



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## AREA PANEL 5 12 July 2006

Report of the Assistant Director Highways and Transport and the Director of Housing and Customer Service, Derby Homes

### Petition requesting a handrail on Well Street and repair to the St Alkmund's well

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 A petition containing 80 signatures was received in October 2005. The petition stated:

"We the residents of Strutt's Park and Rivermead House are deeply concerned about the general state of Well Street, in particular the slippery surface and the difficulties faced by everyone who uses that route to negotiate the steep hill. Well Street provides direct access for residents to all available public transport, Post Office, local shops. Park Farm, doctor, chemist and to the City Centre. We therefore ask Area Panel 5 to consider our petition for:-

- a) Repair of the well and its surroundings
- b) Installation of a handrail to create a safe route for some of the more vulnerable and infirm residents who regularly use that street."

- 1.2 St Alkmund's well at the end of Well Street is situated on land owned by Derby City Council Housing and Advice Division. The land is managed by Derby Homes on behalf of the Council. The Highways and Transport Division own the majority of the carriageway and footway of Well Street, and in particular, the footway where residents requested the installation of a handrail.
- 1.3 As the well is included on the statutory List of Buildings of Special Historic or Architectural Merit and is also situated within the Strutts Park Conservation Area, the Council's Conservation Officer has been consulted. The Conservation Area Advisory Committee has been consulted over the proposal to install a handrail.
- 1.4 The proposal to install a freestanding handrail at the edge of footpath/carriageway was considered by the Advisory Committee to be inappropriate and they requested that it be sited at the back of footpath and preferably attached to the adjacent wall. The wall is privately owned by a local resident. The resident has now agreed that a handrail can be attached to the wall and an order for installation has been raised with a contractor. It is anticipated that the handrail will be installed late summer/early autumn, before the next Area Panel 5 meeting on 4 October.
- 1.5 At the time the petition was received, one of the top slabs was missing from St Alkmund's well, and also some of the bricks were damaged on the block-paved area surrounding the well. During the night of 28/29 March 2006, the well was damaged again. Recently, the wall surrounding the well has sustained further damage. Temporary fencing has been erected around the well to protect it from receiving any more damage.

- 1.6 The Brook Street Local Housing Office Manager has submitted an order to have the well repaired using materials in keeping with the conservation status of the well. It is anticipated that the repair will be done in time for the next meeting on 4 October, provided that materials can be sourced. Consideration will also be given to the installation of further bollards along the block-paved area around the well to help prevent further damage to the well, although this is likely to require the grant of Listed Building Consent.
- 1.7 The response to repair the well has also taken into account issues of anti-social behaviour and water quality. Officers from Derby Homes are aware that residents in the area have experienced some problems with anti-social behaviour around St Alkmund's well. To help address the issue, the CCTV camera already in place at Rivermead House has been turned around to record any anti-social behaviour around the well.
- 1.8 The Community Watch Patrol and Police have been informed of the problems relating to anti-social behaviour being experienced and are working with the Brook Street Local Housing Office Manager and the concierge at Rivermead House to address the issue.
- 1.9 During the course of the investigations, the quality of the well water was tested by Environmental Health as people regularly draw water from the well. Tests showed the water to be unsatisfactory for human consumption and Environmental Health advised that steps should be taken to ensure that the water cannot be used for domestic use. A temporary sign indicating that the water from the well is not suitable for drinking has been placed on the slabs surrounding the well.

## PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 In response to the petition the following actions will be taken:
- 2.2 A handrail will be installed along the wall at the back of the footway on Well Street by late summer/early autumn.
- 2.3 The St Alkmund's well will be repaired as soon as possible with appropriate materials. Consideration will be given to the installation of further bollards around the well. An appropriate application will be made for the necessary Listed Building Consent. The area surrounding the well will also be repaired.
- 2.4 The CCTV camera already in place at Rivermead House has been turned around to record activity around the well. The Brook Street Local Housing Officer Manager, Community Watch Patrol and Police will work together to address anti-social behaviour around the well.
- 2.5 A sign informing the public that the water is not safe for drinking will be installed in due course to replace the one temporarily in place.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Michelle Spamer Telephone number 01332 715064 e-mail <a href="mailto:michelle.spamer@derby.gov.uk">michelle.spamer@derby.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	None