

Time commenced – 6.30pm
Time finished – 8.55pm

**AREA PANEL 1
(CHADDESSEN, DERWENT, OAKWOOD AND SPONDON WARDS)
28 APRIL 2004**

Present: Councillors Ahern, E Berry, Bolton, Gupta, MacDonald, Redfern, Roberts, Smalley and West.

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Richard Smail	Area Panel Manager
Pete Matthews	Derby Homes
Martin Follows	Development and Cultural Services
David Finn	Youth Service
Michelle Campbell	Youth Service
Ruth Hardy	Youth Service
Inspector Andy Stokes	Derbyshire Constabulary

40 members of the public were in attendance

70/03 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Berry, Brown, and Latham.

71/03 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

72/03 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gupta declared a personal interest in minute number 78/03, as there was reference to her employer. Councillor Roberts declared a personal interest in minute number 74/03, as he was a Director of Midland Co-Op.

73/03 Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of Area Panel 1 held on 3 March 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

74/03 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 meeting. The report included details of issues raised and

various actions, progress to date and detailed which Council Officer was responsible for these issues.

Agreed to note the report.

Specific Issues

Petition - Parking Issues - Foyle Avenue / Howth Close Chaddesden

Councillor Bolton reported that Safer Routes to School travel plans were being pursued and people were being encouraged to walk to school.

Petition - Parking Issues - Newstead Avenue / Oakleigh Avenue Chaddesden

Councillor Bolton reported that the Safer Route to School travel plans were being pursued, and that cones were being put out on Newstead Avenue by the school caretaker and this had made it much safer for children to walk to school.

Proposed Skateboard Park - Spondon

Councillor E Berry reported that Spondon Youth Initiative had been successful in their bid to the Small Change Fund for £30,000 with an additional £32,000 to assist with public consultation. There was to be a pizza evening at Spondon Village Hall, between 6pm and 8pm on 26 May 2004, to get the opinions particularly from younger people. There was to be a further consultation between 7pm and 9pm on 2 June 2004 at Spondon Village Hall for local residents to give their opinions. Any members of the public wishing to comment were asked to contact Councillor E Berry direct.

Vandalism Around 145th Scout Building - Coniston Crescent - Derwent

The Scout Leader reported that she was not happy with the work of contractors who were meant to clear up mud and make good the grassed area. She reported that youths were still a problem in the area and that the security gate was still being left open by the take-away. She was concerned that the Rocket Pub was being vandalised by youths.

Traffic Issues on Vancouver Avenue and Drury Avenue, Spondon

Richard Smail reported that the resiting of the signs was likely to take place in early May.

Improving Public Transport along Derby Road, Chaddesden

A member of the public was concerned about roads being used as rat-runs, whilst works were taking place on Nottingham Road, Chaddesden. There

was particular concern about Reginald Road and Wilsthorpe Road, Chaddesden.

Working with Young People in the Area Panel 1 Area

Councillor Smalley reported that a planning application had been submitted for a Scout Hut on Oakwood Park.

Petition Mobile Phone Mast - Springwood Drive, Oakwood

A member of the public was concerned that protest notices in respect of this petition had been placed on traffic islands and lampposts and they were concerned that people who put them there should remove them as they were being ripped down and becoming a litter problem in the area.

Safer Routes to School - Chaddesden Park Infant and Junior School, Chaddesden

Councillor Bolton reported that this was working well. She confirmed that a shelter at the meeting place was being considered by the local governing body and at the school travel plan forum.

Chaddesden District Centre - Anti-Social Behaviour - Nottingham Road, Chaddesden

It was reported that a meeting had taken place with the local Police, Tesco and the Ward Councillors and that the brick wall had been removed, bollards had been put in and that there had been an improvement in the area.

Roe Farm Community Centre - Toilets, Derwent

It was reported that New Deal for Communities had asked the Community Association for more estimates for the work. They had been informed that until the additional estimates had been received, no decision would be made by New Deal for Communities about their grant application.

Anti-Social Behaviour - Oakwood

A member of the public reported that vandalism was continuing. Councillor Smalley reported that consultation had taken place with residents, with a view to putting a barrier on the footpath, but residents had declined to have the barrier installed. The member of the public was reminded to report any incidents as and when they occurred to the Police. Councillor Roberts reported that there was a perception that all vandalism was caused by young people and he was concerned that on some occasions vandalism was also caused by adults.

Pavements on Boston Close, Chaddesden and Lampeter Close, Oakwood

Councillor MacDonald reported that the pavements on Boston Close, Chaddesden and Lampeter Close, Oakwood had been included in the improvement programme for footways for 2004/05.

Petition - Adoption of Road, Oakwood

A member of the public reported that he had had the results of his complaint to the Ombudsman and this had been turned down. The Ombudsman did acknowledge that the Council and Officers could have acted more quickly and more courteously. He had taken the issue up with Bob Laxton MP who felt that the process was too slow compared to other developments. Councillor Smalley reported that progress had been made and much of the work had now been completed, but there were still 8 roads to be adopted and this was being pursued.

Dropped Kerbs - Chaddesden

It was reported that there was a total budget allocation of £10,000 for dropped kerbs in the city and that this particular area was being considered.

75/03 Public Question Time

The following questions were asked by members of the public:

Anti-Social Behaviour - Croft Wood, Mansfield Road

Members of the public referred to anti-social behaviour involving motorbikes which was taking place in Croft Wood, Mansfield Road. Councillor Redfern reported that she had spoken to the Police and that motorbikes could be confiscated, but offenders could go out and buy another bike for as little as £50.00. There was concern that the land in question had been neglected and that consideration should be given to clearing the area up. Councillor E Berry reported that the Anti-Social Behaviour Team needed to be involved. A member of the public reported that the railway line area had been cleaned up in the past, and that she believed that there had been an agreement between the City Council and Erewash Borough Council relating to the upkeep of the land.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate if there was an agreement between the City Council and Erewash Borough Council on the upkeep of the land and report back to a future meeting.

Speed Limit on Mansfield Road to the Meteor Centre

A member of the public reported that the footpath from Mansfield Road to the Meteor Centre was very narrow and that large lorries were travelling in excess

of 40 miles per hour and that walking along the path could be quite frightening. She asked if the limit could be reduced to 30mph.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the problems and report back to a future meeting.

Litter on Mansfield Road

There was an issue with litter problems in the area from people using food outlets, which had resulted in rats in the Mansfield Road area.

Agreed to ask the Director of Developments and Cultural Services to investigate the problem and report back to a future meeting.

Pedestrian Crossing on Mansfield Road Opposite Stratford Road

A member of the public asked if there could be a crossing opposite Stratford Road, as this was a very busy area.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the problem and report back to a future meeting.

Traffic in the Timbersbrook Close, Danesbridge Crescent and Bishops Drive Area, Oakwood

A member of the public reported that traffic in this area had become intolerable and that whilst he was crossing the road, he was nearly run over by a car trying to park on the pavement. He reported that it was good to have the pedestrian crossing but he felt that double yellow lines should be introduced in the area.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the possibility of providing double yellow lines in the area and report back to a future meeting.

Rubbish at the Oakwood District Shopping Centre

A member of the public was concerned that there was an excess of rubbish in the area of the shopping centre in Oakwood and that the shops were not being used as much as they would be because the area was dirty. Councillor West reported that the Oakwood District Centre was a private development and he had tried to get the area cleaned up on numerous occasions. There was also an issue over the recycling bins at the centre. A member of the public referred to a scheme in Mansfield where people were being fined £50 for dropping litter. The money raised was used to reduce vandalism.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the issue and report back to a future meeting.

Damage to Pavements

A member of the public reported that damage to pavement slabs had been caused by workmen working in the Haydn Road area.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate and report back on this issue to a future meeting.

No Ball Games Sign in the Welshpool Road Area, Derwent

A member of the public reported that there had been problems with youths playing ball games in the Welshpool Road area. A sign saying "no ball games" had been removed, whilst work was being done in the area, and had not been replaced.

Agreed to ask to Derby Homes and the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the issue and to re-instate the "no ball games sign" as soon as possible.

Abandoned Cars in Derwent Heights

A member of the public asked about the procedure for dealing with abandoned cars and how long it took to get them removed. Councillor Redfern reported that it took approximately 7 days as the Police needed to try and track down the owners and if this was unsuccessful, the Council would remove the abandoned vehicles.

Community Facilities in the Breadsall Hilltop Area

A member of the public was concerned that there was a lack of facilities for the community in the Breadsall Hilltop area. There was particular concern about problems relating to the Rocket pub and it was felt that some of this was caused by lack of community facilities in the area. A member of the public reported that facilities had been promised 2 ½ years ago by Crest Homes, on land near to High View School, this would have included football pitches, and a community hall. Councillor Roberts reported that the Council still held £47,000 for facilities on this particular site. There was concern that Breadsall Hilltop Youth and Community Centre was being vandalised and that it may be beneficial to put up screening / or shuttering to prevent vandalism and secure facilities in the area, before new facilities were pursued. Councillor Gupta reported that Derwent New Deal had plans in phase 3 for community facilities in the area.

Park View Primary School - Staff Redundancies

A member of the public was concerned about the issue of redundancies at Park View Primary School. Councillor West reported that redundancies were being paid out of surpluses from previous years. Park View Primary School had an substantial increase in its budget as did other schools, it was suggested that parents should take up this issue directly with the school.

Councillor Smalley reported that funding was passported directly to schools and it was for schools to manage their own budget.

Dog Bins in Derwent

A member of the public asked how many dog bins had been agreed for the Derwent Area. Councillor Berry reported that Council Cabinet at its meeting on 27 April 2004 had agreed 82 new dog bins across the city. Derwent was not included in this list. There were also a hundred bins to be replaced over the same period and these would be new dual purpose bins. A survey for the new bins had been carried out by Rangers in the area and the location of the new bins had been based on information received from Area Panels throughout the city.

76/03 Petitions

No new petitions.

77/03 Street Lighting PFI within Derby

A report of the Assistant Director - Highways, Transportation and Waste Management was considered, which stated that there were approximately 30,000 lighting columns in the city. A high proportion of these were now older than their design life, but with ongoing restrictions in finance meant that, especially in recent years, it had not been possible to carry out any planned replacement programmes. The number of lights was growing each year, as new developments were built and adopted. The level of lighting provided throughout many parts of the city was currently less than that set out in national and European standards. This meant that additional lights would be provided in a new position normally in response to an expression of public concern regarding safety and security. It should be noted however, that the current level of finance for providing additional lighting was low. The Government had stated that there was to be no special funding for street lighting improvements. It was made clear that having such improvements should be progressed through Private Finance Initiatives (PFI). The Council was currently pursuing this course of action. The Department of Transport had announced that the Council's bid for £ 32.47 million pounds of PFI credit had been fully approved. This would replace 76% of the current lighting columns over a 5 year period, improve the service levels and maintenance of infrastructure at that level for the period of the contract (25 years). The Council needed to move forward to the next stage of the process, which was to prepare an outline business case for submission to the Department of Transport in summer 2004. In order to broaden the scope of the project, a questionnaire was circulated to enable interested people to submit their comments and suggestions on the issue of street lighting. Comments should be submitted to Martin Follows, the Street Lighting PFI Project Manager, by 18 June 2004.

78/03 Youth Service Activities

David Finn, Head of the Youth Service, along with Michele Campbell, Team Leader, and Ruth Hardy, Spondon Neighbourhood Youth Worker, gave a presentation on work of the Youth Service in the Area Panel 1 area. The Youth Service covered the 12 to 25-age range, with the key age range being 13 to 19. They gave details of groups that met at various locations throughout the Area Panel 1 area, as well as specialist city-wide provision, at The Space, Outdoor Education, Front of House, The Edge, Derby Runaways, Oasis, Duke of Edinburgh Awards and AMP recording studio.

Agreed to note the presentation.

79/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2004/05

A report of the Assistant Director, Community Policy was considered, which set out details of an application for funding, which had been received. It also required the Area Panel to decide whether to allocate the 2004/05 budget equally amongst the 4 wards and to consider the budget spent for 2003/04 carry forward to 2004/05 and the budget allocation for 2004/05.

The application received was from 145th Breadsall Hilltop Scout Group. They were seeking a grant of £700.00 to provide new chairs and tables.

Decision

1. **To award a grant of £700.00 to the 145th Breadsall Hilltop Scout Group for the provision of new tables and chairs and that the funding be met by £350 from Derwent budget and £350 from Oakwood budget.**
2. **To allocate the 2004/05 budget equally between the 4 wards.**
3. **To note the budget spend for 2003/04, carry forward to 2004/05 and the budget allocation for 2004/05.**

80/03 Arrangements For Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel was to be held on 7 July 2004, at Borrow Wood Junior School, Arundel Drive, Spondon.

Agreed that Councillor E Berry be appointed Chair for the next meeting.

Chair of the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed