

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 9.05 pm

**AREA PANEL 3 (ABBEY, ARBORETUM AND NORMANTON)
10 NOVEMBER 2004**

Present: Councillor Burgess (Chair)
Councillors Dhindsa, Hussain, Jackman, Khan, Lowe,
Nath and Rehman

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Nigel Brien	-	On-Street Operations Manager Development and Cultural Services
Sarah Edwards	-	Area Panel Manager Policy Directorate
Justine Fitzjohn	-	Members Services Officer Democratic Services
David Gartside	-	Head of Traffic, Development and Cultural Services
Richard Winter	-	Assistant Waste Management Officer Development and Cultural Services
Jody Kirkpatrick	-	Members Services Assistant Democratic Services
Paula Solowij	-	Local Manager, Derby Homes
Sergeant Nick Daines	-	Derbyshire Constabulary

23 members of the public.

27/04 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Williamson

28/04 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced the following item as a matter of urgency on the grounds that members of the public felt that this was an important issue that needed immediate consideration.

Distribution of Area Panel Agendas and Papers

29/04 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30/04 Minutes

The minutes of the Area Panel 3 meeting held on 8 September 2004 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:

Minute Number 19/04 – Petitions

Change 'Activ8, Campbell Street' to Activ8, Mount Carmel Street.

Minute Number 23/04 – Derby Grouped Schools Private Finance Initiative

Third paragraph should be deleted as information on the proposed design of the school had not been made available at the meeting for members of the public to consider.

Change the last paragraph to read 'A member of the public asked to know the cost of the school to this point in time and what the lease-back cost would be.' and correct the spelling of 'Skyrtec' to Skrytec.

31/04 Distribution of Agendas

Concern was expressed by a member of the public that the change to the distribution of agendas was a retrograde and undemocratic step and that the cost savings quoted were incorrect. Downloading papers from the internet was considered to be both difficult and time consuming. Residents present at the meeting supported this view. They considered that it was inappropriate to treat panels in the same way as other Council meetings as they are public meetings that have been specifically set up for residents to attend. A show of hands was taken and there was unanimous support in favour of full copies of the agenda being made available on request, free of charge to anyone who wants them either by post, electronically or by collection from the Council House. Cllr Dhindsa proposed that the panel should vote on this proposal and this was seconded by Cllr Nath.

Resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that full copies of the agenda should be made available, on request, free of charge by post, electronically or by collection from the Council House.

32/04 Update on Progress Regarding Community Issues raised at the Area Panel meeting

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The panel considered an update report on the progress of community issues raised at the last panel meeting. The report included details of issues raised, various action, progress to date and detailed which Council Officer was responsible for the issue.

Agreed to note the report.

Specific issues

Unauthorised Change of Use at 51 Mount Street

It was noted that a retrospective planning application had not been submitted and enforcement action would be taken.

Advertising Signs

The Chair reported that the Council would be looking into options for revising the policy on 'A' board signs.

DRI - Reduction in Health Hopper Bus Service Route

A member of the public asked how much money the Council makes on car parking and how much money goes towards subsidising bus services. Response to the next meeting.

Traffic Issues - Normanton and Peartree

This item would be kept on the updates until the general response on Road Traffic Reduction was received from Development and Cultural Services.

Community Safety Partnership Questionnaire

It was hoped that procedures would be put in place to avoid a similar repeat of the incidents of bad practice.

Removal of Telephone Boxes in the City

It was noted that BT had been invited to attend a future meeting. No response to this request has yet been received.

33/04 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

Draft Licensing Policy

A member of the public asked for an update on the Council's draft Licensing Policy.

Agreed to invite an Officer to the next meeting to give a presentation or to provide a response to this request for information in the updates.

Railed Garden - St Chads Road / Whitaker Road

The railings had been damaged by a car and a member of the public asked when they would be repaired. Councillor Burgess reported that he understood that this matter was being dealt with by an insurance company and the Area Panel Manager agreed to follow up the matter.

Neighbourhood Renewal - Leopold Street, Sacheveral Street, Hartington Street

A member of the public asked for an update on proposals for the above area. He also queried whether the Taj Mahal in Normanton Road / Leopold Street had planning consent for a corrugated building that had been recently erected.

Agreed to investigate the planning matter and invite Martin Gadsby or another appropriate officer to attend a future area panel meeting to give a general update on the plans for the housing renewal area.

Waste Recycling Group - WRG

A member of the public asked for a progress report on the application and asked what the PFI costs of the projected plant were, rather than the actual costs.

Agreed to ask the Department to respond direct to the resident.

Railings - Crompton Street

A member of the public reported that he had injured himself on a hand rail on the steps at the end of Crompton Street. He asked for the metal to be smoothed.

Agreed to pass on the request to Derby Homes.

34/04 Petitions

The following petitions were presented to the Area Panel:

Request for one-way system in Avondale Road and Renal Street

The Panel received a petition requesting a one way system to be introduced to improve traffic flow.

The petition has been referred to the Director of Development and Cultural Services to provide a full response to the next meeting. Councillor Hussain said that the residents' concerns were genuine and that the situation merited proper investigation.

Request for various improvements on Dexter Street

The Panel received a petition requesting:

1. A no-parking zone at the end of Dexter Street.

2. Installation of double glazed windows to reduce noise from trains and nearby factories. The Panel indicated that noise insulation would be the responsibility of the home owners.
3. Problems with sewage - the Panel informed the petitioner that he should report sewage matters directly to Severn Trent Water.

The petition had been referred to the Director of Development and Cultural Services to provide a full response to the next meeting on the traffic issues.

Petition regarding road safety and parking on St James Road

David Gartside presented a report of the Assistant Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management responding to a petition requesting that the Council carry out a meaningful traffic survey on the needs of residents and businesses with a view to improving the safety and considering parking needs, including residents only parking on St James Road. The petition outlined the traffic problems caused by the users of the Sikh Temple in the area. Mr Gartside reported that parking restrictions were enforced by the Police and a Traffic Warden for Pear Tree had just been appointed, so hopefully the situation would improve.

The report stated that the main criteria for introducing a residents' parking scheme is a that the street is regularly full of commuter and shopper parking. People using the Temple are legitimate users and as such would be eligible for parking permits if a parking scheme was introduced. On this basis it was reported that a residents' only parking scheme would not be appropriate.

Agreed to note the following proposed action:-

1. that the residents' only parking scheme is not considered to be appropriate
2. that the protective entrance marking out the access to the Ramgharia Sabha Sikh Temple be extended
3. that support is given to the enforcement efforts offered by the Police

Petition regarding the shortage of car parking on Almond Street

David Gartside presented a report of the Assistant Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management which outlined

the Council's response to a petition regarding the shortage of car parking on Almond Street, allegedly caused by the lack of parking facilities at nearby retail premises.

It was noted that the problems were more acute at the Cavendish end of Almond Street. The Police had agreed to give more priority to enforcing existing parking restrictions on Almond Street.

The Council has a rolling programme to look into parking at District Centres. The Council's Residents' Parking Criteria does not allow the introduction of residents' parking in individual streets.

A member of the public reported that they had seen a yellow line and blue plaque restricting parking outside a disabled persons home. David Gartside explained that the Council can, in certain circumstances, mark a bay on the carriageway, but these have no legal standing.

Agreed to note the following proposed action:

1. that a Resident's Only Parking scheme is not pursued at this time.
2. that traffic concerns at the Cavendish district centre are investigated under the rolling programme of district centre improvements

35/04 Litter, graffiti and recycling in Abbey, Arboretum and Normanton

Richard Winter, Derby City Council Recycling Officer, gave a presentation on the following issues:

1. Graffiti

Mr Winter explained the Council's policy on graffiti. A member of the public gave the panel a set of photographs showing graffiti in the area. It was noted that written permission was needed from the owner before graffiti could be removed from buildings. It was hoped that new Anti-Social Behaviour regulations would improve the situation.

A member of the public added it was sometimes difficult for people to get access to products to remove graffiti themselves. Mr Winter responded by saying that he could not recommend particular products but could direct members of the public to hardware and DIY stores that supply graffiti removal products.

2. Cleaner / Greener Normanton Project

The project to improve recycling, litter removal and street cleaning was outlined.

The following issues were then raised:

- a) BT/NTL boxes - a question was asked as to whether the companies were contractually obliged to maintain the boxes as they were often a target for posters and graffiti
- b) Gerard Street/Burton Road - only 1 out of 3 sets of graffiti had been removed. Mr Winter explained that products did not remove all paints and the paints used were often changed / improved which meant that removal was more difficult.
- c) Jitty Mount Carmel Street / Empress Road - highlighted as a problem area for graffiti
- d) Racist Graffiti - the Council had a policy of immediate removal without the need for permission
- e) CCTV to tackle graffiti - CCTV would be very expensive in trying to tackle graffiti because it happens throughout the city. It was noted that the Police had prosecuted four offenders.
- f) Overflow of recycling banks at Christmas - R Winters hoped the situation would improve as Christmas falls on a Saturday this year.

36/04 Monitoring and Evaluation of CCTV in Derby City Council

Nigel Brien, On Street Operations Manager, introduced a report on the Derby City public area CCTV scheme. The Panel noted that there were 195 cameras throughout the city including the city centre, Castle Ward, parts of Normanton, residential sites such as Britannia Court, Rivermead House and Allenton district shopping centre.

The cameras used are very high quality and are monitored by a private contractor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 80% of the recording is on digital, but the cameras can be switched to real-time to cover an incident. There is also the facility for a live video link to the Police Control Room.

It was noted that the Home Office had commissioned a project on the evaluation of CCTV and it was hoped the research results would be published before the end of 2004. The results would then enable the Council to ensure that resources are targeted to areas where the greatest impact can be achieved.

Agreed to note the report and ask Officers to give an update to the panel when the findings of the Home Office Project were received.

37/04 Congestion in Normanton and Peartree

David Gartside, Head of Traffic, presented a report on congestion on Normanton and Pear Tree Roads following a specific request from the Panel. Information on traffic flows, congestion and parking was given. It was noted that businesses along Normanton and Pear Tree Roads had been approached in 1993 with a view to introducing restrictions on loading and unloading. However a suitable solution could not be found and delivery times are not restricted. The pavements had also been widened around that time and a lot of the current problems were caused by inconsiderate drivers. It would be difficult to provide extra parking due to a shortage in available land in this built up urban area.

A member of the public referred to plans to build another supermarket in the area and asked whether the Council could restrict planning permission on the basis that there are already enough supermarkets in the area. It was noted that each application would be considered under the planning guidelines.

The Panel noted future proposals for Decriminalised Parking Enforcement when the Council would be responsible for enforcing parking restrictions. This may help target enforcement. Resources from the Local Transport Plan had been earmarked to address transport issues in district centres. It would be unlikely that the review would have an impact in Normanton within the next two years, but it was hoped that provision of facilities including car parking would be looked into.

A member of the public expressed her appreciation to Inspector Parkin and Mr Gartside for the work in the area. It was also suggested that it may be advantageous if Arriva used smaller buses in Normanton.

Agreed to note the report.

38/04 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2004/05

Applications for Area Panel Funding

A report of the Director Policy was considered which set out details of six applications for funding, which were all key decisions, as follows:

- To consider whether to support the application received from the 20th Derby (St Augustine's) Scout Group for a project for preventative measures to tackle vandalism – Amount requested £2,000.

- To consider whether to support the application received from The Amnesty Congo Support Group to purchase traditional African instruments and sound system in order to promote their cultural music with the local community – Amount requested £2,445.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Derbyshire Housing Aid to install CCTV to act as a deterrent and ensure that the night shelter would not cause a problem for local people. Amount requested £3,000.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Gayton Swimming Club to carry out a swimming pool feasibility study and purchase new equipment. Amount requested £1,410
- To consider whether to support an application from The Ikhlas Foundation for a project for Ikhlas Saturday School. Amount requested £ 2,100
- To consider whether to support an application from The Normanton Allotments Society for the repair of stone steps. Amount requested £ 1,318.

Options considered

The Panel assessed the applications for funding against the agreed criteria and assessed the applications for funding against priorities. The Panel considered the recommendation from the Area Panel Grant Appraisal Panel for each application.

Key Decisions

To award grants to the following applicants:

- 20th Derby (St Augustine's) Scout Group – Grant £2,000 to take preventative measures to tackle vandalism

Reasons

1. The application provided a service in response to the needs of local residents
 2. The application contributed to environmental improvements
 3. The application promoted strong and positive neighbourhoods
 4. The application would help protect and support people
- Amnesty Congo Support Group – Grant £1,200 to purchase traditional African costumes and instruments

The grant was given for the costs of traditional African musical

instruments and costumes not for sound system equipment.

Reasons

1. The application provided a service in response to the needs of local residents
 2. The application would improve access for local people to existing services
 3. The application would help promote strong and positive neighbourhoods.
- Derbyshire Housing Aid It was agreed that the Abbey Ward would grant £1,000 towards the CCTV project and make a strong recommendation to the Small Change fund to make up the shortfall in funds.

Reasons

1. The application was for a community or voluntary group
 2. The application would help protect and support people
 3. The application provided evidence of sustainability beyond the period of funding
 4. The application promoted strong and positive neighbourhoods
- Ikhlas Foundation – Grant £2,100 for a Saturday school

It was agreed to fund the project on condition that they provide the panel with evidence of:

- Partnership and integration with local schools
- Appropriate procedures for child protection

Reasons

1. The application provided a service in response to the needs of local residents
 2. The application would improve access for local people to existing services
 3. The application would help promote education
 4. The group has been making a significant contribution by running the school on a voluntary basis and is active in promoting self-help
- Normanton Allotments Society Limited – Grant £1,318 towards the cost of repairing the steps. This decision was taken subject to the provision of further evidence for

Normanton Ward Councillors by the Director of Commercial Services to confirm that the steps are not a health and safety risk.

Reasons

1. The application provided a service in response to the needs of local residents
2. The application would improve access for local people to existing services
3. The application would contribute to environmental improvements
4. The application would enable residents to participate in their community

To refuse a grant to the following applicant:

- Gayton Swimming Club

Reasons

1. The Panel considered that the Club had received a grant of £4,700 from Area Panel 4 in July 2004
2. It was considered that the proposed feasibility and design study would not provide significant benefit to local people in Area Panel 3.

39/04 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

To note that:

- 1. the next meeting of the Area Panel would be held on Wednesday 19 January 2004 at 6.00pm at St James' Centre, Malcolm Street .**
- 2. Councillor Hussain would be the Chair**

MINUTES END