

**AREA PANEL 1 COMMUNITY ISSUES – UPDATE REPORT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
5 SEPTEMBER 2007**

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1. Ref: 106007 – Croft Wood Railway Line Improvements, Derwent – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

John Holmes, Derbyshire County Council, telephone 01629 580000

Issue:

A resident reported that the Croft Wood area still suffers from use by off road motorbikes even after the efforts put in by the Police and other partners over the past 15 months. While enforcement measures still need to be planned, he suggested that a longer term solution could rest with reclaiming the area as an amenity for local residents and walkers. He asked if members of the area panel would work with local residents to achieve this.

Previous key points / action taken:

January 2006 - Councillor Rawson approved the suggestion and agreed that all three Derwent Councillors would support residents to take the idea forward. He felt more local residents needed to be involved and he would take advice from officers.

David Slinger, Team Leader - Natural Environment in Regeneration and Community has contacted John Holmes, of the Southern Derbyshire Countryside Service at the County Council based at Shipley Country Park to inform him of the interest local people have in resolving the issues in Croft Wood.

John Holmes confirmed that the County Council has been trying for some years to create a surfaced path along this stretch of the old railway, eventually linking to Ilkeston.

The stumbling block on the first section has been the ownership of a short section of the track, just north of Croft Wood by Leigh Environmental, now Onyx. John Holmes indicated that the County Council are trying to acquire this section of track bed which would allow them, hopefully next financial year, to start discussing a scheme to improve the path along the first section from the Paddock Pub to Breadsall.

It is not clear how the scheme would be financed but there is a possibility some of it could be funded through Local Transport Plan monies.

The Council own the first section of the track and as one way to overcome the issue of off road riding it has been suggested that as part of any scheme one solution may be to use selective felling as part of woodland management. This could involve placing selected hurdles down before putting a path in. To be effective it needs to be done in consultation with Erewash Borough Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as Croft Wood is an important designated wildlife site.

David Slinger informed John Holmes of the considerable interest in local joint action to enhance the area and the need for plenty of consultation and forming of local partnerships before any plans are taken too far. John Holmes confirmed the issue and the interest of local residents would be discussed at the next County Council meeting. Updates on progress will be provided to the area panel.

The two 'No Motorcycle' signs have now been installed, one at the entrance adjacent to the Paddock Pub and one opposite Stratford Road. Parks will continue to work with the Police on enforcing no motorcycles. However, total control of access into Croft Wood is difficult as the adjacent land is in private ownership. While there is potential for local resident involvement in improving this area Parks staff resources are fully committed to other projects across the City at this stage. Once the County Council has secured a continuous route north of the city then Parks would work with local residents, other City Council Departments and the County Council to move the project forward, subject to staff

resources and work priorities at the time.

March 2006 - Councillor Rawson reported that he had met with the resident who had first raised this issue, to discuss how this could be taken forward. They would be getting together with a number of other residents to gather support, who would put something in writing to the Council. He stated that once the land has been acquired, they would be looking at applying for funding.

June 2006 - John Holmes from the County Council has confirmed that the purchase of the land along the old railway route from the City Boundary to Ilkeston is a County Council priority. This will allow a surfaced cycle route to be installed. The County Council aim to complete the purchase of the necessary land from a variety of existing landowners during 2006/7. The County Council aim to produce detailed costings for the first phase of scheme from the Paddock Public House to Breadsall village in 2007. The scheme will include the installation of access controls along the route.

Once the County Council has secured a continuous route north of the city then Derby Parks would work with local residents, other City Council Departments and the County Council to move the project forward, subject to staff resources and work priorities at the time.

September 2006 - Councillor Rawson reported that he had met with local residents, Derbyshire County Council and Breadsall Parish Council to update on progress. He confirmed that the route will be part of a cycle way and that a map outlining the proposals would be sent to the Council for comments. Councillor Rawson reported that he would make sure Oakwood Councillors were kept informed as well.

November 2006 - Councillor Rawson has received copies of the plan indicating the proposed cycle route and has forwarded copies to the Derwent and Oakwood Councillors and the resident who is representing the local residents views. Council officers have also received copies of the plan and been asked for their views on local links.

The planned work has been brought forward because the County Council has successfully purchased part of the route, near to Breadsall village, from Onyx. The whole route from Ilkeston to the Paddock Public House is now in council ownership and Engineers have now walked the route and a costed scheme is being put together.

The County Council aims to start the scheme next financial year to improve the path along the first section from the Paddock Pub to Breadsall.

March 2007 - The County Council Officer Working Party tasked with delivering this route has reconvened. Derbyshire County Council has completed purchase of the land from ONYX. The first meeting was held in December 2006. Derbyshire County Council are addressing some of the liabilities on the site this year in 2007. A detailed encroachment plan is being prepared for Breadsall. Derbyshire Consulting Engineers are preparing a costed scheme of works ahead of submission for Planning. The costed scheme will look at links to Oakwood, Little Eaton and Derby College.

June 2007 - The Working party will be meeting again in the near future.

Response on 6 June 2007

None.

Actions agreed:

Update on any progress.

Update:

This project is now known as the Great Northern Greenway. The next Working Party meeting is being arranged for late September/early October. Things are progressing well

with a possibility that some work could start on the Paddock Pub to Breadsall section this financial year. The site surveys, ecological surveys and costed schemes are underway. Note and close.

2. Ref: 107001 – Petition - Purchase of land on Kinross Avenue, Derwent – received 10.01.07

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Nick Keene, Corporate and Adult Social Services, telephone 255840

John Stewart, Principal Planner, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255934

Issue:

A petition was submitted to the panel asking for support to allow a resident to retain a fence built on land between their property and a footpath. The lead petitioner informed the panel that an application to purchase the land had been made but prior to completion of the land purchase a fence had been constructed on the land. The resident was now being asked to move the fence however the petitioners considered the fence made the area safer.

Previous key points / action taken:

January 2007 - Councillor Redfern reported that she was aware of the issue and that it was currently being progressed through the Council Complaints procedure. She agreed to contact the resident directly to help identify a solution.

March 2007 - From a planning aspect, the matter is more one of the incorporation of land into a residential curtilage. The occupier of the house adjoining the land has been advised to make an application for planning permission. This may have been received by the date of the Area panel 1 meeting on 7 March. If such an application is successful it would be appropriate for the land to be sold. This issue is currently being investigated as part of an existing complaint. Councillor Redfern has been in contact with the lead petitioner.

June 2007 – No planning application had been received as at 11 May 2007.

Put into Outstanding Issues until more information available, to report back in September 2007.

Response on 6 June 2007

None.

Actions agreed:

Update on planning application.

Update:

No planning application has been received from the resident.

It has been agreed that the best way forward to resolve the issue is sort out the planning aspect first. There is little point in negotiating terms for a sale if the land that is intended to be purchased contravenes Planning guidelines. Therefore, until a planning application was submitted and determined the issue could not be resolved. In January 2007, the resident was advised to discuss the matter with the planners and submit an application. As no planning application has been submitted it is proposed to inform the resident that unless an application is submitted before the end of September enforcement action will commence. Note and refer to Neighbourhood Board.

3. Ref: 107002 – Petition – Damage to Tiled Kerbs on Charterhouse Close, Oakwood – received 10.01.07

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

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

Issue:

A petition that had been submitted to the Council in November 2006 was presented to the meeting requesting action to replace the badly worn kerb tiles that run along the road edge and were installed in the 1980's. The cracked tiles have resulted in pieces of tiles being scattered on the road and lawns. The lead petitioner asked that the appropriate action is taken to replace them as soon as possible.

Previous key points / action taken:

January 2007 - Photos were provided that show how the kerbs have worn down. The lead petitioner explained that officers had visited the Close to view the problem.

Councillor Smalley confirmed that Councillor West has been in contact with officers.

Councillor Latham reported that other roads in Oakwood suffered the same problem and asked that they are also considered in the response.

March 2007 - A report in response to the petition was presented to the meeting confirming that the issue had been investigated. It was reported that work to replace the kerbing on Charterhouse Close was included in the list of potential highway maintenance schemes for 2007/08 as approved by Council Cabinet and that work will be carried out during summer 2007.

The lead petitioner confirmed that he had been informed of this response but wanted to discuss the detail of the planned work with an officer because he was concerned about the quality of other work completed nearby. Councillor Latham reported that the replacement kerbs would not be like for like and that officers had consulted with local residents. She agreed to make sure officers visit the lead petitioner to discuss the detail. The lead petitioner reported that he was unaware of any consultation.

June 2007 - There have been meetings on site since March 2007 including a site meeting in May to consider the options available. We are currently waiting for prices for two different kerbing solutions from our design department. We aim to inform the residents and Councillors of the outcome of the prices in the next few weeks. Note.

Response on 6 June 2007

Noted.

Actions agreed:

Update on progress with the work.

Update:

We have now received prices from the new highways contractor, McAlpine. The revised prices show that the difference in price to replace the kerbs in Charterhouse Close with special kerbs is now considerably less than with the Council's previous contractor. We therefore believe the choice of special kerbs is the appropriate way forward.

We are now discussing this year's footway resurfacing programme with McAlpine. We are

working with a completely new set of prices and we are currently calculating what schemes can be done with the money available. We will include Charterhouse Close on the list. Once we have got approval to the list we can then firm up the timetable with McAlpine for site works.

We have informed Councillor Latham and Mr Gale of the latest position. Note and close.

4. Ref: 107015 – Derbyshire Blocks, Spondon – received 06.06.07

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Wendy Jessop, Housing and Neighbourhood Manager, Derby Homes, telephone 716564
Ian Fullagar, Housing Strategy and Performance Manager, Corporate and Adult Services, telephone 255185

Issue:

A resident asked when the Derbyshire Blocks in Spondon would be demolished. He complained that the area was looking an eyesore and asked if the grass could be cut in the mean time.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 6 June 2007

Councillor Williams reported that the demolition contract had not been signed yet but it was hoped that it would be signed shortly. Councillor Williams agreed to pursue the cutting of the grass.

Wendy Jessop reported that the Community Watch Patrol were patrolling the area each night and were providing a daily update on the area.

Actions agreed:

Councillor Williams to find out if the grass can be cut.
Update on progress to demolish the blocks.

Update:

Grass cutting

Derby Homes undertake grass cutting once a month. Contractors were last due on site mid August.

Demolition update

As at 10 August, the detailed site survey has been now been completed. Documentation for Services is now complete apart from some Gas certificates due soon and the asbestos survey is complete.

As all preparatory work listed above is now almost complete we are on course to send out tenders towards the end of August, appoint a demolition contractor following on from this.

Future development of the site:

- 3 Registered Social Landlords - RSL remain involved in bidding for the Housing Project Private Finance Initiative – PFI that includes five sites across Derby. Bids were due back in August and are currently being assessed in September. The

process reduces them to just two bidders and following a further round of discussions and cost analysis with the remaining 2 bidders a partner RSL will be selected to deliver the PFI Housing Project.

- At this stage there are no finalised number of houses on site or designs while we wait for the bids from the 3 RSLs.
- The start on a new development at the Spondon site is anticipated Autumn 2008.
- Anticipated numbers for the Spondon site are 20 units for affordable rent and 30 units for market sale.
- The PFI asks for a mixture of house types across the five sites. The proposed mix of the affordable units across the Spondon site includes 1 and 2 bed flats and 2, 3 and 4 bed houses.
- Anticipated completion of the affordable units is estimated towards the end of 2009.

Please be aware that the dates and numbers for the new build properties are currently estimates and may slightly alter nearer the time. Note and refer to Neighbourhood Board.

5. Ref: 107016 – Spondon Cemetery, Spondon – received 06.06.07

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

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

Issue:

A resident reported that the grave of Colonel Lilly in Spondon Cemetery has been damaged and laid down flat. Colonel Lilly had been a Japanese prisoner of war and was of historic importance. He has spoken to the War Graves Commission about the damage and he wanted to know what the Council could do.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 6 June 2007

Councillor Williams reported that some head stones had been laid down for safety reasons and agreed to investigate the situation.

Actions agreed:

To investigate and report back

Update:

We have been contacted by a member of the family and they have asked that we stabilise the memorial upright using our stabilising bars and wood blocks. The problem is that this is only temporary and the person was not prepared to take on responsibility for the memorial. I am writing to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to see if they will take on responsibility for the memorial, however, this will take a while as we have to post notices on the grave asking anyone interested to contact us to establish that there is no one willing to take the grave on from the family. Note and close.

6. Ref: 107017 – Sitwell Street and Chapel Street Feasibility Study, Spondon – received 06.06.07

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Chris Hegarty, Senior Public Transport Coordinator, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715045

Issue:

A resident asked about the traffic feasibility study for the Sitwell Street area and asked if there would be meetings in the village hall.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 6 June 2007

Councillor Poulter reported that the feasibility study had been started and it was planned to do survey numbers of vehicles, their direction of travel and pedestrian counts. Options would be considered and the public consulted after that which could include a meeting in the village hall. Work was still in its early stages.

Actions agreed:

Update on progress with feasibility study

Update:

Survey work was completed in July. Ideas for proposed works are now being developed. Consultation on proposals will take place in the autumn. Note and refer to Neighbourhood Board.

7. Ref: 107018 – Car parking at Spondon Village Hall, Spondon – received 06.06.07

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 716090

Issue:

A resident asked if the grassed area behind Spondon Village Hall could be used for eight car parking spaces.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 6 June 2007

Councillor Poulter reported that he was well aware of the problems with parking in the area and that the suggestion had been made previously. Officers are investigating parking spaces in the village including around the village hall. He reported consultation will include talking to Spondon Community Association and the supermarket.

Actions agreed:

Update on progress with investigations on parking

Update:

This issue can be considered as part of the proposal to create a joint car park between the Village Hall and the Supermarket. However, we are still waiting for an official response from Somerfield as to their view of this proposal. Note and refer to neighbourhood Board.

8. Ref: 107020 – Road Surfacing Worcester Crescent, Derwent – received 06.06.07

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

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

Issue:

A resident asked about the resurfacing of Worcester Crescent.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 6 June 2007

Councillor Rawson explained the process used at area panels to put forward highway and transport improvements. He was not sure whether Worcester Crescent was on a list for resurfacing but would investigate..

Actions agreed:

To ask highway officers to investigate and respond directly to the resident.

Update:

Our Highways Inspector inspected Worcester Crescent in August and noted that there were areas where the surface dressing required some patching works. He has raised an order for the patching work to be done within the next 6-8 weeks. In addition, we have also raised a request for the street cleansing department to apply some weed killer. Surface dressing works were originally completed on Worcester Crescent a couple of years ago. We did request the contractor who undertook the works to return to rectify some aspects of the work. However, the contractor has not returned to Worcester Crescent. As a result, some monies have been deducted from the contractor's bill. The resident has been informed. Note and close.