

Time Started : 7.00pm
Time Finished : 9.20pm

**AREA PANEL 5
(ALLESTREE, DARLEY AND MACKWORTH WARDS)
2 FEBRUARY 2005**

Present: Councillor Webb (in the Chair)
Councillors Baxter, Gerrard, Hickson, Higginbottom, Repton,
Richards, Samra and Travis

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Jane Coates	- Constitutional Services Officer
Rachel Levy	- Constitutional Services Assistant
Michael Foote	- Deputy Chief Executive
Inspector M Critchley	- Derbyshire Constabulary
Bill Reed	- Area Panel Manager – Policy Directorate
Jason Spencer	- Constitutional and Electoral Services Manager
Philip Walker	- Assistant Director – Corporate Finance
Peter Matthews	- Derby Homes

54 members of the public were in attendance.

38/04 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Inspector Graham McLaughlin

39/04 Late Items

There were no late items.

40/04 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

41/04 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 December 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amends: 33/04 Heritage Matters, Darley Abbey, should have

been Darley Park and Rat Running-Church Lane take out 'and introduction of a toll road'.

42/04 Corporate Plan and Budget

Michael Foote, Deputy Chief Executive and Councillor Philip Hickson presented the Council's Vision and Priorities for 2005/06 and further priorities over the next three years. The presentation also included budget proposals, budget highlights, proposals for Council Tax and details of a residents' survey. The Chair thanks Michael Foote for the informative presentation and invited questions from members of the public.

Comment was made that the survey results were of no value if members of the public were unaware of the actual questions put to residents. It was also felt that a sample of 300 people was not varied or large enough to produce useful conclusions.

Michael Foote explained that, unless the nature of the questions are agreed beforehand, the result findings have to be taken on face value. He explained the SIMALTO technique used to conduct the survey. The intention of the process was to give Council Members a feel of what the people of the City want. This was the first survey of its kind, which will be evaluated and consideration given about repeating the exercise.

A member of the public asked how much the survey had cost and stated that the process undervalued the role of Area Panels.

Councillor Hickson confirmed that the survey cost approximately £10,000 and explained that it had to be statistically and demographically representative. However, he stressed that the findings were not binding on the Council.

Agreed to note the report.

43/04 Update Report

Bill Reed, Area Panel Manager introduced a report, which set out responses to questions raised verbally or in writing at the last meeting.

Parking at Markeaton Primary School

Bill Reed reported that he would take the names of residents with an interest in this issue and provide them with a copy of a consultation map, as part of the process of consultation necessary when proposing a Traffic Regulation Order.

If the order were eventually promoted, the Police would carry out introductory enforcement.

Comment was made by a member of the public that parking at schools could be mentioned in a booklet to parents.

Bill Reed referred to the City Council's existing 'Safe Routes to School' policy, which asks parents to use vehicles sparingly.

Walking Routes into the City Centre

Councillor Hickson confirmed that the BMW site had been sold to a new developer, and it did have outline permission for development and that the Council had been looking carefully at what could be done in the area.

Councillor Hickson explained that originally section 106 money attached to the Bridgegate development was to be used for the subway work. However, the Bridgegate scheme would not necessarily start in the near future and therefore the Council would fund the work. He confirmed that the subway would be filled and closed and the surface level crossing installed during the next financial year, to full mobility standards.

Councillor Hickson explained that the Council would pay for the works, and attempt to recover the Section 106 funding at a later date.

Councillor Repton stated that he was pleased that the Council were taking action on this closure.

Traffic on Park Farm precinct

Councillor Webb reported that the first stage of improvement at Park Farm Centre for disabled people's parking was underway. It was planned that the bus stop should be relocated, an adequate shelter provided and 2 or 3 disabled parking bays would be created.

A member of the public pointed out that part of the problem was due to irresponsible parking in the bus bay and disabled parking spaces and wanted to know what policing would be provided. Sergeant Critchley responded that local beat officers and traffic wardens would police the area.

Concrete Bollards, Prince Charles Avenue

Bill Reed reported that the Co-op were not able to change the delivery routes for their cash point vehicles. A member of the public asked whether the Panel could pursue the request for bollards to be installed to stop vehicles running over the kerbs.

Bill Reed agreed to investigate the possible purchase and use of locking bollards.

Speed Limits on Broadway

Bill Reed reported that the Council could not propose a change to the speed limit on Broadway. A Travel Plan was being developed which would include a range of measures designed to improve safety for children travelling to and from St Mary's School.

Pedestrian Crossing, Blenheim Drive

Bill Reed reported that a traffic count had taken place on Blenheim Drive which showed that vehicle speeds were low and there was insufficient justification for a pedestrian crossing on Blenheim Drive

Pedestrian Crossing, Mackworth Estate

Bill Reed reported that a traffic count had taken place and that there were insufficient pedestrians to warrant the introduction of a pedestrian crossing. Councillor Gerrard commented that something needed to be done to help Mackworth people cross the road safely to reach the park.

Bus Service through Morley Estate

Bill Reed reported that he was aware of some panel members' concerns about this issue. He pointed out that Arriva had stated that the new route improved bus running times and it would be difficult to reverse their decision.

Councillor Higginbottom commented that it was disappointing that past surveys were used rather than commissioning one when ARRIVA were about to close the bus service. She also commented that consultation with Members had been disappointing. Councillor Webb responded by saying that this issue was reported to the Bus Consultation Group.

A member of the public suggested there may be problems with the vehicles being too big for the roads around Mackworth and the difficulty of being unable to keep to timetables. It was agreed to seek assurances from Arriva on this point.

Garages, Darley Abbey

It was reported that seven of the nine garages were let with the two vacant ones being repaired in two weeks time. The questioner thanked Bill Reed for taking this on and keeping her informed.

Darley Abbey Post Office

Bill Reed reported that the Post Office will close on 16 February 2005.

Rat Run on Church Lane, Darley Abbey

The results of previous inquiries into rat running on Church Lane had been reported to Council's Cabinet in April 2004 and Cabinet had agreed that no further action should be taken for the time being.

A member of the public commented that there had been a reduction in speed of traffic but not the amount of traffic using the route. There was concern about the safety of pedestrians in this area.

Councillor Webb commented that this issue was under scrutiny and review.

Councillor Repton said that constituents were concerned and he requested a running report on this issue to future panel meetings.

Litter bins in Knightsbridge Recreation Ground

It was reported that funding in the next financial year for litter bins and dog litter bins was being investigated.

Lighting, Prince Charles Avenue

It was reported that highway lights have been improved as part of a comprehensive scheme to improve lights throughout the city.

Bushes, Prince Charles Avenue

It was reported that in the last few days, contrary to update, approval had been given to remove the bushes in the next few weeks.

Litter, footway St Benedict School to Broadway

Bill Reed acknowledged the problem. It was reported that the Area Panel had funded two bins and jetty cleaning.

A member of the public commented that the jetty was blinded by a floodlight at the Broadway end and passed details to Bill Reed for him to investigate.

A member of the public asked how often the jetty would be cleaned.

Bill Reed agreed to respond in writing.

Balustrade at Darley Abbey Park

The problem was acknowledged, however, there was no funding currently available.

Councillor Repton stated that he was not happy with this situation.

Petition – Parking on Penny Long Lane

Petition to be considered at a later meeting, a full report expected in April 2005.

44/04 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

Strutts' Park

A request was made for a written response about the expenditure of money on the provision of new trees in Darley Park.

Cityscape

A question was raised about the financial cost contributed by the City Council to the four major consultation exercises.

Agreed to consult the Manager of Cityscape and report back to the next Area Panel meeting.

Planning Control Committee

The reduction in time for the public to speak about their planning application from five to three minutes at Planning Control Committee was raised.

A show of hands was requested and agreed. The majority of people present were against the reduction.

Agreed that Councillor Travis report back to Planning Control and update the Area Panel at a future meeting.

Graffiti

A member of the public produced photographs of acts of graffiti.

Councillor Hickson commented that Council Cabinet intended to provide more funding and instigate legal proceedings to combat this problem. It was acknowledged that a lot of graffiti is on private property. The City Council are in negotiation with solicitors about the possibility of private owners waiving claims for damage against the Council, if their property is damaged during graffiti cleansing.

Councillor Repton expressed his concerns about this problem. He requested that senior officers be involved with financing a clean up, the

gathering of intelligence and instigating prosecutions.

Discussion took place about the use of anti-graffiti paint and the need for a more aggressive method of dealing with the problem.

A question was asked about whether or not Home Office grant assistance would be available.

Agreed to investigate the possibility of Home Office funding to combat the graffiti problem and support a more aggressive policy of dealing with graffiti.

The Council's Vision

Clarification was sought about vision statement number 2.

Councillor Hickson highlighted the need for greater funding for bus routes to entice people to use public transport. He acknowledged the need to build confidence that buses ran on time.

A question was raised about the situation in Mackworth and how that complimented the requirement to encourage the use of public transport.

Councillor Hickson commented that the Council's policy was to improve transport links, for example by creating dedicated bus lanes. He acknowledged the need to find more imaginative ways of coaxing commuters away from cars and onto public transport.

45/04 Petitions

To Consider Responses to Petitions Received

Double Parking on Oakover Drive, Allestree

A report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services was considered, which looked into the issue of parking on Oakover Drive in Allestree, which was raised through a petition. The report recommended no action be taken. It was acknowledged that residents suffer and potential hazards arise because of this issue, the imposition of waiting restrictions would cause inconvenience. It was acknowledged that students and the University are working together to address these concerns. A member of the public asked how students and the University were working together, as students had no idea about this issue and it was not advertised on the Derby University website. Bill Reed responded that the University came to Area Panel 5 two years ago with a range of measures to help combat this problem.

Agreed to invite Derby University to attend Area Panel 5 meeting

to report on the progress of the measures and to also invite the Student Union to attend to discuss communicating effectively with the students.

46/04 Health Briefing from Greater Derby and Central Derby Primary Care Trusts

A briefing paper on health services was considered.

Agreed to note the contents of the briefing paper.

47/04 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2004/05

Applications for Area Panel Funding

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

- To consider whether to support the application received from the 151st Derby Allestree St Nicholas Scout Group to fund the cost of tarmacing the drive and pathway from the church car park to the Scout headquarters – Amount requested £2,000
- To consider whether to support the application received from The Little Chester Residents Association to fund a regular news letter and informative/interactive website – Amount requested £500
- To consider whether to support the application received from the National Probation Service, Derbyshire to fund the Burdett Lodge Horticultural Development Project – Amount requested £1,423
- To consider whether to support the application received from Derby City Council Sports Development to fund the Mackworth Half Term Activity Program – Amount requested £832
- To consider whether to support the application received from Sound Bites to fund a door to door leaflet and survey drop – Amount requested - £466

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

1. To award grants to the following applications:

- 151st Derby Allestree St Nicholas Scout Group – Grant for up to £2,000 for internal work. Will not finance the whole drive, just footpath and any residual amount can be spent on internal work.

Reasons

1. It will improve accessibility for local people to the Scout headquarters
- Little Chester Residents Association – Grant for £500 for Connecting the Community – a regular newsletter and informative/interactive website

Reasons

1. The application meets the criteria for area panel funding
 2. It will promote the area and neighbourhood coordination in the community
 3. It will enable residents to participate with in their community and at area panel meetings
- Derby City Council Sports Development – Grant for £832 for the Mackworth Half Term Activity Program

Reasons

1. The application meets the criteria for area panel funding
 2. The program will enable residents to participate in the sports activities within their community.
- Sound Bites – Grant for £466 for a door to door leaflet and survey drop

Reasons

1. The application meets the criteria for area panel funding
2. The service will benefit the local community
3. The service is intended to support community participation.

To refuse a grant to the following applicant:

- National Probation Service, Derbyshire – Grant for £1,423 for the Burdett Lodge Horticultural Development Project

Reasons

This application does not meet the criteria for area panel funding as although the Project will indirectly benefit the local community its principal purpose is to rehabilitate and reform offenders who have been referred by the Probation Service.

- 3. To approve the funding of up to £1,790 to finance the additional costs of providing a suitable long lasting memorial to former Councillor Lonny Wilsoncroft on the Mackworth clock.**

Reason

The previous cost estimates had been based upon a memorial that could easily be removed or damaged by vandalism.

48/04 Arrangements for the next meeting

Agreed to note that the next meeting would be chaired by Councillor Higginbottom on Wednesday 6 April 2005 at 7.00pm at the Diocesan Centre, Mornington Crescent, Mackworth.

MINUTES END

Chair of the next ensuring meeting of this
Panel at which these Minutes were signed