

**AREA PANEL 1 COMMUNITY ISSUES – UPDATE REPORT  
BACKGROUND INFORMATION  
6 JUNE 2007**

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

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

John Holmes, Derbyshire County Council, telephone 01629 580000

**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.

**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.

**June 2006** - 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.

**September 2006** - Councillor Rawson reported that he had met with local residents, Derbyshire County Council and Breadsall Parish Council to update on progress. He confirmed that the route will be part of a cycle way and that a map outlining the proposals would be sent to the Council for comments. Councillor Rawson reported that he would make sure Oakwood Councillors were kept informed as well.

**November 2006** - Councillor Rawson has received copies of the plan indicating the proposed cycle route and has forwarded copies to the Derwent and Oakwood Councillors and the resident who is representing the local residents views. Council officers have also received copies of the plan and been asked for their views on local links.

The planned work has been brought forward because the County Council has successfully purchased part of the route, near to Breadsall village, from Onyx. The whole route from Ilkeston to the Paddock Public House is now in council ownership and Engineers have now walked the route and a costed scheme is being put together.

The County Council aims to start the scheme next financial year to improve the path along the first section from the Paddock Pub to Breadsall.

**March 2007** - The County Council Officer Working Party tasked with delivering this route has reconvened. Derbyshire County Council has completed purchase of the land from ONYX. The first meeting was held in December 2006. Derbyshire County Council are addressing some of the liabilities on the site this year in 2007. A detailed encroachment plan is being prepared for Breadsall. Derbyshire Consulting Engineers are preparing a costed scheme of works ahead of submission for Planning. The costed scheme will look at links to Oakwood, Little Eaton and Derby College. Note

#### **Response on 7 March 2007**

None.

#### **Actions agreed:**

Update on any progress.

#### **Update:**

No more information to report at this stage. The Working party will be meeting again in the near future. Note.

**2. Ref: 107010 – Trees Obscuring Lighting on Cumberland Avenue, Derwent - received 07.03.07**

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

John Booth, Arboricultural Manager, Environmental Services, telephone 715485

Alan Jaques, Street Lighting Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715014

**Issue:**

A resident referred to the new white light street lighting on Cumberland Avenue which is being used as a showpiece for the city and commented that four of the 10 new lights are obscured by tree branches. He asked why the lights have been installed within the tree branches.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item

**Response on 7 March 2007**

Councillor Rawson reported that the British Standards determine the distance between streetlights. He agreed to ask the Arboricultural officer to investigate the trees overhanging the lights.

**Actions agreed:**

Investigate the position of the lighting and overhanging trees and report back.

**Update:**

The Arboricultural Manager reports that The Councils Tree Management Policy clearly states that "Pruning may also be carried out in exceptional circumstances where branches interfere or obstruct street lights, CCTV cameras and overhead cables for example. However, we do expect installation engineers to take account of trees and their future growth before they install their apparatus."

It appears the installation works have proceeded with little regard to tree location and indeed one has to question the logic of installing columns amid trees, there are clearly going to be ongoing issues. We will take a look to see what can be done, but, and without having had chance to view personally, it occurs that relocating columns might be the better, long term solution.

Arboricultural Officers have organised to have the trees pruned to give some clearance to the street lights, this is an ongoing problem on this street because lighting columns have been erected within a trees canopy.

The Street Lighting Manager reports that some of the columns on Cumberland Avenue were replaced because they were so old we were concerned about their structural integrity. This wasn't a complete re-design and the new columns were installed in the same locations as the old ones. There are many locations throughout the city where it is very difficult to avoid trees, however when new schemes are installed every effort is made to do just that, but we are governed by the requirements of the British Standard.

We are pleased that the Arboricultural Officers are going to prune back these trees.  
Note and close.

**3. Ref: 107011 – Street Sign at Revive Healthy Living Centre, Derwent - received 07.03.07**

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

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

**Issue:**

A resident was concerned about the position of the Roe Farm Lane street sign obstructing the access to the Revive Healthy Living centre. He considered it a health and safety hazard and suggested it is moved.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item.

**Response on 7 March 2007**

Councillor Roberts reported that as a Director of Revive he would investigate and make sure there is safe access into the centre.

**Actions agreed:**

Investigate position of the street sign and report back.

**Update:**

Instructions have been issued for the Street nameplate to be repositioned such that it is clear of the pedestrian entrance.  
Note and close.

**4. Ref: 107002 – Petition – Damage to Tiled Kerbs on Charterhouse Close, Oakwood – received 10.01.07**

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

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

**Issue:**

A petition that had been submitted to the Council in November 2006 was presented to the meeting requesting action to replace the badly worn kerb tiles that run along the road edge and were installed in the 1980's. The cracked tiles have resulted in pieces of tiles being scattered on the road and lawns. The lead petitioner asked that the appropriate action is taken to replace them as soon as possible.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

January 2007 - Photos were provided that show how the kerbs have worn down. The lead petitioner explained that officers had visited the Close to view the problem.  
Councillor Smalley confirmed that Councillor West has been in contact with officers.  
Councillor Latham reported that other roads in Oakwood suffered the same problem and asked that they are also considered in the response.

**Response on 7 March 2007**

A report in response to the petition was presented to the meeting confirming that the issue had been investigated. It was reported that work to replace the kerbing on Charterhouse Close was included in the list of potential highway maintenance schemes for 2007/08 as approved by Council Cabinet and that work will be carried out during summer 2007. The lead petitioner confirmed that he had been informed of this response but wanted to discuss the detail of the planned work with an officer because he was concerned about the quality of other work completed nearby. Councillor Latham reported that the replacement kerbs would not be like for like and that officers had consulted with local residents. She agreed to make sure officers visit the lead petitioner to discuss the detail. The lead petitioner reported that he was unaware of any consultation.

**Actions agreed:**

The Panel approved the report however they asked for an update on progress with the work for the next meeting.

**Update:**

There have been meetings on site since March 2007 including a site meeting in May to consider the options available. We are currently waiting for prices for two different kerbing solutions from our design department. We aim to inform the residents and Councillors of the outcome of the prices in the next few weeks. Note.

**5. Ref: 107013 – Damage to Railway Fencing Anglers Lane, Spondon - received 07.03.07**

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

Network Rail, telephone 0845 711 4141

**Issue:**

A resident was concerned about a gap in the metal fencing at the bottom of Anglers Lane that allows access to the railway track. He was not sure who owned the fencing but asked that action is taken to repair it because it is near to the site of the recent death on the tracks.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item

**Response on 7 March 2007**

Councillor Berry confirmed it is private land and agreed to investigate. Councillor Roberts confirmed that the responsibility for the fencing lies with Network Rail and if there is a need to report something then residents need to phone them directly at the first instance. He advised the resident to report this issue and any future issues directly to Network Rail.

**Actions agreed:**

The resident to contact Network Rail directly with details of the issue.

**Update:**

Richard Smail contacted the resident with Network Rail National helpline number 0845 711 4141. Network Rail was informed and the complaint was recorded as an emergency. They visited the site within days and met the resident on site. Repairs were immediately carried out to make the fencing secure. Note and Close.

**6. Ref: 107012 – Dealing with Waste in the Future, all wards - received 07.03.07**

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

David Slinger, Team Leader Natural Environment, Regeneration and Community,  
telephone 256001

**Issue:**

A resident asked when was the 'Dealing with Waste in the Future' leaflet produced, who has it been circulated to and is the deadline for responses of 31 March a fixed date. He reported that he had only been made aware of the consultation through the area panel papers and no one else he had spoken to was aware of it.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item

**Response on 7 March 2007**

Councillor Poulter reported that the Spondon Councillors are aware of the consultation and will be responding. He considered that the Albert Looms site was not suitable and would be stating this in the response.

Councillor Wynn responded by confirming that the leaflet was launched on 1 March and that the deadline of 31 March was not a rigid deadline for responses.

**Actions agreed:**

Contact resident with more details about where the leaflet has been distributed.

**Update:**

A response was sent directly to the resident stating that:

- a joint exercise is being undertaken with the County Council as part of ongoing consultation aimed at drafting a plan showing sites suitable for waste processing developments in the City and County.
- the leaflet and accompanying material was published by the County Council as a joint document and sent out over a short period beginning 7 February. I believe it was sent to Derby libraries around 12 February. As well as being placed in libraries and other public buildings across the City and County and being available on both authorities' web sites, it was sent to individuals and organisations, including statutory consultees, such as the Environment Agency, who are directly concerned with waste development matters or who have asked to be added to our list of consultees in the past. The resident was also invited to be added to the list.
- We asked people to reply by 31 March to help us keep to the demanding timetable for preparation of this plan, but it is not a hard deadline, this exercise not being a statutory one. Comments received after this date will be taken into account in preparing the final draft plan to be published in the autumn.
- Spondon Councillors responded in relation to sites locally, including Albert Looms site and their views will be taken into account in drawing up the draft Development Plan Document. Note and close.