

**AREA PANEL 1 COMMUNITY ISSUES – UPDATE REPORT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
6 SEPTEMBER 2006**

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1. Ref: 105031 – Mobile phone mast, Oakwood – received 02.11.05

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Councillor Smalley, Oakwood ward, telephone 833250

John Stewart, Principal Planner, Regeneration and Community, telephone 255934

Issue:

A member of the public raised concern about a proposed Vodafone mobile phone mast on Bishops Drive, Oakwood that was close to a children's nursery and a doctors' surgery. She asked that Councillors support local residents and reject the planning application.

A previous mast in the Oakwood area had resulted in a 700 signature petition but it had been too late to prevent the mast being agreed. She informed the meeting of a drop in meeting to be held on 10 November at Springwood Leisure Centre between 3.30pm and 7.30 pm which Vodafone were attending to answer residents' questions.

Previous key points / action taken:

November 2005 - Councillor Latham explained that the Area Panel was not able to refuse the application and that the Planning Committee was where the application would be considered. It was reported that Councillors could attend and put objections in on behalf of residents.

January 2006 - Councillor Smalley has met with local residents and explained the limited grounds under which they can object to this proposal under current planning legislation. He has also registered his objections to this mast erection to both the operator and the Council's planning department.

March 2006 - Residents and councillors attended the meeting in November 2005 about the proposed phone mast. The possible streetworks installation of a Vodafone mobile phone mast on Bishops Drive, close to Danebridge Crescent, on which the company undertook public consultation, has not led to a formal prior notification. It is understood that the company is pursuing other nearby possibilities.

June 2006 - No formal prior notification has been received by the planning section.

Response on 7 June 2006

A local resident asked what the present position was regarding the telephone mast.

Councillor West explained that he understood the company were proposing a site for the new mast slightly to the north of the existing mast. He confirmed that the councillors would fight the installation of the mast, and try to get it installed somewhere else.

Actions agreed:

Update on any application to install a mast

Update:

No formal prior notification has been received by the planning section in 2006 and nothing has been heard from the mobile phone company since the last meeting of the area panel in June 2006. Propose to close.

2. Ref: 105033 – Dangerous wall – Spondon Village Hall, Spondon – received 02.11.05

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

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

Issue:

A member of the public 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.

Previous key points / action taken:

January 2006 - The Council completed a boundary wall inspection programme in 2004 and this wall was identified as being potentially dangerous. Safety fencing was erected immediately and further investigation carried out. Part of the wall was subsequently shored up to increase stability. In January 2005 there was a partial collapse and again the wall was stabilised and fenced off for safety. Our deeds on this wall indicate there is a shared responsibility with the adjoining property owners. A structural engineer has recently inspected the wall and we are awaiting his recommendations and quotes for the repair works. Due to the historic importance of the site, any remedial works will reinstate the wall to its original appearance even though the wall is not within the Spondon conservation area. Preliminary estimates indicate that this will be an expensive job and we will discuss a contribution towards the cost with the adjoining owners. Work will not start until the specification, quote, contributions and a budget have been confirmed.

March 2006 - Since the last area panel urgent temporary repair works have been carried out on a small section of the wall. A letter has been sent to all property owners adjoining the wall asking them to check their deeds so that we can start discussions over any split of the cost of the works. Received structural engineers recommendations and obtaining tender price for works.

Timescales: Tender documentation planned for sending out no later than Friday 17 March 06. Tender returns will be required back by Wednesday 12 Apr 06.

Work could commence during May 06 and duration anticipated at 2 - 3 months. But the following needs to be resolved first. All adjoining owners to have confirmed their responsibility under their own title - we have now written to them all requesting this information.

Consultation with owners over liability, extent of works and share of the cost. The works vary along the various lengths of the wall and the split will not be even and will be subject to negotiation.

Considerable delays if any disputes arise.

There will be approval of funding for our share of the cost, wider public consultation as this adjoins the village hall and public car park, planning approval following consultation and agreement of the extent of works - 12 weeks. It is very difficult to estimate how long the issues above will take but we expect around 4-6 months and longer if there are any major disputes.

June 2006 - There was a delay sending out the tenders for the works. They are now due back by the end of May. Officers are chasing up the information requested from residents, as this has not all been received yet. A party Wall Surveyor will be appointed to advise on the repair works and how the costs should be apportioned. A letter was sent at the end of May to the residents adjoining the wall inviting them to a meeting on Wednesday 14 June at 6pm in the village hall. Ward councilors and a representative from Spondon Community Association have also been invited. The meeting is to consider the options following which there will be wider consultation on the preferred option.

Response on 7 June 2006

None.

Actions agreed:

Update on progress

Update:

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 adjoining the wall. Broad agreement was reached on the way to proceed with the repairs to the wall subject to final prices on the cost of the works being agreed and legal advice on the ownership of the wall and the liability. If the Council still have Party liability then we anticipate that the works will be started in early autumn. Note.

3. Ref: 106013 – Antisocial behaviour on West Park, Spondon - received 07.06.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Inspector Walker, Derbyshire Police, telephone 0845 1233333
Andy Thomas, Head of Stronger and Safer Communities Unit, Community Safety Partnership, telephone 256910

Issue:

Two members of the public raised concern over antisocial behaviour at West Park Meadow. They explained that wildlife was being used as targets and shot, and as a result, live shot cartridges were on the football pitch. A resident explained the cabin used by AFC Crusaders had been burnt with all their equipment inside. He stated that the football club had been advised to cancel the Saturday soccer training for the 6 years old, due to the cartridges, and the dangers they pose. He also stated that people were driving motorcycles over the pitches, whilst the youngsters were playing football. He reported that the storage container for the football equipment had been subject to an arson attack, which resulted in the loss of all equipment. He emphasised that this was a very serious problem, and they are trying to provide a safe and happy environment for the youngsters. He asked the panel whether there was a joint initiative between the police, council, park rangers and the community to get rid of this problem, as he was concerned that the school holidays were approaching.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 7 June 2006

A member of the local nature reserve management committee stated that this had been the worst year for antisocial behaviour in the area, and have continued problems with motorbikes and quad bikes at the reserve and on the school fields. The AFC Crusaders football container on West park had been burnt out. In addition, wildlife was being shot at and cartridges were found on the playing fields.

Councillor P Berry thanked residents for raising the issue, and agreed that this problem is getting worse. He suggested that a meeting is arranged with local residents, the police, antisocial behaviour team and councillors to look at this. He also encouraged residents to continue to report any incidents.

Councillor Ahern confirmed the problem existed, stating that it had been raised on numerous occasions.

Councillor Roberts explained his deep concern over the shots being fired, and the prospect of an incident. He encouraged all residents to report any instances of shots being fired immediately to the police.

Inspector McLaughlin explained that there was a similar problem with motorbikes in Oakwood some 18 months before, which was resolved, by the police issuing residents with cameras, and petrol garages being encouraged not to sell petrol to the motorcyclists. He reported that some bikes had been confiscated, and ASBOs issued. He emphasised that a big issue with this is educating the youngsters and their parents that the bikes cannot be used on public land. He explained that in Oakwood they used funding to look at access points in the park, and erected stiles to help prevent motorcycle use. He asked residents to take details of registration plates, and take pictures wherever possible, stating that cameras were available for the public to use. With regard to the shotgun cartridges, he explained that there are very tight regulations about the use and discharge. The protocols in place for the Police to deal with firearms incidents are very detailed. He asked residents to recover cartridges carefully and hand in to the police, giving details of timings, wherever possible.

Actions agreed:

Councillor P Berry to set up a meeting with the police, antisocial behaviour team, councillors and residents.

Update:

A meeting was held on June 12 with the Police, Councillor P Berry and local residents to progress the issue of nuisance caused by motorcycles on West Park area of Spondon and other localities. It was agreed to produce and distribute leaflets to local households warning them of the issues, encouraging people to report incidents to the Police and informing them of contact numbers. The Crusaders Football club and Spondon Community Association produced and distributed the leaflets.

Since then the Police have initiated Operation Tigrone, which is a series of Police Operations to seize these machines, prosecute offenders and raise the profile of their illegality. During the first operation ten machines were seized and persons reported for Road traffic Offences.

In addition, following a debate between the Police and the Community Safety Partnership a Section 30 dispersal order has been authorised under the Anti social Behaviour Act 2003. The dispersal zone covers most of the Ward of Spondon and early indications are that it has been a huge success with significant reductions in nuisance and disorder and calls for service to the Police. This order runs from 3 July 2006 to 2 January 2007.

Propose to note and close

4. Ref: 106014 – Alcohol Free Zone, Spondon - received 07.06.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Stuart Leslie, Chief Legal Officer, Corporate and Adult Social Services, telephone 255450

Issue:

A local resident asked if the current alcohol free zone in Spondon could be extended up to Dale Road park, as there was a problem with drinking in the open spaces.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 7 June 2006

Councillor P Berry explained that they cannot put a blanket alcohol free zone anywhere. The hotspots of alcohol problems and antisocial behaviour had been targeted, and as a result the zone had been expanded up to West Road, but it is a matter of enforcement. He also explained that an application for a section 30 dispersal order was turned down, as not all the avenues of the dispersal of people from the area had been explored.

Inspector McLaughlin reinforced Councillor Berry's comments, confirming that the zone was mapped where there were highlighted problems in Spondon.

Actions agreed:

Update on possibility to extend the Alcohol Free Zone in Spondon.

Update:

When consulting on the proposal to replace the old alcohol consumption byelaws in Spondon with a designation as an alcohol free zone – AFZ, the Council received a request from Vancouver Avenue Neighbourhood Watch, Spondon Village Improvement Committee and Councillor Berry to extend the AFZ to include other areas in Spondon particularly the large area south of the A52.

We were not unsympathetic to this proposal. However to introduce such a large area would have meant the Council having to start the whole lengthy procedure for designating an AFZ, again. We were reluctant to do this because it would have inevitably delayed the designation of the AFZ beyond the time when the old byelaws were going to automatically expire in September 2006. This, for a time at least, would have left all of Spondon without the protection of either of the byelaws or an AFZ designation.

We have consulted the Police on the suggestion to extend the AFZ to the south of the A52 and they are supportive of it. There are however two further obstacles to taking such action. Firstly, there are already three other areas in the city waiting to have an AFZ introduced and the Police have currently given them a higher priority. Secondly, there is at present no budget to pay for the signage and advertising costs for any AFZ designations so none are being prepared at the moment.

The Area panel could if it wished use part of its budget to fund such a designation. The cost would be approximately £3,000. Provided this funding was found the designation process could proceed and would take approximately 6 months.

Note and decide