



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 1
10 JANUARY 2007

Report of Head of Stronger and Safer Communities Unit

ITEM 8

Area Panel 1 Community Issues Update Report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.1	Item No	Issue title	Recommended panel action
	1.2	Dangerous wall – Spondon Village Hall, Spondon	Note
	1.3	Spondon Cemetery, Spondon	Note and close
	1.4	Trees on Danebridge Crescent/Fiskerton Way, Oakwood	Note and close
	1.5	Street Lighting in Oakwood, Oakwood	Note and close
	1.6	Spondon Alcohol Restricted Zone, Spondon	Note
	1.7	Potter Street/Sitwell Street Lights, Spondon	Note and close
	1.8	Derbyshire Blocks Flats, Arnhem Terrace, Spondon	Note and close
	1.9	Outstanding issues	

1.2 Dangerous wall – Spondon Village Hall, Spondon – received 02.11.05

Issue: A resident raised concern over the dangerous wall at the rear of Spondon Village Hall and asked the panel who it belonged to and what was happening with it. It had been reported that the Council completed a boundary wall inspection in 2004 and this wall was identified as being potentially dangerous and was fenced off. Due to the historic importance of the site, remedial works will reinstate the wall to its original appearance. Discussions have started with all property owners adjoining the wall over any split of the cost of the works. A meeting was held on 14 July with the residents.

Action: To update on progress.

Update:

There has been little feedback from residents following the October letter and still no clarity on ownership of the Western wall. Discussions have been held with the 2 residents adjoining the southern wall and subject to final details being clarified we are hopeful of reaching agreement early in the new year and commencing works as soon as possible. Note.

Further information: Chris Edwards, Assistant Director - Property Services, Corporate and Adult Social Services, telephone 255070

1.3 Spondon Cemetery, Spondon – received 01.11.06

Issue: A resident asked who is responsible for sweeping the paths in Spondon Cemetery. There are leaves and tree cones on the paths that make it difficult to walk

safely. He stated that he has personally cleaned up some paths. Are the staff who are working in the cemetery meant to sweep the paths?

Action: Investigate the issue and report back directly to the resident with a reply on who is responsible and how often.

Update: The responsibility for clearing footpaths within the cemetery has recently transferred from the Parks staff to the StreetCare section. The paths in Spondon Cemetery have now been swept. Residents are asked to report problems with cleaning paths in the cemetery to StreetCare on 715000.

Further information: Andrew Morgan, Landscape and Development Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 715547

1.4 Trees on Danebridge Crescent/Fiskerton Way , Oakwood – received 01.11.06

Issue: A resident was concerned about two trees impeding the footway on Danebridge Crescent and Fiskerton Way near to the District Centre. They are a danger to pedestrians because they need to step into the road to avoid them. He said the problem has already been reported to the Council but no action has been taken.

Action Investigate and take the necessary action.

Update: Officers have visited both Fiskerton Way and Danebridge Crescent to investigate the problem. Trees on Fiskerton Way have been cut back, but no trees on Danebridge Crescent were considered in need of cutting back. We have written to the resident confirming the action taking and asking for him to contact us directly if there are any more trees needing attention. Note and close.

Further information:

Andrew Morgan, Landscape and Development Officer, Environmental Services, telephone 715547

1.5 Street Lighting in Oakwood, Oakwood – received 01.11.06

Issue: A resident asked why so many street lights are on in the Oakwood area during the daylight hours. He felt it was an unnecessary cost.

Councillor Latham commented that she did not know why some lights were on but asked the resident to identify the column numbers and report them to Streetcare. It would then be possible to identify why these lights were on.

Action: Report back on why street lights can be on in daylight hours.

Update: Most street lights are switched on and off via a light sensitive switch, called a photo-electric control unit - PECU. These units are designed to fail safe, this means that generally when they fail they switch the light on permanently, this is obviously preferable to them being permanently off. As the electricity for street lighting is not metered we do not pay any more for the electricity consumed by these permanently lit lights, however there is obviously a minor environmental impact from this wasted energy. If the column numbers are reported we replace the faulty units. Note and close.

Further information: Alan Jaques, Street Lighting Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715014

1.6 Spondon Alcohol Restricted Zone – received 01.11.06

Issue: A resident, representing Vancouver neighbourhood Watch, asked why the existing Alcohol Free Zone - AFZ cannot be extended to south of the A52 road when funds are made available. He felt that groups of young people, up to 20 at a time, gather in the area around Vancouver Avenue and no action is taken to stop them drinking alcohol.

Action: Write to the resident explaining whether the AFZ can be extended once funds are made available.

Police to respond directly to the resident.

Update: A letter has been sent to the resident explaining that the Alcohol Restricted Zone, the new name for an Alcohol Free Zone, could be extended if there were funds available. Note

Further information: Stuart Leslie, Chief Legal officer, Corporate and Adult Social Services, telephone 255450

Inspector Rachel Walker, Derbyshire Police, telephone 613131

1.7 Potter Street/Sitwell Street Lights, Spondon – received 01.11.06

Issue: A resident reported that four of the six street lights on the jitty between Potter Street and Sitwell Street were not working and that he had reported it to StreetCare on 11 October. By 1 November only one of the four was now working, and as the target time to repair is 10 working days, he asked how typical it is for the repairs to take longer than the target.

Action: Investigate the reason for the lights not being repaired within 10 days and report back on the performance of achieving repairs within 10 working days.

Update: Four of the six street lighting units on the footpath from Potter Street to Sitwell Street have been repaired at least once within the last month, this quantity of outages indicates that there has been some vandalism carried out against these columns. By 17 November all of the lights were working again, also two of the columns will be renumbered because we believe that the numbering sequence has been causing some confusion.

Only one of the faults on this footpath took longer than the 10 working days repair target, I believe that our performance was made to look worse because the units had been vandalised almost as soon as they had been repaired, thus some people may never have realised that a repair had been carried out.

Currently our average time to repair a fault is 9.65 days. Note and close.

Further information: Alan Jaques, Street Lighting Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715014

1.8 Derbyshire Blocks Flats, Arnhem Terrace, Spondon – received 01.11.06

Issue: The Chair of Spondon Community Association asked what was going to happen to the flats around Langley Road. When would they be demolished and what are the proposals for the land afterwards.

Councillor Williams reported that the flats are due to be demolished but there are still 11 flats occupied. Councillor Redfern explained they are waiting for acceptable alternative accommodation. The plans are to build new housing on the site.

Action: Update on progress to develop the site.
Write to the resident with a response.

Update: As of 18 December there are eight residents still in occupation but three of these currently have offers for rehousing.
The Derbyshire Blocks are to be demolished and redeveloped as part of the Council's 'Housing Private Finance Initiative', PFI, scheme. The Council is currently going through a selection process to choose a development partner for the project. The PFI project is due to start in the Spring of 2008, although the Council is currently considering whether it would be feasible to demolish the blocks in advance of this. When the Derbyshire Blocks site is cleared, it will be re-developed. The new development is likely to consist of a mixture of family houses and flats. A number of the new homes will be for rent, some for shared ownership - now known as new build HomeBuy, and some will be for normal market sale.

The exact mix and number of new homes has yet to be finalised, but will be determined through negotiations with the selected partner and in response to identified housing needs within the area.
Note and close

Further information: Ian Fullagar, Housing Strategy and Performance Manager, Resources and Housing, 255185
Annabelle Barwick, Local Manager, Derby Homes, telephone 716577

1.9 Outstanding issues

Issue	Outstanding action	Date to report back
Croft Wood Railway Line Improvements, Derwent	Waiting for an update on progress from the County Council	March 2007
Petition - Traffic Solutions for Chapel Street, Spondon	Cabinet to decide 2007/8 Highways and transportation programme priorities	March 2007

PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 To consider and note the report.

For more information contact:	Richard Smail 01332 258505 e-mail richard.smail@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	Area Panel 1 community issues update report, background information 10 January 2007 on Council Management Information System
List of appendices:	None