

Time commenced : 6.30pm
Time finished : 9.10pm

**AREA PANEL 2 (ALVASTON, BOULTON, CHELLASTON AND SINFIN
WARDS)
11 JANUARY 2006**

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Williamson

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary

Vickie Butler	-	Area Panel Support Officer
Michael Foote	-	Corporate Director – Corporate and Adult Social Services
Inspector Adrian Gascoyne	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Isabella Stone	-	Assistant Director – Community Policy
Sarah Turner	-	Senior Constitutional Services Officer
Phillip Walker	-	Assistant Director – Corporate Finance

60 members of the public were in attendance.

44/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Liversedge and Tittley.

45/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced the following late item:

Drains in Wilkins Drive, Alvaston

Councillor Wynn informed the Panel that there had been a problem with drains in Wilkins Drive, Alvaston. This had been investigated and had been found to be due to a defect in the drainage system. Councillors were currently working to get the drains adopted by the Council. All drains had been cleaned out and the next stage was for a camera survey to be carried out. This would confirm the last of the drain locations. A survey would take place within the next couple of months. Severn Trent would come back to the Council with the defects found and once these were rectified, the drains would then be adopted. Residents in the area would be kept well informed of progress.

46/05 Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of the Area Panel 2 Meeting held on 9 November 2005 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

47/05 Corporate Budget

The Panel received a brief presentation from Councillor Williamson –Leader of the Council on the Council's budget proposals for 2005-06.

A member of the public asked if Quad funding was built in with the Riverlights project. Councillor Williamson responded that the Quad development was not linked with the Riverlights project.

A member of the public asked for clarification on what work would be carried out with partners in the Police Authority, Community Safety Partnership, Derby Homes and voluntary sector, particularly with the Police as there were issues in Chellaston ward. Councillor Williamson responded that the funding from the Police Authority came separately but the Council would be working in partnership with all organisations as one agency could not resolve all issues. The Neighbourhood agenda involved all partner organisations including work around anti-social behaviour, fly tipping and criminality, which was a problem in a lot of areas in the city. He was optimistic that work through the neighbourhood agenda would provide solutions to these issues.

Another member of the public raised issues with anti-social behaviour in west Chellaston and that some of the issues could be resolved with appropriate street lighting. In this area, it would not just be Council money available but money from the developer of the housing estate. Councillor Williamson responded that this was a valid point and the Council was committed to a street lighting PFI scheme to replace all street lighting in the city. It was different with new developments as all infrastructures were put in by the developer and when this was complete and to a satisfactory standard, it would be adopted by the Council. The Council could and did put pressure on developers to ensure that all infrastructures were at an appropriate standard. Councillor Williamson advised that he would see if there was anything that Council could do to assist this issue and perhaps look at partially adopting some of the estate.

Resolved to note the budget presentation.

48/05 Petitions

Petitions received since the last meeting

a) Petition requesting street lighting on the footpath on Mullion Green – Boulton ward

The panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Mullion Green asking that street lighting be erected on the footpath along the green. The lead petitioner advised that the path was very dark and

that the issue of lighting along the green had been deferred for a number of years. The Panel noted that an application for area panel funding would be considered later on in the agenda.

b) Petition requesting that off-road motorcyclists be provided with a suitable area of land to use

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Alvaston and Boulton wards asking that off road motorcyclists be provided with a suitable area of land to use. Councillor Leeming commented that there was nowhere for young people to ride their motorcycles and that as responsible people, we should consider an appropriate area in the city for them to use, including providing a building and training for users. Councillor Wynn added that all locations that had been discussed previously were outside the city and that the petitioners were proposing a city venue. Was it suggested that any such facility be publicly funded from Council tax payers money or through other means. Other sports groups in the City provided their own facilities. Councillor Leeming responded that there was an illegal course near Pride Park by the River Derwent. This area of land was derelict but to get there motorcyclists had to travel illegally along public footpaths and roads. People were willing to put money in themselves with help from families as there were no grants available. These young people were a menace in the community but the Council had the ability to solve this problem.

Resolved to ask the Director of Environmental Services to investigate and report back to a future meeting.

To consider responses to petitions received

c) Petition requesting the re-routing of bus services 68 and 68a – Chellaston

The Panel considered a report from the Assistant Director – Highways, Transportation and Waste management detailing a response to a petition that had been received from residents of Chellaston requesting that bus services 68 and 68a were re-routed away from Crown Way, Duchess Way and Court Way Crescent to go along Homeleigh way. One of the petitioners commented that they had had a letter from Arriva advising that a bus stop would be installed outside their house. Isabella Stone – Assistant Director – Community Policy, advised the petitioner that they could speak with Arriva about locations of bus stops. Another petitioner advised that there were very disappointed with the report and would continue to pursue this matter. Nobody got on and off the bus in this area and the perimeter road was built with fences around it to make it safe for children and pets within the estate.

Councillor Bayliss suggested that this matter could be referred to a Scrutiny Commission for them to scrutinise the issue and report their findings. This would enable proper discussions to take place and then Arriva would be invited to contribute to this.

A resident in the area asked if these roads were actually built to take buses. Councillor Wynn responded that yes they were and the Council would not allow buses on roads that were not able to take the weight. Arriva were an independent company and these routes were for them to try and make money. The Council did have a small budget set up to subsidise a number of routes where they felt that Arriva's commercial interest were not meeting residents' needs. Arriva were very much a separate entity to the Council. The only other areas that the Council could get involved in were the locations of bus stops. Councillor Willitts added that he had had a meeting with Arriva which had not been very successful.

Isabella Stone advised that she would report back to the Assistant Director – Highways, Transportation and Waste management that residents were not happy with the report. A member of Chellaston Residents' Association advised that they were hoping that Arriva would attend their next meeting.

Resolved to note the report.

49/05 Update Report

The Panel considered an update report on the progress of community issues raised at the last meeting. The report included details of the issues raised, proposed actions, progress to date and the City Council officer responsible.

Vandalism, Field Lane Community Centre, Boulton

A member of the public advised that they had been looking at the work progress at the Community Centre which did not seem to be progressing at all. What was being done about this and was it eventually going to be finished or just left as it was? Councillor Jackson responded that there was a commitment from the Council to repair and reopen the Community Centre and the hope was that it would be completed by the summer. She suggested a more detailed update to the next area panel meeting.

Boulton Lane Drains, Boulton

Councillor Blanksby advised that he had determined the offending drains and would speak to John Edgar – Maintenance Manager, with this information.

Petition – Pruning of Trees, Church Close, Chellaston.

The lead petitioner advised that work was scheduled for sometime in February and asked for an update at the next meeting.

Cycle Provision – All Wards

A member of the public commented that as the city was getting £1.5m for cycle provision in the city, would the issue of cycling on footpath's be looked at. Inspector Gascoyne responded that this was a difficult issue as the police could not be in all locations at the same time. Members of the public asked if signs could be put up saying no cycling. Inspector Gascoyne responded that this could be done but was generally ignored.

50/05 Public Question Time

The Public raised the following issues during public question time.

Indices of Deprivation

A member of the public asked why Osmaston was looking very bad on the statistics for neighbourhood renewal. Isabella Stone responded that the Council had just updated the deprivation statistics and Osmaston was showing little improvement. Councillor Turner added that Sinfin ward councillors had always been concerned about the effect on people's lives these statistics had and were working with the community for suggestions for improvement. These statistics would only add to the need expressed in the continued support from the Council and Government.

Coleman Street Health Centre

A member of the public asked for an update on the Coleman Street Health Centre and the closure of Wyndham Street. Councillor Wynn advised that these were two different schemes and that a response would be given at the next meeting.

Recycling Bins on Sandgate Close

A member of the public advised that he did not see the need for recycling bins in the area of Sandgate Close as all residents were now on the twin bin scheme. Councillor Jackson responded that this was a recycling plant site and there was no plan to move it. The questioner added that he hoped it would be kept in better condition in the future.

Bus Station

A member of the public asked how much the ongoing issues with the bus station were costing the Council as it was closed before the £5m was paid. Councillor Wynn responded that this had roots going back for ten years. An agreement had been signed by the Council and the developer for the site and redevelopment. It was owned by the Council but leased to the developer and was a legal agreement that the Council could not get out of. The £5m was a bond, not a transfer of money. The developer had a legal ownership of the bus station. MetroHolst were looking for another developer for the scheme. The Council would not be able to take charge of the bus station until Metroholst were legally in default.

Position of Weight restriction sign, Merrill Way

A member of the public advised that there is no weight restriction sign on Merrill Way for any vehicles wanting to turn right onto Derby Road, and could something be done about this. Also a sign should be placed at the Mitre Island. Another member of the public commented that they were pleased that the weight restrictions had been put in place but there was an article in the Derby Evening Telegraph stating that the police were not able to enforce these restrictions. A second member of the public added that he had spoken with Councillor Tittley and the police were going to run days of stopping heavy goods vehicles.

Inspector Gascoyne responded that the article in the Derby Evening Telegraph was incorrect and there had been no comment from the police. On 30 January 2006, there would be a meeting to agree policing of the A514 weight restriction. Councillor Bayliss commented that the same issues had been raised about the restrictions on the A6 but it had to be noted that these were restrictions that were enforceable but the 7½ tonne limit was not a ban. A member of the public asked if the police could also look at policing the restrictions on Shardlow Road.

Meeting Procedures

A member of the public advised that at the previous two meetings, members of the public had been cut short asking questions with no chance of asking any supplementary questions. Also members of the public did not have a chance to input in the budget applications. Councillor Bayliss responded that supplementary questions were up to the Chair. This was a Council meeting and only Councillors had a right to vote on funding issues. It was a matter for the Chair to determine whether members of the public could have input into this. It could end up with certain issues overtaking the meeting. Councillor Wynn added that one of the big issues was the length of the meeting and people did not want to be here until past ten o'clock at night. Councillors wanted to avoid frustration and be fair. Members of the public could also speak to councillors after the meeting if they wished.

Antisocial Behaviour – Tilbury Place, Boulton Ward

A member of the public advised that retired residents on Tilbury Place had brought to his attention antisocial behaviour and vandalism of cars in the area. Derby Homes were looking into this but what more could be done to deter and stop gatherings of groups and the use of jitties for antisocial behaviour. Inspector Gascoyne responded that they had used dispersal notices in Boulton Ward for some time although these had now expired. The Police did still patrol the area.

Councillor Graves added that with regard to antisocial behaviour in jitties, there was nothing that could be done before April. Residents could carry out a survey of all people in the area to find out whether they wanted it closed or not. If there were people that still wanted the jitty to remain open then it might have to stay open. Rather than relying on the Police he suggested that residents seriously consider starting a survey. He also advised residents to contact the Police with any antisocial behaviour issues as these are recorded and if this area was identified as a hotspot it would be investigated further. There was always going to be instances where things happened and it was difficult to stop them all, but people had to keep trying as residents want to live in an area that was mainly law-abiding and safe.

Relaying of pipes in Gilbert Street

A member of the public raised concerns that children had laid all the pipes across the corner of the road and he had had to go and remove these. He asked that the Police take this onboard and patrol the area particularly when these barricades were up.

Traffic Issues – Moorhead Primary School

A representative from Moorhead Primary School advised that the school were working with Education staff and Traffic Management for a travel plan. There were still concerns, however, these included a recent traffic accident. Alvaston Junior School had enforcement notices and yellow lines outside school and Silverhill Primary School had signs saying 'School Safety Zone'.

The school knew that these issues were common, that parents took their children to school in cars and parking would always be a problem. A letter had been received from Mark Todd MP saying that local beat officers would police the area at peak times. There were other problems for traffic trying to get past the school. The school hoped that something could be done before September as they just couldn't wait for the travel plan to be in place.

Councillor Wynn responded that he did go and visit the school and it was quite clear that it was frantic for the 20 minutes before and the 20 minutes after school. Some of the parents' behaviour appalled him and they seemed 'hell-bent' on endangering peoples' lives. He agreed that something did need to be done and he would discuss this with the Highways Department. He had however, had a chance to speak to the Chair of the PFI Board and one initial suggestion was to make sure there was a phased opening and closing and a phased lunchtime between Moorhead Primary School and Merrill College. Although they did need to go a lot further than that.

Cleaning of leaves

A member of the public advised that there had not seemed to have been any street cleaning of leaves on pavements in the Alvaston area. It was difficult for people with limited mobility to manoeuvre themselves along paths covered in leaves. The problem seemed to be worse this year. Leaves fell later and the brown bins were no longer being emptied. She asked if cleaning up of the leaves was going to be reinstated as once the leaves got compacted, wheelchairs and pushchair wheels got covered in the mulch.

Resolved to respond to the questioner directly.

Wild flower planting – Holloway Road

A member of the public advised that residents in Holloway Road were keen to have wild flower planting and were keen to see that this be achieved in 2006. Councillor Jackson added that she had been dealing with this issue recently but as yet did not know who owned the land. The bird and wildlife inhabitants had increased and planting would increase also.

Councillor Jackson to respond to the resident directly.

Traffic light posts on Harvey Road

A member of the public asked how the pedestrian crossing light poles on Harvey Road had been allowed to become so bad in their state of repair and safety.

Agreed to report back to the next meeting.

Bus fares

A member of the public advised that bus fares from Arriva had gone far beyond the pockets of most people. They did not provide a good transport service and the buses were not as nice as ones in other cities. Councillor Wynn responded that Arriva were a private operator that ran their own business. The Council would only be able to subsidise services by upping the Council Tax.

Stone Mastic Asphalt

A member of the public wanted to know when Stone Mastic Asphalt would stop being used on Derby roads as it was dangerous. Councillor Wynn responded that Stone Mastic Asphalt had been used for a six month trial period as it was cheaper. It was one way of searching for increased value for money. The trial period was now over and he did not believe that the Council would continue to use this covering. Councillor Wynn advised that he would ask David Gartside – Head of Traffic, to get back to the questioner with a fuller response.

51/05 Provision of Dual Waste Bins

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Commercial Services regarding the provision of dual waste bins. The existing provision of dual waste bins capable of holding dog waste did not meet the demands of Councillors, Area Panels or the public. As part of the budget for 2005/06, funding was provided to enable each Area Panel to have three additional dual waste bins for each ward. The priority locations identified for the 12 new dual waste bins in Area Panel 2 were listed in Appendix 1 of the report. The Panel were advised that if they wished to use their own resources to purchase up to seven additional bins at locations already identified in Chellaston and Sinfin wards then they would be able to do this and the additional ongoing revenue costs would be contained within the base budget. This would be possible as part of a rescheduling exercise but it was a one-off opportunity for this financial year. To purchase and install a dual waste bin would cost £240.

Agreed:

- 1) To note the locations of the new dual waste bins in Area Panel 2**
- 2) To defer consideration of whether to allocate area panel funding to dual waste bins until a future meeting.**

52/05 Area Panel Review Progress Report

The panel considered a report of the Assistant Director – Community Policy giving a progress on the Area Panel Review.

Resolved to note the report

53/05 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2005/06

A report of the Assistant Director – Community Policy was considered which set out details of eight applications for funding which had been received. These were:

- 1) To consider whether to support the application received from Alvaston Councillors - funding for a London Road pedestrian refuge - grant requested £5,677.
- 2) To consider whether to support the application received from AORTA - Sinfin, Alvaston and Boulton wards, funding for start-up costs, residents; group - grant requested £1,700.
- 3) To consider whether to support the application received from Birdline - Alvaston ward, funding for a bird sanctuary - grant requested £500.
- 4) To consider whether to support the application received from Field Lane Playgroup - Boulton ward, funding for resources for the playgroup - grant requested £1,200.
- 5) To consider whether to support the application received from the International Allotment Association - Boulton ward, funding for regeneration of Field Lane allotments - grant requested £3,600.
- 6) To consider whether to support the application received from Mullion Green residents - Boulton ward, funding for footpath lights - grant requested £5,000.
- 7) To consider whether to support the application received from St Michael's All Angels Church - Alvaston ward, funding for new chairs - grant requested £1,400.
- 8) To consider whether to support the application received from Sinfin Senior's Trust - Sinfin ward, funding for transport and equipment costs - grant requested, £2,000.

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

- 1) Alvaston Councillors – London Road pedestrian refuge – Granted £5,000**
- 2) AORTA – startup cost-residents' group – Granted £1,250**
- 3) Birdline – bird sanctuary – Granted £500**
- 4) Field Lane Playgroup – resources for playgroup – Granted £800**
- 5) International Allotment Association – regeneration of Field Lane allotments – Granted £2,000**

- 6) Mullion Green residents – footpath lights – Granted £5,000**
- 7) St Michael's All Angels Church – new chairs – Granted £1,100**
- 8) Sinfin Senior's Trust – transport and equipment costs – Granted £2,000**

54/05 Health Briefing from Primary Care Trusts

A briefing paper on health services was considered.

Agreed to note the information about health services contained in the briefing paper.

55/05 Arrangements for next meeting

It was advised that the next meeting will be held in the Sinfin Ward on Wednesday 15 March 2006 at 6.30pm at Sinfin Primary School, Sheridan Street, Sinfin. Councillor Dhamrait will be the Chair.

MINUTES END