



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 2
14 MARCH 2007

ITEM 7

Report of the Head of Stronger and Safer Communities Unit

Area Panel 2 Community Issues Update Report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Item No	Issue	Recommended panel action
Alvaston ward		
1.1	Petition – Alvaston Park	Note
1.2	Petition – Refurbishment of the Alvaston District Centre	Note
1.3	Football parking signs on Rugby Street	Note and close
Boulton ward		
1.4	Blocking either end of Bentley Street, Allenton	Note
1.5	Petition - Crossing for school children, Crayford Road	Note
1.6	Open green area on Holloway Road	Note and close
Chellaston ward		
1.7	Traffic issues	Note
1.8	Dog bins	Note
1.9	Library building at Chellaston	Note
1.10	Right of way, Woodminton Drive	Note
1.11	Weight restriction signs, A514, Alvaston and Chellaston	Note
Sinfin ward		
1.12	Glossop Street redevelopment	Note

1.13	Petition – Installation of cycle path on Osmaston Park Rd	Note and close
1.14	Petition – Residents Parking, Nightingale Road	Note and close
1.15	Grass verges on Victory Road	Note
1.19	Condition of Sinfin Recreation Ground	Note and close
All wards		
1.17	Petition – off road motorcyclists	Outstanding issues until Sept. meeting
1.18	Alleyway Issues	Note
1.19	Tree issues, all wards	Note
1.20	Outstanding Issues	None

1.1 Petition – Alvaston Park - received 08.11.06

Issue: A petition had been received in October 2006 signed by 30 people who are regular users of Alvaston park who are concerned about the run down state of the ground and facilities. They are concerned about keeping the grounds clean, regular litter picking and a higher profile for the Rangers. No one seems to be taking pride in the park and they are asking for something to be done now.

Actions: Approved the actions outlined in the January 2007 report subject to reconsidering and responding to the suggestion to install the six bollards.

Update: The installation of six bollards would not stop access by unauthorised vehicles onto the park as it would leave numerous gaps. It is therefore advisable to wait until there is adequate funding to secure the whole boundary.

Note.

Further information: Alf Bousie, Environmental Services, ☎715778

1.2 Petition – Refurbishment of the Alvaston District Centre - received 15.03.06

Issue: A petition signed by approximately 880 people was presented to the panel, requesting that the Council provide funding for the Alvaston District Centre scheme for the refurbishment of the shopping area, including better lighting, parking, pavements and CCTV.

Actions: Receive report on actions taken.

Update: We consulted local ward members, traders and bus operators prior to Christmas. Following this further work is ongoing to develop the designs. We are planning further consultation shortly after Easter to seek the views of local residents and

shoppers.

Note.

Further information: Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community, ☎ 715019

1.3 Football parking signs on Rugby Street, Alvaston - received 17.01.07

Issue: A petition signed by approximately 880 people was presented to the panel, requesting that the Council provide funding for the Alvaston District Centre scheme for the refurbishment of the shopping area, including better lighting, parking, pavements and CCTV.

Actions: Receive report on actions taken.

Update: We consulted local ward members, traders and bus operators prior to Christmas. Following this further work is ongoing to develop the designs. We are planning further consultation shortly after Easter to seek the views of local residents and shoppers.

Note and close.

Further information: Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer, Regeneration and Community ☎ 716090

1.4 Petition – Blocking either end of Bentley Street, Allenton – received 06.09.06

Issue: A petition signed by 33 people was received requesting the one end of the street be permanently blocked off, due to the ongoing traffic problems faced on Bentley Street.

Actions: Investigate and report back.

Update: Further consultation has taken place with residents but there are still many that have not responded, which is delaying a recommendation.

Note.

Further information: Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer ☎ 716090

1.5 Petition - Crossing for school children, Crayford Road – received 06.09.06

Issue: A local resident informed the panel that she has attended four assemblies at Noel Baker School to discuss a 'keep your school safe' campaign. She reported that the children had highlighted that they need a crossing to help them to cross Crayford Road safely. A petition was submitted on 8 November 2006 requesting the installation of a crossing on Crayford Road.

Action: To ask the Cabinet member for Planning and Transportation to review the proposed action and report back to a future meeting.

Update: A report will be prepared to go to the next Cabinet Member meeting. We will report back to the Area Panel in due course.

A Cabinet Member meeting is a public meeting with details published on the Council's website. Petitioners and other members of the public are able to attend.

Note.

Further information: Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer ☎ 715019

1.6 Open green area on Holloway Road - received 08.11.06

Issue: A written question was submitted by a local resident raising concern at proposed plans to change the usage of the green area on Holloway Road. The resident has requested that Councillors and residents are included in discussions on changes to the green area.

Actions: Officers to respond and update the resident on progress.

Update: Efforts are continuing to seek funding for the longer term maintenance of this land.

Note and close.

Further information: Mike Moore, Project Development Officer, Children and Young People Services, ☎ 716859

1.7 Bus stop and flooding on Crayford Road - received 08.11.06

Issue: A resident asked why the bus stop was moved from outside the Brackens to opposite the Chemist. It now causes severe problems for drivers trying to get out of the lay-by when a bus is opposite.

Actions: Agreed to provide an update on the following and respond directly to the resident.

- progress to resolve flooding
- position of bus stop

Update: We have resurfaced the parking bay outside the shops and the gully has been re-set which will prevent the flooding.

We have visited the site and spoken to local residents who are satisfied with the location of the bus stop. The bus stop was moved originally following requests from Councillors and residents. As a result of this investigation, the bus stop will remain in its existing location. A letter has been sent directly to the resident.

Note and close.

Further information: Chris Hegarty, Senior Public Transport Co-ordinator, Regeneration and Community ☎ 715019

1.8 Field Lane Community Centre - received 08.11.06

Issue: A local resident who is on the User group committee was concerned about developments at Field Lane Community Centre. She stated that the existing Committee for the Centre had not been consulted when Enthusiasm was invited to use the community centre causing an existing group to lose their slot.

Actions: Officers to respond to the resident by letter and provide an update.

Update: Sarah Wheatley, Community Centre Liaison Officer, has written to the resident

confirming the current situation regarding the Community Association committee responsibilities. The constitution that the community association adopted gives it the structure to enable it to take on some management responsibility of the centre but not the automatic right to make all decisions. The constitution is not a legal document in the same way that a lease or a management agreement is.

Field Lane community centre is managed by the Community Centre Liaison Team who are currently in the process of settling a varied programme of community usage for the centre. With assistance from Councillor Banwait and Councillor Jackson, the Judo Club has been successfully relocated into Noel Baker School.

Note and close.

Further information: Sarah Wheatley, Community Centre Liaison Officer, Environmental Services, ☎ 715656

1.7 Traffic issues, Chellaston – received 09.11.05

Issue: A number of issues have been raised, and petitions received over various traffic issues in Chellaston. These issues have been amalgamated into one item to be updated on.

All Chellaston traffic & highways issues are now referred to the Chellaston Highways and Transport Issues Working Group (CHTIWG) for consideration and recommendations. CHTIWG will be reporting back to Area Panel 2 on a regular basis.

Action: Report back when 2007/8 programme details are known.

Update: A report detailing the 07/08 programme is included on the meeting agenda.

Note.

Further information: Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer ☎ 715019

1.8 Dog bins, Chellaston – received 15.03.06 / Petition - received 06.09.06

Issue: A resident explained that he lived on an unadopted road, and David Willson homes were responsible for the upkeep of the dog waste bins. He had been informed that they would be emptied once per week. The panel were asked if this was normal, and to confirm whether the Council dog waste bins would be emptied this frequently. He also asked whether dog fouling signs could be used, as they would be more cost effective than supplying the actual bins.

A petition signed by 56 residents requested the installation of dog waste bins along the new cycle path in the vicinity of Sinfin Moor Lane was received at the meeting on 6 September 2006.

Action: The Chellaston Councillors requested that the issue is kept open to consider at a future meeting.

Update: No more information available.

Note

Further information: Alf Bousie, Environmental Services ☎ 715778

1.9 Library building at Chellaston – received 14 06.06

Issue: A resident stated that despite the large scale growth of Chellaston in recent years, the area was still only served by a mobile library vehicle. Can Chellaston be considered for a new public library?

Action: Chellaston Councillors requested that the issue is kept open. To update at the next meeting.

Update: We are preparing a bid to the Community Libraries Programme of the Big Lottery Fund. If successful, the bid will provide the funding necessary to build a library in Chellaston. The bid is due to be submitted by the end of March 2007, and we will know if it has been successful by the end of September 2007.

Note.

Further information: David Potton, Head of Library Services ☎ 71 6602

1.10 Right of way, Woodminton Drive – received 06.09.06

Issue: A resident raised concern over the ongoing dispute regarding the right of way on the canal path to Woodminton Drive, as it needs resurfacing. He stated that the area has a high water table, therefore after heavy rain and during the winter, the path is very muddy and disabled people were unable to use the path on their electric buggies. Three entrances have been barred by residents and have not cleared the area to allow access. The resident considered that the entire right of way needed to be resurfaced.

Action: Chellaston Councillors requested that the issue is kept open to consider updates on progress at future meetings.

Update: No further information available at this time.

Note.

Further information: Alf Bousie, Environmental Services ☎ 715778

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

1.11 Weight restriction signs, A514 – received 11.01.06

Issue: Concern was raised that there was no weight restriction signs located out of Merrill Way onto Derby Road, stating that cannot turn right. It was also suggested that a sign be installed at Spider Island There was also concern that the DET had stated that the police cannot enforce the restrictions, and the panel were asked their views, and what they were going to do to tackle the problem.

Action: Update on progress to resolve the issue.

Update: A report is being prepared that will consider signing implications on the A50 associated with the weight limit. A date has not yet been set for the report to be considered by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation.

Note.

Further information: Inspector Sam Slack, Cotton Lane Police Station ☎ 290100.

Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer ☎ 716090

1.12 Glossop Street Redevelopment, Sinfin – received 15.03.06

Issue: The panel were asked in March 2006 if Councillors were prepared to support the

development in the area, and when would it happen. They were also asked if there were any other plans going to be put forward for the future use of this land.

A petition signed by 47 residents was presented on 8 November 2006 requesting the removal of the Glossop Street travellers so that the original and fully consulted development plan can go ahead. Local residents have suffered over the last two years.

Action: To provide a written report in response to the petition at the March meeting.

Update: The following update is mainly based on the minutes of the Osmaston and Allenton networking Forum meeting held on 7th February 2007 at Rodney House, Penalt Close where Angelina Novakovic of the Housing Strategy Unit provided a verbal update. In addition to that meeting, this issue has been discussed at the Osmaston Residents Forum meeting on 13th February 2007 at Cotton Lane Police Station and at a Residents Action Group meeting on 6th February at St Bart's Church Hall.

At the Council Cabinet meeting on the 29th November 2006, the Cabinet decided to recover possession of the site based on feedback from local residents and a range of other factors, but recognised that there is a legal obligation to consider the welfare needs of the families and the educational needs of the children currently on the site.

The Council is currently taking legal proceedings to recover the site. The Travellers have said they will vigorously defend their case and have specialist legal advice assisting them in their challenge.

In the meantime negotiations are taking place, alongside the possession proceedings, with the Travellers to see if a mutually acceptable agreement can be reached by both parties but it needs to be recognised that this case could go all the way through the courts.

The Housing Strategy Unit is looking at the Travellers needs and is also looking for alternative sites for the Travellers. There is a team in place from different Council departments undertaking this exercise. This will be key to the legal proceedings and will help to ensure that this situation does not arise in the future.

Court Case: At the Court hearing in December the Council asked the courts to approve its application for possession of the site, but the judge said he did not have sufficient information to make a decision on the day so he adjourned the case. There is no date agreed yet for the court case – the earliest expected date is likely to be early spring.

Planning Application: The Travellers submitted a planning application to make the site a legal traveller site. The planning application has to be considered on its own merits and it has to go through a procedural consideration process. The decision could be yes or no, but even if the decision was yes, the Council owns the site so the Travellers could not develop it without the Council's 'landowner' consent. There have been more than 6 objections to the planning application, so the application needs to go to full planning committee for a decision, an open public meeting, to be held on a date yet to be decided.

The occupants of houses around the site have been sent a letter from the Planners, but individuals need to oppose the application if they feel strongly about this as it adds weight to any decision to be made. Objections will probably focus on the need for the better use of the site in line with original plans for the site and needs identified in the housing needs study, indicators of deprivation and master-planning that is in the pipeline.

The Traveller's Stance: The Travellers have said they are willing to move before the court case if an alternative site is found and their legal advisers have confirmed that they will be flexible as long as their children can still get to school.

The Travellers have offered to remove the waste that is currently on site, but there are concerns that it would not be disposed of correctly so the Council has advised that they should not do so. The Council will only move it once the possession proceedings are completed otherwise it could end up being replaced.

The Travellers have asked to make improvements on the site which the Council has declined because they illegally occupy the site and any permission given could affect the legal status of the relationship between the parties, which in turn may have a negative impact on the conduct of legal proceedings.

Dumping of waste: The Housing Strategy Unit is taking steps to address the problems on site e.g. rubbish. The Housing Strategy Unit should be contacted to report any further similar activities and they will try to act on the information, but it needs to be with proof as that is easier to act on.

Where will the alternative sites be and when will the community be consulted about this, if at all? A number of sites in the city have been identified, but these need to be fully evaluated. The Housing Strategy Unit will look at the local plan to see if the land has already been pre-designated for other uses and look at any other hurdles in terms of using each site, amenities and links to local communities to ensure it is not too isolated. Then they must consult with local communities about the sites.

Why should the Travellers get away without paying for services when other residents have to do so? The Council has asked the court to order that its costs in the legal proceedings be recovered from the travellers, if its application is successful. In addition, it is looking into potential council tax liability both in relation to this site as well as any agreed site.

Note.

Further information: Ian Fullagar, Housing Strategy and Performance Manager, Resources and Housing, telephone 255185

1.13 Petition – Installation of cycle path on Osmaston Park Road – received 06.09.06

Issue: A petition has been received from 36 residents of Osmaston Park Road requesting the installation of a separate cycle path. Concerns have been raised about the danger that cyclists using the footway here present to children and adults stepping out from their front gates. At the meeting on 8 November, Sinfon Councillors included it on their list of priorities for the 2007/08 Highways and Transportation scheme.

Action: Provide update at the next meeting

Update: A Report on the outcome of Council Cabinet decision on the 2007/8 highways and transportation programme is an agenda item for this meeting.

Note and close.

Further information: Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer ☎ 715019

1.14 Petition – Residents Parking, Nightingale Road – received 06.09.06

Issue: A petition was received from residents of Nightingale Road, requesting the installation of residents parking.

Action: To ask the Cabinet member for Planning and Transportation to review the proposed action and report back to a future meeting. To consider the suggestion to remove the no waiting restrictions on part of or one side of Nightingale Road.

Update: During the initial investigation into the contents of the petition, consideration was given to whether parking could be permitted on any or all of the street. It was considered that, at this time, no amendments could be made to the restrictions on any part of the street. .

Note and close.

Further information: Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer 📞 716090

1.15 Grass verges on Victory Road, Sinfin - received 17.01.07

Issue: A resident complained about the state of the grass verges on Victory Road and asked what could be done to improve them because a mess is being caused by cars parking on them.

Action: Investigate and report back.

Report on the outcome of Council Cabinet decision on the 2007/8 highways and transportation programme.

Update: A report detailing the 2007/2008 work programme is included on the meeting agenda.

We are aware of the poor condition of the grass verges on Victory Road. Damage is being caused by vehicles parking on the verges, but it is very difficult for the Highway Authority to take action, as under highway law it is not illegal to drive over them. The Council can only take action if damage is being caused, and we would need witnesses to actual damage being caused where no prior damage existed.

It is a common problem all over the city. We could take action to repair the verges, but they would quickly become damaged again. Letter drops to local residents asking them to cease parking on the verges usually improves matters for a while, but things soon resort back to normal. Also, it may not be the local residents, but visitors, who are causing the damage, and letter drops have little effect in these circumstances.

The best way of dealing with the problem is by physically preventing vehicles driving on to the verges. This is usually achieved by installing bollards, but they can be unsightly, and become a maintenance liability as they are subject to damage and vandalism.

In this location, a considerable number of bollards would be needed, and it would be difficult to justify the cost at a time when there is considerable pressure on the highway maintenance budget.

The Osmaston and Allenton Neighbourhood Team are considering funding schemes to protect both these verges, and verges on Elton Road. Detailed costings are awaited before a final decision is made.

The adjacent footways are not in good condition and are included in a list of potential footway reconstruction/resurfacing schemes. Works to improve the verges, and install

bollards to protect them, could be carried out at the same time, but we do not know at present when these footway improvements works will go ahead.

Note .

Further information: Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer ☎ 716090

1.15 Condition of Sinfin Recreation Ground- received 17.01.07

Issue: A resident commented that after Severn Trent Water reinstated the grass on the recreation ground after their pipeline work, large holes and ruts remained. They are a health and safety hazard to pedestrians especially at times like Sinfin Carnival. Can it be rectified before the Carnival.

Action: Investigate and report back.

Update: A meeting is being arranged with Severn Trent Water and council officers to ensure the reinstatement works are completed satisfactorily.

Note and close.

Further information: Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer ☎ 716090

1.17 Petition – Off road motorcyclists, all wards – received 11.01.06

Issue: Councillor Leeming handed in a petition signed by approximately 200 people, requesting that off-road motorcyclists be provided with a suitable area of land to use in the area. This would help ease the problem of them using public footpaths and fields while still keeping them entertained and out of mischief.

Action: Councillor Leeming to report back to a future meeting.

Update: Verbal report to be provided.

Outstanding issues table until September 2007

Further information: Councillor Leeming ☎ 756190

1.18 Alleyway Issues, all wards

Issue: A number of issues have been raised, and petitions received over the closure of various alley ways across the area. These issues have been amalgamated into one item.

A working group has been established to consider these issues and report back to the Area Panel on a regular basis.

Action: Report back on outcomes of the Alleyways Working Group

Update: Responses from residents are being collated and a further meeting of the Alleyways Working Group will be held shortly to consider the information provided and other alleyways issues.

A report is being written for Cabinet to formalise and agree the process for closing alleyways using the powers available in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The report is scheduled to go to Cabinet on 17/04/2007. An update on the report will be provided to the Area Panel at the June meeting.

Note

Further information: David Gartside, Head of Traffic ☎ 71 5025

Ray Brown, Senior Planning Officer, Rights of Way ☎ 25 5024

Craig Keen, Anti-Social Behaviour Team Leader ☎ 25 8640

1.19 Tree issues, all wards

Issue: A number of issues have been raised, over various tree issues across the area. These issues have been amalgamated into one item. A Tree Management Working Group has been established to consider these issues and will report back to the Area Panel on a regular basis making recommendations on actions to be taken. Recommendations that require expenditure are included within the Area Panel Finance report for agreement.

Action: Provide a report from the Tree Management Working Group and recommendations and report within the Area Panel Finance Report

Update: The Tree Management Working Group have conducted their business via email. A list of issues raised and actions is provided at the end of this document.

A summary of recommended tree management work along with costs is included within the Appendix 4 of the Finance Report for this meeting.

Note.

Further information: John Winters, Director of Environmental Services ☎ 716401

1.20 Outstanding issues

Issue	Outstanding action	Date to report back
None	None	N/A

PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 To consider and note the report.

For more information

contact: Colin Avison 01332 258500 e-mail [mailto: colin.avison@derby.gov.uk](mailto:colin.avison@derby.gov.uk)

Background papers: Area Panel 2 Community Issues Update Report, Background Information
14 March 2007 on Council Management Information System

List of appendices: Appendix 1: Tree Management Issues Report

Appendix 1: Tree Management Issues Report March 2007

Location	Issue	Update	Recommended actions	Funds available / Costs
Alvaston Ward				Available =£250
Swaledale Court and Whernside Close	Trees blocking light to properties.	The Assistant Arboricultural Officer and the Alvaston Housing Manager have visited the resident on 14th February 2007. Following the tree work which was completed in December 2006, this area had trees removed to address the health and safety issues around the play area and also all low branches and branches in close proximity to buildings were removed. This included work to the tree in front of the residents house. The leaf litter caused in Autumn is a matter for Derby Homes to address with their maintenance schedule.	No further action required	N/A
Arkendale Walk and Coverdale Close area	Tree has declined significantly.	While not dangerous the tree is considered an eyesore.	Removal of tree	£250
Boulton Ward				Available =£250
Coronation Avenue, Alvaston	Dangerous secondary growth at base level.	All the basal growth has been removed and the footpath and highway is clear. This work was completed on 5th February 2007.	No further action required	N/A

Location	Issue	Update	Recommended actions	Funds available / Costs
Sinfin Ward				Available =£250
Kelso Walk	Hedge need cutting down	A survey of the area has been conducted based on community safety considerations. Costed recommendations will be provided to the Sinfin Neighbourhood Team.	Include in neighbourhood programme	£0
Behind the garages in Kelso Walk	Saplings (shrubs) need removing	A survey of the area has been conducted based on community safety considerations. Costed recommendations will be provided to the Sinfin Neighbourhood Team.	Include in neighbourhood programme	£0
Deepdale Lane	Tree next to Chair Bros	A survey of the area has been conducted based on community safety considerations. Costed recommendations will be provided to the Sinfin Neighbourhood Team.	Include in neighbourhood programme	£0
Chellaston Ward				Available =£500
None	None	None	None	£0