

ITEM 4

Time commenced : 6.30pm
Time finished : 8.45pm

AREA PANEL 2 (ALVASTON, BOULTON, CHELLASTON AND SINFIN WARDS) 17 JANUARY 2007

Present: Councillor Chera (Chair)
Councillors Banwait, Ginns, Graves, Ingall, Jackson,
Leeming, Tittley, Turner and Wynn

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers

Paul Dransfield	-	Corporate Director of Resources and Housing
Lorraine Howe	-	Estate Manager, Derby Homes
Inspector Sam Slack	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Richard Smail	-	Area Panel Manager
Jason Spencer	-	Constitutional and Electoral Services Manager
Sarah Turner	-	Constitutional Services Officer

35 members of the public were in attendance.

42/06 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dhamrait.

43/06 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

44/06 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Wynn declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute number 51/06 as he was the Chair of Governors at Nightingale Juniors School who had submitted a budget application for consideration by the Panel.

45/06 Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of the Area Panel 2 meeting held on 6 September 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

46/06 Chairs Report

Members of the public received a brief oral report from the Chair and members of the Panel on current activities and progress on projects in the Area Panel 2 area.

Agreed to note the report.

47/06 Let's Talk Budget

The Panel received a presentation from Councillor Wynn and Paul Dransfield – Corporate Director of Resources and Housing on budget proposals for 2007/08 to 2008/09.

Members of the public raised the following questions and comments:

A member of the public stated that they had suggested previously that the Council investigate using heat pumps.

Councillor Wynn responded that the Council were currently embarking on a City wide action plan for climate change. The Council were considering various alternative power sources such as water power and wind turbines. Councillor Wynn advised the member of the public that he would take on board the suggestion of heat pumps. The Council were trying to do all it could within reason to reduce the carbon footprint.

A member of the public asked for a clear and transparent definition of high and low level needs in relation to Adult Social Services.

Paul Dransfield responded that there was guidance published nationally called the Fair Access to Care Guidance which explained how to determine the levels of care. All Local Authorities used this guidance.

It was stated by a member of the public that guidance was not a rule as it could be interpreted differently depending on the person judging levels of need. Councillor Wynn responded that it would not be possible to set a hard and fast rule in relation to assessment and if people were aggrieved they had a right to appeal.

Agreed

- 1. To ask the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services to respond directly to the questioner.**
- 2. To note the budget presentation.**

48/06 Petitions

Petitions received since the last meeting

There were no new petitions presented.

To consider responses to petitions received

a) Parking on Nightingale Road

The Panel considered a report from the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, in response to the petition regarding parking on Nightingale Road.

Councillor Chera expressed his disappointment with the proposed action and that Rolls Royce had not been invited to comment. Councillor Turner considered that it was an issue of judgement and not numbers and that the removal of waiting restrictions was needed where the houses were and not the Rolls Royce buildings. He considered the emergency services would not be hindered.

Councillor Wynn commented that initially he would have liked the restrictions to be removed sooner. However, when he considered the possible impact it could have on the emergency services and that it could hinder a response to an accident, then he did not consider we should remove the waiting restrictions at the moment.

A resident commented that parking on both sides of a road impedes emergency vehicles elsewhere in the city and suggested that removing restrictions from one side should be considered.

The panel supported this suggestion and asked that the report is referred back to consider removing restrictions on one side or in front of the houses only.

Agreed to refer to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation to consider removing restrictions from one side of Nightingale Road or in front of the houses only.

b) Request for a pedestrian crossing on Crayford Road

The Panel considered a report from the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation in response to the petition requesting a pedestrian crossing on Crayford Road.

The lead petitioner responded that the petition had not requested a pedestrian crossing but had actually asked for 'help to cross the road'. She asked when the surveys were completed because they record only half the numbers recorded in the residents' survey and one of the school access gates was now closed which meant more pupils would need to cross Crayford Road. She asked if the observers wore yellow jackets – because they would influence driving habits and whether they spoke to those crossing to learn how fearful even the year 11 students were. She asked if 'red strips' on the road, similar to those used near to Alvaston School, could be considered as a way to slow down traffic.

Councillor Jackson considered that something must be done to support the residents.

Councillor Wynn apologised for the misunderstanding about the petitioners' specific request for help to cross the road and that he would look into why it was misinterpreted. He confirmed the traffic survey staff did wear yellow jackets which could influence driving habits. He would ask officers to re evaluate the junction in light of the information about the recently closed gate and the fact that the petitioners were not specifically asking for a pedestrian crossing. He confirmed that he would be asking officers to take more note of what the residents were requesting.

Agreed to refer to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation to reconsider the specific requests of the petitioner and report back to a future meeting of the Area Panel.

c) The condition of the grounds and facilities at Alvaston Park

The Panel considered a report from the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Direct Services in response to the petition regarding the condition of the grounds and facilities at Alvaston Park.

A resident commented that there was a request for only six bollards and not £10,000 worth and hoped that the six could still be installed. Councillor Graves supported this suggestion and agreed to investigate.

Agreed to approve the actions outlined in the report subject to reconsidering and responding to the suggestion to install the six bollards.

49/06 Update Report

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, proposed actions, progress to date and the City Council or partner Officer responsible.

Petition – Parking outside Moorhead Primary School

It was reported that there have been some delays in getting the flashing 20 mph signs installed. However, Councillor Jackson confirmed that they have now been installed and were working.

A resident asked if there would be a traffic survey carried out because she understood it had been agreed by Councillor Wynn at the last meeting. Councillor Wynn responded that there had been no agreement to conduct a traffic survey and that the minutes of the last meeting confirms this. Another resident asked for more action to be taken.

The Panel did not agree to any further investigations.

Agreed to note the update.

Open green area on Holloway Road

It was reported that future arrangements for the maintenance of this green were currently being explored. The resident had been contacted. The Council was working with local Ward Councillors and Councillor Wynn to find funding for the ongoing maintenance of this area. If funding could be found for ongoing maintenance the Council would consult local residents.

Councillor Jackson reported that the local Councillors continued to look for funding and that as the Chair of the Environment Commission she would see if the Commission could identify any support.

Agreed to keep the item open.

Bus Stop and Flooding on Crayford Road

A member of the public advised that she had received a response from the Council in relation to this issue but the response was not satisfactory.

Councillor Wynn responded that the bus stop had not been moved at the request of one resident but due to anti social behaviour. The new location had not seen any antisocial behaviour or vandalism.

Councillor Jackson added that residents were happy with the bus stop in the new location.

Agreed to close this item.

Right of Way, Woodminton Drive

A member of the public stated that the pathway between Chestnut Avenue, South Avenue and Woodminton Drive needed opening.

It was reported that the land has now transferred to Parks but with no maintenance budget attached so there was no money to complete any improvements. The access points to Woodminton Drive were official rights of way.

Richard Smail – Area Panel Manager explained that the report stating that officers are investigating the option of completely blocking or restricting the pathway in width was an error and that officers are not proposing to block the path.

Councillor Titley reported on a meeting with Steve Medlock when it was explained that over £40,000 would be needed to provide a path improved to an acceptable standard and there was not funding available.

Library Building at Chellaston

It was reported that the search for capital funding to build a new library is continuing.

A resident suggested using the Red Lion public house. Councillor Tittley considered that there are other more suitable sites which were on Council land.

Petition – Off-Road Motorcyclists

Councillor Leeming reported on progress to find a location and clubs for the off road motorcyclists. He reported that he has been in contact with two clubs that would take on new members who want to do 'Trial Biking'. One club based near Ambergate charged £3.40 a day. Other clubs elsewhere in the county were involved in 'Moto Cross' and had capacity for new members.

Councillor Leeming agreed to leave the contact details with the Area Panel manager for anyone interested in finding out more. He would report back on any other progress in September 2007.

A resident commented that only those with a genuine interest would take up these opportunities and those intent on anti social behaviour would continue to ride their bikes locally.

Inspector Slack asked that all residents kept a diary of incidents that involved mini motos or bikes being used off road and report them to the Police so that evidence could be gathered. He reported that a major campaign on motorised bikes will be launched in February 2007.

Agreed that Councillor Leeming would update the Area Panel at a future meeting.

49/06 Public Question Time

The Public raised the following issues during public question time.

Community Safety Partnership Meetings

A member of the public asked why there had been such short notice of the Community Safety Partnership meetings.

Richard Smail – Area Panel manager, responded that the idea for these meetings came from an announcement at Christmas from the Government that Derby had been identified as a Respect Action area. The arranged meetings had been organised to coincide with the national launch in January.

Grass Verges and Paths on Victory Road

A resident complained about the state of the grass verges on Victory Road and asked what could be done to improve them because a mess is being caused by cars parking on them.

Councillor Turner reported that he was aware of the problem and that highways officers will be asked to respond.

Agreed to receive a report back at a future meeting.

Condition of Sinfin Lane Recreation Ground

A resident commented that after Severn Trent Water reinstated the grass on the recreation ground after their pipeline work, large holes and ruts remained. They were a health and safety hazard to pedestrians especially at times like Sinfin

Carnival. Could it be rectified before the Carnival.

Agreed to ask Park's Officers to respond at a future meeting.

Football Parking Signs on Rugby Street, Alvaston

Councillor Graves asked on behalf of a local resident if signs could be erected on Rugby Street that are consistent with those erected on nearby streets restricting football parking on match days.

Councillor Wynn suggested that Area Panel 2 funding could be used to pay for the cost of supplying and erecting signs.

Agreed to ask the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community to investigate and consider submitting a funding application to Area Panel 2.

50/06 Area Panel Review Progress Report

The Panel considered a report from the Head of Stronger and Safer Communities providing an update on the Area Panel Review.

Agreed to note the report.

51/06 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2006/07

A report of the Head of Stronger and Safer Communities was considered which set out details of seven applications for Area Panel funding which had been received.

Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the funding application from Nightingale Junior School, Councillor Wynn left the meeting during its consideration.

The applications were:

1. To consider whether to support the application received from Seven Steps Judo Kwai – funding for club upgrade – grant requested £2,000.
2. To consider whether to support the application received from Nightingale Junior School – funding for family room refurbishment – grant requested £1,000
3. To consider whether to support the application received from Alvaston Park Friends – funding for Friend's set up costs – grant requested £2,100.

The Panel agreed to award Area Panel funding to the applications in the following way:

1. Seven Steps Judo Kwai — granted £1,000 from Boulton Ward budget..

2. Nightingale Junior School – granted £1,000 (Alvaston ward £200, Boulton ward £200, Chellaston ward £150 and Sinfin ward £600)

3. Alvaston Park Friends – granted £2,100 from Alvaston ward budget

52/06 Request to Close the Access from Maple Drive Public Open Space to Diseworth Close, Chellaston

The Panel considered a report from the Corporate Director of Environmental Services advising that residents of Diseworth Close had been experiencing anti-social behaviour from people using the adjacent open space and passing through the close. Residents had also been experiencing problems with parents parking their cars in the Close when taking their children to and from school. The Panel were asked to consider whether the access should be closed completely, have a bollard installed to prevent vehicular access onto the open space, or be left as it was.

Agreed to the access in Diseworth Close being closed and to recommend that a budget proposal to fund this be presented to the next meeting of the Area Panel.

53/06 Health Briefing from the Primary Care Trusts

A briefing paper on health services was considered.

Agreed to note the information about Health Services contained in the briefing paper.

54/06 Area Panel Events Diary

Agreed to note the events diary.

55/06 Arrangements for the next meeting

The Panel noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 14 March 2007 at Chellaston School, Swarkestone Road, Chellaston, Derby.

The Panel agreed to appoint Councillor Ingall as Chair for the next meeting at Chellaston School on 14 March 2007.

MINUTES END