

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 8.40 pm

AREA PANEL 3 (ABBEY, ARBORETUM AND NORMANTON)
21 JANUARY 2004

Present: Councillor A Hussain (Chair)
Councillors M Burgess, F Hussain, A Jackman, B Lowe,
A Nath, C Williamson

Derby City Council, Derby Homes and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Annabelle Barwick	-	Austin Local Housing Office
Sergeant Burns	-	Pear Tree Police Station – Derbyshire Constabulary
Sarah Edwards	-	Area Panel Manager – Area and Neighbourhood Team
Michael Foote	-	Deputy Chief Executive
Andy Luscombe	-	Crime Reduction Manager – Community Safety Partnership
Katherine Taylor	-	Members Services Officer – Democratic Services
Philip Walker	-	Assistant Director Corporate Finance

45 members of the public were in attendance.
10 Members and Officers from Leicester City Council were also at the meeting.

This record of decisions was published on 23 January 2004. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five clear days, unless the decisions are called-in.

38/03 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Kalia and A Rehman.

39/03 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

40/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

41/03 Minutes

The minutes of the Area Panel 3 meeting held on 19 November 2003 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

42/03 Budget Presentation

Councillor Burgess, Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy and Michael Foote, Deputy Chief Executive, presented to the Panel the Council's themes and priorities within the Corporate Plan and the budget proposals for 2004-2005. Members of the public were circulated with a Derby Pointer Questionnaire, which they were asked to complete and return at the end of the meeting. The Chair invited members of the public to return those forms with comments on the points covered in the presentation.

Agreed to note the presentation.

Two members of the public asked how much the video shown as part of the presentation, had cost to produce.

Councillor Burgess committed to get this information for the next meeting of the Area Panel.

A member of the public asked where the money allocated to last year's priorities had been spent, as she was not sure how the priorities worked and was there a sum of money that had not yet been accessed.

Councillor Burgess responded that £1m would be spent by March 2004, £750,000 of which had been spent on minor path improvements and that this was work over and above the normal cycle of planned work. He reassured those present that the

£250,000 in the 2004/05 budget had not been ringfenced and was intended for new initiatives, eight of which were listed under the spending plan, in the questionnaires that people were asked to complete during the meeting.

43/03 Update

Sarah Edwards – Area Panel Manager introduced a report, which set out responses to questions raised verbally or in writing at the last meeting.

Speeding – St Alban's Road

It was reported that this item would be closed as the results of the last traffic survey did not provide evidence of a need to prioritise any additional traffic calming measures in the area. A member of the public wished that his dissatisfaction with this outcome be noted.

Prostitution and Drug Abuse in Normanton

The Community Safety Partnership have agreed to present a full report on resources being deployed in the area at the March meeting of the Area Panel.

One-Way Street, Empress Road

It was reported that due to the strength of public opinion on this matter, it was proposed that every household in the road would be contacted in writing and consulted on the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a one-way restriction from Breedon Hill Road to St Chad's Road.

The Area Panel agreed to the consultation, which would take place in February 2004 and be reported to a future meeting of the Area Panel.

Petition – One-Way System for Stockbrook Road and Westbury Street

In response to the petition and strength of public opinion it was proposed that every household in Westbury Street be consulted about the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a one-way system. It was recommended not to include Stockbrook Road in the consultation, as it would adversely affect the bus service that operated on the street. Councillor Burgess strongly disagreed that a one-way system would adversely affect the service.

Resolved to request the Director of Development and Cultural Services to consult residents of both Stockbrook Road and Westbury Street.

Petition – Parking on Sutherland Road

It was reported that no development of the Home Zones in Sutherland Road would take place until detailed public consultation had taken place with all local residents. Consultation was due to take place during Spring 2004, in which all residents of Sutherland Road would be invited to take place.

Mr Harrison – the lead petitioner and another resident expressed that they did not want the consultation to take place at all, as they did not want the Home Zone scheme in their road. They felt very strongly that the number of signatures on the petition reflected the strength of views of the residents. They had raised the petition to stop the consultation from going ahead and felt that their petition was being ignored. Concern was also expressed about a feature article on Home Zones in the Derby Evening Telegraph including a quote made by Martin Gadsby – Private Sector Housing Manager.

Councillor Nath responded that the money for the Home Zone would not be coming from Derby's budget. A scheme had been trialled in Manchester and the funding was given by central government. The Manchester project gave people the right to the street rather than the motorist and he reassured those present that nobody would be forcing residents to have the scheme if they did not want it.

Petition – Zone Improvements in Cameron Road

Mr J McDonnell of Cameron Road stated that he had never been contacted by the Home Zone co-ordinator despite the fact that the report in the updates stated that the co-ordinator had contacted all the residents who signed the petition.

Sarah Edwards committed to ask the Home Zone co-ordinator to contact Mr McDonnell.

Crossing at Sainsbury's Island, Kingsway

Mr N Clayton was concerned that this issue had not been resolved at the September meeting of the Area Panel.

Sarah Edwards requested to speak with Mr Clayton after the meeting and committed to try to progress the issue.

Shrubberies on corner of Wilson Street and Gerrard Street

Work to cutback the shrubs had commenced. Mr C Woodward had passed his thanks to the Panel for the improved visibility and hence safety on the street.

Anti-social Behaviour on Havelock Road

As a result of the last meeting, which residents of the road attended, a multi-agency problem solving meeting was held on 12 December 2003 at Havelock Road. Four residents attended the meeting and an action plan to tackle problems was developed and agreed. The group would meet again at 9.30am on 13 February 2004 at the Council House, to review the progress.

Councillor Williamson commented that he attended the meeting which he considered to be very useful. The local residents had seen improvements and that it was important to include people or they would feel that things were being done to them rather than with them. The anti-social order helped residents to have their concerns dealt with and action taken.

Annabelle Barwick of the Austin Office of Derby Homes reported that a fenced seating area was to be proposed to residents and that Derby Homes was keen to find residents who would be prepared to be key holders and that anyone interested should contact her at the housing office.

Hartington Street

At the last meeting of the Panel, Mr M Williams of Hartington Street requested that he wished to know how much money had been spent on Hartington Street and on which projects.

In addition to the update, it was reported that:

- The URBAN funding amounted to £166,500
- Facade Improvement Scheme would be carried out in the forthcoming financial year at an estimated cost, including URBAN funding, of £450,000
- In the next financial year, with the agreement of the relevant home owners improvements would be carried out to the rear service road on the north side of Hartington Street aimed at improving security
- The new street lighting in Hartington Street was currently being installed and commissioned at a cost of around £20,000
- There was also a lot of activity going on “behind the scenes”. For example, the enforcement of housing safety standards in respect of privately rented properties in the area. Also work to bring empty properties back into use. The effect of this activity would take time to become apparent in many cases.

- A newsletter outlining achievements in the area so far and planned proposals for the Hartington Street Renewal Area would be distributed to residents in late Spring of 2004.

Mr Williams read out a prepared statement and commented that he would like Martin Gadbsy to attend a future meeting of the Area Panel to explain what the money had been spent on.

Ms J Rooney of Hartington Street thanked the Area Panel for the lights, which had been installed in the street but commented that bonfires and dumping remained an issue, which was continuing to blight the lives of residents.

Anti Social Behaviour at the car park on Colwyn Avenue and Warwick Avenue – adjacent to Normanton Park

Captain A Spacey reported that residents still wanted a barrier to be placed across the car park at night. Councillor Burgess commented that there would be a greater issue around who would close and open the barrier than funding it. There was no-one available to provide feedback on the various actions requested at the last meeting.

Petition – proposed alleyway, Duesbury Grange

It was reported that traffic-calming measures were not planned for Duesbury Grange but that transitional strips would be installed in the road. Mr S McCartney requested to know the cost of these strips.

A full response to the petition would be provided at a future Area Panel meeting.

Petition – Park Gates at the end of Chatsworth Street

It was reported that an order had been raised under the renaissance fund with city parks, at a cost of £12,500. The estimated completion of the work was March 2004.

Councillor Nath responded that he did not consider that this should be funded through the Normanton renaissance fund but that the money should come through the insurance, as a result of the traffic accident which had caused the damage in the first instance. He reported that a claim against the insurance company had been made and that the money was due to come from that claim.

44/03 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by the public during public question time.

Residential Homes on Empress Road

A resident of Empress Road was concerned that there were a large number of residential homes and hostels on Empress Road and this was beginning to have a significant impact on the character of the street. She understood that in some local authorities there was a 10% saturation policy, which was part of co-ordinated plan for the implementation of care in the community. She asked whether Derby City Council had any such policy.

Councillor F Hussain responded that the best way to tackle the issue of larger properties being converted to residential homes would be when the new Housing Act comes into force in 2004 which would give local authorities more power over planning for such ventures.

To request the Area Panel Manager to raise this issue with the Derby City Partnership.

Street Cleaning - Brunswick Street

Mr N Clayton asked whether something could be done about the piles of glass and the remains of a burnt out car on Brunswick Street which he stated had not been swept for months.

To refer this item to the Street Care Team.

Health and Safety – diagonal street parking – Home Zone

A member of the public asked whether a risk assessment had been carried out on diagonal parking, particularly with respect to cars being set alight.

Chatham Street – Cleaning

A member of the public requested that grass clippings and litter could be cleaned from the street. He commented that the street had not been cleared for weeks.

Parking on the footpath in Normanton

Mr Prem Shukla raised concern that cars were often parked and obstructed the footpath in Normanton Road and was concerned that the police who passed did not address this issue. He was also concerned at the impact on traffic flows caused by drivers who ignore the 'no right turn' signs and turn into Rosehill Street. He would like to see more proactive action taken by the Police and traffic wardens to issue tickets and fines to deal with this problem.

Sergeant Burns responded that he would pass this concern back to

Inspector Parkin to review streets on which this happens.

Walbrook Road –Request for Pedestrian Crossing

A member of the public raised her concern that there was only a pelican crossing at Portland Street and that traffic coming down Walbrook and Thomas Road at speed proposed a safety issue.

Resolved to request that the Highways department look into this issue and respond.

45/03 Petitions

To consider petitions since the last meeting.

Car Parking and a Clean and Safe Living Environment, Warwick Avenue

Mr S Preston of Warwick Avenue presented a petition relating to car parking and cleaning up of the area. He stated that emergency vehicle access was restricted in the road. Another resident of the street commented that there was a bus stop but that no bus service travelled up the road. Mr Preston commented that the Council had not done anything to clean the street up.

Councillor Williamson responded that this was an ongoing issue and that the land in question was now under local authority control. Plans had been drawn up by the Highways Agency and various schemes suggested. He understood that residents wanted hard standing for their car parking and hoped that Council Cabinet would look at resources to allocate to this problem as he considered it to be in desperate need of improvement.

Anti-social Behaviour on the Austin Estate

Mr Prem Shukla presented a presentation which presented further signatures to a petition he had already submitted which set out a number of anti-social behaviour issues on the Austin estate. He commented that some work had been done to address this but that the scheme would need extending into the night, as this was when the issues became more prevalent. He commented that residents had requested CCTV and he asked the Council to help residents with this.

Annabelle Barwick responded that at an Austin Estate Action sub group meeting would take place on 2 February. She was due to meet with Phil Davies who would present to the Derby Homes Board in pursuit of funding for CCTV after consultation by the Police and Derby Homes.

Councillor Burgess commented that many of the issues cited by the petitioner were police matters and urged petitioners to call them when they experienced such incidences of anti-social behaviour.

46/03 Community Safety Partnership: Discarded Needles

Andy Luscombe presented a report of the Director of the Community Safety Partnership which outlined the latest position on a new dedicated citywide service set up to address issues of discarded needles and drug litter in the Normanton area. Andy Luscombe highlighted the hotline number for the new service which was 715100 and stated that leaflets and posters of the scheme would be published to advise people what to do in the case of discarded needles and drug litter.

He stated that the team were also working with pharmacists and Addaction from a health point of view and stated that there was a need to educate needle users to return them to a needle exchange and that the team was approaching the issues from more than one point of view.

47/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/04

Applications for Area Panel Funding

A report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy was considered which updated the Panel on the amount of funds available within the budget and set out details of seven applications for funding which had been received, three of which were key decisions, as follows:

- To consider whether to support the application received from the Bal Sanskar group to provide cultural classes and organise social activities for Hindu children to encourage them to learn about their culture and cultural diversity. Grant requested - £2,399.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Arboretum Smiles Again Project for sports equipment to facilitate a Sports Development Programme. Grant requested - £1,900.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Amara-chi Youth and Community Development to refurbish the training and development rooms and equipping them to make them suitable for training and development for young people. Grant requested - £2,600.
- To consider whether to support the application received from the Ministry of the Light of Christ to purchase equipment to support

the group to run a project to support asylum seekers. Grant requested - £2,243.

- To consider whether to support the application received from the Overdale Bowls Club to make environmental improvements through the replacement of the wooden border on the green. Grant requested - £487.
- To consider whether to support the application received from the Persian Cultural Association to establish music/arts workshops and other cultural activities for refugees and asylum seekers from Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq and Turkey. Grant requested - £2,936.
- To consider whether to support the application received from the Central United Reformed Church – Life Management Group to put on a first aid course for 12 people in Spring 2004. Grant requested - £250.

Options considered

The Panel assessed the applications for funding against the agreed criteria and assessed the applications for funding against priorities.

Decisions

- 1 To award grants to the following applications:
 - The Overdale Bowls Club to make environmental improvements through the replacement of the wooden border on the green. Grant £487, which would be split evenly between Normanton and Abbey Wards.
 - The Central United Reformed Church – Life Management Group to put on a First Aid course. Grant £250.

Reasons

- 1 The applications met the criteria for Area Panel Funding.
- 2 The applications provided a service in response to needs of local residents as raised at the meeting.
- 3 They contributed to improvements, which would provide a benefit to all residents.
- 4 They were capable of rapid implementation, and could have a significant impact in a short time.

Key Decisions

2 To award grants to the following applications:

- The Arboretum Smiles Again Project for sports equipment to facilitate a Sports Development Programme. Grant £1,900.
- The Persian Cultural Association to establish music/arts workshops and other cultural activities for refugees and asylum seekers. Grant £1,500, which would consist of £500 from Abbey, Arboretum and Normanton Wards.

Reasons

- 1 The applications met the criteria for Area Panel Funding.
- 2 The applications provided a service in response to needs of local residents as raised at the meeting.
- 3 They contributed to improvements, which would provide a benefit to all residents.
- 4 They were capable of rapid implementation, and could have a significant impact in a short time.
- 5 The panel considered that in the case of the Persian Cultural Association it would welcome the groups involvement in future multicultural events in the City.

3 To defer a decision on the following applications:

- Bal Sanskar cultural classes and activities for Hindu children.
- The Amara-chi Youth and Community Development to refurbish the training and development rooms.
- The Ministry of the Light of Christ to purchase equipment to support the group to run a project to support asylum seekers.

Reasons

- 1 More information relating to the work of the groups and evidence of need was requested.
- 2 In the case of Bal Sanskar additional information had been requested at the previous meeting of the Area Panel, but had not been received. Evidence of how the project would benefit the

children who lived in the Area Panel wards was requested.

- 3 The Panel wished to give these groups further opportunity to attend the next Area Panel meeting to provide additional information and answer the Panel's questions.

48/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

Agreed

1. to note that the next Area Panel 3 would be held at 6pm on Wednesday 17 March 2004 at the Indian Community Centre, Normanton
2. to appoint Councillor Ashok Kalia as Chair.

MINUTES END