected were Danebridge Crescent, Porter's Lane, Springwood Drive, Bishop's Drive and Chandlers Ford.

A member of the public was also concerned about police response times to reports of incidents. Sergeant Henderson stated the police operated a central call handling service, which was operated by civilians. They asked questions, which assisted officers on the ground. It was not always possible to respond to every incident but that the information supplied, provided evidence which could then be used in an attempt to catch offenders.

Councillor Redfern reported that she had written to Crest Homes Midlands Limited, relating to the old hospital site which was being used for fly-tipping, a gathering point for anti-social behaviour, as well as having stolen cars burnt out on it. She was still awaiting a response. Concern was also raised about lighting on the footpath in Lime Lane.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to:

- 1 investigate the lighting on the footpath in Lime Lane and report back to the next meeting.**
- 2 investigate the service given to Councillor Latham, relating to the issues she raised.**
- 3 report back to the next meeting with options of how the problems could be solved.**

King's Corner / Lime Lane Crossroad – Oakwood

It was reported that the site had been inspected by the Highway Maintenance staff. One sign was to be renewed and the road markings were considered satisfactory at present. A member of the public was concerned that this was a particularly hazardous junction, as it was offset and it would be useful to re-align it. Lighting at the junction was of particular concern. It was noted that as the road junction was partly outside the City boundary there was a need to liaise with the County Council

about lighting responsibilities on the road from Stanley. Councillor West had requested an updated map on accident statistics at this particular junction.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to liaise with the County Council and investigate the possibility of introducing illuminated road signs or improve the lighting at the junction and report back to the next meeting.

Proposals for Bus Lane on Nottingham Road – Chaddesden / Derwent

Councillor Bolton reported that this issue related to junction improvements, as well as a bus lane. The results of the consultation carried out for the bus lane proposal, were being collated and following initial discussion with the Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, the Council would report back to local members and the public on the next steps.

Agreed that an update be brought to a future Area Panel meeting.

Alcohol Free Zone, Chaddesden Park – Chaddesden

It was reported that a report on alcohol free zones had been presented to the Area Panel in July 2002. Council Cabinet were due to receive a report about introducing more alcohol free zones, in designated areas.

Agreed to ask the Area Panel Manager to bring a report to the next meeting on alcohol free zones, which would include an update on the introduction on alcohol free zones in designated areas and in particular the Chaddesden Park proposal.

North Pavement, Longley Lane – Spondon

It was reported that the footway had been inspected and that no lump of clay had been identified. A member of the public reported that a pile of rubbish and the lump of clay was still there and needed to be removed.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the matter and resolve it.

25/03 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

Work on pavements at High View School

A member of the public was concerned that the schools had been closed for six weeks and on the first day back at school, the road and pavement, immediately outside the school entrance, had been dug up. It was reported that where possible, work carried out, outside schools, was done during school holidays.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the issue and report back to the next meeting.

Trees in the Sussex Circus Area

A member of the public reported that overhanging trees were causing concern on Sussex Circus, around part of the racecourse and on Worcester Crescent. A couple of years ago, £2,000 had been invested by the Burglary Reduction Team to cut back trees to reduce crime in the area. The lighting was again being obstructed by trees. She reported that she had contacted the City Council, but had been told that there was no funding available to prune the trees.

Agreed to ask the Director of Commercial Services to investigate the matter and report back to the next meeting.

Vandalism in the area of the 145th Scouts' Building

A representative from the 145th Scouts reported that a considerable amount of money had been spent on doing up the inside of the property and a lamppost had been put outside the property. This had helped but there was still an issue with bottles, tins, dog fouling and graffiti. The scout hut roof was also being damaged because the gate behind the shops was not closed allowing people access to the roof. A member of the public asked if the local Co-op was part of the Challenge 21 Scheme as there was evidence of drinking around the store.

(At this point, Councillor Roberts declared a personal interest, as he was a Director of Midland Co-op).

Sergeant Henderson reported that the Co-op was part of the Challenge 21 Scheme run with the Police and Youth Offending Service and it was working well.

Agreed to ask the Community Watch Patrol to include the site as a hot spot for their patrol.

Tree Pruning in Oakwood

A member of the public asked who was responsible for tree pruning on private land. Councillor Smalley reported that the particular land in question was owned by a developer and it was their responsibility to prune the trees. The Council had no authority to prune the trees.

Brown Bins in Oakwood

A member of the public asked if the Brown Bin Scheme for composting waste could be introduced in Oakwood. It was reported that there was a pilot scheme currently taking place in Chellaston which, if successful, would be rolled out to the rest of the city.

Adoption of Roads in Oakwood

A member of the public asked when the roads in the Smalley Drive area would be adopted. He reported that there was likely to be a petition submitted about this issue. It was reported that, it was the responsibility of the developer, to ask the Council to adopt the roads. The Council were not able to do anything until this had happened. Another member of the public stated that he had been pursuing the issue of adoption over a number of years, with the developer, the City Council and the local MP. The issue was still to be resolved. The Chair would investigate the issue of responses to members of the public.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the adoption of roads and report back to the next meeting.

Road Signs in Spondon Village

A representative from the Spondon Village Improvement Committee reported that road signs in the Spondon area were being stolen. They had wanted to put flower tubs against the 'Welcome to Spondon' sign but they had disappeared. Road signs had also been removed from Potter Street, Chapel Side, Locko Road and the A52. The signs were made of aluminium and it was suggested that if they were made from galvanised steel or plastic to make them less attractive to thieves.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the matter and report back to the next meeting.

Community Drugs Awareness

A member of the public reported that a community event would be held at St Alban's Church at 5.30pm on 1 October 2003 relating to Drugs Awareness. Information relating to the event was made available to members of the public who were interested.

26/03 Petitions

No new petitions were presented.

Steve Medlock, City Parks Officer, reported that a petition had been received relating to the removal of / re-siting of benches adjacent to properties on Gravel Pit Lane, Spondon. The benches had been re-sited to everyone's satisfaction.

27/03 Planning and Environment Commission – Review of Grass Cutting in Derby City

A report of the Chair of the Planning and Environment Commission was considered, which stated that the Planning and Environment Commission was conducting a review of grass cutting in Derby, on road verges, roundabouts, parks, open spaces and areas adjacent to housing. The main objectives of the review were to identify issues about the standard of grass cutting or where it was not being cut at all and to develop recommendations to make sure that grass was cut to an acceptable standard, address complaints and improved the service. A member of the public suggested a litter pick before grass was cut, to prevent litter from being strewn around the areas. Another member of the public asked about the policy for strimming and edging after grass cutting, she felt the Council workmen in the area of the 145th Scout building in Chaddesden had been there for three hours but had only been working for one hour. She wanted to know if work was checked. Councillor Bolton reported that the role of the Commission was to look at what was done now.

Agreed:

- 1 to ask the Director of Commercial Services to investigate strimming and edging at the scout hut and report back to the next meeting**
- 2 for members of the public to inform David Romaine, the Commission's Co-ordination Officer, or Councillor Bolton of any locations in Derby where they think that grass was not being cut or where it seemed that grass cutting standards required improvement.**

28/03 Request for a Pedestrian Crossing in Area Panel 1

A report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services was considered, which stated that the Council Cabinet, at its meeting on 5 August 2003 had approved changes to the way in which pedestrian crossings were assessed. Criteria had previously been reported to Area Panels. All outstanding crossing requests and those previously refused during 2002 had been reviewed using the new criteria. Two of these locations now met the new criteria and it was proposed to install crossings on Bishops Drive at Oakwood near the District Centre on the A61 Sir Frank Whittle Road, east of the roundabout at Hampshire Road junction. Investigations were carried out on Hampshire Road between Sir Frank Whittle Road and Wiltshire Road. It was revealed that the minimum thresholds for the installation of a controlled crossing were not met at any location in the survey area. There was an existing subway under Hampshire Road which the children used to get to Beaufort Community Primary School. It was therefore recommended that the crossing request at Hampshire Road be refused.

Agreed:

- 1 to note the proposals to install new pedestrian crossing on A61 near to the Hampshire Road and Bishops Drive, Oakwood**
- 2 to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate why the crossing application for Hampshire Road did not meet the criteria and report back to the next meeting.**

29/03 Review of the School Crossing Patrol Service

A joint report of the Directors of Development and Cultural and Commercial Services was considered, which stated that Council Cabinet at its meeting on 5 August 2003 had approved a report on the Review of School Crossing Patrol Service. It was recommended that the report be submitted to Area Panels for information. A member of the public was disappointed that Acorn Way crossing was being withdrawn.

Agreed to note the changes to the operation of School Crossing Patrol Service.

30/03 Outturn Report: Area Panel 1 Budget 2002/03

A report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy was considered, which set out the way the budget for the Area Panel was spent in 2002/03 and detailed progress on the individual projects.

Agreed to note the report.

31/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/04

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

It was reported that the first application was from Aintree Community Team. They were seeking a grant of £500 for security and environmental improvements at Aintree House.

The second application was from Spondon Community Association Village Improvement Committee. They were seeking a grant of £3,000 to support the Spondon in Bloom competition.

The third application had been submitted by Locko Amateur Dramatic Society. They were seeking a grant of £4,000 for portable staging and stage curtain track.

It was reported that an application to put additional lighting on Oakwood Park from the Community Centre on Springwood Drive to the top of Gatcombe Close would be considered at the next meeting.

It was also reported that in November 2002 the Area Panel allocated a sum of £3,060 from the 2002/03 Area Panel budget to the Spondon Community Association History Trail project. When the work was undertaken the actual cost was £3,218.

Options considered

The Panel assessed the applications for funding against the agreed criteria and priorities.

Decision (Aintree Community Team)

To award a grant of £500 to Aintree Community Team for security and environmental improvements.

Reasons

- 1 the application meets the criteria for Area Panel funding

- 2 the application provided evidence of needs, both in terms of enabling residents to participate in activities within their community and providing a service in response to the needs of local residents and which would provide a benefit to all residents.

Decision (Spondon Community Association Village Improvement Committee)

To award a grant of £2,000 to Spondon Community Association Village Improvement Committee to support the Spondon in Bloom competition.

Reasons

- 1 the application meets the criteria for Area Panel funding
- 2 the application provided evidence of needs both in terms of enabling residents to participate in activities within their community and providing a service in response to the needs of local residents and which would provide a benefit to all residents.

Decision (Locko Amateur Dramatic Society)

To award a grant of £4,000 to the Locko Amateur Dramatic Society for portable staging and stage curtain track.

Reasons

- 1 the application meets the criteria for Area Panel funding
- 2 the application provided evidence of needs both in terms of enabling residents to participate in activities within their community and providing a service in response to the needs of local residents and which would provide a benefit to all residents.

Decision (Spondon Community Association History Trail Project)

To award a further grant of £158 from the 2003/04 Area Panel budget to Spondon Community Association History Trail Project to meet the full cost of the project.

Reason

The final cost of the project was slightly more than had been anticipated.

Decision (Lighting at Oakwood Park)

To consider an application for funding for lighting at Oakwood Park at the next meeting.

Reasons

To enable the application to be costed and assessed by officers in line with the criteria for Area Panel funding.

32/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel was to be held on 5 November 2003 at Borrowood Junior School, Arundel Drive, Spondon.

Agreed that Councillor Brown be appointed Chair for the next meeting.