

**AREA PANEL 5 COMMUNITY ISSUES – UPDATE REPORT**  
**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**  
**12 JULY 2006**

**For further information contact:**

Colin Avison, Area Panel Manager, telephone 258500

E-mail: [colin.avison@derby.gov.uk](mailto:colin.avison@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 email: [area.panels@derby.gov.uk](mailto:area.panels@derby.gov.uk)

## Contents

1.	Ref: 505014 – Petition – Crossing on Park Lane and Cornhill, Allestree - raised 06.04.05	3
2.	Ref 505051 – Petition – Removal of Bench on Blenheim Parade, Allestree – raised 07.12.05	4
3.	Ref 506001 – Markeaton Park car parking, Allestree – raised 01.02.06	5
4.	Ref 506019 – Park Farm Centre, Allestree ward – raised 05.04.06	5
5.	Ref: 505039 – Petition – Well repairs and installation of hand rail, Well Street, Darley - received 12.10.05	6
6.	Ref: 505026 – Petition – Request for one-way system, Markeaton Street, Darley - raised 12.10.05	7
7.	Ref 506008 – Sale of St Helen's House, Darley – raised 01.02.06	8
8.	Ref 506012 – Granite kerb stones on Darley Lane, Darley – raised 01.02.06	9
9.	Ref 506015 – Darley Park – BBQ Notices, Darley ward – raised 05.04.06	10
10.	Ref 506017 – Parking Enforcement, Markeaton Primary School, Bromley Street, Darley ward – raised 05.04.06	10
11.	Ref 506018 – Highway signage, Duffield Road, Darley ward – raised 05.04.06	11
12.	Ref 505048 – Land on Leytonstone Drive, Mackworth – raised 07.12.05	12
13.	Ref 506003 – Prince Charles Avenue shopping parade refurbishment, Mackworth – raised 01.02.06	13
14.	Ref 506010 – Cheviot Street Recreation Ground Brook, Mackworth – raised 01.02.06	14
15.	Ref 506014 – Scout Hut, Leytonstone Drive, Mackworth – raised 05.04.06	16
16.	Ref 505049 – Public Information Pillars, all wards – raised 07.12.05	17
17.	Ref 506013 – Council Budget presentation, all wards – raised 01.02.06	18
18.	Ref 506016 – Cityscape, all wards – raised 05.04.06	19

**1. Ref: 505014 – Petition – Crossing on Park Lane and Cornhill, Allestree - raised 06.04.05**

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

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

**Issue:**

A petition signed by 57 residents was submitted which asked for a risk assessment and action relating to the hazard of crossing the road at the junction of Park Lane and Cornhill, Allestree.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

**July 2005:** The investigations had not been completed and the report will be available at the October meeting.

**October 2005:** - report responding to this petition presented to the meeting. Observations on site had shown that pedestrians cross easily and safely in gaps in traffic on all three approaches. Pedestrian and vehicle surveys were carried out over a 12 hour weekday period on Park Lane, St Edmunds Close and Cornhill. This investigation indicated that the threshold for the installation of a pedestrian crossing facility was not met at this location. It was therefore proposed that the request for a pedestrian crossing be refused. However it was recommended that a scheme be added to the Traffic Management Minor Schemes preparation pool to investigate the creation of a new footway at this point..

**December 2005:** Each year a number of schemes are put forward for consideration by Cabinet. The schemes approved by Cabinet are then included in the following financial year's work programme. The crossing on Park Lane and Cornhill will go forward to Cabinet for possible inclusion in the 2006/07 work programme. Traffic observation surveys are usually carried out from cars for safety reasons and also to protect the equipment being used. However, on occasions the surveys are carried out standing on the street where it is not possible to safely park cars.

**February 2006:** The crossing is being considered for the 2006/07 programme, and we will know by April 2006 if it will be installed.

**Response on 1 February 2006**

None.

**Actions agreed:**

To put into Outstanding Issues table until July 2006. To update on installation of crossing.

**Update:**

The extension to the footway at Cornhill has been included in the 2006/07 work programme. The scheme will make crossing the road at the junction of Park Lane and Cornhill easier.

This scheme is included on page 1 of the Derby Joint Local Transport Plan, Area Panel 5 - Highways and Transport Scheme Funding 2006/07 leaflet, which is being made available along with the Area Panel Bulletin at the Area Panel meeting on 12 July.

**Propose to place in outstanding issues file and provide an update at April 2007 Area Panel 5 meeting.**

**2. Ref 505051 – Petition – Removal of Bench on Blenheim Parade, Allestree – raised 07.12.05**

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

Inspector Graham McLaughlin, Derbyshire Police, telephone 613131  
Andy Thomas, Head of Service Anti-Social Behaviour, Derby Community Safety Partnership, telephone 256910

**Issue:**

Sergeant Critchley presented a petition, signed by 46 people, on behalf of the local Neighbourhood Watch and local residents. The petition requested the removal of a bench near to the bus stop on Blenheim Parade. The bench is hardly ever used by people waiting for a bus and is the focal point for groups to gather and this has frequently resulted in acts of anti social behaviour.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

February 2006: The Police and Anti Social Behaviour Team have reported that the anti-social behaviour will be monitored. They anticipate that the situation experienced by residents should improve as a result of the publicised Anti-Social Behaviour Order and the Section 30 dispersal order. The bench is Highways responsibility to maintain and they have visited the site and note that it needs some repair. The anti social behaviour will be monitored and if there are no further problems, Highways will consider repairing the bench. Should there still be anti-social behaviour problems, consideration would be given to resiting or removing the bench.

**Response on 1 February 2006**

The panel noted the decision to monitor the anti social behaviour in the area prior to deciding whether to repair or remove the bench.

**Actions agreed:**

To monitor antisocial behaviour, and report back to the July 2006 meeting.

**Update:**

While anti-social behaviour continues to occur at a low level, it is not occurring at anywhere near the level that caused the original petition to be raised. Actions continue to be taken to deal with ASB when it occurs and Enthusiasm is working with groups of young people to provide diversionary activities that will reduce ASB and other criminal behaviour.

**Propose to note and close.**

**3. Ref 506001 – Markeaton Park car parking, Allestree – raised 01.02.06**

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

Dawn Dagley, Parks Liaison officer, Environmental Services, telephone 716272

**Issue:**

A resident asked if there any proposals to convert the grassed area between Kedleston Road and the brook, from the University entrance to the Mundy Pay centre entrance, into car parking.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

April 2006 - There are no proposals for a car park adjoining Kedleston Road for students  
Propose to note and close.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

A resident asked for confirmation that the new car parking, adjacent to Markeaton Lane was a temporary feature only, and not permanent. She was concerned that bins, parking meter and lighting had all been installed, which could indicate that this would be a permanent fixture.

Councillor Hickson stated that there were no plans to make this parking facility permanent, but agreed to confirm at the next meeting. He also stated that he and other councillors would oppose this becoming a permanent thing.

**Actions agreed:**

Report to next meeting

**Update:**

Once the work is complete the old entrance to the Mundy Play Centre car park will be opened up and the temporary car park entrance reinstated. The area currently used for parking was previously used as an overspill car park accessed from the main Mundy Centre Car Park and this will continue to be the case once the work is complete.

Other works being undertaken at the park include a new wheeled sports facility. The concrete area is now finished and is being very well used. Reinstatement work is being carried out around the area and a connecting path is due to be installed. It is likely that the project will be complete by mid-July in time for the school holidays. A plan of this area will be available for viewing at the Panel meeting.

**Propose to note and close.**

**4. Ref 506019 – Park Farm Hotel, Park Farm Centre – raised 05.04.06**

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

John Stewart, Principal Planner, Regeneration and Community. Telephone 255934

**Issue:**

A resident asked the panel if there were any plans for the public house that had closed down over two years ago.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

None

**Actions agreed:**

To contact the private owner, to see if they have any future plans for it.

**Update:**

There are no outstanding applications on the property. It has been understood for some time that the owner has a wish to incorporate the site into a redeveloped shopping centre but there has been no contact for over a year.

Innes England (agents for the owner) currently have the property on the market for rent as a public house. However if no-one is forthcoming then alternative plans may need to be developed.

**Propose to note and close.**

**5. Ref: 505039 – Petition – Well repairs and installation of hand rail, Well Street, Darley - received 12.10.05****Responsible officer(s) for more information:**

Michelle Spamer, Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715064

**Issue:**

A petition containing 80 signatures, had been received from residents of Strutt's Park and Rivermead House requesting the repair of the well at the bottom of Well Street and the installation of a handrail on Well Street, as they were concerned about the general state of Well Street, in particular the slippery surface and the difficulties faced by everyone who use the route to negotiating the steep hill.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

December 2005: This is a complex petition involving a number of different departments within the Council. We have been undertaking investigatory work since the petition was presented to the last Area Panel 5 meeting on 12 October.

February 2006: We are still investigating whether appropriate funding can be found for a repair to the well and establishing the best solution for a handrail. The lead petitioner has been informed of progress. We hope to be able to have a report available for the next Area Panel meeting on 5 April 2006.

Work on the issues around the Well were continuing, she stated that Derby Homes had carried out a site visit that day, and were looking at a number of things including:

- a tidy up of the area
- repairs to the well and surrounding paving stones
- work with the police on antisocial behaviour issues including ideas to install CCTV and alcohol free zone signs
- tests on the well water, to ascertain whether it is safe to drink.

Questions were asked about consultation with residents, concerns over the installation of CCTV in a conservation area and if the works would be paid for by mainstream budgets or whether the area panel budget would make a contribution. Michelle reported that the aim was to contain the costs but until all the work was known it could not be confirmed if a request would be made to the area panel for a contribution.

April 2006 - Derby Homes have placed an order to have the well and surrounding area repaired.

The contractor is currently liaising with the Council's Environmental Sustainability Section to ensure that the materials used are in keeping with the conservation status of the area. The work will involve replacing the missing slab on the well and also tidying up the brickwork.

The water from the well has been tested and has been found not suitable for drinking. Derby Homes have ordered a sign which will warn that the water is not suitable for drinking.

The Council's Highway Maintenance Section has been liaising with the Environmental Sustainability Section regarding appropriate materials and the site for a handrail to assist residents using Well Street. The Conservation Area Advisory Committee has agreed the materials to be used for the handrail, but have asked for further investigations regarding the site for the rail.

A further report will be given to the next Area Panel 5 meeting on 12 July 2006.

#### **Response on 5 April 2006**

Councillor Hickson confirmed that Derby Homes had ordered signage for the water drinking, but stated that there was still an outstanding problem with the handrail.

#### **Actions agreed:**

Provide update on progress at next meeting

#### **Update:**

A report has been placed on the agenda.

**Propose to note and place in outstanding issues file and report back to November 2006 Area Panel meeting.**

#### **6. Ref: 505026 – Petition – Request for one-way system, Markeaton Street, Darley - raised 12.10.05**

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

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

#### **Issue:**

A petition signed by 63 people had been received requesting a one-way system on Markeaton Street, due to the concerning level of traffic that converge daily on the street. It also referred to the anticipated increase in traffic and parking problems due to the high level of developments in the area, and the proposals to expand Derby University. It also requested that the area be monitored on a regular basis by traffic wardens.

#### **Previous key points / action taken:**

**December 2005:** Investigations are continuing on Markeaton Street. We are aware that there is an element of unnecessary through traffic that uses the road particularly in the morning peak period in a southeast bound direction. We are proposing to consult the local residents in spring 2006 in order to gain their views on the introduction of any traffic management measures, including the possibility of making the street one way.

**February 2006:** We are proposing to consult the local residents in Spring 2006 in order to gain their views on the introduction of any traffic management measures, including the possibility of making the street one way. We anticipate that we will be able to report back to the area panel at its meeting on 12 July 2006.

#### **Response on 1 February 2006**

None.

**Actions agreed:**

To complete investigations and report back on outcomes at the July 2006 meeting.

**Update:**

A report on this issue will be presented as an agenda item at the meeting.

**Propose to note the report, place the issue in the outstanding issues file and include in the updates for the December meeting.**

**7. Ref 506008 – Sale of St Helen's House, Darley – raised 01.02.06**

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

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

**Issue:**

A resident reported that the closing date for bids for St. Helen's House is 21 April and he asked if the Council will have to take the best bid or can they then offer it to the St. Helen's House trust.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

April 2006 - The particulars distributed to interested parties state:

'..... the Council is seeking offers for a long leasehold interest from parties who are willing to undertake a scheme of refurbishment to the property which will not only ensure the required repairs are carried out, but also that the property is brought into beneficial use and satisfactorily maintained in the future.

Interested parties are, therefore, required to submit details of the proposed uses for the property along with their financial offer. The proposals for refurbishment, use of the buildings and any enabling development, as well as any financial offer, will be taken into account when evaluating offers.'

The Council will therefore consider the best bid, including that of the Trust, overall, taking account of these issues.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

A member of the public asked for clarification of what 'beneficial use' actually meant, as stated in the update.

Councillor Hickson explained that he understood it to mean bringing it back into a safe state, but agreed to confirm this at the next meeting.

**Actions agreed:**

Provide clarification and update on progress to the next meeting.

**Update:**

Beneficial use can be defined in this circumstance as regular and appropriate use that takes account of the needs of the property and the guidance in the Conservation and Development Plan. The intention is that the property is used rather than remains empty and that the use is advantageous to the property in terms of maintaining it in appropriate condition.

Three proposals were received by the closing date for bids of 21 April and these are currently



being reviewed by Council officers. In addition, St Helen's House Trust has commenced their detailed feasibility study and is expected to bring forward their initial proposals in the near future. A report will be provided for consideration of Council Members in due course.

No decision has been made and the bids are still under consideration. A report will be provided to Cabinet in due course.

**Propose to note.**

#### **8. Ref 506012 – Granite kerb stones on Darley Lane, Darley – raised 01.02.06**

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

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715067  
Harry Hopkinson, Team Leader-Built Environment, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255061

##### **Issue:**

A resident asked what had happened to the granite kerbstones that had been removed on Darley Lane and had been replaced with concrete in a conservation area.

##### **Previous key points / action taken:**

March 2006 - Less than two metres of granite kerb in poor condition were removed as part of the construction of a dropped crossing right at the edge of the conservation area, on the radius at the junction of Edward Street and Darley Lane, by the building contractors, Wheeldon Homes, who had carried out new building works at the adjacent site. Whilst there was an existing pedestrian dropped crossing on the opposite side of the road, there wasn't one on the side of the building works. Our Highway Inspector asked Wheeldon Homes to provide one as part of remedial works to the footway. There were existing concrete kerbs on either side of the granite kerbs.

We do try to maintain existing materials wherever possible, in Conservation areas. Where this isn't possible, we do try and use new materials that are appropriate to the area and consult with colleagues in Planning on the use of such materials.

##### **Response on 5 April 2006**

A member of the public stated that she was not satisfied with the answer, and explained that the contractors had knocked down the bollard opposite the listed building, some time ago, and it had not been restored.

Councillor Repton acknowledged that this should be rectified, and confirmed that it would be investigated, and an update reported back at the next meeting.

A Resident complained that much more than 2 metres of kerb had been removed.

Another resident informed the panel that the kerbstone from Edward Street also needed looking at.

##### **Actions agreed:**

Examine problem of bollard and rectify.

Report back. Provide plan / diagram for display at the next meeting

##### **Update:**

We have arranged to have the bollards repaired. However, as the bollards are non-standard we expect they will be repaired by the end of August.

**Propose to note and close.**

**9. Ref 506015 – Darley Park – BBQ Notices, Darley ward – raised 05.04.06**

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

Dawn Dagley, Parks Services, telephone 716272

**Issue:**

A member of the public raised concern about the use of disposable barbeques at Darley Park, as the grass and tree trunks were being damaged, and there were also problems with food remains being left on the ground. She explained that she had previously spoken to Dawn Dagley who had informed her that it was intended to install notices banning the use of these barbeques.

However she has now been informed that this would not happen, as it was felt that there were too many notices in the parks forbidding people from certain activities.

She explained that Bradgate Park in Leicestershire had actually banned the use of disposable barbeques for this reason.

Comments also mentioned the number of entrances and the number of signs at entrances.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

Councillor Repton stated that a full response was required.

**Actions agreed:**

**Update:**

It is Parks policy to keep signage in parks to a minimum. The difficulty with putting up any signage is that there are so many entries and exits to parks there is no guarantee that people will see the notices and they require something to fix them to. There are so many activities that people undertake on parks that it is difficult to cover all areas.

BBQ's are not allowed as part of events and posters / leaflets advertising the Darley Park Concert indicate that BBQ's are not allowed.

**Propose to note and close**

**10. Ref 506017 – Parking Enforcement, Markeaton Primary School, Bromley Street, Darley ward – raised 05.04.06**

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

Inspector Graham McLaughlin. Derbyshire Constabulary. Telephone 613131

Steve Alcock. Parking Development Engineer, Regeneration and Community. Telephone 71 5128

**Issue:**

A representative from Markeaton Primary School informed the panel that although they had a traffic regulation order, there was still considerable problems with parents parking on the zig - zag

lines. She explained that as requested, she had kept a record of offending vehicles, but to date had not been contacted by Officers.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

Inspector McLoughlin agreed that officers would send officers to speak to the School.

**Actions agreed:**

Report back to the next meeting.

**Update:**

Derby City Council will take over responsibility from the police for parking enforcement in the city on Monday 3 July.

Illegal parking will become a civil, rather than a criminal, offence and the Council will be employing 25.5 full-time civil parking attendants instead of the five full-time traffic wardens currently employed by the police.

The Council is taking over enforcement with the aim of reducing congestion and improving safety for motorists and pedestrians. The income from fines will pay for the enforcement and any surplus will go towards maintaining parking facilities and funding other transport initiatives.

Parking restrictions on Derby's roads will be enforced 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The civil parking attendants will issue fines of £30 (rising to £60 if not paid within 14 days) to anyone contravening the restrictions. They will not get commission or bonuses for giving out more parking fines. The Council has been using posters, leaflets and advertisements on the radio and on buses to inform motorists of the forthcoming change since the start of this month.

Surveys have been undertaken at Markeaton Primary School to ascertain compliance levels with the traffic regulation order, and enforcement will be undertaken as part of the Council's new responsibilities. The school summer holidays means that any lasting effect of the enforcement will not be felt until into the Autumn term.

**Propose to note, place in outstanding issues and report back to December meeting on progress**

**11. Ref 506018 – Highway signage, Duffield Road, Darley ward – raised 05.04.06**

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

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

**Issue:**

A resident notified the panel that between 169-171 Duffield Road there was a large highway signage – Matlock A6 that was obstructing the highway. She explained that it was placed some 42" from the light, and 30" from the kerb, and had been there for over a fortnight. Another resident informed the panel that there was also a second large sign on the refuge on Duffield Road.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

**Actions agreed:**

To investigate and report back at the next meeting.

**Update:**

We have written to the resident to inform her of an improvement that we will be making. Our letter provided contact details for her to contact us directly if she then feels that the situation could be improved further.

We have recently reviewed the signing around the Broadway roundabout, aiming to minimise environmental impact whilst still providing drivers with the essential information they require. This review has resulted in the removal of nine signs, which have been replaced with four new signs. The post for the direction sign on the northbound approach to the roundabout has not been placed exactly where we would have wanted it.

The old sign near this location was partially hidden in bushes and trees so we wanted the new sign to be closer to the footway edge. Unfortunately because of services in the footway our contractor could not place it in the preferred location, which has resulted in the situation that was observed.

However, the light post referred to, which carried one of the old signs, will be removed. An order has been placed for this work. This will then create a gap that is sufficient for the passage of double buggies and wheelchairs.

**Propose to note and close.**

**12. Ref 505048 – Land on Leytonstone Drive, Mackworth – raised 07.12.05**

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

Paul Clarke, Group Leader, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255935

Ian Donnelly, Group Leader Public Health, Environmental Services, telephone 715219

**Issue:**

A resident asked if the delays to develop the site on Leytonstone Drive were because of issues with the private road that runs along the side of the site. He explained a bungalow used to be on the site but it has been demolished and the land is now an eyesore, overgrown with weeds and rubbish. Building rubble is also on the private road behind the Humbleton Drive shops. He asked if the site and road could be cleared up.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

**December 2005:** Councillor Baxter replied that he believed the issue was who the road belonged to and that he would investigate to find out and provide an answer

**February 2006:** Outline planning permission was granted in March last year for residential development – three dwellings - under code DER 05/165. The land was then owned by the applicants JHP Property Development, 5 Camp View Road, St. Albans, Hertfordshire. The road is owned jointly by the shops on Humbleton Drive who have right of access. The Inspection officer is already aware of the site and complaints and will assess the condition of the land with a view to any action that can be taken under the untidy land legislation.

**April 2006:** Site visited by Enforcement Officer. Established that main areas of untidy land are located around the site of former lock-up garages at the rear of the parade of shops 12-20 Humbleton Drive. December 2005 letters sent to all registered owners requesting steps be taken to tidy their respective areas of land.

Site visited by Enforcement Officer on 15 February 2006 who noted some items had been removed

from the land and the last lock up garage had been demolished and removed. Land behind 12-18 Humbleton Drive noted as areas requiring further clearance. Also noted that some large items had now been dumped on the land formerly 15 Leytonstone Drive.

**17 February** - Enforcement Officer spoke to JHP Properties and was informed that had been sold last year to J & K Developments.

**24 February** - second letters sent to owners of 12-18 Humbleton Drive and first letter sent to J&K Developments who own land formerly 15 Leytonstone Drive requesting steps be taken to tidy their area of land.

**15 March** - Hennis fencing has now been erected around the former bungalow site as promised by the landowner. The condition of the land at the behind the shops on Humbleton Drive is also much improved.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

A resident thanked the people responsible for clearing the site. He asked the panel for clarification on whether the private road that runs alongside the property would be built on.

Councillor Gerrard explained that they had tried to get this gated up, but it is owned by nine separate owners, and would need to get agreement from all of them.

**Actions agreed:**

Councillor Gerard explained that the drive was in multiple private ownership. That this made it very difficult to obtain agreement on actions to be taken.

**Update:**

Councillors to provide a verbal update at the next meeting.

**Propose to note the Councillors response and close.**

**13. Ref 506003 – Prince Charles Avenue shopping parade refurbishment, Mackworth – raised 01.02.06**

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

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

**Issue:**

A resident asked when exactly the refurbishment of the shops on Prince Charles Avenue is due to take place.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

April 2006 - Mackworth District Centre is included in the provisional programme of District Centre Improvements. Mackworth is scheduled following Allenton, Alvaston, Normanton and Chellaston. Any improvements are unlikely in the next three years, but we may be in a position to commission some feasibility work sooner if resources are made available.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

A local resident asked why the refurbishment had been put behind the works in Normanton, Chellaston, Allenton and Alvaston, and asked the panel to confirm what the actual criteria was, as Mackworth always seemed to miss out. He explained that a pedestrian crossing was meant to also be installed on Prince Charles Avenue, but unfortunately this cannot be done until the refurbishment is completed. He asked for confirmation on when this work would be done.

Councillor Gerrard thanked the resident for bringing this up, and confirmed that they would be

asking for reasons why it had been put at the back of the list. Councillor Higginbottom agreed that the need to be given a clearer firm date of the schedule of work.

**Actions agreed:**

To report back on the criteria for the refurbishment schedule, and confirm when the works will be started, at the next meeting.

**Update:**

The City Council has developed a programme of improvement for district centres. The programme, which uses Local Transport Plan funding, aims to encourage greater use of district centres by improving access and by physical rejuvenation of public areas.

Funding is limited and the cost of works high.

The Council have determined that Allenton and Alvaston are the two areas of highest priority.

Work is currently in progress at Allenton and is expected to start in Alvaston in 2007/8 and be completed by 2011. Mackworth District Centre has been determined as a high priority.

We plan to commence consultation with local residents and business in Mackworth in 2010 in order to develop detailed proposals.

We will aim to allocate funding for the improvement works as part of the 2011 to 2016 Local Transport Plan.

**Propose to note and close.**

**14. Ref 506010 – Cheviot Street Recreation Ground Brook, Mackworth – raised 01.02.06**

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

Ian Donnelly, Group Leader – Public Health, Environmental Services, telephone 715219

**Issue:**

A resident reported that the brook that runs alongside Cheviot Street recreation ground is very smelly and asked that action is taken.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

April 2006 - Smells in brooks are caused by pollution from either domestic or business premises. Bramble Brook has a large catchment area and flows through Mickleover and adjacent to the Kingsway retail park. There will be miss-connections meaning that foul water is directed into the surface water system instead of the foul water system.

There is an ongoing inspection programme to identify and rectify these miss-connections to reduce pollution and consequent smells. But there may be over a thousand properties and businesses involved. As quickly as some are rectified other miss-connections are created when, for instance, a washing machine is installed in an outhouse and discharges into the nearest convenient gully that happens to be one for surface water-and ultimately into the brook.

The Brook was visited on 23 March 2006 but the officer reported that he was not able to detect any noxious smells during his visit.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

Councillor Higginbottom asked that this item be left open, as there is still a smell coming from the

brook, and it could get worse during the summer months. It was also confirmed that there was an ongoing study into this.

**Actions agreed:**

Provide update at the next meeting on current situation

**Update:**

Officers have visited the area on a number of occasions in April and May. On 19 April 2006 it was noticeable that the brook had a much increased flow following heavy rain and there was a noticeable 'sewage' smell.

Further investigations have revealed that there is a Consented Storm Water Overflow – CSO - in Mickleover which may be the source of periodic odour in the brook.

Basically a CSO means that at times of heavy rain many foul sewers can reach capacity and any excess flow is diverted and permitted to flow into watercourses - although the flow is screened to prevent solids entering the watercourse. This is an agreement between Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency permit and monitor discharges into watercourses - the Council is not involved.

If there is a CSO agreement then these discharges are permitted. When these consented discharges happen there could be the potential for some smell as sewage is entering the brook. However the excess flow is extremely diluted and also intermittent.

Misconnected sewers/drains - where foul waste water from wash basins, baths, washing machines and on occasions toilets, enter a water course via a foul sewer/drain wrongly connected to the surface water system are a different matter as the discharge entering the watercourse is not a consented discharge and this happens constantly as opposed to intermittently. It is possible that there could be misconnections entering the brook but at other times Officers have visited the brook it has been running clear and without odour, which would not indicate a constantly occurring pollution problem.

As the likely cause is a consented overflow which is permitted as part of agreement with the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water the Council is unable to take any further action. Misconnected sewers/drains do not now appear to be a major issue with the brook and no misconnected sewers/drains have been identified to date. However as part of the ongoing work carried out to identify misconnected sewers throughout the city further surveys in the potential catchment area will be carried out.

Further information is being sought on long term solutions to issues caused by the brook at the recreation ground.

**Propose to note and provide update to next meeting.**

**15. Ref 506014 – Scout Hut, Leytonstone Drive, Mackworth – raised 05.04.06**

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

Martin Laidler, Housing Development Manager, Chief Executive's, telephone 255196

Julie Basford, Asset Manager, Chief Executives, telephone 255545

Paul Cole, Derby Homes, telephone 718772

**Issue:**

A resident raised concern over the empty scout hut that constantly being vandalised by local youths. This issue had been raised previously at Area Panel 5 - 12.10.05 - and the responses had stated that Cabinet has agreed £20000 for demolition and that the work would be progressed. The resident went on to state that the tender for demolition had not been progressed yet and wanted to know why.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

Issue was noted by the panel

**Actions agreed:**

Provide a report on progress to the next meeting

**Update:**

The scout hut is situated on land which was acquired in 1952 for the development of the Mackworth Estate. Most of the land was developed for housing but areas were used for open space, shops and community facilities to benefit the residents. The ancillary parts were historically also managed by the former housing dept and were included in the Derby Homes management agreement. We are currently reviewing the non housing stock properties included Derby Homes agreement and whether they could better be managed in some other way.

Derby Homes were informed that we were to organise the disconnection of utility services to the Scout Hut on 26 January 2006. We had no prior information as to which suppliers managed the services to the site. Additionally, we had no meter reference numbers (the gas meter was removed long ago) and it took several attempts for both Severn Trent and National Grid to even find their billing references for the property (actually listed as 134th Scout Group or 134 Leytonstone Drive). For electricity removal, the meter had to be removed before any work could start on the underground cables or work would be delayed.

In late February faxes were sent to the relevant departments of all suppliers with covering letters & site plans detailing the area and building. Clarifications and further information were provided, payments authorised and work programmed in by the contractors of each of the suppliers. All of this was finally completed on 3 May 2006.

Unfortunately, none of the service providers have supplied any official documentation confirming the work they have completed nor provided site plans, showing exactly where the services have been terminated. Demolition work cannot start until official documentation is received that confirms that work to disconnect utilities has been completed along with site plans showing exactly where the services have been terminated. This information is needed by the demolition contractors.

The delayed receipt of information that services had been safely disconnected and ensuring we had a plan showing where they were capped off and where any redundant pipes were within the site affected the tender proves for demolition. Additionally staff capacity and prioritisation were an issue. The tender documentation was well progressed but staff dealing with it have been dealing with the urgent situation at Sinfin Community School following the fire and also with other urgent health and safety issues affecting our properties. In addition to the removal of services, Derby



Homes were instructed to board up the property (where the external cladding had been removed), replace two manhole covers and carry out a general site clearance.

The actual structure and surrounding site do not present a danger to the general public. Derby Homes have had the area monitored by the Community Watch Patrol team for any activity at night. There have been some problems with people who have caused criminal damage to the hut, gaining access by force and in one case started a fire. Any reports vandalism or damage have been dealt with swiftly by the local housing office as will any further reports until demolition work begins.

Regarding a date for demolition, We cannot give a firm date yet. We are aware of the anti social behaviour issues around the property and the impact on residents. We have every intention of progressing the demolition as soon as we can but this will not be until the service disconnection documentation is with us and will depend on priorities elsewhere.

**Propose to note and provide an update to the next meeting.**

#### **16. Ref 505049 – Public Information Pillars, all wards – raised 07.12.05**

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

Richard Williams, Head of City Development and Tourism, Regeneration and Community, telephone 716370

##### **Issue:**

A resident commented that in 2004, Area Panel 5 had received a presentation about Public Advertising Pillars - PIPs that had since been installed in some parts of the city. She explained that an escort agency is being advertised on the pillars and she asked if this was an appropriate use of the space.

##### **Previous key points / action taken:**

February 2006: Public Information Pillars - PIPs are operated and managed by a private company, PIPs Ltd. And the content of the adverts is PIPs Ltd's responsibility. We expect them to exercise discretion and good taste, and to conform to the standards set by the Advertising Standards Authority. Wherever a phone number or web address is given this is checked. Wherever PIPs Ltd has been unsure about a particular advert they have contacted the Council.

We have had no problems with advert content until this recent incident regarding the Bond Girls escort agency advert was brought to our attention.

We immediately asked PIPs Ltd to remove the posters, and they will not take escort agency adverts again. When they checked the matter they found the agency had changed ownership without PIPs Ltd's knowledge, and that was when the web content had changed.

The small profit on these adverts has been put back into providing and installing replacement posters, which are part of a community safety campaign warning against the dangers of binge drinking at Christmas

The Council does not expect similar problems to occur.

##### **Response on 1 February 2006**

The resident who first raised the issue, asked the panel why it took over one week for the Council to take any action after it was reported at the Area Panel 5 meeting in December 2005 and only once it had appeared on TV. Richard Smail explained that the Area Panel had agreed to investigate the issue and to respond at the next meeting. He explained that the panel had not considered this an urgent issue and if a resident wanted an issue to be investigated immediately it is often more effective to report it by phone or email.

The resident stated that she felt there are far too many of the pillars installed and asked that the

panel considers reducing them. Richard Smail reported that a review of the information pillars is planned.

**Actions agreed:**

Report back on the review of the Public Information Pillars at the July 2006 meeting.

**Update:**

Some of the pillars have been removed around Westfield and the bus station because of the works being undertaken. We will be reassessing the effectiveness of the pillars on a continuing basis.

**Propose to note and close.**

**17. Ref 506013 – Council Budget presentation, all wards – raised 01.02.06**

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

Councillor Chris Williamson, Leader of the Council  
Paul Dransfield, Director of Finance

**Issue:**

During the question time after the budget presentation, residents asked two questions that were not answered at the meeting. One resident asked for an assurance that the £7 million shortfall in the Connecting Derby budget would not be funded from Council taxpayers money. Another resident asked for an assurance that the Council will not spend any more funding on fees to a consultant to find new office accommodation. She was aware that £243,000 had previously been spent by the Council on such fees.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

April 2006 - Councillor Williamson wrote to the residents responding to their issues on 9 February 2006.

The Connecting Derby shortfall will be funded from a variety of different sources including the Local Transport Plan, Section 106 and the European Regional Development Fund. Discussions are currently ongoing to secure the balance of funding from sources other than the Council tax.

In 2003, the Council paid £40,000 to consultants for a detailed report into the Council's accommodation and its fitness for present and future purposes. In 2004, a further £19,000 was paid for work on the implementation options following on from the 2003 report. This is £184,000 less than was referred to by the resident.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

A resident raised concern that the area panel 5 budget had been cut by £5,000, meaning a £1300 reduction for the Mackworth ward. He was concerned that lots of local groups would suffer from this reduction.

Another resident stated that following an incorrect census count, subsidies from Central Government were cut. However they were subsequently restored. She asked the panel where that money has gone, and whether residents would receive a reduction in their council tax.

**Actions agreed:**

To provide a response for the next meeting.

**Update:**

Information about the area panel budgets available for each ward are provided in the financial report later on the meeting agenda.

The Council increased council tax by 2.4% for 2006/7. This was one of the lowest Council Tax increases in the country and keeps Derby's Council tax levels the lowest in the east midlands. To achieve this target, each department/service area had to make proposals for making savings in the budget. The reduction in the Area Panel spending budget was a pro rata share of the savings needed. Ultimately the proposals were approved by council in March 2006. In parallel to this development, however is a great deal of service expansions within Neighbourhoods. Initially in 5 priority neighbourhoods enhanced street care activity is being carried out with significant additional resources and a study is to take place on how to devolve more resources to be managed at a neighbourhood level so that this can be considered for introduction for 2007/8.

Here are some further statistics on Derby's tax levels.

The Derby area overall average council tax at any property band (e.g. £1,159 at Band D, £773 Band A):

- remains the lowest in the whole East Midlands area
- is 1.6% below the next nearest council tax in the East Midlands (Wellingborough in Northants)
- is 8.6% below the England average (£1,268 Band D)
- is 10.5% below the East Midlands average
- is between 9.5% and 16.7% lower than the council taxes set elsewhere in Derbyshire

In terms of the % increase, the tables show that the Council's increase is 2.4% and the overall increase is 2.8% including the police and fire taxes. This 2.8% increase:

- compares to a 4.5% average increase across England and a 4.2% average increase in the East Midlands
- is the lowest % increase of any of the 46 unitary authorities across England
- is the lowest % increase anywhere in the East Midlands Only 11 local authorities out of the 350 approx billing authorities in England have seen a lower % increase in their council tax

The Census reduction hit our grant funding in 2003/4. It had a particular impact that year. We were successful in getting that partially corrected for future years.

However we need to make savings now and in the future.

Central government is keeping levels of Council tax increases low across the country (which accords with Derby policy as well), whilst restricting the increases in government grants to help towards balancing the finances of the country overall. Add to this the demand from the public for more and better services and there is more demand for resources than money available.

**Propose to note and close.**

#### **18. Ref 506016 – Cityscape, all wards – raised 05.04.06**

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

Mr Cadwallerder, Chief Executive, Derby Cityscape Ltd. Telephone 204194

##### **Issue:**

A member of the public asked the panel if Mr Cadwallerder, Chief Executive of Derby Cityscape Ltd could come to the next Area Panel 5 meeting and give the presentation that he had recently given at Area Panel 3 and answer questions from residents.

##### **Previous key points / action taken:**

New item.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

Agreed with resident.

**Actions agreed:**

Agreed to invite Mr Cadwalleder to the next area panel meeting in July 2006.

**Update:**

Mr Cadwalleder is unable to attend the July meeting because of a prior engagement but has agreed to attend an Area Panel 5 meeting once dates for the next round of Area Panel meetings have been agreed.

**Propose to note and invite Mr Cadwalleder to the next meeting.**

**19. Ref 506020 – Petition - Street lighting on Nottingham Road – raised 05.04.06**

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

Alan Jaques, Street Lighting Manager, Regeneration and Community Tel: 715014

**Issue:**

A petition signed by 57 residents was submitted which asked for street lights to be installed on Nottingham Road.

**Previous key points / action taken:**

New item.

**Response on 5 April 2006**

It was agreed that the issue would be investigated a report provided to a future meeting

**Actions agreed:**

**Update:**

Investigations are on-going and a report will be provided to the October meeting.

**Propose to note and provide a report to the October meeting.**