

Time commenced – 6.30pm
Time finished – 8.40pm

**AREA PANEL 1
(CHADDESSEN, DERWENT, OAKWOOD AND SPONDON WARDS)
28 MAY 2003**

Present: Councillor Ahern (in the Chair)
Councillors E Berry, P Berry, Bolton, Brown, Gupta, Latham,
MacDonald, Redfern, Roberts, Smalley, West

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Paul Dransfield	-	Director of Finance
Sarah Edwards	-	Area Panel Manager
John Edgar	-	Development and Cultural Services
Tony Gascoigne	-	Development and Cultural Services
Steve Medlock	-	Derby City Parks
Inspector Andy Stokes	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Lesley Walker	-	Area Neighbourhood Manager
Ray Brown	-	Development and Cultural Services

34 members of the public were in attendance.

01/03 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

02/03 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/32 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/03 Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of Area Panel 1 meeting held on 5 March 2003 be confirmed as a correct record.

05/03 Update on Progress Regarding Community Issues Raised at Area Panel Meeting

The Panel considered an update report on the progress of Community Issues raised at the last meeting. The report included details of the issues raised, various actions, progress to date and detailed which Council Officer was responsible for the issue.

Agreed to note the report.

Specific Issues

Foyle Avenue / Howth Close - Parking Issues

It was reported that a meeting to discuss the parking issues on Foyle Avenue and Howth Close was taking place at the school on 8 July 2003. Traffic Wardens and police were patrolling the area and taking appropriate action.

Newstead Avenue / Oakley Drive – Parking Issues

It was reported that a meeting to discuss this particular issue had been arranged for 23 June 2003.

Parking Problems in Cherry Tree Hill Area

It was reported that the School Travel Plan was now in place. It was also reported that a meeting took place on site, which involved Councillors Bolton and MacDonald as well as police representatives and the members of the public, present at the last meeting. It was reported that PC Rainsford was satisfied with the Officers' report and would continue to monitor the situation.

Property on Francis Street

Councillor Roberts asked for an update on this particular issue. Inspector Stokes reported that the police had received no more calls, since the last meeting.

Proposed Skateboard Park - Spondon

It was reported that there was a focussed move towards a youth club type facility. Consideration was being to a building in Sitwell Street but asbestos had been found. This was being investigated at the moment if it could not move forward then alternative premise would need to be found. A member of the public commented on skateboard facilities in the Alvaston park area, which were working well. A question was raised on whether the facility in Spondon could be extended to include a BMX track. Currently children were cycling along Raynesway to get to the facility in Alvaston. It was felt that consideration should also be given to a climbing unit with a soft surface and whether the school playing fields could be used by the general community. It was reported that a range of issues were being considered and that the Council's Funding Officer was looking into ways where funding could be found.

145th Scout Group Headquarters

It was reported that building work for this project was underway and that the Area Panel Manager was monitoring the work.

Petition – Pelican Crossing on Hampshire Road

It was reported that this was being reviewed but would probably take until July. Consultation with Area Panels had been requested by Council Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

Motorcycle Problems – Oakwood

It was reported that this was being monitored by the police, no one had been arrested in relation to this issue but offenders had been spoken to, they would apprehend any offenders. A member of the public stated that the problem was a particular nuisance, around 10pm each night. Councillor Ahern asked for off-road police bikes could be used to help the situation but it was reported that to do this a bid would need to be put in. Footpaths and alleyways were a particular problem, as many footpaths were open-ended. Steve Medlock reported that there was particular difficulty keeping bikes off parks but that the Parks Section were working with the police and the Youth Service to alleviate problems. The City Council was working with the police, in a bid to reduce the problems.

Pedestrian Crossing

A member of the public raised particular concern about double yellow lines on Willowcroft Road, as one child had been knocked down twice. The situation was made worse by three bus stops.

06/03 Public Question Time

Eco Schools

A member of the public stated that there was a need for more Eco Schools. Councillor E Berry requested that the member of the public spread the word that if they see someone dropping litter, to get them to put it in the bin.

Police Presence

A member of the public requested that more police were needed around the fields to monitor to bikes, they were particularly concerned that if the riders fell off, there would be no one to help them out.

Graffiti on Walls

A member of the public raised concern about graffiti on walls. The Panel were very aware of the problem and were trying to get graffiti cleaned up. It was reported that the Cleaner City Hit Squad, who can be contacted on . Councillor Redfern requested that if there was a particular problem site, the member of the public let the Panel know so that it could be investigated.

Pets

A member of the public raised concern about people abandoning their pets when they became ill.

All the above questions were raised by three pupils from Chaddesden Park Infant and Junior Schools. It was agreed to write to the Headteachers of the schools, thanking the pupils for their contribution to the meeting.

Proposals for a Bus Lane on Nottingham Road

A member of the public expressed concern about proposals for a short bus lane on Nottingham Road, he questioned whether there was any point in having the bus lane if it was only going to be over that short distance. It was reported that a detailed exhibition would take place on 20 / 21 June 2003, where plans would be available for inspection and Officers available to answer any questions. Sustainable methods were being considered. Views expressed at the exhibition and at the Area Panel would be reported to Council Cabinet. Members of the public were unhappy that letters had been delivered to them, telling them about the Area Panel meeting today. Tony Gascoigne apologised for the short notice but explained that a decision was not being made today and that the date for the exhibition had only been agreed today. Consideration was being given to changes to the junction at Chaddesden Park Road.

Chaddesden Park Allotments

A member of the public expressed concern about problems with the vandals at Chaddesden Park Allotments. There was a small area of land adjacent to the allotments, which was a haven for youths and was used for hiding, taking drugs and was often set on fire. Fence to the allotments had been damaged as well as buildings. People using the allotments were subject to verbal abuse. The Chaddesden Park Allotments Association, stated that they were trying to encourage people, particular older and disabled people, onto the site, but they were being discouraged by the problems. A regular meeting of the Chaddesden Park Action Group was taking place on Wednesday 4 June 2003. It was reported that there was a particular problem relating to alcohol. Councillor Roberts had spoken to the police about making Chaddesden Park an alcohol free zone. A report had been submitted to Council Cabinet relating to alcohol free zones. A question was raised on what benefit an alcohol free zone would have. Alcohol could be confiscated and offenders arrested. There was an alcohol free zone in North Parade but more signs were required.

Agreed

- 1 that a report be brought to the next meeting on alcohol free zones.**
- 2 to hold a site meeting with the Chaddesden Ward Councillors and the Parks Section, to look at the problems.**

North Pavement, Longley Lane

A member of the public referred to a lump of clay left by Nynex on the Longley Lane area.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the matter.

Alcohol Free Zone, Improvement in Spondon

Councillor Brown reported that in the alcohol free zone area of Spondon, there was a problem with someone selling alcohol out of a car boot. There was a good retailers' scheme, which involved Trading Standards and was being monitored, to ensure that people purchasing alcohol were at least 18 years of age.

Surfacing of Locko Road

A member of the public reported that the condition of Locko Road was of particular concern. It was built in the 1930s and was unsealed hard core, which resulted in large puddles.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the matter.

07/03 Recommendations arising from the Planning and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Commission's Review of Bus Services in Derby

A report of the Chair of the Planning and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Commission was considered which set out the recommendations arising from the review of bus services in Derby.

Agreed to note the report.

08/03 Crime Prevention on Public Rights Of Way

A report of the Assistant Director of Development and Cultural Services was considered, which stated that the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 had added Sections 118b and 119b to the Highways Act 1980, this gave local highway authorities new powers to close or divert public footpaths, if it was necessary to prevent crime or to protect pupils or staff of the school from violence or other threats to their health and safety. It was reported that the legislation related to through routes where the public had a right of way. It was noted that closing paths was a last resort and that real evidence was required to support any applications to close footpaths. Consultation had taken place with the police to identify particular problems areas rather than individual paths.

Agreed that if any areas within the Area Panel area were identified, that the Area Panel be consulted.

09/03 Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings

A report of the Assistant Director – Highways, Transport and Waste Management, Development and Cultural Services, was considered which stated that the Council were seeking more flexibility to improve pedestrian facilities where people had difficulty in crossing roads. Details of the existing criteria and proposed changes were set out in the report. It was felt that old requests, which did not meet the criteria previously, be reassessed against the new criteria. It was also suggested that the road casualty criteria be removed from the assessment. There was particular concern about when traffic counts were undertaken, this was typically done on weekdays, but it was thought that some should be done at weekends, to take into account problems relating to football traffic.

10/03 Nottingham Road, Chaddesden – Transport Improvements

A report of the Assistant Director – Highways, Transport and Waste Management was considered, which set out proposals to develop junction improvements at Chaddesden Park Road / Nottingham Road and to incorporate a bus lane as part of the Local Transport Plan. A detailed exhibition was to be held on 20 / 21 June 2003 which would give local residents a chance to discuss the proposals and raise any issues of concern to them. A report would then be reported to the Council Cabinet for approval.

11/03 Area Panel Budget Update

A report of the Director of Policy was considered which updated the Panel on how the Area Panel had spent its budget during 2002/03. The Area Panel's budget allocation 2003/04 was £29,000.

Agreed:

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To bring a fuller out term figures report to the next meeting**
- 3 To divide the budget equally between the Wards.**

12/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/04

A report of the Director of Policy was considered, which set out details of an application for funding which had been received. The Area Panel Manager also reported that a further funding application needed to be determined. Further information was required on both funding applications.

Agreed to arrange a special meeting of the Area Panel to discuss the two funding applications.

13/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

Details of the special meeting would be publicised as soon as it had been arranged. It was noted that the following meeting of the Panel was to be held on 3 September 2003 at 6.30pm at Highview School, St Andrew's View in the Derwent Ward.

Agreed that Councillor Roberts Chair the September meeting.

14/03 Councillor Leatherbarrow

The Chair reported that John Leatherbarrow had represented Wards within the Area Panel Area but had stood down at the last election, due to ill health.

Agreed to extend best wishes to Mr Leatherbarrow.

MINUTES END