

**AREA PANEL 1 COMMUNITY ISSUES – UPDATE REPORT  
BACKGROUND INFORMATION  
7 MARCH 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

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

**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.

#### **Response on 10 January 2007**

None.

#### **Actions agreed:**

Update on progress to develop the route as a cycling route to link with existing cycling routes in the city.

#### **Update:**

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. Note

**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:**

New item

**Response on 10 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.

**Actions agreed:**

Councillor Redfern to liaise with the resident.

To ask officers to investigate and report back to a future meeting.

**Update:**

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. Note.

**3. Ref: 105033 – Dangerous wall – Spondon Village Hall, Spondon – received 02.11.05**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Chris Edwards, Assistant Director - Property Services, Corporate and Adult Social Services, telephone 255070

**Issue:**

A member of the public raised concern over the dangerous wall at the rear of Spondon Village Hall and asked the panel who it belonged to and what was happening with it.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

January 2006 - The Council completed a boundary wall inspection programme in 2004 and this wall was identified as being potentially dangerous. Safety fencing was erected

immediately and further investigation carried out. Part of the wall was subsequently shored up to increase stability. In January 2005 there was a partial collapse and again the wall was stabilised and fenced off for safety. Our deeds on this wall indicate there is a shared responsibility with the adjoining property owners. A structural engineer has recently inspected the wall and we are awaiting his recommendations and quotes for the repair works. Due to the historic importance of the site, any remedial works will reinstate the wall to its original appearance even though the wall is not within the Spondon conservation area. Preliminary estimates indicate that this will be an expensive job and we will discuss a contribution towards the cost with the adjoining owners. Work will not start until the specification, quote, contributions and a budget have been confirmed.

March 2006 - Since the last area panel urgent temporary repair works have been carried out on a small section of the wall. A letter has been sent to all property owners adjoining the wall asking them to check their deeds so that we can start discussions over any split of the cost of the works. Received structural engineers recommendations and obtaining tender price for works.

Timescales: Tender documentation planned for sending out no later than Friday 17 March 06. Tender returns will be required back by Wednesday 12 April 06.

Work could commence during May 06 and duration anticipated at 2 - 3 months. But the following needs to be resolved first. All adjoining owners to have confirmed their responsibility under their own title - we have now written to them all requesting this information.

Consultation with owners over liability, extent of works and share of the cost. The works vary along the various lengths of the wall and the split will not be even and will be subject to negotiation. Considerable delays if any disputes arise.

There will be approval of funding for our share of the cost, wider public consultation as this adjoins the village hall and public car park, planning approval following consultation and agreement of the extent of works - 12 weeks. It is very difficult to estimate how long the issues above will take but we expect around 4-6 months and longer if there are any major disputes.

June 2006 - There was a delay sending out the tenders for the works. They are now due back by the end of May. Officers are chasing up the information requested from residents, as this has not all been received yet. A party Wall Surveyor will be appointed to advise on the repair works and how the costs should be apportioned. A letter was sent at the end of May to the residents adjoining the wall inviting them to a meeting on Wednesday 14 June at 6pm in the village hall. Ward councilors and a representative from Spondon Community Association have also been invited. The meeting is to consider the options following which there will be wider consultation on the preferred option.

September 2006 - The Council completed a boundary wall inspection in 2004 and this wall was identified as being potentially dangerous and was fenced off. Due to the historic importance of the site, remedial works will reinstate the wall to its original appearance. Discussions have started with all property owners adjoining the wall over any split of the cost of the works. A meeting was held on 14 July with the residents adjoining the wall. Broad agreement was reached on the way to proceed with the repairs to the wall subject to final prices on the cost of the works being agreed and legal advice on the ownership of the wall and the liability. If the Council still have Party liability then we anticipate that the works will be started in early autumn and will be completed by winter time.

November 2006 - Officers have spoken to the resident who had not received any

information since 15 July. The Council has not yet received confirmation of ownership from all of the adjoining owners. From the information supplied it would appear that the southern boundary is a party wall and the Council will joint fund either repair works or a new fence. Officers have written to those residents in October to set out the relative costs of the options to enable consensus to be reached on which option to progress. The work can then start.

The western boundary, rear of car park, is less clear cut. It appears at this stage that the wall is probably the residents' responsibility. Again, officers have written to the residents in October to seek clarification and then the Council will need to take a view on how to protect users on the Council side.

Richard Smail reported that there continues to be uncertainty about the responsibility of specific residents for their parts of the wall. It has now been agreed to split the project into smaller projects so that some work can begin on parts of the wall where agreement has been reached while we wait for information from other residents relating to their responsibilities.

January 2007 - There has been little feedback from residents following the October letter and still no clarity on ownership of the Western wall. Discussions have been held with the 2 residents adjoining the southern wall and subject to final details being clarified we are hopeful of reaching agreement early in the new year and commencing works as soon as possible.

**Response on 10 January 2007**

Noted.

**Actions agreed:**

Report back to the next meeting on progress.

**Update:**

Officers are now treating the project as three separate projects. The southern boundary, which affects two residents, is a party wall and the Council will joint fund repair works planned to start in next few weeks. The western boundary, which affects four residents, is the subject of continued negotiations about responsibility, but work is planned for summer 2007. The northern boundary, which affects two residents, is considered not in need of urgent repair work, and will be considered for work after the completion of phase 2.

Discussions and communication with individual residents are being maintained and Local ward Councillors will be kept informed of progress. Note and close.

**4. Ref: 106023 – Spondon Alcohol Restricted Zone, Spondon – received 01.11.06**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Stuart Leslie, Chief Legal officer, Corporate and Adult Social Services, telephone 255450  
Inspector Rachel Walker, Derbyshire Police, telephone 613131

**Issue:**

A resident, representing Vancouver neighbourhood Watch, asked why the existing Alcohol Free Zone - AFZ cannot be extended to south of the A52 road when funds are made available. He felt that groups of young people, up to 20 at a time, gather in the area around Vancouver Avenue and no action is taken to stop them drinking alcohol.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

This item has previously raised at the meeting in June 2006.

November 2006 - Councillor Williams reported that the issue of extending the AFZ was considered at the last Area Panel meeting where it had been agreed to wait until the Section 30 dispersal order is reviewed in 2007. She explained that there will be opportunity in 2007 to reconsider whether the Area Panel should allocate any of their funds to pay for the AFZ designation process. She explained though that where possible Spondon Councillors aim to use their funds to support Voluntary groups rather than paying for work that the Council is responsible for. The Spondon Councillors reconfirmed their support for extending the AFZ.

Sergeant Summers reported that the section 30 order is proving effective. He asked that residents report their concerns if it is to continue being effective. In response to the resident saying he had made four reports in two months the Police agreed to visit him at home to discuss further.

Councillor Poulter commented that the section 30 order had made an improvement and thanked the Police for their work.

Councillor Rawson reported that the Community Commission are considering the effectiveness of Alcohol Free Zones and Section 30 orders in Derby and will be assessing what works.

January 2007 - A letter has been sent to the resident explaining that the Alcohol Restricted Zone could be extended if there were funds available.

**Response on 10 January 2007**

None.

**Actions agreed:**

Update from Police on review of Section 30 order

**Update:**

The Police have reviewed the Spondon Section 30 order and have decided not to continue it at this time because there are just not the incidents or calls for service to justify it. The Police have met with and explained the position to the Spondon Councillors who would like the Section 30 order to continue. The Police report that the public perception is often very different to what is actually happening and therefore an article will be included in the Council newsletter to explain what other methods of policing are used and what other operations are currently ongoing in the area. The Police have confirmed that should incidents in the Spondon area become a problem again they will reconsider the Section 30 order.

Residents are encouraged to report all incidents to the Police on 0845 123 333.

The Council confirms that there is no funding currently available to introduce any more AFZ areas. Note and close.

**5. Ref: 106026 – Petition - Traffic Solutions for Chapel Street, Spondon – received 01.11.06**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

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

**Issue:**



## **Area Panel 1 – Community issues – background report – 7 March 2007**

A petition was presented, containing 308 signatures, requesting a feasibility study to try and find solutions to the traffic problems facing Chapel Street, Spondon. Photographs were attached showing the narrow section of Chapel Street at the eastern end near the White Swan, where there is either no footway or just a narrow footway that is regularly overrun by large vehicles. Problems at the western end of Chapel Street were also highlighted particularly associated with parking and the School Run, highlighting areas of footway that are overrun by vehicles.

### **Previous key points / action taken:**

November 2006 - A report was presented to the panel in response to the petition. It was noted that the petition included photographs and plans showing the areas of concern. The Road Safety Unit have been working with St Werburgh's C of E Primary School developing a School Travel Plan. Some of the issues raised by the petitioners about parking and vehicles mounting the footway, have already been raised as part of discussions with the School Travel Forum with a view to looking at the parking and waiting restrictions on Chapel Street.

The request for traffic solutions at Chapel Street has been included in the list for possible inclusion in the 2007/08 highways and transport work programme. Details are in the report titled 'Consultation on Area Panel 1 2007/08 programme of highways and transport schemes'. The final programme for 2007/08 highways and transport schemes will be presented to Cabinet for approval in February 2007. Once the final programme is approved, we will provide a further report to the area panel.

### **Response on 10 January 2007**

None.

### **Actions agreed:**

Report back on the outcome of the decision for the 2007/08 highways and transport work programme.

### **Update:**

A report appears elsewhere on the agenda, which outlines the 2007/08 highways and transport work programme as agreed by Council Cabinet on the 20 February 2007. The report states there will be an investigation, design and consultation in 2007/08. Note and close.

## **6. Ref: 107003 – Environmental issues in Spondon, Spondon – received 10.01.07**

### **Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Malcolm Price, Waste Manager, Environmental Services, telephone 716350

Craig Keen, Anti-Social behaviour Team leader, Community Safety partnership, telephone 255840

John Booth, Arboricultural Manager, Environmental Services, telephone 715485

### **Issue:**

A resident reported that graffiti, dog fouling and litter were becoming a problem in the Spondon area. He asked what could be done to try and prevent the problems escalating. He specifically referred to the need to clear up the alleyway between Arnhem Terrace and Nottingham Road where the trees also make it difficult to access. He explained that he is

aware that incidents need reporting.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item

**Response on 10 January 2007**

Councillor Williams reported that there are an excellent team of officers working in the Spondon area who need to be thanked for the work they have done. She explained that there have been successful prosecutions against those doing graffiti and that the Anti-Social Behaviour Team will be finding funding to clear up the alleyway.

Sergeant Tapp reported on the recent work being done by the new Police Community Support Officers – PCSO, working with local young people to prevent graffiti. He asked that all incidents are reported to the local Police beat officers.

**Actions agreed:**

None.

**Update:**

The Street Cleansing teams have been made aware that there are problems with litter, dog fouling and graffiti in the area. The Street Cleansing teams work in partnership with the Police and the Anti-Social Behaviour team to tackle persistent graffiti offenders. All residents are encouraged to report issues to Derby Direct on 01332 255260.

Environmental Services have visited the site and will get the low obstructing growth from the trees removed, however the council owned trees are only part of the problem. Private hedges and vegetation is also affecting the footpath and the local residents who own the vegetation are responsible for making sure that their vegetation does not impede people using the highway including this alleyway.

The Highways section has been asked to issue notices requesting that the owners remove vegetation that impedes the highway.

Note and close.

**7. Ref: 107006 – Footways and roads around Spondon, Spondon – received 10.01.07**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

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

**Issue:**

A resident complained about the state of the pavement along the east side of Locko Road from 134 Locko Road to Sancroft Road. There are no dropped kerbs, no white lines and no cats eyes. He asked if action could be taken to provide them.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item

**Response on 10 January 2007**

The resident also asked if cats eyes could be provided on Acorn Way because there are no street lights.

Councillor Berry reported that these issues have been discussed on many occasions

before and understood the resident was satisfied with the previous actions taken and responses. Councillor Poulter agreed to meet and speak to the resident about the issues.

**Actions agreed:**

Councillor Poulter to meet the resident  
Officers to respond to request for cats eyes.

**Update:**

Councillor Poulter met with the resident about the pavement on his side of Locko Road. Its general condition has been improved in part by works associated with the new cricket ground and is in no worse state of repair than others in the vicinity. A longer discussion took place regarding road safety issues on Locko Road adjacent to the entrance to the farm at Locko Park. This is outside the City boundary and Councillor Poulter is working directly with the resident and the County council to identify the options available. Highways inspectors have contacted the resident directly and have raised orders to replace the missing and damaged cats eyes on Acorn Way. Note and close.

**8. Ref: 107007 – Knee high railings on Dale road, Spondon – received 10.01.07**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

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

**Issue:**

A resident reported that the railings and wooden posts outside the shops at 111 to 121 Dale Road are broken or missing. It is possible that one of the railings was used to damage windows of the local Spondon Saddlery business. He asked that the posts and railings are repaired.

The drain outside the tanning studio on Sitwell Street was blocked.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item

**Response on 10 January 2007**

He also asked that the drain on Sitwell Street outside the Tanning Studio appears to be blocked and the resulting puddle causes pedestrians to be splashed by traffic.

Councillor Berry stated that he had previously reported the drain and because there is only one gully cleaner to cover the city there was a waiting time before action could be taken. He agreed to chase it up.

**Actions agreed:**

To investigate the railings and report back.  
To investigate progress on clearing the drain and report back.

**Update:**

Highways officers have responded directly to the resident. Orders have been raised to repair the railings by the end of February. The drain has been jetted but more work is needed with a cctv camera to investigate the causes and determine if further work is needed. Note and close.

**9. 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:**

New item

**Response on 10 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.

**Actions agreed:**

Officers to investigate and to report back to the next meeting.

**Update:**

A report responding to the petition appears elsewhere on the agenda and reports that the kerbing work on Charterhouse Close was included in the list of potential highway maintenance schemes for 2007/08. It was approved by Council Cabinet and it is envisaged that work will be carried out during summer 2007. Note and close.

**10. Ref: 107005 – Getting older people fit and healthy, all wards – received 10.01.07**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Tracey McDonnell, Principal Development Manager, Environmental Services, telephone 715659

**Issue:**

A resident asked if a presentation could be made to the area panel at a future meeting to update on progress and plans to get older people fit and healthy in mind and body.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item

**Response on 10 January 2007**

The resident followed up the question by asking if information can be provided that compares all the leisure facilities available in the four wards against the rest of the city. He

also asked if it was possible to compare how much time all the local ward Councillors and officers spent on work in the four local wards.  
Councillor Williams explained that time is not monitored in such detail and records not kept of how much time all Councillors and officers spend working in the area.

The panel agreed to arrange a talk at the next meeting to update on activity to get older people fit and healthy.

**Actions agreed:**

To invite speakers to attend the next meeting to update on activity to get older people fit and healthy.

**Update:**

A letter has been sent to the resident confirming there will be a presentation at the meeting on 6 March.

Tracy McDonnell from Environmental Services will lead the presentation at the meeting on 7 March with input from other projects/activities taking place in area 1 including Laura Ludlow from the PCT. Note and close.