



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 3
22 MARCH 2006

Report of Director of Derby Community Safety Partnership

Area Panel 3 Community Issues Update Report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Item no	Issue	Recommended panel action
Abbey ward		
1.1	Petition – Rebuilding of railings, North end of Gladstone Street	Note
1.2	Petition – Improvements to Stockbrook Street Area	Note and close
1.3	Crossing at Kings Highway	Note and close
1.4	Car vandalism – St Clare’s Close	Note and close
Arboretum ward		
1.5	Street lighting in Derby City centre	Note and close
1.6	Petition – Jitty Closure Empress Road/Mount Carmel Street	Note and close
1.7	Petition - Antisocial behaviour, St Chad’s Road area	Note
1.8	Green Lane Centre	Note
1.9	Fly tipping	Note and close
Normanton ward		
1.10	Cameron Road Homezone improvements and wheelie bins	Note and close
1.11	Tree Pruning, Village Street	Note and close
1.12	Payment office – Village Street	Note and close
1.13	Mud on Village Street	Note
All wards		
1.14	Alcohol Free Zone	Note and decide
1.15	Cityscape Masterplan	Note and close
Outstanding issues		
1.16	Items to be presented to a future meeting	

1.1 **Petition – Rebuilding of railings, North end of Gladstone Street, Abbey - received 16.11.05**

Issue: A petition had been received requesting the rebuild of the railings at the north end of Gladstone Street, and the possible installation of a gate. It stated that since the Council took the original park railings away over a year ago, the remaining gap has become a focus for antisocial activities, including drug abuse, and threatening behaviour.

At the meeting on 18 January 2006, Councillor Afzal informed residents that he had been actively working with agencies to resolve this issue. The work with the police and Street Care had seen a reduction in drug dealing. He stated that he had met with the parks department, and expressed his disappointment with the reasons for not replacing the gates, as detailed in the update. He stated that he felt that the reasons in the updates contradict with the Council's policy. He confirmed that he had drafted a letter to Steve Medlock insisting that this be re-looked at.

Action: Provide a further update at the meeting on 22 March 2006.

Update: The Parks Department has a policy of not replacing fencing to private properties unless there is a covenant to state that we must do so. This policy has been in operation since the 1970's when it was decided that parks should not be locked. The boundary fencing in this case was removed because it was unsafe. This boundary fencing keeps private access private for the householders, which means that the maintenance or reinstatement of the boundary fencing does not fall in line with the Parks department's policy.

If residents do not wish the public to have access to the park at this point then a gate or boundary fence needs to be erected.

The Parks department does not have a budget to cover the cost of replacing fencing to private property – Derby has in excess of 300 parks across the city and could not cover the costs of maintaining all fencing that forms a boundary with private property.

The general rule is if a householder wishes to protect their property then they need to erect a fence except where there is a covenant stating that it is someone else's responsibility. The legal section in the Chief Execs Department has reviewed this particular case and there is no requirement to provide or replace the boundary fencing.

Elsewhere in Normanton Park, a new fence has recently been erected by the Council between the allotments and the park. This fence provides security for the allotments, which are council property, it is coincidental that they are adjacent to the park and the fence is therefore also a fence to the park.

Officers have met to discuss other options to resolve the matter and a possible option is to address the issue through crime prevention. If this approach is successful, and the railings are re-instated then they will be the responsibility of the householders. **Propose to note.**

Further information:

Ian Wheatley, Grounds Maintenance Manager, Environmental Services, telephone 716530

1.2 Petition – Improvements to Stockbrook Street Area, Abbey - received 16.11.05

Issue: A petition had been received from residents in the Stockbrook Street area asking for a variety of issues relating to anti social behaviour activities as well as transport issues to be tackled.

Action: Provide a further update at the next meeting on 22 March 2006.

Update: There have been a number of initiatives to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the area. Notably a series of interventions jointly made by the Police and Anti Social Behaviour Team. This has resulted in a significant decrease in crime in the area. Environmental improvements to Stockbrook Park and nearby residential areas are currently being evaluated and funding sources agreed before implementation starts. All of this information is being made available at local resident meetings.

Derby Homes will be spending approx. £300,000 on improvements in the Stockbrook Street area using Estates Pride funding. Derby Homes are also providing £20,000 match funding along with Derby City Council Parks department for improvements to Stockbrook Recreation ground, sports wall and footpaths.

This work was identified by local Councillors, residents, housing officers and Alan Wroughton, Crime Prevention Officer, based at the Community Safety Partnership.

The work will include

- installation of metal fencing
- block paving
- tarmac to paths
- tarmac to drying areas
- removal of unused drying areas
- metal fence barriers to undercrofts
- renewed lighting to undercrofts
- timber fencing
- extensive tree work

It is hoped that all the above will be completed before the summer months apart from the tree work that the arboriculturalist is currently working on over the next few weeks.

Propose to note and close.

Further information:

Shaun Bennett, Director of Investment and Regeneration, Derby Homes, telephone 711033

Andy Thomas, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Community Safety Partnership, telephone 256910

1.3 Crossing at Kings Highway, Abbey - received 18.01.06

Issue: A resident asked the panel what progress had been made at this crossing, as it was extremely dangerous.

Action: To look at previous notes when issue was originally raised and look at the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing on the access road to Kingsway Retail Park.

Update: The access road from the roundabout on the A5111 down into the retail park is private and the City Council is therefore unable to install a crossing on this road. If there are any further queries relating to the access road, then contact the agent for the retail park, Matthew Whiteley, FDP Savills, Fountain Court, Manchester, M2 2FE, Tel. 0161 236 8644. **Propose to note and close.**

Further information:

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

1.4 Car vandalism – St Clare’s Close, Abbey – received 18.01.06

Issue: A resident raised concern about the ongoing issue of vandalism to resident’s vehicles, and burnt out cars in St Clare’s Close. He asked the panel to consider installing bollards to prevent burnt out cars being rolled down into the car park. He also asked for a camera to be installed in the car park to stop the ongoing vandalism to resident’s vehicles. He stated that there were dummy cameras installed a few years before.

He also raised concern over the state of the paving slabs, reporting that they were very uneven and could cause injury to disabled residents of the close.

Action: To respond by letter to the resident.

Update: The local resident has been informed of progress by Derby Homes. The Police and Derby Homes Community Watch Patrol have been contacted and there have been no reports of any vandalism to vehicles since last summer. Derby Homes Community Watch Patrol has continued to patrol the area on a regular basis. Beat Bobbies have been made aware of the situation.

The paving slabs in question have been replaced.

Investigations into the potential installation of CCTV equipment are currently under discussion between Derby Homes and the Police. **Propose to note and close.**

Further information:

Phil Rees, Derby Homes, telephone 716559

1.5 Street lighting in Derby City Centre, Arboretum – received 30.03.05 and 18.01.06

Issue: A member of the public commented that he had counted a large number of street lights out on the Wardwick and Uttoxeter New Road.

A resident complained to the panel at the meeting on 18th January 2006, that there were now eight lights which have been out for a long time at the following locations:

- Field Sports
- News Kiosk
- Corals Bookmakers
- Charlie Browns Menswear
- Evans
- Debenhams - low level
- Boots
- Revolution.

Jonathan Guest agreed that this needs to be looked in to.

Action: To investigate and provide a report back to the next panel meeting

Update: Street Lighting Section have surveyed the lights at night and details of the ones that were found to be unlit have been passed to Special Projects. Prices have been obtained to rectify all faults and the work is likely to be carried out before next Area Panel 3 meeting on 21 June. **Propose to note and close.**

Further information:

Alan Jaques, Street Lighting Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715014

1.6 Petition – Jitty Closure Empress Road/Mount Carmel Street, Arboretum - received 22.06.05

Issue: A petition was received at the meeting held on 22 June 2005 requesting the closure of the Empress Road/Mount Carmel Street jitty in response to problems with drugs, alcohol and prostitution, plus a woman being mugged in the alleyway in March 2005.

Action: To provide a response at the next meeting regarding graffiti, litter and the potential installation of CCTV.

Update: The ASB Team investigated a complaint and subsequently passed on its findings.

Some of the walls in the area are subject to graffiti but these tend to be the walls of private properties. Periodically the team remove graffiti but need to request permission of homeowners prior to undertaking any works. Offensive graffiti is removed as soon as the Council is aware. Offensive graffiti is classified as the following – racist, sexual and hate crime. The breezeblock walls will be addressed shortly. The department is awaiting warmer weather and will be working in partnership with the Probation Service to paint over the walls, as this is the only means of removing the graffiti. Work is expected to commence by late April.

Work will commence by late April on cleaning the steps with power washers. The area is a target for regular litter picks – they take place weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The graffiti in the area is not at the level to warrant a camera. For a camera to be installed it would cost a great deal. A camera to be sited there would need specialist equipment to produce good quality pictures of the offender in addition to staffing costs to check and review the camera footage. This would require additional revenue that the Council cannot support from its existing budget and furthermore would not prove cost effective. **Propose to note and close.**

Further information:

Ray Brown, Senior Planning Officer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255024
Andy Thomas, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Community Safety Partnership, telephone 256910
Inspector Parkin, Derbyshire Police, telephone 222164

Richard Winter, Assistant Waste Management Officer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 716352

1.7 Petition - Antisocial behaviour, St Chad's Road area, Arboretum - received 16.11.05

Issue: Councillor Khan informed the meeting that he had received a petition from local residents regarding vandalism, antisocial behaviour and drug abuse in the area of St Chad's Road, Cromwell Road, Byron Street and Stonehill Road. There have been regular incidents where vehicles are vandalised, with windows smashed. Phone boxes are also vandalised, and are being used to sell drugs. He asked for something to be done.

Action: To look at previous information on removing telephone boxes.

Update: The area has become a hot spot for auto crime, especially theft of older type vehicles. Various operations to combat this trend are on going. In relation to CCTV, its installation alone does not resolve ASB issues but can form part of an overall response. A camera point costs a minimum of £2000 and is dependant on many factors. A site inspection is needed before any accurate costings can be made. A camera costs £8,000. The Community Safety Partnership, Police and residents make decisions on where new posts are located jointly. **Propose to note.**

Further information:

Inspector Gary Parkin, Derbyshire Police, telephone 222184

Andy Thomas, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Community Safety Partnership, telephone 256910

1.8 Green Lane Centre, Arboretum - received 18.01.06

Issue: A resident asked the panel for clarification of the criteria for Urban II funding; in particular the criteria quoted relating to the community and hostels. As a resident of Mount Street they live near Centenary House, and feel that a further 30 bedroom hostel establishment at Green Lane is not appropriate at this location.

Action: Update at the next meeting.

Update: An application was submitted to Derby City Partnership for Urban II funding to develop a training centre as part of the Green Lane Centre. The specification for projects to bid against are essentially what projects must deliver, in this case learning opportunities and qualifications. Projects are then assessed against how well they will deliver the specification. The project has been awarded funding under Priority One of the URBAN Action Plan. The decision to award the scheme funding was subject to a number of conditions, one of which is the need to obtain planning permission for the proposed Centre.

Consideration of the planning application has been postponed with the need to survey the building for the presence of bats. Bats are a protected species; therefore the planning application needs to clearly outline what action will be taken to mitigate the bats should they be present in the building.

Initial enquiries with Derby Biological Record Centre, revealed that the breed of bats that have been recorded in surrounding area's are Pipistrell bats which are the most common species. A survey was carried out during the week beginning 13 March 2006

and the planning application will be considered on 23 March 2006. The content of the application will be dependent on the survey undertaken.

With regards to the funding of the project, a site does need to be identified and plans agreed by the 1 April 2006 to enable the release of funding. **Propose to note.**

Further information:

Lisa Callow, Housing Options Manager, Resources, telephone 256487

1.9 Fly tipping, Arboretum - received 16.11.05

Issue: A local resident raised his concern over the persistent fly tipping in the area, and asked that CCTV be installed in the area to find out who is doing this.

Action: To look at the CCTV evidence on Normanton Road/Oak Street, and refer to Regeneration and Community.

Update: There have been a number of recent incidences in the Normanton Road area. A review of CCTV footage at Grove Street car park on Normanton Road led to the Police issuing warnings to some offenders. There is no enforcement division within the waste department, which hampers the issue of dealing with offenders. The introduction of 'Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team' teams in the priority neighbourhoods will hopefully address enforcement issues.

There is an on-going problem of someone dumping black bags on the corner of Oak Street prior to collection days. CCTV cameras do not cover the area on Oak Street – cameras used in that area are static cameras.

The CCTV scheme covers Normanton Road and some views down side roads, i.e. Rose Hill Street or park entrances. There is one at the junction of Rose Hill Street and the Pear Tree Road area – however, houses screen Oak Street, which means a camera would prove ineffective in the area. **Propose to note and close.**

Further information:

Richard Winter, Assistant Waste Management Officer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 716352

1.10 Cameron Road Homezone improvements and wheelie bins, Normanton - received 19.01.05

Issue: A written question was submitted to the panel, asking the Council to enforce that wheelie bins are put away by every resident, as they are a hazard on the pavements, particularly for the blind and disabled. He also asked that the tree guards that are being installed are painted white instead of black, so that they are more visible to car drivers at night.

Action: Update at the next meeting on proposals to reduce the number of wheelie bins left on the pavement.

Update: Residents of the Abbey ward within area panel 3 were issued with parking ticket-style stickers on their wheeled bins from Tuesday 21 February to remind them not to leave them on the pavement.

Derby City Council is hoping the stickers will get the message across that they obstruct

pavements, particularly for disabled people and parents with pushchairs, and can be used by criminals.

Currently, there is no planned programme to rollout the scheme across the whole of Area Panel 3 or the City. The decision is dependent on whether the scheme is successful in the Abbey ward. If the programme is rolled out there is likely to be a focus on Normanton covering the Lowerdale Road, Burton Road and Normanton Road area. However, this is not proposed for some months. **Propose to note and close.**

Further information:

Malcolm Price, Waste Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 716350

1.11 Tree Pruning, Village Street, Normanton – received 16.11.05

Issue: A member of the public stated that he had received a letter from the Arboricultural Officer, who had visited the site when in full leaf stating that work to the trees had been carried out, but he has not noticed any difference. He stated that the lighting officer had also visited saying that the trees did not effect the illumination of the highway, but he did not agree with this, because there is no light on the pathways due to the trees. Residents have complained that during the summer they have to have their lights on in their living room, as there is no natural light coming through, from these trees.

Action: To clarify why the trees could not be cut back.

Update: The issue has been thoroughly investigated by the department. Earlier responses highlight the cost of crown thinning and pruning at £5,035. This work would have little impact on the levels of light and would only last for a short period. In addition, there is insufficient money in the area panel 3 budget to cover the cost of the works. **Propose to note and close.**

Further information:

John Booth, Arboricultural Manager, Environmental Services, telephone 715537

1.12 Payment Office, Village Street, Normanton received 18.01.06

Issue: A resident raised concern over the closure of the payment office in Normanton. Councillor Williamson informed residents that there are a variety of ways in which residents can make payments.

Mr Rees, Derby Homes, confirmed that they have a list of all local facilities, and agreed to send the resident information, and make the information available in the next report. For rent payments, these can be made at local housing offices or Cardinal Square, and Council Tax payments can be made at the Council House.

Action: Provide a response to the local resident and at the next meeting.

Update: There are a number of paypoints within the area as follows:
Peartree Home Improvement Centre, 182 Peartree Road, Normanton is open 9am to 1 pm every day.

There are the following paypoints :-

- Lowerdale News, 82 Northumberland Street
- Loudon News, 228 Normanton Road
- Mahal News, 8 Upper Dale Road
- Jolly Fagman, 54 St Thomas Road
- Newdigate News, 6 Newdigate Street

These and other paypoints are contained in Derby Homes' leaflet " New ways to pay your Rent". **Propose to note and close.**

Further information:

Paula Solowij, Derby Homes, telephone, 718115

1.13 Mud on Village Street, Normanton - received 18. 01.06

Issue: A resident raised concern over the amount of mud on the speed bumps on Village Street, and asked if there was anything that could be done to ensure that the Contractors clear the bumps.

Action: To raise the issue directly with the contractors.

Update: Officers have been out to inspect Village Street on two separate occasions to check for mud on the road. On both site visits, no mud was observed on the highway. We will continue to monitor Village Street to check that the highway is clear of mud.

Propose to note.

Further information:

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715067

1.14 Alcohol Free Zone, All wards - received 07.09.05

Issue: A member of the public asked when the alcohol free zone would be enforced, as they had understood it would be during the week, but as yet no signage had been erected. At the last meeting, a local resident asked the panel who decides where the signs are put. She confirmed that there were still none outside Centenary House.

Action: To provide an update at the next meeting.

Update: The signs have been approved for Arboretum Park and are currently on order. New locations for signs sites being considered. Police continue to monitor and enforce the situation.

Advice is sought from the police asking if they think there is a need for signs and they guide Derby City Council, but there is no budget for these costs. Currently, each sign costs £100, which includes design and installation.

The alternative is for the Area Panel to decide, if they think there is a real problem, to purchase additional signs using Area Panel funding. A map indicating the location of signs across the area will be available at the meeting. **Propose to note and decide.**

Further information:

Inspector Gary Parkin, Derbyshire Police, telephone 222184

Stuart Leslie, Chief Legal Officer, Corporate and Adult Social Services, telephone

255450

1.15 Cityscape Masterplan, all wards- received 16.11.05

Issue: A resident requested that the Chief Executive of Derby Cityscape attend a future area panel meeting to provide an update on the masterplan as it covers a lot of the Area Panel 3 area.

Action: To invite Derby Cityscape Chief Executive to an Area Panel 3 meeting.

Update: Item on this meeting's agenda. David Marshall, Director of Development will provide a presentation and update. **Propose to note and close.**

Further information:

Sarah Dosunmu, Area Panel Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 258501

1.16 Outstanding issues

Issue	Outstanding action	Date to report back
Ref: 304034 - Traffic issues – Normanton and Pear Tree	Future update to be given after the major traffic review and planning event proposed for June 2006.	21 June 2006
Ref: 304027 – Petition - Molineux Street – one way street, Arboretum		
Ref: 304054 – Petition - Renals Street and Avondale Road – request for a one-way system to improve traffic flows, Arboretum		
Ref: 305016 – Petition requesting One Way Road System on Wilfred Street, Sale Street and Molineux Street, Arboretum		
Ref: 305007 – Petition – St Giles Road – request for a one-way system, Normanton		
Ref: 305034 – Parking – Upperdale Road, Normanton		
Ref: 305039 – One way – Harrington Street, Normanton	Update to be provided on the recent masterplan, and planning application when available.	21 June 2006
Ref: 303045 – Baseball Ground, Leacroft Road, Arboretum – raised 17.09.03 – new petition presented 19.01.05		
Ref: 305027 – Petition - Turning area on Dexter Street, Arboretum - received 07.09.05		
Ref: 305040 – Petition – Removal of road humps, Browning Street, Upperdale Road and Stanhope Street, Normanton - received 16.11.05	Investigations ongoing, report to be provided at a future panel meeting	21 June 2006

Ref: 305043 – Petition – Improvements to Meynell Street, Normanton - received 16.11.05	Update on whether Meynell Street is in the 2006/07 slurry-sealing programme.	21 June 2006
Ref: 305048 – Stenson Road parking, Normanton - received 16.11.05	Update to be provided on the possibility of introducing waiting restrictions to resolve parking matters	September 2006

PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 To consider and note the report.

For more information contact:	Sarah Dosunmu Telephone 01332 258501 e-mail sarah.dosunmu@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None.
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Area Panel 3 community issues update report, background information