

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 9.50 pm

AREA PANEL 3 (ABBEY, ARBORETUM AND NORMANTON)
22 JUNE 2005

Present: Councillor Lowe (Chair)
Councillors Burgess, Dhindsa, Khan, , Nath, Rehman,
Williamson

In attendance:

Derby City Council and other officers:

Richard Smail	-	Area Panel Manager Policy Directorate
Sara Allmond	-	Constitutional Services Officer Democratic Services
Rachel Levy	-	Constitutional Services Assistant Democratic Services
Rachael Wright	-	PFI Support Officer Corporate Finance
Trevor Sherwin	-	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
David Gartside	-	Head of Traffic Development and Cultural Services
David Dring		Area Coordination Manager Policy Directorate
Pop Gill		Neighbourhood Coordination Manager Policy Directorate
Paula Solowij	-	Derby Homes
Terry Johnson	-	British Telecom

39 members of the public.

01/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hussain and
Inspector Gary Parkin.

02/05 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100 (B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following as late items:

- **Budget Proposal – CAST Trust** – this item was accepted as the event was taking place on 3 July which was before the next Area Panel meeting.
- **Budget Proposal – Duesbury Grange Neighbourhood Watch Family Day** – this item was accepted as the event was taking place on 16 July which was before the next Area Panel meeting.

The items were considered as part of minute number 06/05

03/05 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Lowe declared a personal interest in minute number 04/05 – Petition relating to the boundary between Whitaker Day Centre and 94 Whitaker Road as he knew the lead petitioner.

Councillors Khan and Nath declared personal interests in minute number 04/05 – Petition relating to the boundary between Whitaker Day Centre and 94 Whitaker Road as they knew the family of the lead petitioner.

04/05 Petitions

The following petition was presented to the Area Panel:

Petition regarding Empress Road/Mount Carmel Street Jitty

The Panel received a petition requesting the closure of the alleyway between Empress Road and Mount Carmel Street because of problems with drugs, alcohol and prostitution, plus a woman being mugged in the alleyway. The petition was referred to the Director of Development and Cultural Services to provide a full response to a future meeting.

Petition seeking revised opening hours for the historic section of Arboretum Park

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Commercial Services which stated that a petition had been received, to request an amendment to the opening times of the Arboretum Park. It was reported that had been several forms of consultation about the restoration and operation of Arboretum Park dating back to 1997. Although the historic section of the park would be closed, the recreation side of the Park was open 24 hours a day. The proposed opening time of 8am would ensure that all gates were unlocked by

then. There were 13 gates to be unlocked and this process would commence at 7.30am so, depending on the access point being used, people may have been able to use the historic section at 7.30am.

A member of the public commented that the vandals climbed over the fence so the closing of the gates at night was having no effect.

Another member of the public asked what the rate of prosecution was against offenders of vandalism.

Councillor Nath suggested longer opening hours in the summer and shorter hours in the winter to help balance the costs

Councillor Khan agreed with the suggestion and commented that the majority should not be punished for the action of a few.

Agreed to ask The Director of Commercial Services to consider how the extra cost of having opening hours longer in the summer and shorter in the winter could be absorbed into the budget and ask him to report back to the next meeting.

Petition on the problem relating to the boundary between Whitaker Day Centre and 94 Whitaker Road

The Panel considered a report of the Support Services Manager which reported on the boundary issues relating to the Whitaker Road Day Centre and 94 Whitaker Road. It was reported that the Day Centre had not experienced any problems of anti social behaviour during the normal operating hours of the Centre, nor had there been any security issues directly concerning the Day Centre since a burglary three years before.

A thorough examination of the site found some minimal damage to the fence bordering the Day Centre and Number 94. Other fences appeared to be intact.

Social Services agreed to continue monitoring the situation and to work with the Anti Social Behaviour Team. A meeting would happen between Social Services and the petitioner.

Councillor Dhindsa commented that although this went some way to achieving a solution it was not enough. He felt that both actual offences and the perceived fear local residents have of crime needed to be reduced.

Councillor Nath commented that the petitioner had been given no real solutions to the problem even though he had made many suggestions himself, such as a higher fence or a brick wall.

The panel resolved to ask for a further report on this from the Director of Social Services.

Petition on the Activ 8 Project

The panel considered a report of the Assistant Director Housing and Advice Services relating to a petition, received from local residents within the Mount Carmel Street area, relating to instances of inappropriate behaviour resulting from residents or friends of residents of the Activ 8 project at 35 Mount Carmel Street, which was operated by Stonham Housing Association. As a result of complaints made by neighbours and this petition, senior representatives from Stonham had met with local residents and ward councillors with a view to resolving the problems raised. Following this meeting a number of actions were taken. Stonham had proposed providing a Concierge service at the building to provide 24 hours on site supervision. Whilst the introduction of this service had been agreed locally, it required agreement from Stonham head office which had not been received.

Councillor Williamson commented that although a concierge had been offered at the last meeting, nothing had happened. He felt that the provision on a concierge would resolve a lot of the problems.

Agreed:

- 1. to ask the Area Panel Manager send a letter to Stonham strongly urging the project to get the concierge in place before the next meeting**
- 2. to ask for a representative from Stonham to attend the next meeting**

Petition relating to the Home Zone

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services regarding a petition received from residents of Cameron Road which detailed a number of complaints about the Home Zone on Cameron Road.

It was reported that as the improvements to the street lighting on the Home Zone had increased the illumination of Cameron Road enormously, it was considered that the trees and tree protectors were highly visible and did not require further illumination. It was also reported that the changes in the road layout had been designed to ensure that the Home Zone was self enforcing and vehicles were driven at appropriate speeds.

It was reported that a request had been made to erect signs informing motorists of who had priority on the street, however the principles of the Home Zone were that motorists perceive that they were given informal priority to other road users and that the street

was a shared space. It was accepted that road users would need to alter their behaviour when using streets within the Home Zone and it was reported that it was noticeable that all those using the Home Zone were accepting the change.

The lack of parking on Cameron Road had also been queried. The layout of the parking within the Home Zone had been altered as part of the design of the street layout. Although the number of parking spaces had decreased, the final design provided spaces that exceeded the measured demand.

It was reported that officers had agreed to monitor the situation on a regular basis and would take action where it might be considered necessary in order to maintain or improve safety.

Councillor Burgess commented that he was disappointed at the officer response, particularly regarding the barriers. At night the barriers were difficult to see and he felt that the proposal of painting them white was appropriate.

Councillor Williamson suggested it may be cheaper to provide reflectors or paint part of the barriers rather than the whole of them.

Agreed to ask The Director of Development and Cultural Services to reconsider the colour of the tree barriers again, taking into account views on the visibility of the barriers at night, and to report back to the next meeting.

Petition requesting the introduction of a one way system on Percy Street and Raven Street

The Panel considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services regarding the petition received requesting a one way system on Raven and Percy Streets.

It was reported that none of the properties on the street had off street parking and that the traffic flow was low except during opening and closing times. Any problems caused with parking were down to people dropping off and picking up children at the school and that they were parking badly when doing this. It was agreed that further training would be given at the school to encourage more pupils to walk to school and that leaflets would be given to the school highlighting the hazards associated with parking on keep clear markings outside the school.

Councillor Burgess commented that the solution to this sort of problem was to get the school, parents and local residents all working together and that he was happy to work with the school to promote road safety.

Councillor Williamson commented that traffic management needed to be looked at in general in the Normanton area as the area contained a large number of streets with terraced housing that had no off street parking. He also felt that enforcement of the Keep Clear markings should be looked at.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to support educating parents on the dangers of parking on school keep clear markings and to look at enforcement of these markings.

05/05 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

Anti Social Behaviour on Siddals Road

A member of the public asked how much violence local residents on Siddals Road had to put up with before something is done as the residents of the flats on Siddals Road were being regularly terrorised.

Pauline Solowij of Derby Homes agreed to take the details of the incidents and look into the problem. Councillor Williamson commented that it was not acceptable that people should have to put up with violence from residents of Derby Homes properties as that would be a breach of contract.

Overgrown hedges and trees

A member of the public asked whether the Council or the owner of the boundary had responsibility when hedges and shrubbery grew and hung over boundaries.

Councillor Burgess replied that if the growth has over onto a public highway, Streetcare would write to the owner of the hedge telling them to trim it. If it was a private boundary between properties it would be a civil matter between the residents.

It was pointed out that residents did not know who to contact if a hedge was hanging over onto a highway and Councillor Williamson replied that the Streetcare hotline should be advertised more effectively.

Parking on Normanton Road

A member of the public raised concerns about the Police having left the patrolling of parking to Derby City Council who were not yet patrolling the area. People were parking on double yellow lines all day and were not being pulled up for doing it.

Incinerator in Sinfín

A member of the public asked why the Council was dealing with a bankrupt company with regards to plans for an incinerator in Sinfín on the edge of Normanton. She felt that the rolling out of the recycling scheme was taking so long because the intention was always to burn the rubbish rather than recycled. She also raised concerns that the life expectancy in Normanton and Sinfín was dropping.

Councillor Burgess replied that the Council was extremely concerned about the amount of waste going into land fill sites and that was why the recycling scheme was being rolled out. Part of the answer was to educate people on recycling. Land fill was going to become cost prohibitive and that was why other alternatives would be looked at. If people have any problems with companies that the Council was working with, then could they put it into writing so the Council could investigate. He went onto comment that he did not know any details on the health statistics raised by the member of the public but he was aware that the PCTs were carrying out projects in the area.

Normanton Park Pavilion

A member of the public asked what was happening to the Normanton Park Pavilion which was rapidly deteriorating and had been vandalised.

Councillor Nath replied that the pavilion had been painted inside and the clock had been repaired two years ago. The problem was vandalism and the low roof of the building meant that vandals could get on the roof, rip off tiles and damage the clock.

Councillor Dhindsa said that a lot of work had been done but agreed that the problem was with vandals and threatening youths. He felt it needed to be looked at from an anti-social behaviour angle to prevent future damage.

Agreed to ask the Director of Commercial Services to provide a report on the current status of the Pavilion and what could be done to stop future problems.

Incidents of arson in Derby

A member of the public asked for statistics on the incidents of arson and the prosecution of arsonists over the last 10 years.

Trevor Sherwin of Derby and Derbyshire Fire Service replied that the fire service had a mapping system which mapped all types of fire within the city. He agreed to look into the statistics and speak to the police on the issue and report back to a future meeting.

06/05 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2004/05

Applications for Area Panel Funding

A report of the Assistant Director Community Policy was considered which set out details of five applications for funding, which had been received:

- to consider whether to support the application received from the Derby Sports Development Team for an Area Panel 3 Football Tournament. Amount requested £344.
- to consider whether to support the application received from the Kurdish Community Centre for the Kurdish Advisory Project. Amount requested £2,000.
- to consider whether to support the application received from One Vice Ek Awaaz for equipment for OVEA Community Involvement Project. Amount requested £1,897.
- to consider whether to support the application received from St Luke's Parish Church for resurfacing pedestrian footways around the church building. Amount requested £1,463.
- to consider whether to support the application received from Amara-Chi Better Play Project to provide safer windows, improved security and refurbish training studio. Amount requested £2,000.

The Panel also considered following two applications having been accepted as late items:

- to consider whether to support the application received from CAST Trust for the Stockbrook Community Day. Amount requested £2,500.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Duesbury Grange Neighbourhood Watch for a Family Day. Amount requested £630.

Options considered

1. The Panel assessed all the applications for funding against the agreed criteria and assessed the application for funding against priorities.
2. For the five applications in the report, the Panel considered the recommendation from the Area Panel Grant Appraisal Panel for the application.

Decision

1. To award a grant to the following applications:

- Derby Sports Development Team – Grant for £344 for an Area Panel 3 Football Tournament

Reasons

1. The application would improve access for local people to existing services
 2. The application would promote strong and positive neighbourhoods
- St Luke's Parish Church - £740 for resurfacing pedestrian footways around the church building

Reasons

1. The application would improve access for local people to existing services
 2. The application would promote strong and positive neighbourhoods
- Amara-Chi Better Play Project - £1,000 to provide better windows, improve security and refurbish the training studio.

Reasons

1. The application would provide a service which responds to local needs
 2. The application will enable residents to participate in their community
- CAST Trust - £2,000 for the Stockbrook Community Day

Reasons

1. The application would provide a service which responds to local needs
 2. The application will enable residents to participate in their community
- Duesbury Grange Neighbourhood Watch - £500 for a Family Day

Reasons

1. The application would provide a service which responds to local needs

2. The application will enable residents to participate in their community

2. To refuse a grant to the following applicant:

- One Voice Ek Awaaz – OVEA - £1,897 for equipment for OVEA Community Involvement Programme

Reason

1. The Panel considered that the applicant had not provided sufficient evidence of the need for this project.
2. It was considered that the costs for some of the items were felt to be excessive
3. It was considered that there was little evidence of sustainability

3. To defer a grant to the following application:

- Kurdish Community Association – Deferral of the application for a grant for £2,000 for a Kurdish Advisory Project on the grounds that evidence was required on the business plan, about the project and its sustainability

07/05 BT Rationalisation Programme

Terry Johnson of BT gave a presentation detailing their plans regarding the removal of phone boxes in the city.

When BT was privatised in 1986, they agreed to provide reasonable access to public telephones to fulfil adequate needs. A regular payphone user was someone defined as someone who used a payphone more than once a month only 11% of users were regular users last year.

BT spent one million pounds last year on repairing phones damaged by things such as fireworks. 62% of pay phones were unprofitable.

Last year BT applied to remove 5,000 payphones from across the UK, 20 of which were in Derby. Peoples concerns would be taken into account and a consultation process always took place through consultation with the Council and by putting notices in the kiosk, so those that used the kiosk would know of its planned removal. If no objections were raised than the payphone would be removed.

A member of the public raised an issue about two payphones being used to take drugs and as toilets. They suggested that the booth could be replaced with a kiosk. Terry Johnson replied that it would

cost £6,500 to replace both booths so they would look to work in partnership, such as removing one of the payphones. The most important thing was the company having a clear consensus about what the local residents wanted.

A member of the public asked what would happen if there were both requests to remove a payphone and objections to removal. Terry Johnson replied that the payphone would then stay.

Agreed to thank Terry Johnson for giving the presentation and to note the report.

08/05 Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

Trevor Sherwin of the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service gave a presentation on the work of the Service, particularly in relation to community involvement.

Agreed to note the presentation.

09/05 Derby Grouped Schools Private Finance Initiative

Rachael Wright gave a presentation on the progress on construction works at Hardwick Primary School. It was reported that construction had started on site at the beginning of January 2005. The overall building programme at Hardwick Primary would take two years, with completion at the end of the school summer holidays 2006, with the exception of some minor external works which would run into the Autumn of 2006.

Councillor Nath commented that he felt the build was coming along quite well, but that had been no mention in the report about the School Liaison Group who were looking at any problems that were raised during the build.

Agreed to note the report.

10/05 Proposed Alcohol Free Zone - Normanton

A report was received from the Director of Corporate Services on the proposed alcohol free zone in Normanton. It was reported that during a recent preliminary meeting with the Police and representatives of the Council's Anti Social Behaviour Team it was proposed to extend the designation to cover other areas where alcohol related incidents were a problem. The report requested the views of the Panel on the proposed extended area for Normanton.

A member of the public asked why the steps at Mount Carmel Street had not been included in the proposed alcohol free zone and

suggested that the Council should consider including this within the alcohol free zone.

Agreed to feed the suggestion of including the steps at Mount Carmel Street within the Normanton alcohol free zone back to the Director of Corporate Services

11/05 Health Briefing from Greater Derby and Central Derby Primary Care Trust

A briefing paper on health services was considered.

Agreed to note the contents of the briefing paper.

12/05 Area Panel Review 2005

The panel considered a report from the Assistant Director – Community Policy which stated that there was to be a review of Area Panels. Area Panels had been meeting since January 2002 and they would hold their 100th meeting on 29 June 2005. It was suggested that there was increasing evidence that the public and Council partners were showing an interest in the development of the Area Panels.

It was considered good practice to review the Area Panels and actively seek the views of stakeholders. Details of the review were set out in the report.

Agreed to note the report.

13/05 Outturn Report: Area Panel 3 Budget 2004/05

A report of the Assistant Director of Policy was considered, which stated that in 2004/2005, Area Panel 3 was allocated a budget of £22,000. The Panel also had an additional budget of £5,778 carried forward from 2003/2004, making a total budget of £27,778 available to allocate to projects during 2004/2005.

The Panel had allocated £20,850 which gave a carry forward budget of £6,928 to allocate to projects in 2005/2006. Details of the budget allocations during the year were set out in the report.

Agreed to note the report

14/05 Area Panel Updates

Specific issues

Unauthorised change of use at 51 Mount Street

The Panel was informed that the Planning Application was refused on 15 April 2005 and that on 25 April 2005 a letter was received from Floors 2 Go's agent stating that it intended to submit, another, revised planning application addressing the reasons for the refusal of the application.

Railings – Mount Carmel Street

It was reported that the railings had been repaired and were expected to be repainted by the end of June 2005.

Traffic Issues – Normanton and Pear Tree

It was reported that David Gartside – Head of Traffic – Highways had a meeting with ward members in May 2005 and that an administration meeting had been held on 10 June 2005. It was reported that the Normanton Partnership Network would be having a meeting on 18 July which would focus on developing a neighbourhood plan which would prioritise the key issues. It would be an open meeting which all could attend.

David Gartside commented that the problem was the enforcement of existing restrictions. He had received a commitment to try to better police the area. So better community policing as well as traffic wardens would hopefully improve the situation.

Graffiti in Crompton/Gerard Streets

It was reported that the cost to paint a box was approximately £10 and that NTL had provided the paint to the Council. There was no real power available to the Council to enforce the utility companies to maintain the control panels.

Area Panel Agendas

It was reported that Council Cabinet on 26 April had considered the resolution put forward by the Panel at the last meeting. Cabinet agreed that this issue would be looked at as part of the Area Panel Review. The actual attendance figures would be analysed once the two cycles are complete and will be discussed with Councillor Samra – Cabinet Member for Community Services, the Leader and Deputy Leaders of the Council.

Railings, St Chads Road and Whitaker Road

It was reported that the railings were complete.

Hartington Street Renewal Area

It was reported that the resolution about houses in multiple

occupation was considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 26 April 2005 and action will be determined at the meeting in July. A response would be given to the Panel at its meeting in September.

It was reported that the owner of the Taj Mahal restaurant had been informed that the profile clad extension at the rear of this building was unauthorised and should be removed. The Council had recently granted planning permission for a rear 2 storey extension to the building and the owner advised that he would be implementing that permission shortly, therefore the unauthorised structure would be removed to make way for the proposed extension. The situation would be monitored.

Derelict Buildings, Dashwood Street/Normanton Road

It was reported that a copy of the Land Register Entry had been received and the owner had been written to requesting access to inspect the interior of the building. The owner of the building is being meeting on site on 27 June in the hope of gaining entry on that date.

A member of the public reported that there was offensive graffiti on the sign outside the building.

Agreed to inform the graffiti team of the offensive graffiti

Chatham Street, Concern about impact of Homezone improvements

It was reported that the majority of the scheme was finished however, there were a number of issues that still needed to be completed and would be in the next few weeks.

Request for provision of additional car parking facilities on land on corner of Kenilworth Avenue and Village Street

It was reported that it was not possible to include this investigation into the work programme as it needed to reflect the priorities in the Local Transport Plan. In addition there was no funding available to provide parking. The issue would be considered further should staff resources and funding become available in the future.

Street Lighting in Derby city centre

It was reported that the council was aware of an ongoing problem with some lighting on Uttoxeter New Road, which was being worked on and would be resolved as soon as possible.

The Street Lighting Engineer had surveyed the Wardwick area and had reported that all lights were lit, however, a couple of new lighting units on the Strand were out. These would be replaced as soon as possible.

Petition – Baseball Ground, Leacroft Road

It was reported that there were no proposals to include Leacroft

Road within the current Area Renewal Programme. The programme will be subject to review later in the year when the outcome of a citywide private sector housing survey, which was being undertaken over the course of the following few months, was known.

Petition – Molineux Street – one way street

It was reported that officers were currently working on a report to address all the requests raised. Surveys were being organised for all the roads and it was expected that a report would be available for the September area panel meeting.

Petition – Renal Street and Avondale Road

It was reported that officers were working on a report to address all the requests raised. Surveys were being organised for all roads and it was expected that a report would be available for the September Area Panel meeting.

Petition – St Giles Road – request for one way system

It was reported that officers were working on a report to address all the requests raised. Surveys were being organised for all roads and it was expected that a report would be available for the September Area Panel meeting.

Petition requesting closure of footpath, Western Road to Gordon Road (St Chads School)

It was reported that the Council's solicitor for highways matters was consulted and it was confirmed that the Council had no powers to close the footpath under current legislation. It was confirmed that the footpath was cleaned twice each week as it fell into an area which received an enhanced level of cleaning. In addition, the dog wardens visited the alleyway as it was recognised the dog fouling was particular problem.

Officers responsible for anti-social behaviour and planning were asked to look at the issue and to respond to the area panel at a future meeting.

Petition – Anti-Social Behaviour on Corner of Abbey Street and Monk Street

It was reported that a number of offenders were well known to the Police and the Anti Social Behaviour Team. The Anti Social Behaviour Team were taking a number of actions including Anti Social Behaviour Orders being sought against four individuals. The City Centre Alcohol Free Zone was being extended to cover this area and trees were being cut back to increase the effectiveness of the CCTV cameras in the location. Concerns were raised about the fact that alcohol free zones were just moving the problems on to other areas rather than solving the problem.

A member of the public asked whether Social Services were doing

anything about the children hanging around with the group.

Agreed:

- 1. to ask the Council Cabinet expand the alcohol free zone to include the corner of Abbey Street and Monk Street.**
- 2. to ask the Director of Social Services to report to the next meeting on the issue of children hanging around the area.**

Petition requesting One Way Road System on Wilfred Street, Sale Street and Molineux Street, Normanton

It was reported that officers were working on a report to address all the requests raised. Surveys were being organised for all roads and it was expected that a report would be available for the September Area Panel meeting.

15/05 Minutes

The minutes of the Area Panel 3 meeting held on 30 March 2005 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16/05 Arrangements for the Next and Future Meetings

- 1. To note that the next meeting of the Area Panel would be held on Wednesday 7 September 2005 at 6.00pm at Pear Tree Community Junior School, Pear Tree Street, Derby.**
- 2. To agree that the Chairs for the meetings for 2005/06 would be:**

Date and Ward	Venue	Councillor
7 September 2005 Arboretum Ward	Pear Tree Community Junior School, Pear Tree Street, Derby	Councillor Khan
16 November 2005 Normanton Ward	St Giles' Church Hall, Village Street, Derby	Councillor Nath
18 January 2005 Abbey Ward	Ryknelde Activity Centre, Bedford Close, Derby	Councillor Burgess
22 March 2006 Arboretum Ward	Pear Tree Community Junior School, Pear Tree Street, Derby	Councillor Rehman

21 June 2006 Normanton Ward	Dale Community Primary School, Porter Road, Derby	Councillor Dhindsa

MINUTES END