



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 4

29 NOVEMBER 2006

Report of Head of Stronger and Safer Communities Unit

ITEM 8

Area Panel 4 Community Issues Update Report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.1	Item No	Issue title	Recommended panel action
	Blagreaves ward		
	1.2	Millennium Wood	Note and close
	1.3	Traffic on Stenson Road, Blagreaves	Note
	1.4	Recycling Schemes, Blagreaves	Note and close
	Littleover ward		
	1.5	Petition - Request for pedestrian crossing, Chain Lane	Note and close
	1.6	Petition – Car parking on Uttoxeter Road, Littleover	Note and report back March 2007
	1.7	Maintenance on Pastures Hill, Littleover	Note and report back March 2007
	1.8	Parking and Crossing on Pastures Hill, Littleover	Note and close
	1.9	Traffic on Haven Baulk Lane, Littleover	Note
	1.10	Dog dirt bins, Haven Baulk Lane Park, Littleover	Note
	1.11	No smoking policy, Derby City Hospital, Littleover	Note and close
	1.12	Hedge Cutting by Cycle Paths, Carlisle Avenue,	Decide option
	Mickleover ward		
		None	
	All wards		
		None	
	1.13	Outstanding issues – none	

1.2 Ref: 405015 – Millennium Wood, Blagreaves – raised 28.06.05

Issue: A written question asked about the lack of access to the Millennium Wood site now that the access from Oaklands Avenue has been fenced off by the owners after 20 years of public access. Now that the wood has been there for ten years when will the area be developed to its full potential.

Officers confirmed that access from Oaklands Avenue is unregistered. When the Council acquired the land adjacent to the 'green lane' no rights of access were established and enquiries are on-going to establish ownership and rights of the lane. The only access is from Moorway Lane. The owner may serve Derby City Council with

a blight notice for the entirety of Prize Farm. Sustrans is keen that the projected Derby orbital cycling route should be aligned to attract users to the planned Park.

Action: Explain what serving a blight notice means and report back on the process and likelihood to create access points from Tiller Close, Farmlands Lane or Briarwood Way.

Update: Strictly in planning terms blight relates to land affected by the development plan and enables a person with an interest in certain categories of land, particularly proposals for highways or public facilities, to require the appropriate authority to purchase that interest. The formal starting process is the service of the blight notice, which is essentially a notice that requires the Planning Authority to accept the land is blighted and agree to purchase the land. If the planning authority rejects the notice then the applicant can appeal.

Currently the owner of Prize Farm has not served a blight notice. Officers are negotiating a potential purchase of the farm and land from the owner and if a price cannot be agreed then the owner could serve a blight notice.

There is currently a pedestrian access point from Tiller Close that people are using to get to the site. While this is not a formal route it allows access from the Close and adjoining roads to the Millennium Wood site. When the original plans for the park were discussed in the 1990's residents on Briarwood Way opposed any plans to provide an official pedestrian route to the site.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan includes a suggestion to install a Footway/cycleway passing through Millennium Wood and it is included in the report titled 'Consultation on Area Panel 4 2007/08 programme of highways and transport schemes' found in item 10 on the agenda. Note and close.

Further information:

Ken Richardson, Parks Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 716646

Ray Brown, Senior Planning Officer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255024

1.3 Ref: 406024 – Traffic on Stenson Road, Blagreaves - received 27.09.06

Issue: A local resident raised her concern over the difficulties accessing Stenson Road from Oaklands Avenue. This was not only because of excessive traffic but also because a number of vans are parking at the junction and reducing visibility – while completing work at a house on Oaklands Avenue.

She had mentioned this to the Police and there appeared to be an improvement for about two weeks.

She stated that a mini roundabout had been requested around 2-3 years ago and wanted to know if this would be reconsidered in light of the new housing being built in the area.

Action: Police to respond to the issue regarding vans parking on the junction.

Update on review of highway alterations at Oaklands Avenue/Stenson Road junction

Update: This issue is still being investigated and is included as one of the items to consider in the report titled 'Consultation on Area Panel 4 2007/08 programme of highways and transport schemes' found in item 10 on the agenda. Note

Further information: Ryan Henderson, Derbyshire Police, telephone 222184

Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community telephone 715019

1.4 Ref: 406022 – Recycling Schemes, Blagreaves - received 27.09.06

Issue: A local resident stated that some Blagreaves residents had been informed as part of the latest round of recycling that they can now put kitchen waste into their brown bins and asked when this will apply to all the rounds. He also asked if the regular cardboard recycling scheme, as part of the brown bins, can run all year round.

Action: Update on Rethink Rubbish programme progress with specific reference to suggestion to include brown bin collection for the whole year and whether blue bin lids need to be paid for.

Update: All residents who now have a brown bin can place food waste and card in it as well as garden waste. We recommend wrapping the food waste in paper before placing it in the bin to help keep the bin clean.

A communication campaign will start in February 2007 to highlight this change. A leaflet has also been circulated to all properties in November 2007 to inform residents of the change in materials suitable for the brown bin and that the brown bin collections will now operate all year round. Apart from Christmas week when there will be no collections. To ensure there is sufficient space in your black bin over the Christmas period we will be emptying the black bin the week before and following the Christmas holiday.

Textiles are still collected and pink bags can be ordered by calling 01332 715000, alternatively re use old carrier bags.

The lids for blue boxes are free of charge. Blue boxes will be exchanged for blue bins early next year. Note and close.

Further information: Malcolm Price, Waste Manager, Environmental Services, telephone 716350

1.5 Ref: 406009 – Petition – Request for Pedestrian Crossing, Chain Lane, Littleover - received 29.03.06

Issue: A petition has been received requesting a traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing is provided near to the junction of Chain Lane and Jackson Avenue. The lead petitioner explained that there used to be a school crossing patrol at this location but since they retired the service has been withdrawn. Parents and children are finding it both difficult and dangerous to cross the road. She is concerned there are no signs stating the speed limit. A previous request had been made in 2005 but without success. It had also been indicated to residents that installing a refuge in the middle of the road would not be possible.

Residents asked why the money saved from not having a crossing patrol could not be used to pay for a pedestrian crossing.

Action: To report back on investigations.

Update: A report in response to the petition appears under item 6 on the agenda. It reports that the provision of a school crossing patrol is the most appropriate crossing facility at this point on Chain Lane and that a crossing patrol officer started in September 2006.

Further information: Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715019.

1.6 Ref: 406001 – Petition, Car parking on Uttoxeter Road, Littleover, - received 18.01.06 and 27.09.06

Issue: A petition had been received in December 2005 about the difficulty of getting out of driveways along Uttoxeter Road near to the City Hospital. This is because of cars parked by hospital workers, visitors and contractors between 8am and 5pm. There is very little space to manoeuvre and it is difficult to see oncoming traffic travelling at 40mph. Can the Council install double yellow lines as part of the list of improvements already proposed for the next few weeks.

A second petition signed by 87 residents was received in September 2006 requesting car parking restrictions on Uttoxeter Road between Corden Avenue and the City Hospital roundabout on the left hand side as you travel into the city.

Action:

Councillor Marshall agreed to contact the City Hospital Chief Executive.

The Panel agreed to write to the Chief Executive outlining residents concerns and asking for a response.

Report back on the funding arrangements with the hospitals contribution to traffic and highway improvements.

Update on progress made by officers to feedback outcomes of 5 July meeting to local residents.

Update: A report in response to the petition appears elsewhere on the Area Panel agenda. There is no more information to report back on the meeting held on 5 July. Note and put in Outstanding issues until March 2007.

Further information: Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 716090

1.7 Ref: 406019 – Maintenance on Pastures Hill, Littleover - received 27.09.06

Issue: Concern was raised over two maintenance issues on Pastures Hill. The drains are all blocked, resulting in water swilling down the road and because they are positioned below the road surface they are a hazard to cyclists. Also, during a recent repair the new tarmac appears to have been laid incorrectly and it is now in a poor condition.

Councillor Care reported there had been problems with some of the drains collapsing under the road. Had the planned work to Pastures Hill not have been postponed these issues would have been resolved.

Action: Investigate the collapsed drains and poor highway surface and report back.

Update: This issue has been placed on the list for consideration for the 2007/08 highways and transport maintenance programme. Note and put in Outstanding issues until March 2007.

Further information: John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715067

1.8 Ref: 406025 – Parking and Crossing on Pastures Hill, Littleover - received 27.09.06

Issue: A resident was concerned about parking outside Derby High School and wanted to know what can be done because parents park on the verges, create bottlenecks and

pull onto the road without looking.

He also asked why the original school crossing is still in place after the new school crossing was provided with lights.

Action: Report back on the school crossing arrangements outside Derby High School

Update: The new light controlled pedestrian crossing on Pastures Hill does not replace the crossing facilities provided by the refuges at the roundabout. The refuges are appropriate for pedestrians to use and provide a choice of locations to cross depending on the desired destination. Pedestrians would not necessarily choose to divert from their route to use the new light controlled pedestrian crossing if they were not intending to walk along Pastures Hill. Note and close.

Further information: Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community telephone 715019

1.9 Ref: 406020 – Traffic on Haven Baulk Lane, Littleover- received 27.09.06

Issue: A new resident of Haven Baulk Lane raised her concern over the excessively high speed of traffic using Haven Baulk Lane. It made it difficult for pedestrians to cross the road, made it unsafe for children and parents to walk to school and made it unsafe to park your car on the road. She asked the panel if anything could be done.

Action: Update on action taken regarding speed checks.

Update: Police speed checks are being made and we are awaiting results from these. The issue is included as one of the items to consider in the report titled 'Consultation on Area Panel 4 2007/08 programme of highways and transport schemes' found in item 10 on the agenda. Note.

Further information: Ryan Henderson, Derbyshire Police, telephone 222184
Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community telephone 715019

1.10 Ref: 406021 – Dog dirt bins, Haven Baulk Lane Park, Littleover - received 27.09.06

Issue: A local resident raised concern over the large amount of dog waste on Haven Baulk Lane Park. She stated that there is only one sign telling people to pick up dog waste. She asked the Panel for more signs to be erected, to encourage dog walkers to collect the dog waste, and for more dog waste bins to be installed.

Action: Ask officers to install more signs and dual waste bins on Haven Baulk Lane Park.

Update:

Environmental Health officers are visiting the park to identify additional places to install more 'no dog fouling' signs.

Environmental Services are undertaking a rolling programme of replacing existing litter bins and dog waste bins within Parks and Open Spaces with dual purpose bins.

The present policy regarding requests for extra bins on these sites is to advise that they can be provided if funding can be allocated to purchase and install the bins plus 5 years revenue costs for emptying. It costs £259 to supply and install one dual bin on open space and a further £303 to cover the revenue costs for emptying the bin for 5 years.

Therefore the panel would need to agree to allocate £562 to fund the installation of one

new dual waste bin.

Alternatively the request for these bins can be added to a list of extra bins for which there are currently no financial resources available. Decide option.

Further information: Ken Richardson, Environmental Services, telephone 716646

1.11

Ref: 406023 – No smoking policy, Derby City Hospital, Littleover - received 27.09.06

Issue: Residents from Uttoxeter Road and Kings Drive area raised concerns about the impact of the Hospitals new No smoking policy introduced this month. They complained that staff, patients and visitors congregate from 8am to late at night on a low wall adjacent to the entrance of the hospital. Some are in uniform, some in nightclothes, and some are carrying hospital equipment including catheters and drips. They were concerned about litter, cigarette ends, health and safety issues relating to dirty uniforms and equipment being taken back into the hospital and the impact it has on the area.

Action: To write to the Chief Executive asking for the hospital dress policy for staff wearing uniforms and to ask what they are doing to address the problem with the people smoking on the wall.

Update: Councillor Care wrote as Chair of the Area Panel meeting on 27 September 2006 to Julie Acred outlining the concerns of the Area Panel and residents. Tony Riley, Head of Human Resources responded on 9 October stating that;

- The Trust has made significant efforts to raise awareness with staff, visitors and patients of the need to comply with the smoke free policy **and** to respect others and the environment in how they chose to indulge their habit and dispose of their litter.
- The Trust is monitoring the effect of the smoke free hospital policy on the environment.
- The Council Streetcare service has agreed to monitor the areas affected at the City Hospital and Derbyshire Royal Infirmary
- The Council is considering introducing a system to fine people who litter the environment
- The trust has arranged to monitor the affected areas every day and for additional clearing and sweeping.
- It is hospital policy to discourage the wearing of uniforms off site and / or require them to be covered up.
- A major promotion and awareness exercise is about to begin

The Infection Control Medical, Nursing and Scientific staff have confirmed that there are no health or cross infection issues that arise from staff, patients and equipment moving in and out of the hospital to the wall where people smoke. This activity could only introduce environmental bacteria which is not harmful in cross infection terms.

The hospital has arranged for its own extra cleaning and sweeping. They have erected a low fence along the wall near to Kings Drive which has moved the smokers from the original position to a site nearer the main entrance which is good news because the smokers now appear to congregate near to an existing bin. Highways officers have confirmed that they are happy with position of the fence.

StreetCare have increased litter picking in the area and the hospital has arranged for its own extra cleaning and sweeping. We will continue to monitor the situation to assess if an additional bin is required. Note and close

Further information: Tony Riley, Head of Human Resources, Derby Hospitals NHS

Foundation Trust.

Malcolm Price, Waste Manager, Environmental Services, telephone 716350

1.12 Ref: 406018 – Hedge Cutting by Cycle Paths, Carlisle Avenue, Littleover and Blagreaves - received 27.09.06

Issue: A resident asked why the Council cut the hedges in King George V park along the cycle path with a tractor and flail with no health and safety barriers. The flail throws hedge remnants, including thorns in the air, covering the cycle path, causing hazards to cyclists and walkers along the path.

Action: Investigate why flails rather than other methods are used to cut hedges in King George V park area, especially next to the cycle path.

Update: The tractor and flail is used for both safety reasons and cost effective reasons because of the extensive lengths of hedges involved in the city. An alternative method would be to use hand held hedge cutters which can have high vibration levels which have been cited as a cause of vibration syndrome - white finger, in operators if used excessively. To use hand held hedge cutter would also be more costly and take much longer to undertake the operation.

A number of cycle tracks have been introduced next to hedge lines in recent years and the problem cited has highlighted the need to consider the removal of debris from these tracks after flailing of hedges in these locations have been carried out. Prior to cutting hedges next to cycle tracks the Department are also looking at taking action to make the public aware of the fact the operation is being carried out. Note and close.

Further information: Ken Richardson, Environmental Services, telephone 716646

1.13 Outstanding issues

Issue	Outstanding action	Date to report back
Ref: 402030 - Redevelopment of University of Derby Mickleover campus, Mickleover – raised 27.11.02	Report back when a decision has been made on the application.	January 2007
Ref: 404025 – Planning Application at East Midlands Airport, all wards – received 19.05.04	Update on planning application	January 2007

PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 To consider and note the report.

For more information contact:	Richard Smail, 01332 258505 e-mail richard.smail@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	Area Panel 4 community issues update report, background information – available on CMIS
List of appendices:	None.