

AREA PANEL FIVE – UPDATE REPORT

FOR 6 APRIL 2005

DIOCESAN CENTRE, MORNINGTON CRESCENT, MACKWORTH

Area and Neighbourhood Unit

Bill Reed, Area Panel Manager, telephone 258501

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1. Ref: 503035 – Parking at Markeaton Primary School – raised 02.07.03

Issue

The need to introduce parking restrictions outside Markeaton Primary School.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

It was reported that the Council are working to progress the statutory consultation that is required when proposing a Traffic Regulation Order - TRO. The draft TRO will not be ready for the area panel meeting on 2 February 2005. Bill asked for any member of the public to give their name to him, and they would receive a copy of the consultation document.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A member of the public who lives in the area, asked how the parking restrictions would actually help residents.

It was reported that this is a recurrent issue around the city, and therefore the Council should consider this, and put a statement in the annual booklet to parents of school age children, regarding ways of taking their children to school.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Bill Reed explained that there is always a balance in introducing an order in terms of residents and safety. The lines will be done only at the very end of the corner, to prevent cars parking near the junction. He asked the resident for details, so that a copy of the order could be sent to him.

Councillor Webb invited residents to speak to both Bill Reed and Inspector Critchley. He explained that the Council has a safe route to school policy, and all parents are asked to use their vehicles sparingly, and encourage children to walk to school.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

It is unlikely now that we will be far enough into the consultation process to have the draft Order drawn up for 6 April. However, part of this statutory consultation procedure involves advertising the Order in the press and in notices on site. This is so that all members of the public have the chance to view the proposals and put their comments forward. As such, everyone will get the chance to see the proposals at the appropriate time.

Responsibility

Ian Butler, Senior Engineer, Accidents and Projects, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715021
Michelle Spamer, Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715064

2. Ref: 503051 – King Street Subway – received 08.10.03

Issue

Residents voiced concern about the safety of the subway under King Street and asked that it be closed.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

The written report suggested that a report would be prepared for Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2005. However this was now being delayed by the complexity of the issue and would go to Cabinet at a later date. A full response would be given at the Panel on 6 April. This report would look at the ways in which the Council could facilitate the closure of the subway and the replacement with a surface crossing.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Residents were pleased to hear the report, but questions were raised about it.

Another member of the public asked the council how the BMW site would be progressed, asking if apartments are to be built, as there have been rumours that this has been put on hold.

It was asked what would be done about the footway on Kings Street, near to the Seven Stars, as it is very narrow and is always full of water. Councillor Hickson explained that this footway would be replaced as part of the Connecting Derby scheme.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

With regard to the BMW site, Councillor Hickson confirmed that the site had been sold to a new developer, and it did have outline permission for development.

Councillor Hickson reported that the Council have been looking carefully at what could be done in the area. He explained that originally section 106 money attached to the Bridgegate development was to be used for it. However the Bridgegate scheme may not necessarily start in the near future, and therefore the Council will fund the work. He confirmed that the subway would be filled and closed and the surface level crossing installed during next financial year, to full mobility standards.

Councillor Hickson explained that the Council would pay for the works, and attempt to recover the Section 106 funding later.

Councillor Repton was pleased that the Council were taking action on this closure.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

Cabinet have set aside £100,000 for the subway to be filled in and a surface crossing provided. A further update will be provided at the meeting

Responsibility

Michelle Spamer, Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715064

3. Ref: 504002 – Traffic on Park Farm precinct – received 20.01.04

Issue

Members of the public were concerned about the volume of traffic around the Park Farm Precinct and thought it was very dangerous, especially on Birchover Way and Oakover Drive. It was most difficult during the mornings and afternoons at school times, with buses sometimes parking in the middle of the road due to parked cars.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Councillor Webb will report verbally. He has had further meetings with the Centre Management and others.

Councillor Webb informed residents that a map was available at the meeting . He explained that the first stage of improvements in and around Park Farm Centre would focus on disabled peoples parking. He reported that due to problems at the bus stop, it was proposed to move the stop outside what is now Boots, and have a proper shelter installed. There would then be provision for two to three disabled parking bays in the laybay..

Inspector Critchly responded, stating that local beat officers would police this and issue tickets. Where necessary, traffic wardens would also be used.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A member of the public explained that it had already been arranged to have a broad line at the bus stop to prevent parking. He reported that there are disabled parking spaces, but irresponsible people will park their cars in them, even if they are not disabled. He asked what policing measures would take place.

Another resident asked about the hotel and lighting.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

With regard to the hotel and lighting, Councillor Webb explained that discussions were still ongoing, and until the proposals come back, would not be able to update on this.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

Any additional information will be provided by Councillor Webb at the meeting.

Responsibility

Councillor Webb

4. Ref: 504020 – Concrete Bollards, Prince Charles Avenue – received 02.06.04

Issue

Need for bollards to stop vehicles driving over paved pedestrian areas. In particular, vehicles servicing the cash machine were driving on the paved areas. Agreed to ask the Co-op whether they could make alternative arrangements with the cash machine suppliers.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A letter has been received from Sunwin Cash Processing Services Ltd, the security company responsible for delivering cash to the Mackworth Co-op and to the cash machine. Their response is that they do not believe they are responsible for cracked pavements. However, after a review of their security arrangements, they could not prejudice the security of their staff and other members of the public by parking away from the front of the shop.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A member of the public asked the panel if they could now pursue the bollards to stop vehicles running over the kerbs. He explained that contractor vehicles were running over the kerbs, and damaging them.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Bill Reed explained that the Council were looking into a locking bollard.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

Concrete bollards will be put in on the land belonging to highways. Wooden bollards will be put in on the grassed area opposite the shops. We expect that this work will be completed by June 2005.

Responsibility

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager – Highways and Footways, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715067

Bill Reed, Area Panel Manager, Policy Directorate, telephone 258501

5. Ref: 504022 – Speed limits on Broadway – received 02.06.04

Issue

Speed limit on Broadway

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

The St Mary's School Travel Plan is still being developed and a copy is not yet available. It will include a range of measures designed to improve safety for children travelling to and from the school.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A member of the public asked why the speed limit could not be reduced to 30mph.

Another resident asked if the speed limit had taken into the account the amount of HGVs that would be using the road.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Bill agreed to reply to the gentleman after the meeting.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

A response has been sent to the questioner by email, based on the response given to the panel on 21 July 2004

Responsibility

Bill Reed, Area panel manager, Policy Directorate, telephone 258501

6. Ref: 504027 – Pedestrian crossing, Blenheim Drive – received 02.06.04

Issue

Need for a pedestrian crossing at Woodlands School

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

We have carried out a number of surveys including site visits at school arrival and dispersal times, 12 hour pedestrian and vehicle counts, analysis of the police reported road casualty database and hand held radar vehicle speed readings. The results show that the site does not meet the requirements for a pedestrian crossing facility. Whilst there are high numbers of school children crossing Blenheim Drive to Woodlands School traffic flows are relatively low and there are adequate gaps in traffic for pedestrians to cross safely with little inconvenience.

In the morning peak hour 226 pedestrians crossed within a 100m length around the school entrance and 460 vehicles used Blenheim Drive. In the evening peak hour 189 pedestrians crossed and 323 vehicles were recorded. Traffic speed surveys at school arrival times show average traffic speeds were just above 20 mph. An analysis of police reported road injury collisions shows that there has been one slight injury outside the school in the last ten years. This occurred when a vehicle reversed into the school drive whilst attempting to turn round and collided with a child pedestrian crossing the access.

In these circumstances it is not recommended that a crossing on Blenheim Drive is introduced.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

None.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

None.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

There is no additional information to incorporate in the update report.

Responsibility

Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715019

7. Ref: 504035 – Pedestrian Crossing, Mackworth Estate – received 21.07.04

Issue

A pedestrian crossing was requested across the A52 between the Mackworth Estate and Markeaton Park as it was extremely dangerous, especially for children crossing.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

It was reported that following site observations during the morning and evening peak hours very few pedestrians were seen to cross Ashbourne Road on the 400m approach to Markeaton Roundabout. In total seven adults crossed the road in these two hours most of whom appeared to be walking their dogs. Only one pedestrian crossed at the roundabout. At these times two-way traffic flows were estimated to be around 1000 vehicles an hour.

It is recognised that on occasions pedestrians may have to wait some time for a safe gap in traffic or use other facilities which may be less convenient. However, the very low level of pedestrians means that the crossing falls well short of the Council's approved criteria. In these circumstances it is not recommended that a crossing be introduced on Ashbourne Road on the approach to Markeaton Roundabout.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

None.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Councillor Gerrard explained that there needs to be some provision made for Mackworth residents to get to the park, even if it is further along the road.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

The site suggested for a pedestrian crossing does not meet the Council's approved criteria and the Council is unable to provide a crossing.

Responsibility

Michelle Spamer, Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715064

8. Ref: 504039 - Bus service through Morley estate – received 21.07.04 Possible impact on Mackworth

Issue

A report of the Assistant Director – Highways, Transportation and Waste Management was considered, which gave details on a proposal to re-route the bus service, currently running through Morley Estate.

It was reported that a number of problems with the current route had been causing a serious problem to the bus service, run by Arriva Midlands. Due to the width of the roads, parked cars narrowed them further, making it difficult for buses to gain access and had even caused some damage to cars. This affected the reliability of bus times, causing more customer complaints.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

The issue of on street parking is a difficult problem to address. We have carried out investigations in the past to determine whether the cars using the streets for parking belong to the residents, or whether commuters working nearby were using the streets. We concluded that there was not an issue of cars parking for convenience. The significant on street parking is caused by the residents of the streets parking as there is no provision for off road parking.

The residents using the streets for parking would not agree to parking restrictions being placed upon them, as there is no practical alternative that could be offered to them. Consultation with residents seeking to reduce the amount of on street parking near to their homes would result in a great amount of opposition to any proposals put forward.

We have also been advised that Arriva report that bus no. 28 is experiencing a significant improvement in the bus running to time. It is extremely unlikely that Arriva would consider reversing their decision to re-route this service. The improvements in the reliability of the service also benefit the residents in the Morley estate area, providing them with a regular and frequent service.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A member of the public informed that panel that the buses that travel on the same route around the Mackworth Estate also find it difficult to get through. He asked if he was now right to assume that consultation would cover the rest of the routes, where access is difficult for the larger buses.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Councillor Higginbottom expressed her disappointment that past investigations were used. She went onto explain that Council consultation was not carried out when Arriva were due to stop the service.

In response to Councillor Higginbottom, Bill Reed noted this, and explained that Arriva do have the power with due notice to change the service as required.

Councillor Webb informed the meeting that he had been made aware that Arriva would be using larger buses, and this was part and parcel of the problems. They therefore needed a safe route to get around, and be able to keep to times..

Councillor Gerrard informed residents that members were not aware until the very last minute.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005
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To identify whether Arriva were proposing to make changes to the route within Mackworth

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005
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As far as we are aware Arriva have no plans to make any further changes to the route of bus number 28 in Mackworth.

Responsibility

Peter Price, Transport Policy Manager, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715034
Michelle Spamer, Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715064

9. Ref: 504046 – Garages, Darley Abbey– raised 06.10.04

Issue

A member of the public questioned whether the nine Council garages adjoining the car park west of Darley Abbey in Darley Abbey village are being used effectively, as local residents had been informed that there was a waiting list for the garages, when in fact some were not in use, and repairs were taking a long time to be done.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

At present seven of the nine garages are let and are being used. All of the tenants are Darley Abbey residents.

Two garages are currently vacant as the doors are broken. New doors have been on order for some time and the wrong sized doors were incorrectly delivered recently. We are expecting delivery of the correct doors on 17 February 2005 and these should be fitted within a few days.

There is currently a waiting list of 28 people and the garages will be relet as soon as they have been repaired. We will write to existing tenants to check that they are all still using the garages.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

The resident who originally raised this issue thanked Bill Reed for pursuing this and keeping her fully informed. She asked to be updated on this issue.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

The new garage doors have been fitted and the keys passed to us on 8 March. We are now approaching the next two people on the waiting list and hope to have these relet very soon.

Responsibility

Julie Basford, Property Review Officer, Estates department, telephone 255545

10. Ref: 504054 – Rat running on Church Lane, Darley Abbey– raised 07.12.04

Issue

A number of residents raised concern about vehicles using Church Lane to avoid traffic queues on Duffield Road. It was reported on behalf of the Darley Abbey Traffic Committee that the Council had agreed to put in additional traffic calming measures, but that these had been withdrawn two years ago. The money had apparently been spent on coloured paving instead.

A resident felt that the situation would only improve if the A38 junctions were improved at Mackworth and on the A61.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

In partnership with the Darley Abbey Traffic Committee 2000, five traffic management options were proposed within the village. The options ranged from do nothing to very draconian access restrictions and aimed to reduce excessive traffic speeds, address difficulties crossing the main roads in the village and reduce unnecessary through traffic. Consultation took place with all households in the village, and an exhibition was held in October 2000 to review the proposals in detail.

Following the public consultation over 250 people responded and the majority felt that the introduction of raised plateau and junction entry treatments would be the most appropriate scheme to implement. Further discussions took place with interested parties, including Trent Barton Bus Company and a further exhibition showing the preferred design was held in January 2002. The scheme was fully funded and completed in 2003.

Before and after surveys show significant reductions in traffic speed on Mile Ash Lane and Church Lane. They also show a small reduction in through traffic during the morning term time peak period.

Local residents were invited to attend a further round of consultation in November and December 2003 as part of the ongoing transport plans for Five Lamps and King Street. As part of the consultation we asked people what they thought of the changes in Darley Abbey. About 90 people responded, the majority felt that speeds had reduced in the area and it was easier to cross the road but they thought there was more through traffic. However, about three quarters of respondents felt that further improvements should not be carried out.

The findings were reported to the Council's Cabinet in April 2004 and Cabinet agreed that no further action should be taken for the time being.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

The resident who originally raised this issue at the last meeting, expressed her concern that nothing would be done about it. She informed the panel that she received a letter from Tony Gascoigne, stating that nothing could be done, until a fatality happened. She explained that they do not want to wait for Connecting Derby to be integrated, and explained that it is not safe, and needs to be a priority when looking at Connecting Derby.

Another member of the public informed the meeting that he had consulted with traffic management with regard to rat running, and gave suggestions, but received negative responses, stating there had been no fatal accidents, so therefore nothing would be done. He too emphasised that something needs to be done.

Area panel 5 update report – for 6 April 2005

Another member of the public drew the panels attention to Government Guidelines, which states that the Council has a duty to keep traffic out of conservation areas.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Councillor Webb emphasised that the report stated that no action would be taken for the time being, highlighting that this issue would not be ignored.

Councillor Repton expressed his concerns, on behalf of residents, about the volume and speeds of traffic. He asked for more detailed information, or a running report. He stated that measures need to be introduced to deal with this issue.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Bill Reed agreed to make the Cabinet report from April 2004 available to everyone. He also confirmed that this issue would be kept under review.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

Consultation about traffic management in Darley Abbey took place in the context of the Connecting Derby exhibitions and publicity, in November and December 2003. The report to Cabinet included the following section:

- 3.7 The responses on feedback on traffic management and calming measures that have been implemented in the Strutt's Park and Darley Abbey areas were most positive. Overall, people felt that traffic speeds had reduced and it was easier to cross the road. However, although in Strutt's Park, most people felt that rat-running had reduced, this was not considered the case in Darley Abbey. There was a strong view however, that no work to reduce rat- running further should be carried out at this time. It is therefore proposed that no further action is taken on specific measures in these areas, but that we will continue to monitor the situation.

A copy of the Cabinet report will be available at the meeting.

Responsibility

Michelle Spamer, Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715064

11. Ref: 504055 – Litter bins in Knightsbridge Recreation Ground – raised 07.12.04

Issue

A resident asked whether additional bins could be provided in Knightsbridge Recreation Ground

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

The Council has no funding for any extra bins on the highway this financial year. However, we will investigate the issue raised by the resident and monitor whether there is a problem with litter on the Knightsbridge highway area. If it is found that there is a litter problem from a street cleansing point of view, we will look at providing extra litter bins in the new financial year.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A member of the public stated that this issue also included dog bins.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

This was noted.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

The site has been included in a list from among which the 20 new dog bins in the city will be chosen

This location has been inspected on a number of occasions and does not currently meet the criteria to have an extra highways waste bin installed.

Responsibility

Dawn Dagley, City Parks telephone 716272

Richard Winter, Assistant Waste Management, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 716352

12. Ref: 504056 – Lighting, Prince Charles Avenue– raised 07.12.04

Issue

A resident asked whether lighting could be improved at Prince Charles Avenue, adjoining the shops, as the CCTV cameras were unable to provide adequate pictures.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

We have investigated the lighting in Prince Charles Avenue in the area around the shops. White light lanterns are already in place on the highway lighting columns in the area. The new white light lanterns give better illumination than the traditional lanterns.

The area in front of the shops is managed by Derby Homes, who are aware of the problems raised, but at the present time have no funds available to enhance the lighting.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Bill Reed explained that the highway lights have already been improved. Unfortunately, Derby Homes who own the lights that are attached to the shops, do not have funds available to improve them.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

Derby Homes are seeking a quote for new lighting. It is possible that this can be funded from their City Housing Improvement Plan bid for 2006/07.

Responsibility

Michelle Spamer, Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715064

Peter Matthews, Local Manager, Derby Homes, telephone 716577

13. Ref: 504057 – Bushes, Prince Charles Avenue– raised 07.12.04

Issue

A resident asked whether bushes at the shopping area at Prince Charles Avenue could be removed completely as they were a haven for young people, to the detriment of safety for other residents.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Bill Reed confirmed that the bushes would be removed from the outside of the shops during the next few weeks.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

None.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

None.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

The bushes will be removed and replaced with new low-level planting before 31 March 2005.

Responsibility

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager – Highways and Footways, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715067

14. Ref: 504058 – Litter, footway St Benedict School to Broadway– raised 07.12.04

Issue

A resident raised concerns about the amount of litter deposited on the footpath between St Benedict School and Broadway. He was also concerned that the hedges on this footway were only trimmed when he requested.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Area Panel 5 paid for two litter bins in this area which were installed last year. The jitty from Broadway up to the school is being added to the new street cleaning contract even though it's not highway land.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A member of the public said that he was glad the Council were hoping to take over the street cleaning of the footpath, and asked how often it would be cleaned, as this was a daily problem. He also explained that the problem goes right the way down to Park Farm.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Bill Reed to respond to the resident regarding the cleaning of the footpath.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

The footway is not currently owned by anyone and there is no fixed frequency for litter collection. We have recently negotiated a new litter collection contract and this footway will be placed on the contract once it is in place. The frequency will then be established at this point.

Responsibility

Richard Winter, Assistant Waste Management Officer, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 716352

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager – Highways and Footways, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715067

Bill Reed, Area panel manager, Policy Directorate, telephone 258501

15. Ref: 504059 – Balustrade at Darley Abbey Park– raised 07.12.04

Issue

A resident asked what had happened about the balustrade at Darley Abbey Park. The Area panel had agreed a feasibility study and temporary measures were in place to prevent accident.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

It is acknowledged that this work needs doing. The Council cannot ask for it to be done by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – DEFRA – as it falls outside their criteria. The work needs funding by the Council, and, as yet, no funds have been identified for the work.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Council Repton asked that this issue be given priority, as a matter of safety and aesthetics, and therefore should not be left.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

A significant scheme has been agreed with DEFRA funding to replace pipework to the rear of the outfall culvert in Darley Park. However, the culvert outfall structure itself will not be replaced as this is not considered to be unsafe, despite superficial cracking.

There are no funds in this scheme to pay for ornamental features. No replacement balustrade will be funded as part of this scheme. No Council funds have been identified for this work which would cost in the region of £26,000.

It is considered safer to remove locking grilles at the entrances to outfalls. This will be done at the outfall in Darley Park as part of the works. Similar situations in other areas have in the past been the site of drownings from persons accessing the works upstream and then being unable to egress at the downstream end. Ian Frearson, Land Drainage and Flood Defence Manager for Derby considers that removing the current locked gates would remove this threat and therefore present a more acceptable situation. There is no satisfactory method for an automatic arrangement that would allow persons to egress but prevent access. An instruction to stop the proposals would be accepted albeit reluctantly.

Responsibility

Dawn Dagley, Parks Liaison Officer, Commercial Services, telephone 716272
Ian Frearson, Land Drainage and Flood Defence Manager, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 255969.

16. Ref: 504060 – Petition - Parking, Oakover Drive - Petition – raised 07.12.04

Issue

A petition had been submitted, asking for action to prevent illegal and obstructing parking on Oakover Drive, Allestree.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A full report was included in the papers, and for the reasons outlined in the report, it was felt that this request be turned down. The situation would be kept under review by officers.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

A member of the public asked how the university of working hand in hand with the Council on this issue.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Bill Reed suggested that a representative of the university come to a future meeting to explain the measures they are taking.

Councillor Webb agreed with this suggestion, and went on to explain that the Council do hold regular meetings with the University, and that the parking issues are a regular item on the agenda.

It was agreed to invite the Students Union at the same time.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

As the Panel meeting is taking place during the University vacations, neither the University nor the Students Union is available. They will be invited to the meeting on 6 July.

Responsibility

Michelle Spamer, Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715064

Bill Reed, Area Panel Manager, Policy Directorate, telephone 258501

17. Ref: 504061 – Petition - Parking on Penny Long Lane - raised 07.12.04

Issue

A petition had been submitted asking for parking restrictions to be introduced on penny Long Lane. It was understood that an Order had been agreed several years ago for double yellow lines along the full length of the Lane, but this had not been implemented.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

We are currently investigating the matters referred to in the petition and will report back to the next area panel meeting when the investigation is complete.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

None.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

None.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

A report is attached to the agenda.

Responsibility

Michelle Spamer, Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 715064

18. Ref: 505001 – Strutts Park - raised 02.02.05

Issue

A resident asked Bill Reed for a written response regarding the section 106 money raised from the development of Strutts Park public open space.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

The following public open space contributions have been secured from development within the Strutts Park Conservation Area:

- St Marys School - Wheeldon Homes - £14,400. This has not yet been received.
- Children's Hospital - Miller Homes - £15,000. This has been received and is earmarked to be spent at Bendall Green.

A number of other developments outside the Conservation Area have contributed towards work in Darley Park.

Responsibility

Rosie Heath, Senior Planning Officer, Development and Cultural Services, telephone 255073

19. Ref: 505002 – Communications - raised 02.02.05

Issue

A member of the public read out a job advertisement that was in the Observer newspaper on 16 January for the position of Head of Communications and Consultation. She asked the Panel how this fits into what has been witnessed during the meeting, regarding not receiving communications to fully participate in the meetings.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

The post of Head of Communications and Consultation will have a number of important responsibilities, which will be crucial to how the Council builds its relationships with its customers.

With regard to the decision to limit circulation of full agendas, Councillor Burgess has confirmed that if attendances fall at the next two rounds of meetings, the decision will be reviewed.

Responsibility

Bill Reed, Area panel manager, Policy Directorate, telephone 258501

20. Ref: 505003 – Cityscape Consultation - raised 02.02.05

Issue

A member of public stated that by midnight tomorrow there will have been four major consultation events on the cityscape. She asked how much this costs, and what do the general public pay towards it.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Councillor Hickson explained that this is a complex issue, as the Council do not fully fund Cityscape. With regard to the public costs, agreed to update for the next meeting.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

The Council contributes £250,000 annually towards the cost of Cityscape.

Responsibility

Councillor Hickson

21. Ref: 505004 – Public speaking - raised 02.02.05

Issue

Concern was raised regarding a decision by cabinet to reduce public time to speak at Planning Control Committee meetings.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

The panel were asked to send a message to Cabinet explaining that this area panel feel that the public should have more time to speak, and not be restricted.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Councillor Travis explained that it was not at a Cabinet meeting, but a planning meeting where this decision was taken. She further explained that it had been voted to reduce the time that the public have to speak at the planning meetings.

Councillor Baxter responded, stating that most people who speak at planning meetings don't take five minutes, and spend a lot of time talking about price and value of houses, which are not planning issues. He explained that there was a recommendation that the time period be reduced to three minutes, so to get the planning issues sorted out. 90% of the people in attendance do not take the five minutes.

Councillor Webb agreed to a vote, and the results were as follows:

- To keep the five minute allocation – 26
- To reduce the time – 1
- In favour of reducing it to three minutes – 0.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Councillor Travis to report these concerns back to the Planning Control Committee.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

This issue was discussed at the Planning Control Committee, who agreed to continue with the three minutes.

Responsibility

Councillor Travis

22. Ref: 505005 – Graffiti - raised 02.02.05

Issue

A member of the public handed in photographs that she had took of graffiti around St Mary's Church, Arthur Street, and North Gate, and asked that these be passed to Mr Winter. She asked the panel what the Council intend to do about graffiti. She went to explain that the utility boxes are a prime target for this, and asked if there was any agreement with the owners of them, to clean them. She stated that lampposts on Normanton Road have been painted with anti-graffiti pain, and asked that utility companies, and the public are given information about this.

Action reported at the meeting on 2 February 2005

New item.

Public response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Another resident explained that in October last year, he had reported graffiti on the Community Centre near Prince Charles Avenue, only to be asked if it was offensive. He reported that it had still not been cleaned. Each time he reports it, he is asked if it is offensive.

Another residents stated that he too, on several occasions had reported graffiti, and yet nothing had been done about it.

It was suggested that the Council should ask the home office to pay 50% of this cost.

Another residents suggested that the Allestree Neighbourhood Watch put details of companies who clean graffiti and hints and tips on cleaning it off on their Community Matters newsletters. He also suggested that this be organised by other committees and neighbourhood watches.

Council response at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Councillor Hickson explained that Cabinet intend to put extra money into the budget specifically to clear graffiti, and to also increase the number of prosecutions regarding graffiti. However, the majority of the problems are on privately owned dwellings. He expressed his concern about the convent, but explained that the Council cannot clear it without permission, and that there are a number of legal issues around this. He explained that the Council were in negotiation with solicitors to get a waiver agreement, so they can go out to private dwellings, to ask them to waive any clauses on the insurance, should any damage occur as a result of the cleaning.

With regard to cable boxes, again this is private property, and therefore need to negotiate a procedure to deal with this, so that the Council are not liable if damage should occur. The Council do not have any legal power to make the utilities do the cleaning, and therefore cannot enforce them to clean them.

With regard to the lampposts he explained that the Council have entered into a private initiative, and all lampposts will be replaced with this paint.

He emphasised that this issue is on the top list of priorities, but there are legal issues to take on board. He invited residents to inform the Council of graffiti on any council property.

Councillor Repton reported that the Council had held meetings with both the Polic and the Antisocial Behaviour team, and is too concerned about the increasing amount of graffiti

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throughout the city over the last six months. He explained that at a meeting held the previous evening, it was agreed that a report be produced to see what the Council can do.

Sgt. Critchley reported that there are ongoing measures that the police are running.

Actions agreed at the meeting on 2 February 2005

Councillor Webb agreed to raise this issue at the Allestree Police meeting to be held the following Thursday.

Updates on agreed actions to feedback at the meeting on 6 April 2005

The technical position adopted by the Council is as follows:

There is no law regarding graffiti. It is not illegal to have graffiti on your property. There is no technology currently available to clean graffiti without risking damage to property. If the owner of private property does not want to remove graffiti, we cannot force them to clear it. We do have a waiver that we use which states that the property owner cannot take the Council to court if we caused any damage whilst removing graffiti. However, if we feel that we will cause damage to private property by removing graffiti, we will not attempt removal. We consider painting over graffiti to be the safest and the preferred method of graffiti removal on private property.

Additional funds for graffiti removal were awarded by the Council and these funds came into effect on 1 April. The impact on Council owned and other buildings will become apparent over the next few months.

I understand that graffiti on Mackworth Community Centre was removed on 24 March.

Responsibility

Sgt. Mark Critchley, Derbyshire Police
Richard Winter, Assistant Waste Management Officer, Development and Cultural Services,
telephone 716352