

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8:00 pm

**AREA PANEL 2 (ALVASTON, BOULTON, CHELLASTON AND SINFIN
WARDS)
WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Present: Councillor Tittley (Chair)
Councillors Bayliss, Blanksby, Chera, Dhamrait, Graves,
Jackson, Leeming, Liversedge, Turner, Willitts, and Wynn

Derby City Council, Derbyshire Constabulary and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue
Service:

David Gartside	-	Head of Traffic
Isabella Stone	-	Assistant Director – Community Policy
Phil O'Brien	-	Civic and Member Services Manager
Adam Hind	-	Station Manager, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
WPC Adele Stringer	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Acting Inspector Mark Argyle	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Sarah Turner	-	Constitutional Services Officer
Jody Kirkpatrick	-	Constitutional Services Assistant
Rachel Levy	-	Constitutional Services Assistant

40 members of the public were in attendance.

16/05 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

17/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

The Chair announced that the Area Panel 2 Football Tournament would start at 3:45 on 3 October. The final of the Area Panel 2 Football Tournament would be on Monday 31 October.

18/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19/05 Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of the Area Panel 2 Meeting held on 15 June 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

20/05 Petitions

Petitions received since the last meeting.

a) Petition supporting the order made by the Council to close Sinfin Moor Lane, Chellaston.

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Sinfin Moor Lane, Chellaston, supporting the order made by the Council to close Sinfin Moor Lane. Councillor Tittley advised that the closure of Sinfin Moor Lane had been delayed due to objections that had been received. These objections had now been removed and this is now a highways issue, and he was pushing for this to be completed.

21/05 Review of Traffic Issues in Chellaston

The Panel considered a report from the Assistant Director Highways, Transportation and Waste Management regarding the review of traffic issues in Chellaston. David Gartside, Head of Traffic, advised the Panel of the proposed timetable and actions for the review.

David distributed copies of a short questionnaire asking members of the public to complete and return to him in the pre-paid envelope provided. He asked that as many people as possible complete the questionnaire and to add issues which they think were most important. Responses to the questionnaire were required by the end of September and these would be used to try and prioritise the work. Councillor Tittley added that it was important that members of the public at the meeting encouraged other residents to participate and complete a questionnaire. The Panel had been fortunate to secure officer time to this issue and something needed to be done for residents of Chellaston.

David Gartside added that he aimed to have a response for the next meeting and then hopefully some conclusions for the meeting in January 2006.

Councillor Wynn asked that as the next meeting was in Alvaston, that copies of the questionnaire be made available there also.

Agreed to note and accept the work that had so far been done on the review of traffic issues in Chellaston and accept the proposed review programme as set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

22/05 Public Question Time

The public raised the following issues during public question time:

Evacuation Procedure at the Assembly Rooms

A member of the public raised concern over the lack of an evacuation procedure in the event of a fire at the Assembly Rooms. The member of the public advised that whilst attending a function at the Assembly Rooms, the fire alarm was activated and people were asked to evacuate the building. As she was unable to use the stairs and was with a person in a wheelchair, they were asked to wait where they were. They asked where the fire refuge was and staff didn't know where or what one was. After waiting some time they were finally evacuated to the 5th floor of the multi story car park. She asked that the Fire Authority discuss evacuation procedures with the Assembly Rooms as this was not acceptable. Adam Hind, Station Manager, advised that he would arrange to visit the Assembly Rooms to look at their fire plans and discuss the issues raised at the meeting.

Isabella Stone added that she knew the organiser of this event at the Assembly Rooms. They had also been concerned about these issues and may have already discussed these with the Fire Service.

Weight Limit on Shardlow Road and Alvaston Shopping Centre

A member of the public asked when Shardlow Road was going to have a weight limit applied and when would improvements be started on Alvaston shopping centre. David Gartside responded that the weight limit was expected to be in place before the end of November. In relation to Alvaston district centre he said the Council could not solve all of the traffic problems in Derby at once. The Council had to determine their priorities. Alvaston was still one of the high priorities and he hoped that Cabinet would consider this later this year when setting future work programmes.

Area Panel Agendas

A member of the public asked that people be given the opportunity to pay for the postage to receive a full Area Panel Agenda. Councillor Bayliss responded that to make agendas freely available had been had at previous meetings. It was hoped that the distribution of full Area Panel Agendas would be re-instated for the next round of meetings.

Blocked Driveways near Maple Drive, Chellaston

A member of the public advised that on numerous occasions' people dropping off and picking up children from school would park across their driveway causing an obstruction. They asked what could be done to stop this from happening in the future. Acting Inspector Mark Argyle advised that problems were always experienced around schools and it was a problem that the police fully understood. He advised that if this happens on a future occasion to call the Police straight away. Police advised that they could also visit the school and try and ask them to advise parents to park responsibly.

Temporary Bus Lane – Allenton

A member of the public asked how temporary the bus lane in Allenton was. She had seen three accidents since its installation. David Gartside responded that this bus lane was not working effectively because motorists were not respecting it. He commented that the bus lane if respected could provide some advantage to bus users without affecting other motorists. David went on to say that traffic problems, particularly on the A514, were going to get worse and something had to change. The Council were trying to encourage people to change their behaviour and make buses more attractive than using their own cars. The idea was that the more people that use the bus, the less cars there would be on the road, which would result in less congestion.

Councillor Liversedge commented that he disagreed and that the bus lane was not a help, and the timing of the traffic lights were also a problem and that they should be removed.

Councillor Blanksby stated that he agreed with what David had to say about public transport and that it was the only way traffic problems could be addressed. To overcome issues there had to be radical solutions. The Traffic Team were trying to prevent gridlock in the City. Different ideas had to be trialed. The bus was the main alternative in Derby to the car and having bus lanes gave people, using the bus an advantage. All alternatives had to be considered in Derby. Councillor Wynn added that the solution was not to remove the traffic lights as the traffic was growing all the time. There was also an issue with pedestrians trying to cross roads at busy junctions. The payback may take a long time, but people had to make life choices, such as where they live and work and most of this was based on having the use of a car. People had to start thinking of the future. He stated that if the Council wanted to promote bus services they had to look at all issues around this, one of those being accessibility. Investment needed to be put into this.

Councillor Bayliss suggested that if the Area Panel were unhappy with the bus lane in Allenton they could recommend that Council Cabinet remove the bus lane.

Members voted on this issue – four were for the removal of the bus lane, two were against the removal of the bus lane and six members abstained from the vote.

Agreed to recommend that Council Cabinet remove the bus lane in Allenton.

Merrill College Site

A member of the public asked what was going to happen to the Merrill College site. Councillor Tittley responded that the playing fields would be maintained as green wedge. Councillor Jackson added that she was the Liaison Officer for the new site and would raise this at a meeting she was having with them and report back to the next meeting. Councillor Wynn stated that the PFI scheme included proposals for the site and this had all been taken into account when weighing up the pros and cons of going into the PFI scheme. The Governing body were

making decisions as part of this wider agreement.

Rethink Rubbish

A member of the public advised that they were not happy with the Council's re-think rubbish scheme, which had recently been introduced into their area. They had now got two new bins, but were already a family that regularly recycled everything and found it inconvenient that the Council wanted them to wash out their bottles and tins as they felt this was something the Council should be doing themselves. They wanted to know how much the extra bins had cost and how much this service was costing the tax payer. They also were concerned that the calendar was very difficult to understand particularly for elderly people.

Councillor Wynn responded that he agreed that an urgent review of the twin bin scheme for areas with terraced housing and inner city areas with lack of storage was needed. Appropriate solutions needed to be looked into.

The member of the public added that they had also seen a recent article that if the dustbin was not positioned on your own property you would be liable for a fine. This is a problem as refuse collectors never returned the bin to the property and left it on the footpath.

Resurfing of Lay-bys

A member of the public asked for the Council schedule for resurfacing of laybys as there was one outside their house that had not been touched for 46 years. David Gartside responded that if there was enough money in the budget the Council would be able to do everything, but as the budget was not this large the Council had to prioritise. The resurfacing of laybys would not be considered a priority unless the condition proposed a danger. Just the fact of them being unsightly was not a reason for them to be resurfaced. Councillor Tittley suggested that a petition could be raised to raise the profile for the resurfacing of this particular layby.

Vandalism Field Lane Community Centre

A member of the public advised that due to vandalism a large part of the Field Lane Community Centre had been closed and how important was it that we now found a long term serious solution to this problem.

Councillor Jackson responded that the site was vandalised badly in May and closed. She had attended a meeting last week with Councillor Williamson, the Cabinet member responsible and Council Officers and it would cost in the region of £80,000 to put right. They had to come up with a list of things to engage young people to stop vandalism in the future. They wanted to keep the Field Lane Community Centre open in a sustainable way. Councillor Leeming added that he lived near this building and the area had been plagued by vandals for a long time.

Councillor Blanksby added that one vital element in getting the Community Centre open again was users having confidence in the Centre. He had already had agreement from groups that they would use the centre and they wanted to

ensure it would succeed. The Council also had the support of the Police and the Youth team.

23/05 Integrating Children's Services

Agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

24/05 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2005/6

A report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy was considered which set out details of two applications for funding which had been received these were:

1. To consider whether to support the application received from Councillor Tittley – Chellaston Ward, funding for fencing around Chellaston Park. Grant requested £1,525.00.
2. To consider whether to support the application received from Sinfin Community Child Care – Sinfin Ward, funding for Garden Improvements. Grant requested £500.

The panel agreed to award Area Panel funding to the applications in the following way:

1. Councillor Tittley – Fencing around Chellaston Park – granted £1,525.00.
2. Sinfin Community Childcare – Garden Improvements – granted £500.

25/05 Update Report

The panel considered an update report on the progress of Community Issues raised at the last meeting. The report included details on the issues raised, the proposed actions, progress to date and the City Council Officer responsible.

Tree problems

A member of the public who raised the original issue advised that she had not been happy with the Council's response to the issue raised about tree pruning to trees in Hubert Shaw Close. Councillor Tittley added that he had pressed this issue with colleagues and the policy still needed to be looked at urgently. Councillor Willitts commented that he could not believe what the Arborecultural Cultural Officer had said and that surely the Council could do something. Councillor Wynn stated that 18 months ago the Councillor promised a review of the Tree Management Policy and this had taken a long time. That policy was finally in a draft form and this is another area for the new Council Cabinet to look at. This had already been discussed with some members and it had been suggested that standards be lay down and objective measurements be agreed.

The Council was one of the lowest charging authorities in the country for Council Tax and the public got what they paid for. Money for dangerous trees was inadequate however, and this had been recognised and the Council needed to consider putting in more resources.

Petition, Nursery provision, St Peter's Church Hall, Chellaston

Member of the public advised that a meeting was due to take place with Mark Todd, MP and the Nursery as there were still on going problems. In the summer he was unable to sit out in the garden due to the noise from children playing outside at the Nursery.

Petition – Installation of lighting, improved surfacing and drainage to Green Lane, Alvaston

Councillor Bayliss advised that the posts were now in place for the lighting that had been funded by the Area Panel. Isabella Stone added that the electric would be connected next week. A member of the public advised that the drainage and resurfacing still needed to be addressed, as it was dangerous for disabled people.

Position – Dog Fouling, Flatts Path

A Governor at Chellaston Infant School advised that they had now got a new wider path but there was still a big issue with dog fouling in the area and asked if there was a chance of a bin being installed. Isabella Stone advised that a bin was planned for the area. It was suggested that the Council speak to the schools before the bin goes in to find a suitable position for it.

Petition closure or replacement of Allenton Market

Councillor Wynn advised that a few months ago a developer had been in touch with the Council putting in a suggested plan for the area in the hope that the site could be of interest for a major supermarket. As a result of this speculative proposal a number of the Council Officers and Ward Councillors had looked at these plans. A few suggestions were made for improvement to the plans including a replacement site for Allenton Market and a replacement for houses that would be demolished as part of the plan. Since these suggestions for improvement for the plans had been received by the developer there had been no further approach to the Council. Councillor Wynn advised members of the public that the Council assumed the whole issue was now closed.

26/05 Derby Group Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI): Construction works at Sinfin Primary School, Merrill College and Lakeside Community Primary.

The panel considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services on behalf of the project board, which gave an update on the construction works at Sinfin Primary School, Merrill College and Lakeside Community Primary School.

Agreed to note the report.

27/05 Promotion of Local Democracy Week

Phil O'Brien, Civic Services Manager, invited members of the public to participate in Local Democracy Week. He advised that events will be taking place to promote public awareness of the Democratic process. On Thursday 20 October in the Council Chamber there would be an event involving young people where they will be given the chance to ask Councillors questions. There would also be details for people who wanted to stand for Councillor and other activities taking place in the reception room from 5pm.

28/05 Health Briefing from the Primary Care Trusts

A briefing paper on health services was considered.

Agreed to note the information about Health Services contained in the briefing paper.

29/05 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was advised that the next meeting would be held in the Alvaston Ward on Wednesday 9 November 2005 at 6.30pm, at Alvaston Community Junior School, Elvaston Lane, Alvaston. Councillor Wynn will be the Chair.

MINUTES END