



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 4

27 SEPTEMBER 2006

Report of Head of Stronger and Safer Communities Unit

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
	1.3	Damage to Bendall Green roads, paths and grassed area	Note and close
	Littleover ward		
	1.4	Skateboard park request	Note and close
	1.5	Request for pedestrian crossing, Chain Lane	Note
	1.6	Parking on Jackson Avenue junction	Note and close
	Mickleover ward		
	1.7	Petition – Car parking on Uttoxeter Road	Note
	All wards		
	1.8	Arson damage to sports facilities	Note and close
	1.9	Temporary street signs and adverts	Note and close
	1.10	Traffic issues	Note and close

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.

Action: Explore the idea of permissive routes and investigate the options to increase the number of access points

Update:

Officers from Environmental Sustainability, Planning, Legal, Cycling, Parks and Sustrans have established that:

1. The 'green lane' is unregistered and no documented rights exist over it according to the Land Registry. Legal opinion from the Council is that in these circumstances a green lane relates only to agricultural access by way of a track and does not allow a public footpath or vehicular rights.

2. When the Council acquired the land adjacent to the green lane no rights of access were established acquired and the only access to the Councils land is that from Moorway Lane on the opposite side.
3. When the owner tried to sell Prize Farm at auction, the marketing particulars mentioned access up the lane from Oaklands Avenue but did not specifically say the lane was included in the demise. Enquiries are on-going to try to establish precise ownership and rights.
4. The current owner is within his rights to fence it off assuming he owns the access road from Oaklands Avenue.
5. The owner is currently planning to serve Derby City Council with a blight notice for the entirety of Prize Farm and until this issue is resolved there seems little point in opening negotiations for the purchase of the farm or permissive rights.
6. Sustrans is very keen that the projected Derby orbital cycling route should be aligned to attract users to and through some of the City's best landscapes including the present Markeaton Park and planned Moorway Lane Park. Prime purpose of the orbital is to supplement Derby's existing and planned radials in development of a City-wide cycling network helping people to be less reliant on their cars and offering better travel choice for those who remain car-free. The initiative offers a cross-cutting approach to policy agendas associated with social equity, road congestion, air pollution, carbon-use reduction and healthy living. Any new or improved route that helps to encourage walking or cycling to any of Derby's schools is already potentially eligible for a Cycling England grant of up to 50%. Note

Further information:

Ken Richardson, Parks Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 716646

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

1.3

Ref: 405016 – Damage to Bendall Green roads, paths and grassed area – raised 28.06.06

Issue: Local residents raised concerns over the state of roads, paths and grassy areas around Bendall Green following the improvement work completed by Derby Homes. A resident confirmed that some repairs have been completed but they are not adequate and other repairs were still outstanding. He explained that residents had previously been assured that all the repairs would be done.

A resident stated that he had contacted Derby Homes and had been informed that the repairs were now the responsibility of the Highways section and not Derby Homes. He felt Derby Homes should be paying for the repair work

Action: Investigate and report back responsibility for the work and progress

Update: We can confirm that the majority of repair work at Bendall Green has been completed. Final completion is expected in the next few weeks. Whilst undertaking the repairs, we took the opportunity to carry out some further works. The work was funded by Derby Homes and Highways Maintenance. Derby Homes contributed the cost of repairing the damage caused by their contractor. Note and close.

Further information: John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Regeneration and

Community, telephone 715067

Wendy Jessop, Local Manager, Derby Homes, telephone 718771

1.4 Ref: 404028 – Petition – Skateboard Park Request, Littleover - received 21.07.04

Issue: A petition was handed in to the panel with 50 signatures requesting a skateboard park in the Littleover area. They require a small outdoor skate park, which was available to the whole community in Littleover.

It was reported in June 2006 that investigations have been completed. Derby now has a number of skateboard parks in place in Alvaston park, Osmaston park, Sunnyhill Recreation Ground, Mickleover park - BMX track and Markeaton park. Also planned, subject to obtaining funding, are skateboard parks in Chaddesden park and on the Racecourse over the next two years. We would like to provide further skateboard areas in larger parks in each district around the city, but this is subject to identifying suitable sites and obtaining funding. Should funding be identified in the future then Clemson's Park/King George V playing fields is likely to be the only site large enough in Littleover. A mobile skateboard facility is being considered to allow a skateboarding facility on smaller parks for short sessions.

Action: To update on progress to develop a Council policy relating to wheeled sports facilities, and to inform the lead petitioner of the response to the petition.

Update:

The Council is now planning to incorporate the proposed Wheeled Sports Strategy into a Play Strategy. The Play Strategy will be completed by the end of the year. We plan to issue the first draft in October 2006 for comment. The Strategy will be fairly general in its content, it will cover provision for older children and teenagers but is not expected to provide specific locations for facilities such as siting of wheeled sports areas, although it may identify broad geographical areas that show a shortfall in types of provision.

A response is being sent to the lead petitioner. Note and close.

Further information: Andrew Morgan, Landscape and Development Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 715547

David Finn, Project Officer-Targeted Youth Support, Environmental Services, telephone 716956

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: We are still investigating and will provide a response to the next Area Panel 4

meeting on 29 November. In the meantime, we can confirm that we have been successful in appointing a School Crossing Patrol and this will commence from September 2006. Note.

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

1.6 Ref: 406016 – Parking on Jackson Avenue junction, Littleover – raised 28.06.06

Issue: Concern was raised about cars parking at school pick up time on the junction of Jackson Avenue and Corden Avenue where there is a sharp bend. It meant that it was virtually impossible for two coaches to pass which meant it would be hazardous for the emergency services. The panel were asked if something could be done to reduce this hazard and yellow lines were suggested.

Action: Investigate option to install double yellow lines at the junction

Update: While it is acknowledged that Jackson Avenue can be busy, particularly at school arrival and dispersal times, it is not considered that waiting restrictions are necessary at the bend in the road nor at its junction with Corden Avenue, at this time. Note and close.

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

1.7 Ref: 406001 – Petition, Car parking on Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, - received 18.01.06

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.

It was reported that Skanska had asked contractors to park off the highway while working at the hospital and they agreed to take action to reduce the inconvenience caused by their contractors.

Action: Update on any recent actions.

Update: Officers from Traffic Management met with residents from Kings Drive and some from Uttoxeter Road on 5 July. Officers gave the residents details of a possible controlled parking zone for the area around Kings Drive. The zone did not include Uttoxeter Road.

Since then officers have had some feedback from the Cabinet Member, Planning and Transportation, on the work programme priorities for this year 2006/07. As a result we intend to look at Kings Drive and the wider area around the city hospital, including this section of Uttoxeter Road in the 2007/08 financial year. This issue is included in the separate report on the agenda entitled "Consultation on the 2007/08 programme for highways and transport schemes" - see Table 1 on page 5 of the report. Note.

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

1.8 Ref: 406013 – Arson damage to sports facilities, all wards - received 29.03.06

Issue: A resident asked why it takes the Council so long to repair arson damage to sports facilities. He referred to Mickleover pavilion and other recent examples at Sinfin and Alvaston. He considered that the loss of facilities to residents as well as the loss of income to the Council needs to be kept to a minimum. He considered that sprinkler systems should always be installed.

It was reported that advice was being sought from Property Services on the potential for fitting sprinkler systems in its sports pavilions.

With regards to Alvaston and Sinfin Moor pavilions discussions are ongoing regarding agreement on the payments for the repairs to the buildings. Once agreement has been settled arrangements for the repair works can be made.

Action:

Update on response from Property Services

Update: The latest position after fire damage to sports facilities across the city is that work has started on Sinfin Moor Park Pavilion with plans to finish later in the year. We aim to use the recently agreed insurance funding for Alvaston Park Pavilion to produce a funding bid for a new building on this site in the near future and Parkers Piece Pavilion is now back in action.

Generally installing fire sprinklers is very expensive however the City Council accepts that it is a good idea to introduce them into its buildings and is looking at the potential at putting them into a number of sites. However it may be sometime before this idea is introduced into Parks buildings.

Council officers are keen to install sprinkler systems but it comes down to cost. The situation is being reconsidered now after the Sinfin School fire with the recognition of the reduction in overall insurance risk. However, sprinklers still risk being the first omission if building costs do not stack up. Note and close.

Further information:

Ken Richardson, Parks Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 716646

1.9 Ref: 406014 – Temporary street signs and adverts, all wards - received 28.06.06

Issue: A resident was concerned about the growing number of signs along the highways. He asked for clarification on the policy regarding the removal of temporary street signs, once works have been completed. There have been signs on Underhill Avenue and Offerton Avenue for over five years saying they are closed. There are two signs on Blagreaves Lane indicating new traffic lights are in, but there is still an old sign in place relating to temporary lights. He also felt there are too many 40mph repeater signs between Stenson Road and Burton Road.

He also asked what can be done to prevent organisations from flyposting and displaying adverts on lampposts and fences and using 'A' boards beside the highway. This includes signs and posters put up by Armadillo including one at Kingsway, antique sales, night clubs, weight watchers and house builders.

Action: Confirm policy on managing temporary road traffic signs and investigate the specific examples given.

Confirm purpose of 40mph repeater signs.

Update: With regard to A-boards, the Council does not have an approved policy although we have been looking into it for some considerable time. At present, we would ignore A-boards unless they were presenting a specific danger to highway users, such as forcing pedestrians to walk in the road, reducing drivers visibility at junctions etc.

With regard to signs that relate to temporary works the basic legal position is that it is the responsibility of the organisation promoting the works to ensure that all signs are removed. The current regulations prevent the works from being officially completed until the signs have been removed. This is important for works involving utility companies, as a fee may be charged for the duration of works, if they exceed an agreed or statutory maximum period. The presence on signs should be identified as part of the inspection of the highway.

Signs left following local authority temporary road works are still the responsibility of the works promoter, but there is no fee charged. However, the duration of works will be a key performance indicator from 2007 and will be assessed by the Department for Transport. If works are routinely extended beyond a reasonable period, then the DFT will be able to impose penalties on the local authority.

This would not include signs that refer to new road layouts or warning of new signals. These types of signs will generally stay in place for a reasonable period, which will vary from location to location. We can confirm that the signs at Underhill Avenue, Offerton Avenue and Blagreaves Lane have been removed.

The 40mph signs on the ring road between Stenson Road and Burton Road is signed in accordance with Department for Transport guidelines.

As waste contractors we remove fly-posting constantly, for example nightclubs, events etc. We do not remove developers directional signs as some of these have been placed with the permission of the Highways Authority. Any prosecutions would have to be put to planning as part of illegal advertising.

Enforcement Officers wrote to Armadillo in March and June 2006 requesting that all trailer adverts in the city are removed including the one at Kingsway, they were also reminded to make sure this request stayed on file for future information.
Note and close.

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

1.10 Ref: 06017 – Traffic issues, all wards - received 28.06.06

Issue: A resident commented that many questions raised at the area panel meetings relate to traffic and highway issues. She asked the panel that a highways officer attend a future Area Panel 4 meeting to respond to the traffic related issues

Action: Invite a highways officer to attend a future Area Panel 4 meeting

Update: At the last Area Panel a resident asked for a Highway officer to attend Area Panel and answer questions. Without knowing at least something about the issues that may be raised it would be impossible to determine which officer may be best able to represent the Council and therefore able to answer residents questions.

We feel that if there are specific highways and transport issues that residents would like to raise it would be more productive for them to raise those issues individually. In this way we can ensure the most appropriate response is provided and in a way that meets the needs of the individual resident.

We want to highlight that as well as raising their issues at Area Panel meetings, residents can also contact Michelle Spamer from the Highways and Transport Division on 01332 715064 or by e-mail: michelle.spamer@derby.gov.uk, and Michelle will ensure a response is provided directly to the resident. Alternatively can use our service contacts points:

Streetcare Hotline Tel: 01332 715000 or e-mail: streetcare@derby.gov.uk

Parking Services Tel: 01332 715032 or e-mail: parking.services@derby.gov.uk

Public Transport Tel: 01332 715065 or e-mail: bus.stop&shelterenquiries@derby.gov.uk

Note and close.

Further information:

Michelle Spamer, Area Coordination Officer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715064

1.11 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:	Vickie Butler, 01332 258529 e-mail vickie.butler@derby.gov.uk Area Panel 4 community issues update report, background information – available on CMIS
List of appendices:	None.