

Time Commenced – 6.00pm
Time Finished – 8.30pm

**AREA PANEL 3
(ABBEY, ARBORETUM AND NORMANTON)
17 SEPTEMBER 2003**

Present: Councillor A Kalia (Chair)
Councillors Burgess, A Hussain, Jackman, Lowe, Nath, Rehman
and Williamson

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Annabel Barwick	-	Local Manager – Derby Homes
Sarah Edwards	-	Area Panel Manager
David Gartside	-	Head of Traffic, Development and Cultural Services
Andy Luscombe	-	Community Safety Partnership
Mark Menzies	-	Assistant Director – Housing Services
Inspector Gary Parkin	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Jason Spencer	-	Principal Members Services Officer
Katherine Taylor	-	Members Services Officer
Ian Wheatley	-	Commercial Services

42 members of the public were in attendance.

15/03 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor F Hussain.

16/03 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

17/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/03 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2003 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/03 Update

Sarah Edwards, Area Panel Manager, introduced a report, which set out

responses to questions raised verbally or in writing at the last meeting.

Petition – Crompton Street Parking

A member of the public presented a letter from a resident of Crompton Street who was not able to attend the meeting. The letter expressed frustration over the length of time it was taking to resolve the matter as it had first been raised in March 2002.

Councillor Burgess told the panel that the issue was being progressed, and that the legalities were being worked on with David Gartside, Head of Traffic. David Gartside said that he anticipated a decision to be made by the end of the year.

Councillor Williamson said that it was not for the Area Panel to decide policy, but that the Council Cabinet should consider this issue. Councillor Burgess agreed to take the item to the Council Cabinet for consideration.

It was agreed that a decision would be made on this item by the next meeting of Area Panel 3 in November 2003.

Crossing at Sainsbury's Island, Kingsway

At the last meeting of Area Panel 3 a member of the public asked who owned the land at Sainsbury's Island as it was a dangerous place for pedestrians and cyclists to cross.

David Gartside pointed out that as the land was Privately owned that the Council could not force them to put a crossing in. Councillor Kalia said that the Council should write to the developer again on the public's behalf and Councillor Burgess agreed and that he would write as Leader of the Council.

Councillor Lowe added that work was underway to put a crossing at Kingsway north of the island by the Highways Agency.

Petition – Connecting Derby, St Michael's Lane

It was noted that this item was still being considered and that a full report was expected at the next meeting of Area Panel 3 in November 2003.

Discarded Rubbish, Malandra Court

Officers reported that the rubbish had now been cleared and that a full-time caretaker had started work and the area would be cleared regularly.

Speeding, St Albans Road

David Gartside said that he had obtained details of accident statistics for this area and invited people to contact him if they wished to see them.

Councillor Burgess asked if Inspector Gary Parkin had Police traffic statistics. Inspector Parkin did not have the information with him at the meeting but said that he could get it if anyone wanted it. He emphasised that the Police monitor suspected areas of speeding over a period of time.

Petition – Sikh Temple Noise, St James Road

A member of the public who had previously presented a petition concerns that noise emanating from the Sikh Temple constituted a nuisance should be reduced. At the last Area Panel 3 on 11 June 2003 officers had agreed to work with the Temple and Local residents.

Councillor Kalia reported that air conditioning had been installed and that as double-glazing was in the process of being fitted it was anticipated that during winter it was unlikely that the windows would be opened.

In response to a member of the public who requested that a noise abatement notice be served Councillor Kalia stressed that there was a need to see if the measures being implemented were successful first.

Connecting Derby – request for update

A member of the public asked whether compulsory purchase orders had been served on property affected by Connecting Derby.

Sarah Edwards agreed to investigate this matter and report back to a future meeting.

Anti-social behaviour in Church Walk between Western Road and Gordon Road, Normanton

A member of the public raised concern over the alleyway between Church Walk and Western Road in which anti social behaviour had left it in poor condition. The area had been jet washed by a contractor, but this was not part of a contract to be carried out regularly. The residents in the area wanted CCTV installed and were prepared to invest in it between themselves if necessary.

Andy Luscombe, Policy Officer, said that the anti social behaviour team had been approached to look at solutions to the problem. He added that it may be possible to install mobile CCTV for a while as a deterrent.

Councillor Kalia requested that possible solutions to the problems be

investigated and reported back to the next meeting of the Area Panel.

20/03 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by the public during public question time.

Fireworks

A member of the public expressed concern that there were already a number of fireworks being set off well ahead of November 5th, and asked if the Council could do anything to address this.

Councillors Burgess and Kalia advised that unless an unlawful act had been committed the Council could not do anything to address the use of fireworks.

Homehelp, Dover Street

A member of the public reported that he had tried unsuccessfully to contact the Director of Social Services over his concerns regarding the working hours of his 'home help' and that travelling time was not accounted for in their contracted hours.

Councillor Kalia agreed to ask the Director of Social Services to contact the member of the public directly about his query to offer an explanation.

Prostitution

A member of the public reported that she had been assaulted and threatened by someone under the influence of drugs wielding a wooden cosh. She confirmed that she had called the Police and two police constables had attended, but no action had been taken.

Inspector Gary Parkin explained that while he could not comment on individual cases, he would act on any information that the member of the public gave him and assured her that information was always acted upon.

Inspector Parkin went on to describe the link between drug abuse and prostitution and that dealing with the problem was about more than just arresting prostitutes. It meant trying to educate people about the cycle of drug use and prostitution as a means to pay for it.

Councillor Williamson commented that this issue had been raised by Peartree residents and reported that a meeting of Ward Councillors and senior police officers was due to take place on 16 October 2003.

Councillor Williamson hoped to have some suggestions for the next meeting of the Area Panel and would report the outcome of the discussions at the meeting of the Area Panel in November.

Community Action Safety and Training – CAST - survey of residents on Peartree Road

A member of the Public referred to a survey carried out by CAST in December 2002. The results of the residents' questions had been sent to residents, but there had been no action taken to address the issues since.

The letter from CAST was passed to Sarah Edwards, who agreed to follow this item up after the meeting.

Peartree Temple

A member of the public was frustrated that the Peartree Temple was not closing doors and installing double-glazing as agreed and that she could not park in her street due to worshippers parking there.

Cathedral Bells, Derby City Centre

A member of the public asked whether the Church Authorities could be contacted regarding the chiming of the Cathedral clock through the night. It was reported to disturb the sleep of the residents who lived in the vicinity of the Cathedral.

One Way Street - Empress Road

Councillor S Gupta asked the Panel whether it would be possible to make Empress Road one-way like Breedon Hill Road. She had written to her ward Councillors and David Gartside about the issue.

Councillor A Hussain responded by asking David Gartside to look into the issue and report back to the Area Panel.

Fireworks

A member of the public expressed concern that fireworks disturbed the peace of the city and asked if anything could be done about it.

Councillor Kalia responded by praising the organisation of the City's fireworks display in November, which was enjoyed by thousands of people.

Another resident asked whether it was right that the Council should use a firework display to promote the switching on of the Christmas lights.

Councillor Burgess emphasised that the Council had to take a

balanced view. He pointed out that fireworks used at the switching on of the Christmas lights only lasted a few minutes.

Havelock Road - Update

A member of the public wanted to know whether the cars parked at an angle in the street would be a permanent arrangement as he considered it to be an eyesore.

Councillor Kalia informed the member of the public that the measure was done to deter people from speeding in the road.

David Gartside, Head of Traffic, said that it had been an experiment to understand the needs of residents in the road. An open day had taken place in the road in July 2003 and the Council was actively pursuing improvements to Havelock Road and other streets in the area to make the changes more formal.

Accidents in Stockbrook Road

A member of the public presented a petition to the Panel for a one-way system between Havelock and Stockbrook Roads. He felt that this would prevent accidents and avoid near misses, which were a daily occurrence. This was causing pollution, noise and general disturbance for local residents.

Councillor Kalia received the petition and confirmed that the matter would be reported on at a future meeting.

Baseball Ground - Leacroft Road

A member of the public raised the issue of restricted access to rear gardens adjacent to Shaftsbury Road. Parking problems had been created due to no waiting restrictions and that residents had received parking fines as a result.

Councillor Kalia assured the resident that the parking restrictions were being reconsidered as a matter of urgency and that once an official order to remove them was received, the restrictions could be taken away.

Inspector Parkin agreed to look into why residents had received parking tickets, sometimes in the early hours of the morning. He suggested that this may have been due to road safety issues rather than parking enforcement. He agreed that the restrictions at the Baseball Ground needed to be looked at, as Derby County Football Club had moved to Pride Park.

David Gartside, Head of Traffic assured those present that the review of parking restrictions in the area had been brought forward because of

the issues raised by residents.

21/03 To Receive New Petitions

Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Normanton

The panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Normanton informing them that asylum seekers were causing problems for residents and business owners.

The lead petitioner addressed the panel advising it that asylum seekers and refugees were making their community unsafe and difficult to both work and reside in.

The problems cited by the petitioner included congestion in the area and overcrowding as young men congregated in the main shopping area. He said that customers were feeling pressured and that old and disabled people could often not get past the groups on the pavement. There was also concern that a number of people were driving unlicensed and untaxed cars and parked them anywhere, often on the pavement or double-parked.

Mark Menzies presented a report of the Assistant Director of Housing and Advice Services which set out the Council's position with regard to the dispersal of asylum seekers. It also outlined the action being taken by the Council and other agencies to achieve community cohesion. The report addressed the main questions of the petitioners:

- why Derby had been chosen for asylum seekers to be dispersed and why the Normanton and Peartree area had received the majority.
- how the Council was to support the community in dealing with the issues and concerns raised

The report confirmed that the asylum seeker dispersal policy was a Government initiative and not the Council's policy. Councillor Burgess emphasised that we as a community/society had to work with the challenges caused by the Government's initiative. The private organisation National Asylum Support Service (NASS) agreed to suspend asylum seeker dispersal in Derby for a period to allow the city to adapt and absorb the new people.

Inspector Parkin spoke on the issue, informing residents that where the law was being broken, the police would deal with offenders, but there were issues about educating the new residents on legislation, particularly driving laws.

Agreed to note the report.

Peartree Area Improvement Project - Leacroft Road

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Leacroft Road who were concerned about the withdrawal of the Peartree Area Improvement Project. The lead petitioner addressed the panel expressing concern that even though residents had waited for several years for improvements to be made to the area, that the scheme would be removed from the Peartree area. The petitioner was advised that the Peartree Manager, Matthew Hands, was dealing with his petition and that he would report back to him either directly or at the next meeting of the Area Panel.

22/03 Planning and Environment Review of Grass Cutting in Derby

The Panel considered a report of the Chair of the Planning and Environment Commission advising that they would be 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 seek information from the public about the locations in Derby where they had complaints about the standard of grass cutting or where it appeared that grass cutting was not being carried out at all. To develop recommendations aimed at making sure that all grass cutting was carried out to an acceptable standard throughout the city, addressing any justified complaints by the public, and improving the grass cutting services if it was shown to be necessary by the review.

Leaflets about the review were made available to the public at the meeting.

Agreed that members of the public should inform David Romaine, the Commission's Co-ordination Officer of any locations in Derby where they thought that grass was not being cut or where it seemed that grass cutting standards required improvements.

23/03 Review of the School Crossing Patrol Service

The panel considered a report of the Directors of Development and Cultural and Commercial Services advising of changes to the operation of the School Crossing Patrol Service. David Gartside, Head of Traffic advised the panel that the main outcome of the review was that where a fixed crossing was provided, there would no longer be a school crossing patrol. Also, where sites previously approved for school crossing patrol no longer needed one, the service had been withdrawn. All parents in these areas would be advised through their local school. Any issues that were raised as a result of this review would be looked at on an individual basis.

Agreed to note the report.

24/03 Area Panel Budget 2002/03 Outturn

The panel considered a report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy 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.

25/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/04

Applications for Area Panel Funding

A report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy was considered which updated the Panel on the amount of funds available within the budget and set out details of 4 applications for funding which had been received, all of which were key decisions, as follows:

- To consider whether to support the application received from St Joseph's Church to contribute to the annual costs of removing and disposing of needles, cutting down undergrowth and shrubbery and raising awareness of the problem in the community.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Queen's Hall Art Club to replace the art tables.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Khalsa Sports Football Club Youth to cover Minibus hire to games, league fees and secretarial costs, kit, medical equipment, referee costs and end of season presentation trophies.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Community Action Safety and Training – CAST to undertake a series of community consultation events across the area using the Planning for Real model and consultation process. Local agencies and projects will be involved in the events to consult with residents and to promote opportunities for increased service delivery and service user involvement.

Options considered

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

Key Decisions

To award grants to the following applications:

- St Joseph's Church, Interim Maintenance – Grant £1,900.
- CAST Projects, Stockbrook Consultation Events – Grant £1,500.

Reasons

1. The applications met the criteria for Area Panel Funding.
2. The applications provided a service in response to needs of local residents as raised at the meeting.
3. They contributed to improvements, which would provide a benefit to all residents.
4. They were capable of rapid implementation, and could have a significant impact in a short time.

Decision

Not to award funding to the following applications:

- Queen's Hall Arts Club - £1,500
- Khalsa Sports Football Club Youth - £2,300

Reasons

1. The Queen's Hall Arts Club is a citywide project rather than one specific to the Normanton Ward.
2. The Khalsa Sports Football Club is also not specific to the ward and includes only a small number of the community.

26/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

Agreed

1. To note that the next meeting of Area Panel 3 would be held at 6pm on Wednesday 19 November 2003 at Carlton Road United Reform Church.
2. To appoint Councillor Lowe as Chair of the next meeting of the Panel.

MINUTES END