

ITEM 4

Time commenced : 6.05 pm
Time finished : 8.30 pm

AREA PANEL 2 (ALVASTON, BOULTON, CHELLASTON AND SINFIN WARDS) 3 NOVEMBER 2004

Present: Councillor Tittley (Chair)
Councillors Bayliss, Blanksby, Chera, H S Dhamrait,
Graves, Jackson, Leeming, Turner, Willits and Wynn

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary:

Steve Astle	-	Local Manager, Derby Homes
Rob Davison	-	Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer
Justine Fitzjohn	-	Members Services Officer
David Gartside	-	Head of Traffic
Sergeant Wallace	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Rachel Levy	-	Members Services Assistant
Bill Reed	-	Area Panel Manger
Joe Russo	-	Community Safety Engagement Project

26 members of the public were in attendance.

27/04 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

28/04 Late Items Introduced By The Chair

The Chair introduced the following item as a matter of urgency on the grounds that members of the public felt that this was an important issue that needed immediate consideration:

Distribution of Agendas

29/04 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30/04 Minutes

Agreed that the Minutes of the Area Panel 2 meeting held on 22 September 2004, be confirmed as a correct record.

31/04 Distribution of Agendas

A member of the public raised an objection to the Council's decision not to send out full copies of the agenda to members of the public on the distribution list and to the charges being made for copies.

Bill Reed, Area Panel Manager, informed the Panel of the annual costs of distributing the agendas and also where the public could access the full agendas. He asked for suggestions for other venues where the documents could be made available.

Concern was expressed by the Panel that the decision had been taken without consulting Area Panels and the Public who attend them.

Agreed to recommend to Council Cabinet that the Council reverses its decision to stop the free distribution of full Area Panel agendas and to restore the previous situation.

32/04 Meeting Start Time

Following a request made at the last meeting, the Panel considered changing the times meetings were held. The public were asked to indicate their preference.

Agreed to change the start time of future meetings from 6.00pm to 6.30pm.

33/04 Update Report

The Panel considered an update report on the progress of community issues raised at the last meeting. The report included details on the issues raised, the proposed actions, progress to date and the City Council Officer responsible.

Request for pedestrian crossing or central refuge, Boulton Lane

An assessment had been carried out on Boulton Lane / Maidstone Drive and this site did not meet the criteria for a crossing. The Holbrook Road / Crayford Road / Bracknell Drive site would be assessed after the installation of the new puffin crossing on Crayford Road.

Councillor Jackson requested Ward Councillors be informed of progress. Councillor Leeming suggested the crossing should be near to the Silver Ghost public house.

Alvaston Library – Parking

Councillor Graves reported that brackets were currently being installed for the lighting. The issue concerning the car park surface was still ongoing with the car park owner.

Anti Social Behaviour – Allenton Recreation Ground

It was noted that the problems had reduced with the dark nights. The situation would be tackled again in the spring.

Chellaston High Street

The road markings would be completed following the reconstruction work.

Grass Cutting on Recreation Grounds

A pilot would be taking place in spring, where the street sweeping service would be working immediately after the grass was cut.

Dumped rubbish – Green on Wordsworth Avenue

The rubbish had been removed.

Petition – installation of the shelters – Wragley Way and Deepdale Avenue

Four locations had been identified: Deepdale Lane, opposite Heath Court, opposite Sinclair Close and near DRI to install / move shelters when resources permit. A member of the public suggested another product rather than glass should be used in bus shelters. It was noted that the Council had just awarded the contract to ADSHEL and the use of plastic had been rejected.

St Peter's Church Hall

A member of the public requested that the meeting to discuss the parking / traffic issues be held as a matter of urgency following a recent involving a child.

Pavements – Rosythe Crescent

The developer was still being pursued to make the pavements up to adoptable standards.

34/04 Public Question Time

The public raised the following issues during public question time:

Lower Pavements in Jubilee Road

A member of the public requested that the pavements be lowered in Jubilee Road, especially as the flats in Hubert's Shaw Close occupied by disabled persons.

It was noted that the works programme for dropped kerbs had been put back, due to budget cuts but the programme was on-going.

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

Tree Management Policy

A member of the public referred to the current review of the Council's Tree Management Policy. He felt that the Council were concentrating on insurance aspects rather than the impairment on people's lives. He referred to problems at Whitehouse Close, Shelton Lock.

Councillor Leeming added that the Commission undertaking the review would be touring the city to look at problem areas.

Agreed to request that the Commission add Hubert's Shaw Close and Whitehouse Close into the sites to visit.

Nottingham East Midlands Airport

A member of the public reported that a representative from the airport would be attending a meeting of Area Panel 4 as part of a consultation exercise and asked whether they could also come to Area Panel 2.

Bill Reed, Area Panel Manager, agreed to send an invite and also ask for an extension for comments to the consultation period if appropriate.

Roundabout at Red Lion Public House, Chellaston

A member of the public expressed concern that drivers from Maple Drive were not being let out at the roundabout. He requested that 'Keep Clear' be painted on the roundabout. Another member of the public suggested that the above action could have a knock on effect on the traffic flow, as people choose this as an alternative route rat running through Maple Drive to avoid queues on the A514..

Agreed to note the concern.

Moorways Activity Guide

Reference was made to the above Council publication which seemed to show wheelchair users in the gymnasium at Moorways. The members of the public stated this would not be possible as there is no lift.

Agreed to pass the comment on the appropriate department.

Access for disabled users – footpath – South Avenue / Woodminton Drive / Chestnut Avenue, Chellaston

A member of the public asked for the above footpath to be resurfaced and also to allow a minimum gap for wheelchair access. Councillor Tittley added that a double stile had recently been removed to allow access and said that the works were ongoing.

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

35/04 Petitions

New Petitions

- a) **Petition requesting lay-by parking or other form of short stay parking in close proximity to Andrew's Fish and Chip Shop, Chellaston.**

The Panel considered a petition presented by Mr Ioannides, owner of the premises. He added that problems had started after the traffic lights had been installed. The shop was now isolated and trade had been badly affected. Customers felt threatened when parking at the rear of the premises and also could not get out of the car park at peak times.

He asked for a lay-by for short-term parking to be installed in front of the shop.

Councillor Tittley added his support to the request both in terms of the safety issues raised and the effect on Chellaston as a viable shopping centre.

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

b) Petition requesting landscaping of the field to the rear of St John Fisher School, Alvaston

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from Alvaston Street Area Neighbourhood Watch, requesting landscaping of the field to the rear of St John Fisher School, to enable dog walkers, who are unable to make it over the new bridge, to have somewhere to walk their dogs without the need to use the new nature area. It was hoped this would assist in keeping the nature area free of fouling.

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

c) Petition requesting installation of dog dirt bins on Green Lane, Elvaston Lane playing field and field to the rear of St Michael's and All Angels Church, Alvaston.

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from the Alvaston Street Area Neighbourhood Watch requesting the installation of dog dirt bins on Green Lane, Elvaston Lane playing fields and field to rear of St Michael's and All Angels Church. It was hoped that the installation of the bins would enable the hygienic and effective disposal of dog dirt improving the cleanliness of footpaths and play areas by its removal.

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

d) Petition requesting the installation of a central refuge and improvements to the road layout junction of Raynesway and Alvaston Street, Alvaston.

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from the Alvaston Street Area Neighbourhood Watch requesting the installation of a central refuge and improvements to the road layout of the junction between Raynesway and Alvaston Street.

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

e) Petition requesting the installation of lighting, improved surfacing and drainage to Green Lane, Alvaston.

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from Alvaston Street Neighbourhood Watch requesting the installation of lighting, improved surfacing and drainage to Green Lane, Alvaston. It was hoped these measures would improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and those living or working in the area by reducing the fear of crime.

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

36/04 Review of Proposals to Close 16 Post Offices in the City of Derby

Rob Davison, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer informed the Panel that the Council's Scrutiny Management Commission had recently held a special meeting to consider the proposals to close 16 Post Offices in Derby.

The Commission produced a report containing 16 conclusions and one recommendation which was that Post Office Limited defer its decision on the possible closure of the offices in order that the Council and the Post Office could work together to look at alternatives. A copy of the summary document was considered by the Panel.

The Panel noted that a response from the Post Office had been received confirming that it was to close 13 out of the 16 offices, including all three in Sinfin Ward. The future of the remaining three was still being considered.

Councillor Turner, ward Councillor for Sinfin expressed concern about the decision, as Sinfin ward would be badly affected by the closures.

Agreed to recommend to Council Cabinet that it establishes positive proposals and agrees a willingness to share the costs of supporting any proposals to provide Post Office Services.

37/04 Road Classification and Weight Limits

David Gartside, Head of Traffic, introduced a report of the Assistant Director – Highways, Transportation and Waste Management on the road classifications and weight limits of the roads running through Alvaston, Chellaston and Sinfin.

Concern was expressed by both the Panel and the public about the volume of traffic using the A514 including a high number of HGV vehicles. It was suggested that a weight restriction be placed on this road.

David Gartside outlined the types of weight restriction, access issues and problems with enforcement. He also suggested that any decision regarding a weight restriction on the A514 should be taken after the results of the survey on the impact of the Alvaston By-pass were known.

Agreed to recommend to Council Cabinet that a weight restriction be put on the A514.

38/04 Community Safety Engagement Project

Joe Russo of the above project, gave a brief presentation to the Panel on the work of the Project, its aims, who was involved, the areas covered and how the project would work with existing agencies, for example, Police Liaison Groups.

Agreed to note the presentation.

39/04 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2004/05

A report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy was considered which set out details of one application for funding which had been received. This was:

1. To consider whether to support the application received from 91st Derby Scout Group – Chellaston Ward, for funding for urgent replacement of roof felt covering. Grant requested – £1,995.

Options Considered

The suggested recommendation from the Area Panel Grant Appraisal Panel was to approve the application. The Appraisal Panel considered that the proposal met the criteria for area panel funding.

KEY DECISION

To award funding to the 91st Derby Scout Group – Grant £2,250.

Reasons

1. The Panel felt that the application deserved more funding than the Appraisal Panel had recommended - £1,995, on the basis that this would reduce the contribution made by the organisation towards the replacement of the roof felt covering.
2. The application met the criteria for Area Panel funding.
3. The application promoted strong and positive neighbourhoods.
4. The application would enable residents to participate within their community.

40/04 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel would be held in the Alvaston Ward on 12 January 2005 at 6.30pm at Alvaston Junior Community School, Elvaston Lane, Alvaston, Derby.

MINUTES END