



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## AREA PANEL 4

29 MARCH 2006

Report of Area Panel Manager

### Area Panel 4 Community Issues Update Report

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.1	Item No	Issue title	Recommended panel action
<b>Blagreaves ward</b>			
	1.2	Millennium Wood	Note
	1.3	Cycle way on Moorway Lane	Note and close
	1.4	Grey squirrels, Carlisle Avenue and Burns Close	Note and close
<b>Littleover ward</b>			
	1.5	Skateboard park request	Note
	1.6	Request for pedestrian crossing, Chain Lane	Note
	1.7	Dean Close footpath repairs	Note and close
<b>Mickleover ward</b>			
	1.8	Redevelopment of University of Derby Mickleover campus	Note and close
	1.9	Parking problems, Devonshire Drive and East Avenue	Note and close
	1.10	Petition – Car parking on Uttoxeter Road	Note and close
	1.11	Double yellow lines, Tesco	Note and close
<b>All wards</b>			
	1.12	Planning Application at East Midlands Airport	Note
	1.13	Arson damage to sports facilities	Note

#### 1.2 Ref: 405015 – Millennium Wood, Blagreaves – raised 28.06.05

**Issue:** A written question asked about the lack of access to the Millennium Wood site now that the access from Oaklands Avenue has been fenced off by the owners after 20 years of public access. Now that the wood has been there for ten years when will the area be developed to its full potential.

**Action:** To confirm that an officer would attend the meeting on 28 June 2006.

**Update:** Steve Medlock, Head of Parks Services will attend the meeting on 28 June and give a presentation. Propose to note.

#### Further information:

Ken Richardson, Parks Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 716646

Ray Brown, Senior Planning Officer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255024

**1.3 Ref: 405016 – Cycleway on Moorway Lane, Blagreaves – raised 28.06.05**

**Issue:** A resident asked when the final 200 metres of the cycleway along Moorway Lane would be completed because it is needed to provide a safe route to Derby Moor School. Can it be completed this summer. It was reported that it is the responsibility of the Housing developers who are building at Heatherton. The developers are paying for the cycle way and are working with Derby Parks.

The panel agreed that it needed to be completed as soon as possible

**Action:** To confirm completion of the cycleway.

**Update:** The cycleway has now been completed. Propose to close.

**Further information:** Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715019

**1.4 Ref: 406010 – Grey squirrels, Carlisle Avenue and Burns Close - Blagreaves - received 29.03.06**

**Issue:** A resident raised concerns, on behalf of a number of elderly residents in the Burns Close/Carlisle Avenue area, about the number of grey squirrels that are getting into residents homes. He explained that a request for action had been made previously and that local councillors had asked an officer to contact the resident with advice. He was concerned that the advice given was not suitable and asked what the Council policy is to tackle this issue.

**Action:** Request Environmental Health respond directly to the resident and update on the Council policy to a future area panel meeting.

**Update:** Grey squirrels are a very common species and can find their way into homes, particularly roof spaces. Derby City Council's Pest Control Service does not carry out treatments for the destruction of, or proofing against, squirrels and this policy has been agreed by the Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Direct Services.

Squirrels can enter properties through access holes in roof eaves, under tiles etc. but killing squirrels will usually only provide short-term relief, as other squirrels will eventually replace those that have been killed. If residents wish to discourage squirrels they must ensure that there are no access points at their property that squirrels can use. This can include properly sealing up any access holes, replacing any missing slates/tiles and making sure that any overhanging tree branches that could allow squirrels onto the property are removed. Any proofing work should be carried out whilst the squirrel is not in the property.

Squirrels can also be attracted by bird food so if residents wish to feed garden birds any bird feeders or tables should be positioned away from the home, and squirrel proof feeders should be used.

Any telephone enquiries regarding advice on squirrels are dealt with by Derby Direct 01332 255260. Information is also available from the Council's website. As treatments for squirrels are not carried out by the Council, visits will not generally be made to properties in relation to squirrels.

If residents are unable to carry out proofing work themselves they should contact a

builder, or their Local Housing Office for Derby Homes Tenants, to carry out any proofing work required.

If a resident requires any squirrels to be destroyed they have the option contact a private pest control company, but any necessary proofing work will still need to be carried out to prevent a recurrence.

In all cases it is important to obtain a quotation before any work is carried out.  
Propose to note and close

**Further information:** Ian Donnelly, Group Leader Public Health, Environmental Services, telephone 715219

#### **1.5 Ref: 404028 – Petition – Skateboard Park Request, Littleover - received 21.07.04**

**Issue:** A petition was handed in to the panel with 50 signatures requesting a skateboard park in the Littleover area. They require a small outdoor skate park, which was available to the whole community in Littleover.

**Action:** To respond with an update on the plans to introduce a wheeled sports strategy for the city and the impact it will have on the request for a skateboard park in Littleover.

**Update:**

Discussions have taken place to consider the purchase of a mobile skateboard facility, which would travel around the City to Park settings providing organised wheeled sport activities. This suggestion would allow a skateboarding facility to be provided on smaller parks for short sessions to respond to demands from young people without becoming a permanent fixture and prompting other local residents to campaign for its removal.

The County Council have a Mobile Wheels Project ,however it comes at a cost, and includes the employment of qualified staff to manage the facility and organise activities. Cost for the mobile facility would be around £100,000, with additional revenue cost of approximately £50,000 per year.

The Government have introduced a young people's Youth Opportunities Fund -YOF this year, which is specifically for groups of young people to bid into for such projects as a skateboard park. Derby's allocation is about £150,000 a year for the next two years. There will be significant demand on the fund, however any contribution particularly if it is secured by young people may lever in other funds. We are awaiting guidance from the Government on the deployment of the YOF.

Derby now has a number of skateboard parks in place in Alvaston park, Osmaston park, Sunnyhill Recreation Ground, Mickleover park - BMX track and nearing completion in Markeaton park. Also planned, subject to obtaining funding, are skateboard parks in Chaddesden park and on the Racecourse over the next two years. We would like to provide further skateboard areas in larger parks in each district around the city, but this is subject to identifying suitable sites and obtaining funding. Should funding be identified in the future then Clemson's Park/King George V playing fields is likely to be the only site large enough in Littleover. Note.

**Further information:** Andrew Morgan, Landscape and Development Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 715547  
David Finn, Project Officer-Targeted Youth Support, Environmental Services, telephone 716956

**1.6 Ref: 406009 – Petition – Request for Pedestrian Crossing, Chain Lane, Littleover - received 29.03.06**

**Issue:** A petition has been received requesting a traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing is provided near to the junction of Chain Lane and Jackson Avenue. The lead petitioner explained that there used to be a school crossing patrol at this location but since they retired the service has been withdrawn. Parents and children are finding it both difficult and dangerous to cross the road. She is concerned there are no signs stating the speed limit. A previous request had been made in 2005 but without success. It had also been indicated to residents that installing a refuge in the middle of the road would not be possible.

Residents asked why the money saved from not having a crossing patrol could not be used to pay for a pedestrian crossing.

**Action:** To ask officers to investigate the petition and report back to a future meeting

**Update:** We will report back to the next Area Panel 4 meeting in September as investigations are still ongoing. Note

**Further information:** Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715019.

**1.7 Ref: 406011 – Dean Close Footpath repairs, Littleover - received 29.03.06**

**Issue:** A resident asked what action the Council was taking to repair the damaged pavements on Dean Close. He explained Nynex had caused the damage in 1995. Most of the slabs had now cracked and while some have been replaced there are many repairs still needed.

**Action:** Investigate if repair work will be completed to Dean Close pavements in 2006/7 and report back.

**Update:** We cannot say, at the present time, whether Dean Close is included in the 2006/07 programme, or not. It is included in a provisional list of streets of potential footway renewal schemes from which the 2006/07 footway renewal programme will be selected, depending on the Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative - PFI contractor's programme, and budget availability. The Council have recently announced that the preferred bidder for the PFI contract will be Balfour Beatty, but no discussions have yet taken place regarding their programme of works.

With regard to budget, there is severe pressure on the highway maintenance budget this year, and it is envisaged that we will be able to carry out far fewer footway reconstruction schemes than in recent years. At the present time it is unlikely that Dean Close will be included in the 2006/07 programme. We will, of course, continue to inspect and repair any defects that exceed our intervention levels. Note and close.

**Further information:** John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715067

**1.8 Ref: 402030 - Redevelopment of University of Derby Mickleover campus, Mickleover – raised 27.11.02**

**Issue:** This issue was raised in November 2002 asking for assurances from the Council

that the quality of life for local residents would be taken into account during the future redevelopment.

**Action:** Update at June 2006 meeting to confirm progress with planning application.

**Update:** The application has not yet been decided. Note and put into outstanding issues.

**Further information:** Ian Woodhead, Group Leader, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255083

**1.9 Ref: 405007 – Parking problems, Devonshire Drive and East Avenue, Mickleover – raised 30.03.05**

**Issue:** A resident asked what could be done to tackle the problems caused by parents parking on the shop frontages, on private property on Devonshire Drive and East Avenue during school pick up times. Parents are ignoring the double yellow lines. He asked if the police could take action because they are causing a hazard by creating a blind spot on the road. He asked the police to visit the area during school pickup time.

**Action:** Update on confirmation of funding and then propose to close.

**Update:** The school travel plan has now been signed off and funding is available for the school to spend on physical improvements around the school to make it safer for the pupils and parents. Note and close.

**Further information:** Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715019.  
Inspector Henderson, Pear Tree Police Station, telephone 222184.

**1.10 Ref: 406001 – Petition, Car parking on Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, - received 18.01.06**

**Issue:** A petition had been received in December 2005 about the difficulty of getting out of driveways along Uttoxeter Road near to the City Hospital. This is because of cars parked by hospital workers, visitors and contractors between 8am and 5pm. There is very little space to manoeuvre and it is difficult to see oncoming traffic travelling at 40mph. Can the Council install double yellow lines as part of the list of improvements already proposed for the next few weeks.

**Action:** Request officers include a cycle lane in the Uttoxeter Road/Corden Avenue junction traffic improvements.

**Update:** Further cycle improvements are planned for this junction as part of the overall improvements. This scheme is on the reserve list of schemes should funding become available in 2006/07.

Skanska have reinstated regular parking patrols in May when some residents noted the problem had become worse. Now that Phase 1 has been completed Skanska now have relatively few contractors still on site. In addition, Skanska have been able to close up the Kings Drive gate once more to reduce the temptation to park on the road. Note and close.

**Further information:** Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and

**1.11 Ref: 406012 – Double yellow lines, Tesco, Mickleover - received 29.03.06**

**Issue:** A resident asked what is being done to stop people parking in the bus stop opposite Tesco. He confirmed that the Police have attended and given out parking tickets.

**Action:** Investigate if alternative solutions can be identified

**Update:** The most appropriate action has already been taken. A parking restriction is in force and the Police have taken enforcement action against those that park inconsiderately and illegally. This enforcement function will become the responsibility of the City Council from 3 July 2006. Note and close

**Further information:** Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 716190

**1.12 Ref: 404025 – Planning Application at East Midlands Airport, all wards – received 19.05.04**

**Issue:** A resident asked if the Council would be responding to the East Midlands Airport runway expansion planning application and whether the Council will have a permanent watching brief over future developments. He stated that the airport have said the extension would not make any difference to the volume of air traffic.

**Action:** Update on planning application

**Update:** There has been no further progress with the planning application since the last update. Note.

**Further information:** Rob Salmon, Head of Plans and Policies, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255020

**1.13 Ref: 406013 – Arson damage to sports facilities, all wards - received 29.03.06**

**Issue:** A resident asked why it takes the Council so long to repair arson damage to sports facilities. He referred to Mickleover pavilion and other recent examples at Sinfin and Alvaston. He considered that the loss of facilities to residents as well as the loss of income to the Council needs to be kept to a minimum. He considered that sprinkler systems should always be installed.

**Action:** None.

**Update:** The Director of Environmental Services will need to take advice from Property Services on the potential for fitting sprinkler systems in its sports pavilions.

With regards Alvaston and Sinfin Moor pavilions Property Services are in discussions with the City Council's insurance loss adjuster regarding agreement on the payments for the repairs to the buildings. Once agreement has been settled arrangements for the repair works can be made. Note.

**Further information:**

Ken Richardson, Parks Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 716646

## 1.14 Outstanding issues

Issue	Outstanding action	Date to report back
Ref: 405019 – Petition – Residents only parking, Warner Street, Mickleover	Report back when two priority areas are identified	September 2006

### PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 To consider and note the report.

**For more information****contact:****Background papers:****List of appendices:**

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Area Panel 4 community issues update report, background information – available on CMIS

None.