

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 8.35 pm

AREA PANEL 3 (ABBEY, ARBORETUM AND NORMANTON)
14 JULY 2004

Present: Councillor Rehman (Chair)
Councillors Burgess, Hussain, Jackman, Lowe and Nath

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Sarah Edwards	-	Area Panel Manager Policy Directorate
Sharon Jackson	-	Corporate Customer Services Manager, Policy Directorate
Jody Kirkpatrick	-	Members Services Assistant Democratic Services
Inspector Gary Parkin	-	Police Inspector - Derbyshire Constabulary
Pam Stretton	-	Local Manager, Derby Homes
Katherine Taylor	-	Members Services Officer Democratic Services
Andy Thomas	-	Head of Anti Social Behaviour, Derby City Community Safety Partnership

43 members of the public.

1/04 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Khan and Williamson.

2/04 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

3/04 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jackman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute number 11/04 as she was a member of the board of the Derby Women's Centre.

4/04 Minutes

The minutes of the Area Panel 3 meeting held on 12 May 2004 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5/04 Update on Progress Regarding Community Issues Raised at the Area Panel Meeting

The Panel considered an update report on the progress of community issues raised at the last Panel meeting. The report included details of issues raised, various action, progress to date and detailed which Council Officer was responsible for the issue.

Agreed to note the report

Specific Issues

Parking on Sutherland Road

Several members of the public expressed opposing views on the outcome of the last meeting of the Area Panel, where it had been agreed that as a result of the petition opposing the Home Zone Scheme that Sutherland Road would be taken out of the Scheme. Since that time another petition was raised by residents of Sutherland Road, who wished to be re-included in Phase 2 of the Home Zone scheme, but to be excluded from the diagonal parking element of the scheme.

Councillor Hussain commented that as the Panel had taken a decision to recommend to take the road out of the Home Zone Scheme, the Panel was still obliged to listen to the views of the people who opposed that decision and still wished to be consulted on the Scheme.

Councillor Burgess confirmed that the road was not in the Home Zone scheme at that time and acknowledged that this may change in response to the second petition.

Home Zone Improvements in Cameron Road

Sarah Edwards updated the panel on this item, which was discussed at length by members of the public. It was noted that the consultation process for the Home Zone had included community open days, two workshops, the setting up of both a Working Group and a multi-agency Consultative Group to lead the consultation and design process, a regular newsletter and the appointment of a Home Zone Co-ordinator together with a “drop in “ surgery/exhibition base in Havelock Road. At all stages it had been stated that ‘diagonal’ parking did not have to form part of the design. Residents’ concerns and their comments with regard to the design raised by residents during this process had led to the design being amended. In particular the parking adjacent to the properties where the main objections were received remained as parallel “kerbside” parking. The consultations were carried out in accordance with the Derby City Partnership’s Quality Standards for Consultation.

The Panel noted that when the petition was raised in May 2004, the design for the street had already been agreed and orders for contractors to start work on site were placed in June 2004. Officers had carried out the necessary consultations to obtain residents’ views and engage them in Phase 1 of the Home Zone design process. It was therefore too late for the petition to be given any further consideration at the Area Panel meetings.

Car Park on Colwyn Avenue and Warwick Avenue - Adjacent to Normanton Park

It was reported that a report would be taken to the Council Cabinet on 10 August 2004, asking them to consider the Panel’s recommendations regarding the installation of a barrier at the car park on Colwyn Avenue and Warwick Avenue.

Resolved to receive an update on the Council Cabinet’s decision at the next meeting of the Area Panel.

Park Gates at the End of Chatsworth Street

Councillor Burgess reported that the delay to the installation of the Park Gates at the end of Chatsworth Street were due to problems experienced with casting the gate posts, but he assured those present that the issue was being pursued.

Anti-Social Behaviour on the Austin Estate

Andy Thomas of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team addressed the panel and reported that he and his team were looking into the issues

raised in the petition. This would include an investigation reasons why people were more fearful of becoming a victim of crime rather than the reality of the crime figures. The installation of CCTV on the Austin Estate would be delayed until after this research had been carried out.

Inspector Gary Parkin commented that two beat officers worked at the Police House on the Estate, but that the Police house was not manned 24 hours a day.

Pedestrian Crossing Request, Walbrook Road

The member of the public who had first raised this issue was present at the meeting and requested that the pedestrian and vehicle count be repeated.

Resolved to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to look into this matter again and report back to a future meeting of the Area Panel.

Illicit Retail Organisation, Mount Street

The member of the public who had initially raised concern about the Apples Garage on Mount Street/Mill Hill Lane, which had been turned into a "Floors To Go", requested to know whether the planning application referred to in the update, had been submitted.

Sarah Edwards agreed to ask the planning officer to contact the member of public with a response.

Petition - Manor Road Junction

Mr John Riley who had initially submitted the petition requesting an investigation into road safety issues, was concerned that it was taking a long time to resolve the issue, which was first raised in February and that there was not a more complete response at the meeting.

Sarah Edwards committed to follow this up, and request a full response to be given at the September meeting of the Area Panel.

Petition - Parking Restrictions, Pear Tree School

Inspector Gary Parkin responded that at peak times, the traffic congestion around Pear Tree school was worst. The panel noted that some restrictions were advisory rather than enforceable, but he was committed to ensuring that his Officers would give tickets to offenders.

A member of the public asked whether it would be possible to

enforce a by-law to prohibit parking within 100 yards of a school.

Resolved to request the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate these issues.

Installation of a Weight Restriction on Portland Street

A member of the public asked what the implications were of vehicles having access to a particular premises given that there was a weight restriction within the ring road area as reported in the update.

The Panel requested Sarah Edwards to get a response from Director of Development and Cultural Services.

Removal of Phone Boxes in the City Centre

A member of the public requested that she wished to see a five year report on CCTV, which covered phone boxes in the city to include vandalism to phone boxes and a comprehensive report on the associated costs. Sarah Edwards reported that she had contacted a number of officers with responsibilities in this area and would report back to the Area Panel at a future meeting.

Another member of the public commented that there was a phone box in her area, that was being used for anti-social behaviour and that in her opinion phone boxes were a nuisance as many people now had access to mobile phones.

Andy Thomas responded that it was possible to ask British Telecom to put a call-barring system on particular public telephones, which were the subject of anti social behaviour. He asked the member of the public to give him details of the location of the phone box.

Phase 3A - Connecting Derby

A member of the public commented that the present Phase 3A of Connecting Derby from Stafford Street to Burton Road, was a two lane road and asked if this could be converted into a dual carriageway without being subject to a further planning application. A member of the public asked whether the Environmental Impact Statement would be available before the consultation.

Councillor Burgess responded that the Environmental Impact statement would be issued with the Planning Application.

Resolved to request the Director of Development and Cultural Services to look into this issue and respond to a future meeting of the Panel.

Florentine Boar, Arboretum

Councillor Burgess reported that the Florentine Boar would be reinstated in the Arboretum.

A member of the public commented that the band stand had been very popular and would like to see this re-instated also.

Councillor Burgess responded by encouraging the member of the public to become involved with the Friends of the Arboretum.

6/04 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

SWERF Technology and the Waste Recycling Group Technology

A member of the public raised two questions as follows, which she handed in at the meeting.

“Are the Council aware that the SWERF technology did not work and neither did the Waste Recycling Group Technology. Are the councillors interested in this or do they just wish to give the taxpayer's money to large companies for no reason”

“The Derbyshire Royal Infirmary has recently announced that their car parks are too small, not long after having slashed the Health Hopper routes and services. The service does not run through Normanton anymore, which is one of the most deprived areas. What is the Council doing - if anything - about expanding the Health Hopper service so that it runs through as many areas and suburbs of Derby as possible, as the DRI surely has a Green Travel Plan, which the Council is supposed to be assisting the Health Authority with and the Primary Care Trust, together with the City Council has recently issued a policy to improve the health of the community through having regard to air quality issues”.

Councillor Burgess responded that he was aware of the problems with the SWERF technology and that it seemed likely that the company would be used. He stated that the Council was currently talking with the government for possible Private Finance Initiative funding to work with the city council and reported that at the Council Cabinet meeting on 6 July 2004, a report had been considered which included the Environment Agency's guidelines on waste disposal.

He commented that the Health Hopper was subsidised by the hospital and that the new routes had been found to be better utilised than the original ones. He stated that there was a Working Group which worked in Partnership with bus companies in the city and that

the Council was currently constrained by legislation, which meant that private companies were responsible for provision of bus services.

Street Lighting in Cameron Road

A member of the public requested to know whether the Council would be going ahead with the street lighting in Cameron Road.

Councillor Burgess invited the resident of Cameron Road to attend the Mayor's visit to the road, which was taking place on Thursday 15 July 2004.

Petitions at Area Panels

A member of the Public raised concern over the way in which petitions were received and considered by the Area Panel. She considered the current procedure and process to be unclear.

Railings on Mount Carmel Street

The same member of the public reported that the railings on Mt Carmel Street were dangerous, as one or two had become loose. She stated that they were listed items and would like these to be repaired rather than replaced.

Resolved to ask the Area Panel Manager to investigate this issue.

Street Lights on the Wardwick and Victoria Street

A member of the public reported that the new street lighting on the Wardwick and Victoria Street, was not working.

Sarah Edwards committed to report this to the Street Lighting Team.

One Way System on Yates Street

A member of the public asked whether the one way system on Yates Street could be enforced as people did not seem to pay attention to it.

Inspector Gary Parkin responded that there were two issues to be considered. Firstly he could look into how many accidents had happened in that area, as a result of people ignoring the one way system. Secondly, he would ask the full time traffic wardens at Peartree to monitor the street.

Request for an update on Road Traffic Reduction Act (RTRA)/Local Transport Plan (LTP) Targets

A member of the public asked for a comprehensive report on the Council's progress under the Road Traffic Act 2000 with reference to the Normanton and Peartree areas specifically.

Councillor Burgess provided a detailed progress report on the achievement in relation to the Road Traffic Reduction Act and the Local Transport Plan.

08/04 The Derby City Community Safety Partnership

The Panel received a presentation from Andy Thomas, who was the Head of Service for the Anti Social Behaviour Team, on a 12-month pilot programme to combat prostitution and drug abuse in the city.

Resolved to:

- 1 note the report.**
- 2 invite Andy Thomas to come to the March 2005 meeting of the Area Panel to provide a briefing on the evaluation of the pilot.**

09/04 Customer Service Strategy

Sharon Jackson – Corporate Customer Services Manager presented the Council's draft Customer Service Strategy. The Panel noted that it was available at the meeting as well as on the Council's website at www.derby.gov.uk.

The strategy outlined the Council's vision for customer service, over the next three years and was designed to set up the framework for customer service in Derby.

Consultation of the strategy with stakeholders was taking place during June and July 2004 and would include focus groups with residents through the Derby Pointer Panel, workshops with frontline staff and all Derby City Council managers and would ask for views from residents.

Sharon Jackson invited the views of those present, either by telephoning her on Derby 255132 or via e-mail sharon.jackson@derby.gov.uk. It was noted that all comments should be returned to her by Friday 30 July and that the final strategy would be launched in September 2004.

Resolved to note the report.

10/04 Outturn Report: Area Panel 3 Budget 2003/04

The Panel noted the outturn report for 2003/04 and that Area Panel 3 had a budget allocation of £22,000. The Panel also had an additional budget of £4,000 carried forward from 2002/03, which resulted in a total budget of £26,000. The report included how the budget had been allocated to approved projects, which totalled £20,222 and resulted in a carry-forward to the 2004/05 budget of £5,778.

Resolved to note the report.

11/04 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2004/05

Applications for Area Panel Funding

A report from the Director of Policy was considered which set out details of five applications for funding, which were all key decisions, as follows:

- To consider whether to support the application received from The Multi-Faith Centre, for funding to purchase 100 new chairs. Amount requested - £980, from each Area Panel.
- To consider whether to support the application received from the Derby West Indian Community Association for funding towards the Caribbean Carnival. Amount requested - £5,000, from each Area Panel.
- To consider whether to support the application received from The Derby Women's Centre, for computer equipment. Amount requested - £4,000.
- The application from the Serbian Orthodox Community Group, for the purchase of kitchen furniture. Amount requested - £2,000.
- To consider whether to support the application received from the Derby Central Youth Association, for funding for an overseas youth expedition. Amount requested - £2,500.

Options considered

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

Councillor Jackman left the meeting during consideration of the Derby Women's Centre application.

Key Decisions

1 To award grants to the following applications:

- Serbian Orthodox Community Group – grant £2,000
- Derby Central Youth Association – grant £2,000

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 The applications contributed to improvements, which would provide a benefit to all residents.
- 4 The applications were capable of rapid implementation, and could have a significant impact in a short time.

2 To refuse the following applications:

- The Multi-Faith Centre
- Derby West Indian Community Association
- Derby Women's Centre

The Panel requested that the Area Panel Manager give the Women's Centre advice on alternative sources of funding.

Reasons

- 1 The projects were citywide and did not fall within the terms of reference of area panel funding, which stated that the area panel budget was for local environmental and community purposes.
- 2 The Panel noted that the council had already contributed financially to support the Caribbean Carnival and by providing services in kind. The Council had supported the Caribbean Carnival to secure a grant of £21,500 from the Arts Council.

12/04 Arrangements for the Next and Future Meetings

Agreed to note the dates, venues and Chairs for Area Panel 3 for the municipal year 2004/05, as detailed below.

Date	Venue	Chair
8 September 2004, 6pm	Dale Community School, Porter Road, Normanton	Councillor Dhindsa
10 November 2004, 6pm	Bramblebrook Community Centre, Stockbrook Street, Abbey	Councillor Burgess
19 January 2005, 6pm	St James' Centre, Malcolm Street, Arboretum	Councillor Hussain
23 March 2005, 6pm	St Giles' Church Hall, Village Street, Normanton	Councillor Williamson
22 June 2005, 6pm	The Voice Box, Forman Street, Abbey	Councillor Lowe

MINUTES END