

**AREA PANEL 1 COMMUNITY ISSUES – UPDATE REPORT  
BACKGROUND INFORMATION  
7 JUNE 2006**

**For further information contact:**

Richard Smail, Area Panel Manager, telephone 258505

E-mail: [richard.smail@derby.gov.uk](mailto:richard.smail@derby.gov.uk)

Vickie Butler, Area Panel Support Officer, telephone 258529

E-mail: [vickie.butler@derby.gov.uk](mailto:vickie.butler@derby.gov.uk)

Or e-mail: [area.panels@derby.gov.uk](mailto:area.panels@derby.gov.uk)

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**1. Ref: 106001 – Pedestrian crossing request by Toys R Us, Chaddesden – received 11.01.06**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

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

**Issue:**

The main pedestrian crossing point from the Meadow Lane footbridge is over the slip road off the A52 beside Toys R Us. Crossing this road is both time consuming and very dangerous with the volume of traffic throughout the day. It increases the difficulty for pedestrians and cyclists. The Panel were asked if a crossing point could be built near to the Fireplace Centre Shop.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

We have put forward a safety scheme at The Wyvern for the 2006/7 Local Transport Plan programme. As part of the overall proposals we are looking into a crossing between the footbridge and the Wyvern. As yet we have not finalised any design but subject to Cabinet approval and funding it is hoped that improvements can take place next financial year.

**Response on 8 March 2006**

None.

**Actions agreed:**

Update on safety scheme and crossing proposals

**Update:**

The scheme has been approved in principle by Cabinet. The design will be completed in 2006/7, but we do not yet have any firm design details as yet to consult upon. When the details are known we will inform the local ward councillors. Propose to note and put in outstanding issues table until more information becomes available.

**2. Ref: 106007 – Croft Wood Railway Line Improvements, Derwent – received 11.01.06**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Andrew Morgan, Landscape and Development Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 715547

**Issue:**

A resident reported that the Croft Wood area still suffers from use by off road motorbikes even after the efforts put in by the Police and other partners over the past 15 months. While enforcement measures still need to be planned, he suggested that a longer term solution could rest with reclaiming the area as an amenity for local residents and walkers. He asked if members of the area panel would work with local residents to achieve this.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

January 2006 - Councillor Rawson approved the suggestion and agreed that all three Derwent Councillors would support residents to take the idea forward. He felt more local residents needed to be involved and he would take advice from officers.

David Slinger, Team Leader - Natural Environment in Regeneration and Community has contacted John Holmes, of the Southern Derbyshire Countryside Service at the County Council based at Shipley Country Park to inform him of the interest local people have in resolving the issues in Croft Wood.

John Holmes confirmed that the County Council has been trying for some years to create a surfaced path along this stretch of the old railway, eventually linking to Ilkeston.

The stumbling block on the first section has been the ownership of a short section of the track, just north of Croft Wood by Leigh Environmental, now Onyx. John Holmes indicated that the County Council are trying to acquire this section of track bed which would allow them, hopefully next financial year, to start discussing a scheme to improve the path along the first section from the Paddock Pub to Breadsall.

It is not clear how the scheme would be financed but there is a possibility some of it could be funded through Local Transport Plan monies.

The Council own the first section of the track and as one way to overcome the issue of off road riding it has been suggested that as part of any scheme one solution may be to use selective felling as part of woodland management. This could involve placing selected hurdles down before putting a path in. To be effective it needs to be done in consultation with Erewash Borough Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as Croft Wood is an important designated wildlife site.

David Slinger informed John Holmes of the considerable interest in local joint action to enhance the area and the need for plenty of consultation and forming of local partnerships before any plans are taken too far. John Holmes confirmed the issue and the interest of local residents would be discussed at the next County Council meeting. Updates on progress will be provided to the area panel.

The two 'No Motorcycle' signs have now been installed, one at the entrance adjacent to the Paddock Pub and one opposite Stratford Road. Parks will continue to work with the Police on enforcing no motorcycles. However, total control of access into Croft Wood is difficult as the adjacent land is in private ownership. While there is potential for local resident involvement in improving this area Parks staff resources are fully committed to other projects across the City at this stage. Once the County Council has secured a continuous route north of the city then Parks would work with local residents, other City Council Departments and the County Council to move the project forward, subject to staff resources and work priorities at the time.

**Response on 8 March 2006**

Councillor Rawson reported that he had met with the resident who had first raised this issue, to discuss how this could be taken forward. They would be getting together with a number of other residents to gather support, who would put something in writing to the Council. He stated that once the land has been acquired, they would be looking at applying for funding.

**Actions agreed:**

None.

**Update:**

John Holmes from the County Council has confirmed that the purchase of the land along the old railway route from the City Boundary to Ilkeston is a County Council priority. This will allow a surfaced cycle route to be installed. The County Council aim to complete the purchase of the necessary land from a variety of existing landowners during 2006/7. The County Council aim to produce detailed costings for the first phase of scheme from the Paddock Public House to Breadsall village in 2007. The scheme will include the installation of access controls along the route.

Once the County Council has secured a continuous route north of the city then Derby Parks would work with local residents, other City Council Departments and the County Council to move the project forward, subject to staff resources and work priorities at the time.

Propose to note and put in outstanding issues table until more information is available.

**3. Ref: 106012 – Youth activity in Derwent - received 08.03.06**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Michele Campbell, Derwent Community Team, telephone 385321

**Issue:**

A local resident asked the Derwent Councillors about facilities for young people in Derwent and what ideas they have to tackle issues.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item.

**Response on 8 March 2006**

Councillor Redfern reported on a variety of projects and schemes including, the Youth Inclusion Group, a Multi Use Games Area – MUGA, new junior football teams, basketball, radio station and studio, new facilities and services at da Vinci school such as mentoring schemes and extended school services providing facilities from 8am until 8pm.

Councillor Roberts referred to the proposals that section 106 funding from the Crest Nicholson site at Breadsall Hilltop would be spent on young peoples facilities. He explained that Section 106 is funding set aside as apart of an agreement with the developers to be spent on local community facilities.

Councillor Rawson referred to the new BMX/Skateboard park to be installed, the new young persons building on Wiltshire Road, the Endeavour project, the national film award won by local young people.

**Actions agreed:**

Update on activities and facilities planned and available for young people.

**Update:**

The Derwent Youth Project arranges a number of activities for young people in the area. This included an Easter programme with sports, rock climbing and arts and craft activities working with Sporting Futures and the Youth Inclusion Project.

The Senior Youth Night is at Derwent Youth Centre, for those 13 years old and over, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7pm to 9.30pm.

Derwent Youth Alliance meets every Thursday from 7pm to 9pm. This group is made up of young people who are currently working on another film project.

A Youth Gym for 14 to 16 year olds runs every Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm to 9pm in the Gateway Centre. A Girls Group run by Sporting Futures meets every Monday evening from 5pm to 7pm. Propose to close

**4. Ref: 105029 – Porters Lane footpath, Oakwood – received 07.09.05**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715067

**Issue:**

A resident asked who is responsible for maintaining the footpath that leads onto the top of Porters Lane. She explained that it is overgrown and that the lights are not working.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

November 2005 - Lighting column DY295 at the rear of 3/5 Lynford Close has been reported as not being lit. A night patrol to inspect the lighting was carried out on 27 September and we observed that the light was still out. The repair has been completed. We have been to assess the bushes reported by the resident. We will be placing an order to have the bushes and tree cut back when the cost of the work has been confirmed. It was reported that the work to maintain the footpath had not taken place, as there were tree preservation orders on the trees along the footpath. Investigations into this needed to be completed before the work could be done.

January 2006 - An order has been raised for this work, and it is expected to be completed by the end of March 2006. The works are not classed as urgent as the footpath is passable.

March 2006 - The tree maintenance work is expected to be completed by the end of March 2006.

**Response on 8 March 2006**

None.

**Actions agreed:**

Confirm work completed.

**Update:**

The cutting back of overgrown vegetation has now been completed. Propose to close.

**5. Ref: 105031 – Mobile phone mast, Oakwood – received 02.11.05**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Councillor Smalley, Oakwood, telephone 833250

John Stewart, Principal Planner, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255934

**Issue:**

A member of the public raised concern about a proposed Vodafone mobile phone mast on Bishops Drive, Oakwood that was close to a children's nursery and a doctors' surgery. She asked that Councillors support local residents and reject the planning application.

A previous mast in the Oakwood area had resulted in a 700 signature petition but it had been too late to prevent the mast being agreed. She informed the meeting of a drop in meeting to be held on 10 November at Springwood Leisure Centre between 3.30pm and 7.30 pm which Vodafone were attending to answer residents' questions.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

November 2005 - Councillor Latham explained that the Area Panel was not able to refuse the application and that the Planning Committee was where the application would be considered. It was reported that Councillors could attend and put objections in on behalf of residents.

January 2006 - Councillor Smalley has met with local residents and explained the limited grounds under which they can object to this proposal under current planning legislation. He has registered his objections to this mast erection to both the operator and the Council's planning department.

March 2006 - Residents and councillors attended the meeting in November 2005 about the proposed phone mast. The possible streetworks installation of a Vodafone mobile phone mast on Bishops Drive, close to Danebridge Crescent, on which the company undertook public consultation, has not led to a formal prior notification. It is understood that the company is pursuing other nearby possibilities.

**Response on 8 March 2006**

Councillor Smalley informed the meeting that this issue was still ongoing, and explained that a pre application process is currently being worked through, and therefore this issue cannot be closed.

**Actions agreed:**

Update on any proposals to install a mast.

**Update:**

No formal prior notification has been received by the planning section.



**6. Ref: 105027 – Spondon Cemetery, Spondon – received 07.09.05**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Andrew Morgan, Landscape and Development Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 715547

**Issue:**

A resident was concerned about the gravestones that have been lain down by the Council over the past few days. He considered that the workmen who tested the gravestones had shaken them too hard and that it was unnecessary to lay down gravestones that are less than 3 feet tall. He was unhappy that there had been no notification about the work and thought vandals had damaged the gravestones until he saw a small note left by the workmen.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

A resident reported that it will cost £80 to have a stonemason fix the necessary supporting rod and this was too much to pay. Councillor Bolton explained that councillors were aware this is a sensitive issue but there is a requirement to conduct a risk assessment on health and safety grounds.

Testing the memorials had been suspended until we have the equipment to stabilise the memorials in their existing position, where possible. We will spend the subsequent few weeks stabilising memorials previously laid flat using a metal stabiliser bar banded to the memorial to hold it in place. Each memorial temporarily secured in this way will have a warning notice fixed to the banding advising visitors not to remove the securing bands. If we find the bands have been removed we will re-fix once more and place a further notice advising that should the securing bands be removed again we will lay the memorial flat until it has been re-fixed by a memorial mason to NAMM standards, as it is unsafe to leave it upright without the supporting bands/stabilising bar.

March 2006 - Health and Safety assessments on the new equipment were completed at the end of January 2006, and work has commenced stabilising/temporarily re-fixing memorials previously laid flat in Nottingham Road Cemetery. When that has been completed we will move on to Spondon Cemetery. We cannot do Spondon or other remote sites at present as the operators are awaiting training to allow them to obtain a license to tow the compressor. We expect this to be in mid April.

**Response on 8 March 2006**

A local resident thanked Councillors Evonne and Peter Berry for their input on this issue.

**Actions agreed:**

Update on work at Spondon cemetery.

**Update:**

We aim to start and complete the work to stabilise/temporarily re-fix memorials in Spondon cemetery in June. Work has been delayed because staff have been completing the health and safety railing checks for parks in the city.  
Propose to note and close.

**7. Ref: 105032 – Welcome to Spondon signs, Spondon – received 02.11.05**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer Regeneration and Community, telephone 716090

**Issue:**

A member of the public asked what had happened to the Welcome to Spondon road signs, which had been replaced with signs saying 'City of Derby Twinned with Osnabruck'. He would like to see the Welcome to Spondon signs reinstalled, with 'Winners of Britain in Bloom' included if possible.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

January 2006 - The new city boundary sign on Locko Road is a one of a number that have recently been installed to replace old, missing or vandalised signs. Investigations are continuing into how additional words could be included with the existing city boundary signs.

March 2006 - An application for funding has been submitted by the Spondon Councillors for three signs costing £1,500

**Response on 8 March 2006**

A resident thanked the Spondon Councillors for their support to install some signs

**Actions agreed:**

Update on installation of signs.

**Update:**

The three signs have now been installed. Propose to close

**8. Ref: 105033 – Dangerous wall – Spondon Village Hall, Spondon – received 02.11.05**

**Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Chris Edwards, Assistant Director - Property Services, Chief Executive's, telephone 255070

**Issue:**

A member of the public raised concern over the dangerous wall at the rear of Spondon Village Hall and asked the panel who it belonged to and what was happening with it.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

January 2006 - The Council completed a boundary wall inspection programme in 2004 and this wall was identified as being potentially dangerous. Safety fencing was erected immediately and further investigation carried out. Part of the wall was subsequently shored up to increase stability. In January 2005 there was a partial collapse and again the wall was stabilised and fenced off for safety. Our deeds on this wall indicate there is a shared responsibility with the adjoining property owners. A structural engineer has recently inspected the wall and we are awaiting his recommendations and quotes for the repair works. Due to the historic importance of the site, any remedial works will reinstate the wall to its original appearance even though the wall is not within the Spondon conservation area. Preliminary estimates indicate that this will be an expensive job and we will discuss a contribution towards the cost with the adjoining owners. Work will not start until the specification, quote, contributions and a budget have been confirmed.

March 2006 - Since the last area panel urgent temporary repair works have been carried out on a small section of the wall. A letter has been sent to all property owners adjoining the wall asking them to check their deeds so that we can start discussions over any split of the cost of the works. Received structural engineers recommendations and obtaining tender price for works.

Timescales: Tender documentation planned for sending out no later than Friday 17 March 06.

Tender returns will be required back by Wednesday 12 Apr 06.

Work could commence during May 06 and duration anticipated at 2 - 3 months. But the following needs to be resolved first. All adjoining owners to have confirmed their responsibility under their own title - we have now written to them all requesting this information.

Consultation with owners over liability, extent of works and share of the cost. The works vary along the various lengths of the wall and the split will not be even and will be subject to negotiation.

Considerable delays if any disputes arise.

There will be approval of funding for our share of the cost, wider public consultation as this adjoins the village hall and public car park, planning approval following consultation and agreement of the extent of works - 12 weeks. It is very difficult to estimate how long the issues above will take but we expect around 4-6 months and longer if there are any major disputes.

**Response on 8 March 2006**

None.

**Actions agreed:**

Update on progress.

**Update:**

There was a delay sending out the tenders for the works. They are now due back by the end of May. Officers are chasing up the information requested from residents, as this has not all been received yet. A party Wall Surveyor will be appointed to advise on the repair works and how the costs should be apportioned. A letter was sent at the end of May to the residents adjoining the wall inviting them to a meeting on Wednesday 14 June at 6pm in the village hall. Ward councilors and a representative from Spondon Community Association have also been invited. The meeting is to consider the options following which there will be wider consultation on the preferred option.