

AREA PANEL FOUR – UPDATE REPORT

FOR 17 NOVEMBER 2004

LITTLEOVER METHODIST CHURCH, BURTON ROAD

Area and Neighbourhood Unit

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1. Ref: 402030 - Redevelopment of University of Derby Mickleover campus – raised 27.11.02

Issue

This issue was raised in November 2002 asking for assurances from the Council that the quality of life for local residents would be taken into account during the future redevelopment.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

It was reported that the University is still waiting for the outcome of the report of the Inspector who conducted the City of Derby Local Plan Review. Until they have the outcome of the report the Council cannot make any decisions on the proposals.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

A member of the public thanked the area panel manager for his correspondence on this item, relating to the placement of the football pitches that will be lost if the development goes ahead. He asked that this element be added to update so that it isn't lost.

At the last meeting, he raised the following written question: For some time now we have been looking for assurance that an equal number – or even more – new, high quality pitches will be created before the use of existing pitches is lost. Please may we have an update on how this objectives is to be achieved.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

The written response provided to Mr Smout was as detailed:

'Part of the Campus is proposed for residential development in the Council's emerging City of Derby Local Plan Review. These proposals have been objected to and these objections are currently being considered by an independent Inspector who recently held a public inquiry into the draft plan. His report, which makes recommendations to the Council is expected by April 2005, although it might be received earlier than this. The Council would not encourage an application for planning permission on this site until the housing allocation has been confirmed by the Inspector. The CDLP Review sets out the Council's policy for the development of this site, should the Inspector agree with the housing allocation. He may also recommend changes to the policy. We will therefore need to await this report and consider it before any firm progress, such as making decisions on sports pitches, can be made.

As you probably know, there are currently football pitches on both sides of the beck. Those on the southern side fall within the development site proposed in the draft CDLP Review. Current policy would therefore permit their development. However the draft plan also requires their replacement on the other side of the beck on land that it is envisaged would be dedicated and laid out as public open space. Early discussions with the Sports Council suggest that the replacement might be best achieved through the provision of a multiuse pitch, Astro turf or similar. The draft plan indicates this. However, the precise nature of this replacement will be subject to further discussions and it is also envisaged that public consultation will take place on any proposals. Policy L7 of the emerging plan, which deals with sports pitches, requires replacement pitches to be provided before commencement of development.

The Council has no powers to require the University to replace pitches it no longer needs at its Mickleover Campus if it simply closed this facility. It is the proposed residential development on part of the site that actually creates the opportunity to secure the replacement pitches. However, it also offers the opportunity to secure the open land to the north of the beck as public open space, including the retention of the pitches on this part of the Campus.'

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004
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To update on progress with the Inspectors report.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004
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The Planning Inspectorate has now informed us that we can expect the Inspector's report in April 2005. However, the Inspector has informally indicated he may be able to get it to us by January or February.

Responsibility

Andrew Waterhouse, Team Leader – Plans and Policies, Development and Cultural Services,
telephone 255023

Richard Smail, Area Panel Manager, Policy Directorate, telephone 258505

2. Ref: 402036 - Replacement of Vicarage Road Park Pavilion – raised 27.11.02

Issue

This issue was raised in November 2002 asking about the Council proposals to bid for funding to replace the pavilion on the Vicarage Road Park.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Following the failure of the Community Lottery and Football Foundation Bids, the Council has agreed to contribute £339,000 from the capital programme to build a new pavilion that includes community facilities and two changing rooms. This commitment is subject to residents in Micklegate setting up a community management group and developing an agreed business plan to manage the pavilion. The estimated capital cost of the new pavilion is £448,000 and this includes fitting out, gas central heating and modifications to the car park. The remaining £109,000 will be provided from existing Council funds including the original insurance money.

Regular meetings have been held with Micklegate Action Group – MAG, Council officers and local ward councillors. A public meeting was held on 22 June to seek members for the management group and potential users for the building. There was a positive, though limited, response to the meeting and all those expressing an interest in being involved with the management group and/or using the building were invited to a follow up meeting on 13 July. It was reported that on 7 September, Council Cabinet made the decision to proceed with the construction of the Pavilion as MAG and residents in Micklegate had met the conditions set by the Council in setting up a management group for the building and in submitting a draft business plan that showed there was sufficient usage for the building and that it was financially viable. It is proposed that subject to approval of the business plan and formation of the management group, the building will be completed and ready for use in 2005.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

The planning application was considered at Planning Control Committee in October and it was agreed to defer the application to 25 November pending a site visit by Members of Planning Control Committee.

The detail design is progressing. We are now looking at a traditional build rather than prefabricated building as this will provide a higher quality and more robust building. This will delay the start on site by about 6 to 8 weeks because this route will require more design work before tendering. We aim to start on site in March 2005 and complete by July 2005.

A Steering Group is being constituted to oversee the formation of the Management Group to be formally constituted in early 2005. Please contact MAG for more information on 519406 after 12 noon.

Responsibility

David Finn, Head of Youth Services, Education Services, telephone 716956

Andrew Morgan, Landscape and Development Officer, Commercial Services, telephone 715547

3. Ref: 403035 – Parking and traffic at local schools - received 01.10.03

Issue

This issue was raised in October 2003. Concerns were raised about cars parking on the pavements especially outside the local primary schools at Ridgeway, Gayton and St. Georges. There had been a recent survey about traffic but no feedback had been received.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

We have been working with these schools to develop a travel plan. The travel plan identifies travel patterns, barriers to movement and improvements that can take place to improve safety and encourage more sustainable travel choices.

Three meetings were held for parents at the schools in January to tell them about the Safer Routes to School projects. Suggestions for physical improvements that could be made under the safer routes to school programme were distributed. Another meeting was held in February to identify which improvements they would like implemented.

A meeting was held on 18 March to establish a School Travel Plan Forum. The travel plans were taken to the Travel Plan Forums for approval and then exhibitions for local residents were held on Tuesday 6 July at St George's Catholic Primary School and Ridgeway Infant School. We are unlikely to have sufficient funds to complete all the proposals in this financial year. Until we have firm cost estimates we are not able to programme all of the proposals. Our priority is the features near to the three schools. The proposed measures are:

- Surfacing and widening the path from Highfield Road to Maple Drive
- Street lighting to be upgraded on path linking Highfield Road to Maple Drive
- Controlled crossing next to 380 Stenson Road, not yet agreed type of crossing but, we will review it later in the year after further consultation and firmed up on the designs and estimates. A controlled crossing is where pedestrians have priority over traffic when crossing such as zebra and pelican crossings. Uncontrolled crossings are things like refuges.
- New school bus turning area within St Georges School grounds
- Bus drop off and pick up area for schools on Uplands Avenue
- Relocated 'School Keep Clear' markings on Uplands Avenue
- Change in road priorities and low level junction entry treatments at junctions of Ridgeway Avenue/Uplands Avenue/Gayton Avenue. A low level junction entry treatment means that the road is raised by a maximum of 6mm and given an imprint surface.
- Bus friendly plateau, height 75mm, with imprint surface on Field Rise and Uplands Avenue. These plateaux will be gentle ramps with no more than 1 in 20 incline.
- Shared pedestrian/cycle paths to Willson Avenue, and from Blagreaves Lane to Melton Avenue, to be upgraded to 3.5m wide.

In response to concerns that parents always park on zigzags and kerbs, Inspector Parkin stated that every school in the city has parking problems at peak times and officers are aware of this. He emphasised that they need to work with the parents and governors – and that this would be part of their travel plans. He confirmed that tickets have been given out around these schools in the past. He explained that there were currently five beat officers in the area, but they cannot be at every school at all times as well as completing their other tasks. He confirmed that traffic wardens can monitor parking arrangements, but they are mainly based in the city centre.

A resident suggested that the Council considers a bylaw for parking on verges within 100 metres of a school. It was reported that bylaws have been used in the past to create orders such as waiting restrictions, however, since the Traffic Regulation Order process has come into operation it is far more appropriate to follow this procedure than introducing a bylaw which is a lengthy process. All

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parking restrictions allow vehicles to pick up and set down passengers, as this is the case there will be little benefit to have restrictions outside the school.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

David Turner, resident, informed the panel that there was a misprint in the update, and asked for clarification about the actual height the proposed platform will be above the road level.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

To confirm the height of the platform.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

To confirm the height and update on progress to prevent cars parking near to schools.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

The 'entry treatments' where we are changing the priority are 6 mm high, and for information, the plateau is 75 mm.

Responsibility

Stan Werbinski, Road Safety and Travel Awareness Manager, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715022
Inspector Gary Parkin, Pear Tree Police Station, telephone 222184.

4. Ref: 403040 – Adoption of Roads and Open Space in Heatherton – received 3.12.03

Issue

This issue was raised on 3 December 2003 by a member of the public who was concerned about the lack of progress on adopting the roads and open space in Heatherton especially along Hollybrook Way. Rubbish is not being cleared up, signs have been damaged and there are no litter bins.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

It was reported that the following roads have now been adopted, the remaining part of Callow Hill Way, Hollybrook Way, Squires Way, Portico Road, Malham Road, Woodale Close, Hebden Close, Kilnsey Court, and the footpath from Woodale Close to Hollybrook Way, Cranhill Close, Meadow Brook Close

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

No more roads have been adopted.

Responsibility

Dave Hansell, Development Control Engineer, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715135

Ken Richardson, Parks Officer, Commercial Services, telephone 716646

5. Ref: 404010 – Alcohol Free Zone in Mickleover – received 25.03.04

Issue

A member of the public asked if an Alcohol Free Zone could be introduced around Vicarage Park and Bramblebrook Park.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

It was reported that the Chief Legal Officer has reminded Derbyshire Police that we are waiting for a report including their formal views on the proposal to designate this area as an Alcohol Free Zone – AFZ and for details of the number of alcohol related incidents in the area.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Richard Smail informed the meeting that he had received a further update from the police that stated in addition to Mickleover, there were a number of other areas in the city being considered as Alcohol Free Zones. The areas are being put in order of priority and this is likely to be – Normanton/city centre, Mickleover, and then part of the West End of Derby off Kedleston Road. The Police have confirmed that the process has started, and updates will be given at future meetings.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

The Police provided their priority list for additional AFZ's on 23 September. The list in order of priority is:

1. Normanton
2. City Centre Area
3. Mickleover
4. West End/Darley

The Council has started to progress the Normanton designation. The first stage involves asking the Police to:

- comment on the extent of the AFZ
- provide details of recorded incidents in the area.
- Provide a written assessment of the need for an AFZ in the area

It usually takes at least six months to designate an AFZ and the Council can only deal with one designation at a time because of staff resources. Mickleover is third on the list and therefore we are unlikely to start the process of designation for Mickleover before summer 2005. It is also dependant on funds being available as part of the 2005/06 budget process.

Responsibility

Inspector Gary Parkin, Pear Tree Police Station, telephone 222184.
Stuart Leslie, Chief Legal Officer, Corporate Services, telephone 255450

6. Ref: 404021– Speeding, Blagreaves Lane / Stenson Road – received 19.05.04

Issue

A member of the public asked about speeding on Blagreaves Lane and Stenson Road, and suggested that 30mph signs are painted on the roads, stating that this is an effective way to slow down traffic.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

It was reported that each year the Council prepare a programme of engineering based casualty reduction schemes. By their very nature collisions are rare and random. Consequently we focus on those sites with high numbers of casualties and in particular sites where people have been seriously injured or killed, typically over a three year period. By examining police files we would identify whether or not there were any collision trends or common factors. Further site studies and investigations would identify engineering solutions and their cost effectiveness. These would then go forward into future programmes subject to approval by the Council's Cabinet.

In addition to engineering measures we carry out road safety education, training and publicity campaigns with other partners such as the health trust and police. These aim to change the behaviour of road users. During September we are carrying out our annual speed awareness campaign to target speeding and inappropriate driving. This includes erecting high visibility roadside posters throughout Derby and Derbyshire coupled with local radio messages. Posters have been erected on The Hollow and Blagreaves Lane.

We are also working with local schools, parents and residents to improve routes to schools. A key issue of this programme is to improve accessibility, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. As part of the drainage and maintenance work at The Hollow we have installed the missing footway linking to Blagreaves Lane. Works are also well underway at Ridgeway, Gayton and St George's Schools and we are looking to carry further improvements later in the year and next year.

In light of the recent tragic events on Blagreaves Lane the Council's Accident Investigation Team is undertaking a review of road injury collisions. We will report our findings to the next area panel meeting.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Report findings of review.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

In response to concerns from the local community over road injuries, including a recent fatality, the Council's Accident Investigation Team have completed a review of Blagreaves Lane and The Hollow from Hillsway to Stenson Road.

During the latest available three year period from August 2001 to July 2004 there were 27 reported Road collisions over a 1.9km length of road. This excludes the recent fatality, which is still under investigation by the police. Of these, six involved serious injuries and the remainder resulted in slight

injuries. An analysis of casualty information shows that:

- 15 pedestrians were hurt
- four cyclists and one motorcyclist were hurt
- ten children were hurt whilst walking or riding their bicycles
- three elderly pedestrians were hurt.

The collisions were generally spread over the length of road mostly occurring at junctions. An analysis of the collisions does not identify any single dominant factor at a particular location. Recent speed readings have been commissioned but are not yet available.

Without traffic speed data it is felt inappropriate to make any further recommendations at this time. We will report back to the panel when our investigations are fully complete.

Work is however taking place at local schools to help develop school travel plans. Travel plans Consider journeys to and from school and look at ways to encourage more sustainable transport choice. As part of this programme, changes are planned on school routes to improve safety and remove barriers to movement.

We are looking at providing new pedestrian crossings close to the three locations on Blagreaves Lane and The Hollow where school crossing patrols operate. This would help provide pedestrian facilities throughout the day and help pedestrians gain precedence over traffic at busy times. Design work is at an early stage but subject to funding and consultation, works could commence early in the new financial year.

Responsibility

Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715019.
Nicola Jaggars, Traffic Manager – Traffic Management Schemes, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 716074.

7. Ref: 404025 – Planning Application at East Midlands Airport – received 19.05.04

Issue

A resident asked if the Council would be responding to the East Midlands Airport runway expansion planning application and whether the Council will have a permanent watching brief over future developments. He stated that the airport have said the extension would not make any difference to the volume of air traffic.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

The Airport's planning application for a runway extension was originally submitted to North West Leicestershire DC- NWLDC, in 2000. The City Council was consulted on a supplementary report to the Environmental Statement supporting that application. The City Council submitted a response to the Environmental Statement to NWLDC on 20 May 2004. Officers at the District Council have indicated that they are seeking more information from the applicants and that it is likely to be some time before the application is determined. The District Council has been asked to keep the City Council informed regarding progress. Airport development generally can be monitored through the Council's membership of the Airport Strategic Development forum.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

A written question was submitted at the meeting, asking the Council to send further representations to Nottingham East Midlands Airport regarding the operational changes to the west side of Derby to reduce noise impact, especially at night. Additional supporting notes were also provided.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

It was confirmed that Neil Robinson would attend the next Area Panel meeting on 17 November

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

There is nothing new to report on the planning application and are waiting for updates from NWLDC.

The Council recently received a copy of the consultation document on Controlled Airspace proposals and Julian DeMowbray will coordinate the Council's response. This is part of the extended consultation exercise because a number of organisations, including Derby City Council, were omitted from giving a response first time round.

The notes provided by the resident have been forwarded to Julian de Mowbray who will consider them when the Council response to the Controlled Airspace proposals is produced. However, the Council encourages all residents to respond directly to Nottingham East Midlands Airport with their own views about the proposals. The deadline for responses is 10 January 2005 and a copy of the response will be available from Julian DeMowbray after 10 January.

Neil Robinson is attending the meeting on 17 November to present information about Nottingham East Midlands airport and to respond to questions.

Responsibility

Rob Salmon, Head of Plans and Policies, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 255020
Julian DeMowbray, Group Leader Pollution Control, Environmental Health, telephone 715228

8. Ref: 404031 – High Kerb on City Hospital Island, A516 – received 21.07.04

Issue

A resident was concerned about the way part of the City Hospital roundabout was reconfigured during the improvements last year. He explained that many people had complained about the dangerous feature towards a corner of the island, as you head out of town to Micklegate. He had complained to the Highways Agency but nine months later the feature is still there and many vehicles have been damaged. He asked the panel to resolve the problem before serious injury occurs.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

It was reported that the Highways Agency had been contacted by letter in March 2004, by e-mail in August and several times by telephone but with no response to the complaints about the kerb.

However, on 16 September an officer spoke to the Highways Agency and they agreed to arrange a site meeting. This meeting will establish when the remedial works will be completed.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

A representative from the Micklegate Action Group informed the panel that following discussions at the last meeting, and subsequent disturbances, he wrote to the Highways Agency, and has received a response, which stated that they maintain that the safety review is still active, and that the City Hospital will pick up the cost of the agreed actions to be taken.

He raised his concern that this issue was first raised in October 2003 and that nothing has yet been done when it should have been a very quick job.

The letter received was passed to Councillor Allen.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Councillor Allen confirmed that Councillor Care had been in contact with the Highways Agency. He also clarified the difference between the Highways Agency and the Council's Highways Department. It is the Highways Agency who are responsible for resolving this issue.

Councillor Care agreed to continue pressing for action.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

To investigate progress.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

Carol Davies from the Highways Agency has informed the Council that South Derbyshire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust - SDAHNT - have instructed their consultants Waterman Burrow Cropper to prepare sketches for a number of outstanding works around the traffic island. Once these have been finalised SDAHNT will arrange for their contractors to complete the work before Christmas 2004. They will keep us informed of progress.

The hospital and the Health Authority have met to discuss the proposals.

Responsibility

Paul Hather, Development Control Technician, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715153

9. Ref: 402034 – Anti Social Behaviour, Mickleover – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A resident informed the panel about a specific case of antisocial behaviour that has been taking place for a number of months involving one property in Mickleover. The panel were asked what the Council could do to help residents tackle the issue of antisocial families and what it can do about unscrupulous private landlords, who do not care who they rent their houses to.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Three other residents attended the meeting and confirmed that many incidents of antisocial behaviour had taken place. They confirmed that they are already working with the Antisocial Behaviour Team and discussions have taken place about an antisocial behaviour order.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Councillor Winter confirmed that she was already aware of this issue, and that other agencies need to be involved to help resolve it.

Councillor Care mentioned that the Derby Mediation Service may be able to help with this issue.

Councillor Allen advised the residents to continue working with Councillor Winter and that they could contact Richard Smail who would help the residents in anyway possible. With regard to the antisocial behaviour order, Councillor Allen stated that it will take time and a lot of courage from the residents to put it in place.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

To report on what can be done by the Council and other organisations to tackle antisocial behaviour involving individual families especially those living in private rented property.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

Derby now has the benefit of a small dedicated team, completely focussed on solving Anti Social Behaviour-ASB issues by adopting a problem solving methodology. The Derby Community Safety Partnership ASB Team was created in April 2002 in direct response to complaints of ASB reported in the City. Their work involves changing the behaviour of the offender, supporting the community and changing physical locations that are 'hotspots' for disorder.

The ASB Team has been highly effective in reducing ASB caused by a small number of individuals and continue to make progress in reducing crime and importantly the fear of crime in communities across the city. The ASB Team acts on referrals made by agencies such as the Police and Derby Homes, but does not get involved in neighbour disputes that are more suited to mediation.

As well as supporting the creation of the ASB team specifically to support communities tackle ASB, the Council has other ways of supporting residents in properties that are rented from a private landlord. Residents can contact the Council's Housing Standards Team if they want advice or to complain about living conditions such as overcrowding or disrepair in a private property, telephone 255160 or if its about landlord/tenant issues telephone on 716492. If the complaint is about a property managed by a statutory landlord, the complaint needs to go directly to the landlord.

The Council's Housing and Advice Service also coordinates the Landlords Forum that aims to share good practice and improve standards. However it is a voluntary forum and tends to attract the better landlords and letting agents. The new proposed Housing Bill will introduce a mandatory Licensing Scheme, for larger Houses in Multiple Occupation of three storeys and above, that will be introduced in September 2005. The Housing Bill will also allow Councils to develop their own Licensing Schemes for specific areas of the city.

Other complaints relating to a private property such as noise, pollution or accumulation of rubbish, need to be made directly to the Council's Environmental Health section.

Responsibility

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

10. Ref: 402035 – Building Development, Mickleover Royal British Legion, Station Road – raised 29.09.04

Issue

The Acting Group Scout leader for the 124 Derby, Mickleover Scout Group, raised concern on behalf of the Guide and Scout Groups associated with the Royal British Legion on Western Road, Mickleover.

They asked the Council, as representatives, to organise a public meeting with the British Legion Club and their developers to which all interested parties could put their questions forward. He also requested the Panel's view on this development.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

It was confirmed that a petition signed by 800 plus people, would be presented at the next meeting.

A resident confirmed that the British Legion had not approached any youth organisations about this development, and he asked the panel if somebody could approach the British Legion and act on their behalf. He was concerned that the conditions being imposed on them could not be accommodated and would result in the scout hut closing.

He informed Councillor Allen that the builders had requested that the scout leader attend a meeting. He also mentioned that at a previous meeting the plans were presented, but were not up for discussion. This was backed up by another resident, who stated that there had been very little opportunity for open discussion with the people of Mickleover.

Another resident supported the Scout Group, stating that this area was one of the only open spaces in Mickleover, enjoyed by large numbers of people participating in youth group activities. She commented that no youth groups had been assured that they would be provided with like for like accommodation in the new building. She was worried that they would have to look for new premises.

She commented that the development would affect the infrastructure of Mickleover including Western Road becoming busier, an increase in the number of children wishing to attend local schools, and would add further strain on already busy doctors practices. A written report expressing concerns was submitted to the Panel.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Councillor Hird confirmed that she had attended a meeting arranged by the British Legion Club.

Councillor Allen reported that the Council cannot determine what the owners do with the site, although he agreed that it was not good for relationships to treat people like this.

Councillor Care stated that it was likely that the owners have actually negotiated a deal about the land. She explained that is likely the detailed application would come in from the builders and so would recommend talking to the builders. She advised the scout leader that it would be helpful to have knowledge of what is included in the local plan, and local plan review, as both documents will give statements about community facilities. She also encouraged him to speak to the Planning Officers.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004
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To update on the proposals.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004
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No planning application has been submitted to the Council as at 2 November 2004. We need an application to be submitted before we can accommodate objections. People need to view the details of the application and the mitigating comments that are likely to be made on behalf of the application before making objections to the Council.

Responsibility

Paul Clarke, Group Leader – Development Control and Land Searches, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 255935.

11. Ref: 402036 – Post Office closures – Normanton Lane – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A local resident raised objections over the closure of the Normanton Lane post office, but was particularly concerned why the post box outside the post office would be removed when the office closes. She asked what would happen to the 2 pm Sunday collection, which is the only one available in the area. She stated that the Post Office had referred her to the Royal Mail, but they had not provided a response.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Councillor Carr stated that he too was concerned about the removal of the post box, and could see no justification in moving this. He informed the residents that the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commission have been tasked to look at these issues, and they have been specifically asked to look at retaining this particular post box.

Councillor Troup informed the meeting that an investigation day was taking place where all information on the effect of the closures on the city would be collated. This would then be passed on to the Post Office. He emphasised that the Council are very concerned about the effect of these closures.

Councillor Allen referred the public to the bulletin provided at the meeting, which gives details of contact officer for this issue. He encouraged residents to make their representations to them, and also to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission Officer – Rob Davison.

It was reported that at the recent full Council meeting – all members voted for a motion to engage in more consultation.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Update on Council response.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

The post box outside Normanton Lane post office may have to be removed if the post office closes because the property and land at the front is privately owned. If the property is converted back into a private residence and the owner does not agree to having a post box in their front garden, the box will have to be removed.

In response to the Post Office closures the Councils' Scrutiny Management Commission met on 1 October and agreed a recommendation that:

1. Post Office Limited be requested to defer a final decision on National Reinvention for the City of Derby for a six month period to enable the City Council, Derby Homes, Local Strategic Partner Agencies, Royal Mail and Post Office Limited to work jointly to give full and active consideration to serious alternatives to closure, including alternative means of local service delivery. Such as a) the co-location of Post Offices in local housing offices or vice versa or

shared use of neighbourhood bases, b) the investigation of a secure mobile facility for the Greater Derby area, c) satellite services provided by a full time peripatetic Post Master / Mistress visiting various sites, such as community halls, on a regular basis.

2. The Council's Leader, Deputy Leader and Opposition Leader jointly seek an urgent meeting with Post Office Limited to take this proposal forward.

The Post office has responded and turned down the request for an extension to the consultation period. They have stated there will be no extension and confirmed that 13 post offices will close in Derby including Normanton Lane.

Responsibility

Rob Davison, Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer, Corporate Services Directorate, telephone 255596.

12. Ref: 402037 – Road safety – Havenbault Lane, Littleover – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A resident of Havenbault Lane informed the panel that they had recently formed the Havenbault Area Road Safety Campaign Group, as they were concerned about the increase in speeding traffic and heavy goods lorries. She commented that the only time the road was quiet, was when it was at a total stand still.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Another resident also questioned what had happened to the speed limit signs, and the HGV 7.5 tonne limit signs, as they had disappeared.

Along with this, concern was raised about the increase in HGVs using the road as a thoroughfare and not for access purposes.

They informed the panel that discussions had already taken place with Councillor Care, who had informed them that they need more accidents before any traffic calming measures can be taken – which was quite concerning.

They asked the Councillors for their support with this issue.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Councillor Allen confirmed that other local residents had been in touch, and as a result he has spoken to the Police who have assured him that more routine patrols will be carried out on the road. He explained that the volume of the problem won't be addressed by this, and therefore need to look at highways improvement. He agreed that this was a problem area.

Councillor Care explained that the Council reviews the priority areas, to put together a work programme for the following year. She too agreed that this was a problem area, and that it was also a route for schools. She confirmed that the road signs had been taken down.

Councillor Allen requested that the issue of HGVs using the road as a thoroughfare be taken to Sergeant Daines, and also a Highways Officer. He also requested a full report at the next meeting.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

To investigate and update on any action being taken to tackle the speed of traffic and the number of heavy goods vehicles using Havenbault Lane. To confirm why there is now no weight limit signs.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

The 7.5 tonne weight limit signs indicate a weight restriction imposed for environmental reasons rather than for a structural problem with a road or bridge. This type of restriction covers the majority of residential roads within the City and has been introduced to keep large vehicles on the most appropriate roads across the City. On most roads however access by Heavy Goods Vehicles will always be required for delivery wagons to local shops, refuse vehicles, skip wagons to residential properties and to service local businesses, so an 'except for access' clause is generally built into these types of Traffic Regulation Order. This Order is reliant upon enforcement by the Police but it is often difficult to distinguish between local HGV's and HGV's using a road as a through route. Tesco

lorries and Petrol tankers could be accessing Uttoxeter Road, which is within the environmental weight restriction itself, so they can legitimately use Havenbault Lane.

We are not aware of the 'No Heavy Goods' sign mentioned, that used to be at the end of Havenbault Lane, but can only imagine it was an advisory sign with no legal standing.

We have written to Tesco's to ask if they can use a more appropriate route especially in the early hours. We are also working on a Freight map with Derbyshire County Council, which highlights the City's weight restrictions and the most appropriate routes for HGV's to enter the City. We hope this will lead to some improvements.

Inspector Parkin has confirmed that he has spoken to residents in the Safety Campaign Group and set up an ongoing dialogue. The Police are aware of the issue and have arranged to monitor the situation.

Responsibility

Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715019.
Inspector Gary Parkin, Pear Tree Police Station, telephone 222184.

13. Ref: 402038 – Bus Services - Arriva – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A written question was submitted by a resident asking what the Council intends to do about the poor service and state of buses provided by Arriva.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

To provide an update.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

Derby City Council has no direct control over the operation of Arriva buses in the Derby area. The Traffic Commissioner for this area oversees all local bus operations. Any resident with a concern about a specific example of poor service can contact the Traffic Commissioner directly at:

The Clerk to the Traffic Commissioner
Hillcrest House
386 Harehills Lane
LEEDS
LS9 6NF

We have written to the resident who raised the issue.

Responsibility

Chris Niblock, Public Transport Co-ordinator, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715045.

14. Ref: 402039 – Pavements and Kerbs, West Drive, Mickleover – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A written question was submitted by a resident who was concerned about the state of the pavements and kerbs along West Drive. He stated that at several places along West Drive, the kerbs are at or below the level of the road surface. The pavements are also very uneven and have been badly repaired. A great deal of elderly people live on West Drive, and some of them now walk on the road to avoid the uneven pavements.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

To provide a response to the resident.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

West Drive, Mickleover has been nominated by Councillor Hilary Jones through the Councillors consultation programme for consideration for one of next year's footway maintenance reconstruction schemes. We will be investigating all the Councillors suggestions with all the other nominated sites shortly to draw up the programme for next year.

In the meantime arrangements have been made for the Highway Inspector for the area to visit the site to make sure there are no safety defects.

Responsibility

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715067.

15. Ref: 402040 – Signpost Centre – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A written question was submitted by a resident asking what was to happen to the old 'Signpost centre' on Oaklands Avenue. She stated that it was now derelict, and could be used as a centre for local young people. The premises are getting more derelict and do not help the appearance of the area.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

Sure Start have been the tenant of this property for some time - however we are unable to resume occupation until the premises have been appropriately refurbished to meet the need of our programme.

We are planning to use this as a secondary base, our main site is Homelands in Browning Street, this base will be used to provide advice and information, run small community groups for families with children under 4, such as play and stay, child health clinic, toy library, parent action group and other groups/activities as identified by the local community.

We hope that this base will improve the access to Sure Start by those families not living closer to Homelands.

We are aware there are issues regards to current state of the property and lack of occupancy, however there have been delays to the refurbishment initially due to tight deadlines and delays involved with the refurbishment of Homelands.

An exact start date for the project is not yet known, an update will be provided when further information is known.

Responsibility

Christine Smith-Read, SureStart

16. Ref: 402041 – Speed Limits, Pastures Hill – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A written question was submitted by a resident asking who was responsible for setting speed limits. He asked why the speed limit on Pastures Hill is 40mph, when it goes through a residential area and past three schools. He asked if there was any possibility that the speed restriction be reduced on Ryknield Road / Pastures Hill to 30 mph.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

As part of the five year Local Transport Plan we have identified the need to carry out improvements on the Pastures Hill/Ryknield Road/Burton Road transport route. This includes the need to improve safety, review speed limits, promote walking, cycling and public transport use as alternatives to the car, improve routes to schools and manage congestion.

We are currently studying the options together with comments made by local residents at previous consultation exercises. Once we have developed the issues further we will talk to local residents and interested parties so that a programme of improvements can be developed.

Responsibility

Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715019.

17. Ref: 402042 – Excess Water, Field Rise – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A written question was submitted by a resident raising concern about the excess water which will freeze across Field Rise. He stated that it was surface water which runs down from the Radleigh development in Rowley Lane. He informed the Council that the two bollards by No 56 have now been removed, and he is concerned that it will now be used as a thoroughfare. This has been raised with Dennis O'Neill who is investigating, and Councillor Lucy Care is also aware of the problems.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

To provide a response.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

This complaint was directed to highways maintenance as it appears to be relating to water flowing onto the highway from private land - the private land in question is not part of any new development and therefore Highways are not directly responsible. It may be that the water originates from other private land which borders the land which abuts the highway and this means that we have no way of controlling the initial discharge and can only chase the owner of the land abutting the highway.

We are checking the ownership of the bollards which have been removed and Maintenance have been asked that if they are within the highway, then they will take action.

Responsibility

Dennis O'Neill, Head of Engineering Design, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715150.

18. Ref: 402043 – Proposed phone mast, Moorway Lane / Stenson Road – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A number of residents raised their concern and informed the panel of their objections to the proposed phone mast on Moorway Lane. A petition is being put together. Residents asked for support from the councillors to prevent this happening.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Residents informed the panel, that it wasn't particularly the mast itself that was concerning them, but the base off the mast, which would measure six feet wide by six feet high, which would obscure the vision of traffic users, as they would not be able to see oncoming traffic. This was supported by a number of residents at the meeting

Another resident explained that in the last two months everyone should have received documents from the Government about what to do in an emergency. The booklet tells people to go in doors and listen to the radio – surely the installation of mass would encourage terrorist activity?

Concern was also raised around the danger to local children, as the siting was near to local schools, as well as being visually intrusive to residents.

A resident, informed the panel that she had received a letter from Paul Clarke, which stated that the only argument taken into account was the height and siting, and was considered to be an intrusion to local houses. The panel were asked to give their views on the siting and design of the mast.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Councillor Allen informed the residents that he had spoken to the Planning Officer about this proposal, but unfortunately the Council have limited powers to do anything, as legislation requires that the people installing mass, only have to provide a signed certificate stating that it complies with current health standards, and therefore do not have to gain planning permission. Councillor Carr reported that anything above 15 metres would need planning permission. He went on to explain that the Council can only influence the siting and design, but not the actual existence.

Councillor Winters informed the residents that she has been in contact with people who have run actions groups in the plat to influence sitings, and would be happy to pass this through to the residents. She asked residents that if they had any information from other successful areas, to pass it through to the Area Panel Manager.

The panel agreed with the residents, stating that they too were against this proposal, particularly in terms of its siting and design, and on the grounds of health and safety.

Councillor Care reported that she is a member of the planning control committee, and would be making a decision on the Councils comments, but invited public objections to come in.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Provide an update on the application for a mast.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

The application for the mast has been turned down.

Responsibility

Paul Clarke, Group Leader, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 255935.

19. 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.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Officers have welcomed the submission of the petition and recognise the importance of completing a thorough investigation of the request. The investigation will involve work to identify potential sites, consider possible sources for funding and include consultation. It is anticipated that this work will take between 12 and 18 months. The request is linked to other recent requests for information about facilities on open spaces in the Area Panel 4 area and it is proposed that a presentation to draw together these issues is made to the Area Panel 4 meeting on 17 November.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

A member of the public asked whether the estimated time was for investigative work, or actual build. She thought that this was a very long time to wait, particularly for the young people who want the facilities now.

There are open spaces that could be made available.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Richard Smail confirmed that the timeframe reported was for the investigation work, and explained that there was no allocation of time for the actual build.

Councillor Allen agreed with the residents, but explained that the Council have to go through planning permission through the land owners. He confirmed that the Council do not have all the pace yet to create the green open space.

He went on to explain that if Councillor Officers identify council owned land, then the process would be much quicker, but it still has to go through consultation with members of the public. He assured residents that this would be pushed to get through as quickly as possible.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Update at the next meeting as part of the presentation.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

There is a presentation as part of the agenda at the Area Panel meeting on 17 November that will include an update on progress with the skateboard park request. It is proposed that Parks will look at the provision of wheeled sports facilities as part of the strategic provision of outdoor youth facilities in the City.

Responsibility

David Finn, Head of Youth Services, Education Services, telephone 716956
Andrew Morgan, Landscape and Development Officer, Commercial Services, telephone 715547

20. Ref: 402015 – Petition- Bendall Green Play Area – raised 26.06.02. Petition received on 7.04.04 and second petition received on 21.07.04

Issue

This issue was first raised in June 2002 highlighting the poor state of repair of the Bendall Green play area and requested a programme of improvements. A petition signed by 114 residents was received on 7 April 2004 against any proposals to install a youth shelter on Bendall Green. A further petition was received on 21 July 2004 containing 211 signatures, stating that local residents do not want a sports wall, just goal posts.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Bendall Green Play Area was identified by the Council as one of the priority play areas for refurbishment in 2004/05 and capital funding has been approved. The funding will act as match funding to secure funding from Living Spaces, Landfill Tax Credit and other sources.

The proposed programme is:

April 2004	Submit Planning Application and bid for funding from Living Spaces and Landfill Tax
June 2004	Planning Permission for scheme
Nov 2004	Start on site
April 2005	Scheme complete

Funding identified:

Section 106 money	Approximately £30,000.
Derby City Council	£25,000 approved
Derby Homes	£3,000 approved
Landfill Tax Credit	£14,000 to be applied for
In kind and voluntary contributions	£1,000 to be confirmed
Living Spaces	£25,000 to be applied for

All the funding raised locally will be spent on providing the new play equipment.

It was reported that local Councillors had visited Bendall Green, and in response to the local views and the petition, the Council have now reconsidered its proposals for Bendall Green, and it has been decided to install:

- a new younger children's playground and litter bin
- a pathway from Grovebury Drive to Bendall Green
- a dual-purpose dog and litter bin.

As many people had asked for a facility for teenagers it has also been decided to provide one elsewhere in the Blagreaves ward. However, the Council's application for Living Spaces funding has been rejected because the fund received too many applications, therefore the funding sources will have to be reviewed and the details will be reported to the area panel meeting in November.

As a consequence of this decision it is not possible to go ahead with other new pathways, the knee rail fencing and new lighting. We will start considering possible options for this facility in early 2005.

Residents were informed of the decision about the refurbishment of the play area on Bendall Green in August 2004. The work should start on Bendall Green early in 2005.

A presentation about the Millennium Park will be made at the meeting on 17 November 2004.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

A representative from Bendall Green Community Voice informed the panel that there had only been 40 letters sent out to those residents whose homes face the park, and yet there were over 200

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names on the petition. A local resident asked about the process of consultation, stating that he lives one pavement away from the Green but had not received any consultation.

One resident asked the panel if the plans could be made available in the public library, to give all residents the opportunity to see them. Questions were also raised regarding the actual funding available to Bendall Green development. Issues were also raised about safety and antisocial behaviour now that the new footway would not have new lighting installed, even though it was felt funding was previously secured for this.

Requests were made for clarification on the amount of Section 106 funding available. A resident informed the meeting that they understood £61,000 of Section 106 funding allocated in 1997 had remained unspent. Could this be used for lighting facilities?

Residents were concerned that the funds that were available to the Bendall Green area, would now be used on the Heatherton Community Centre development, which they believe is outside the area. They asked the panel for a report to be brought to the next meet to clarify what money has been sourced.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Councillor Care informed the residents that the planning department follow specific guidelines on planning applications, which are different to consultation guidelines and issues. She did agree to check that the Planning Officers had followed those guidelines.

Richard Smail, Area Panel Manager, acknowledged that the update did not give full details of funding, but explained that this was a complex issue. The funding for the park has changed because the plans are now different from the original proposals. He referred residents to page 32 of the update report that listed the funding originally identified. He confirmed that as yet, it was not clear exactly which sources could be used to fund Bendall Green, and stated that there would be more details at the next meeting in November.

With regard to the lighting issues, Councillor Troup confirmed that there was not enough funds to provide lighting at this point in time.

Councillor Allen asked residents to share their information and apologised for any lack of response to requests for information. He encouraged them to copy all future correspondence to the area panel manager, so that a response could be chased if necessary. Councillor Carr confirmed that funding for Heatherton Community Centre had been secured for some time.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Update on progress and funding.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

The planning application has been submitted for the play area and new footpath. The scheme is now out to tender.

Regarding the funding, we are still seeking alternative funding to make up a potential shortfall following our unsuccessful bid to Living Spaces for £25,000. There is £15,000 Section 106 money from the Children's Hospital development. We have also asked for £17,000 from Section 106 from the Swarkestone Drive development. This money is available for community facilities and open space and the Council has decided first call is for community facilities. We are seeking confirmation that the £17,000 has been agreed for open space.

Responsibility

Ken Richardson, Parks Officer, Commercial Services, telephone 716646
Sue Phillips, Funding Officer, Commercial Services, telephone 715826

21. Ref: 402044 – Petition – Opposing ball games on Weavers Green, Mickleover – received 29.09.04

Issue

A resident on Weavers Green raised concern over groups of teenage boys continually playing football on and around the green. They informed the panel that their language is foul, they litter the area, and residents also receive lots of verbal abuse. As a result, a petition was being handed in requesting a 'no ball games' sign be erected.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

It was reported that 18 of the 20 houses have signed a petition for a 'no ball games' sign to be erected on the green. It was explained that one house was empty, and the other household who did not sign the petition, have in fact sent a letter of support to this petition.

Another resident stated that the children do not actually live on the green, and that is why they are objecting. The green is always full of litter, and bushes and gardens are being ruined. Another resident informed the panel that their door and windows had been broken by the children playing football. When they asked them to be careful they received verbal abuse. He stated that in some cases the children were out playing football until 11.30 pm.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Richard Smail confirmed that the petition had been sent to Derby Parks and the Officers have apologised for missing the deadline for a written response. Councillor Allen asked residents to give Richard the information regarding timings.

Councillor Care asked if the Youth Service had been involved with this, and if not, requested that they too look into this.– has the youth service had any involvement with this. Ask them to look into this too.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Update on action taken to address the problem

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

Derby City Parks has now been in contact with the lead petitioner and it has been confirmed the problems have substantially subsided recently.

The Park Rangers have also been monitoring the site and very little usage of the site by teenagers has been reported and no anti social behaviour was witnessed on the visit. Details of the Park Ranger's office telephone number have been given to the lead petitioner in case these problems reoccur.

Youth Services have also been contacted by Derby City Parks and made aware of the situation and will be contacting the lead petitioner so local youth workers can also monitor the situation and take any action if necessary.

Responsibility

Ken Richardson, Parks Manager, Commercial Services, telephone 716646

22. Ref: 402045 – Petition - Request for pedestrian crossing, Station Road – raised 29.09.04

Issue

A petition was received requesting a pedestrian crossing on Station Road. The lead petitioner, who was the parent of a child who was injured on this road, raised a concern that Miller Homes intend to build another 500 homes, which will ultimately result in more children using the road. After correspondence from Ian Wallis from Traffic Management, he stated that the counts had shown that there was insufficient use.

Action reported at the meeting on 29 September 2004

She informed the panel that parents are now driving their children to school, to make sure they get their safely, which is not helping the issue at all.

Councillor Hird was asked what had happened to previous petitions that had been received. The road is one mile long, with only one crossing, and traffic volumes are continually increasing.

Public response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

None.

Council response at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Councillor Allen requested that an investigation is completed and a report brought to the area panel when it is completed.

Councillor Hird confirmed that the Crossing patrol person had retired and it had proved very difficult to recruit to the post. She has since made several enquiries about what can be done to get a crossing. She too expressed her concern about the problem and agreed to support this petition.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004

Update on response to the petition.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 17 November 2004

We have written to the petitioners to acknowledge receipt of the petition. It is not yet clear when the investigations will be concluded. However we recognise the sensitivity of local concerns and will give the work as much priority as we are able to.

If we are not able to conclude investigations by the January meeting we will update the Area Panel on progress.

Responsibility

Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715019.