

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 8.30 pm

**AREA PANEL 3 (ABBEY, ARBORETUM AND NORMANTON)
8 SEPTEMBER 2004**

Present: Councillor Dhindsa (Chair)
Councillors Burgess, Hussain, Khan, Lowe, Nath,
Rehman and Williamson

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Annabelle Barwick	-	Local Manager, Derby Homes
David Dring	-	Area Co-ordination Manager, Policy Directorate
Sarah Edwards	-	Area Panel Manager, Policy Directorate
David Gartside	-	Head of Traffic, Development and Cultural Services
Jody Kirkpatrick	-	Members Services Assistant Democratic Services
Mike Melliush	-	Private Finance Initiative Programme Manager
Inspector Gary Parkin	-	Police Inspector - Derbyshire Constabulary
Katherine Taylor	-	Members Services Officer Democratic Services
Rachael Wright	-	Private Finance Initiative Support Officer

40 members of the public.

This record of decisions was published on 10 September 2004. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five clear days, unless the decisions are called-in.

13/04 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ann Jackman.

14/04 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced an information item on the consultation on the draft licensing policy. A leaflet was made available at the meeting for people who were interested in the policy.

15/04 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

16/04 Minutes

The minutes of the Area Panel 3 meeting held on 14 July 2004 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 6/04 – SWERF Technology and the Waste Recycling Group Technology

That the fourth paragraph would read

“Councillor Burgess responded that he was aware of the problems with the SWERF technology and that it seemed likely that the company would not be used.”

17/04 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 panel meeting. The report included details of issues raised, various action, progress to date and detailed which Council Officer was responsible for the issue.

Agreed to note the report.

Specific issues

Baseball Ground – Leacroft Road

In addition to the update provided at the meeting for sharing

information about the parking restrictions in the area of the old baseball ground were available for the public to view at the meeting.

Crossing at Sainsbury's Island, Kingsway

A member of the public who had initially raised concern about the inadequate pedestrian facilities for a safe pedestrian crossing at the island at Sainsbury's at Kingsway wished to thank the panel for its work in progressing his issue.

Car Park on Colwyn Avenue and Warwick Avenue – Adjacent to Normanton Park

The panel noted that at the Council Cabinet meeting which had taken place on 7 September 2004, the Cabinet had decided not to install lockable barriers at Colwyn Avenue car park.

Councillor Williamson stated that he regretted that the Council Cabinet did not support the proposal initially put forward by the Area Panel and that he had made representation at the Council Cabinet meeting to support the proposal. He requested that the Council Cabinet reconsider the issue.

Councillor Burgess responded that the revenue commitment of more than £5,000 per year would be too great a precedent for the Council to set. He also stated that there had been no representations in Abbey ward regarding anti-social behaviour in this area or car park recently. He also emphasised that the capital expenditure was not the issue rather it was the ongoing revenue costs that the Council would have to sustain.

Greg Jackson, a member of the public stated that if the barrier were closed, it could affect his access as he was a disabled user of the park and used it to exercise his dog.

The panel took a vote on whether to ask the Council Cabinet to reconsider its decision, this was agreed with a six to two majority.

Illicit Retail Organisation, Mount Street

The member of the public who initially raised this issue asked for a verbal report about the outcome of the planning meeting which was due to take place regarding the organisation.

Sarah Edwards committed to provide an update to Mrs Underhill by telephone the following Monday as the officer dealing with the issue was on leave at the time of the area panel meeting.

Phase 3A Connecting Derby

Sarah Edwards presented the report on the progress with this item and made a correction to it that there would be a special meeting of the Planning Control Committee in early December to consider the Connecting Derby planning and related applications in order to allow an adequate time for debate.

Advertising Signs

The member of the public who had raised concern over the danger of advertising signs being left on public highways, particularly on Normanton Road and Mount Street requested details of the requirements to erect an A frame with an advertisement on it.

David Gartside responded that legislation exists which prohibits the use of advertising without suitable permission and that also some highway legislation prohibits this use also.

David Gartside committed to send further information on the appropriate planning permissions to the member of the public.

Waste Technology

Agreed to provide a response on the planning application submitted by Waste Recycling Group at the next meeting of the area panel.

Derbyshire Royal Infirmary – Reduction in health hopper bus service route

Agreed to report back on the possibilities for subsidising another health hopper through Normanton at a future meeting of the panel.

Traffic Issues – Normanton and Peartree

At the last meeting of the Area Panel, Councillor Burgess provided those present with information on the Road Traffic Reduction Act 1997. This information was included in the updates.

A member of the public expressed that he found the technical information rather confusing.

Councillor Hussain commented that he had observed that generally traffic was at a standstill on Normanton Road as a result of the improved road safety issues and that many people still park on the footpath which causes an obstruction.

Councillor Dhindsa requested that the report and the update be put into more simple terms and that it should include information regarding traffic growth in the area in addition.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluating CCTV

The member of the public who had originally raised this item asked why it had taken so long to report back.

The Panel noted that it had been a long delay and requested that a full report be brought to the Area Panel as soon as was possible.

Petition – One Way system for Stockbrook Road and Westbury Street

In addition to the information provided in the update report Sarah Edwards, Area Panel manager stated that a letter would be sent to all the residents on 9 September 2004 inviting them to a consultation on the proposed one-way system.

Petition – Anti Social Behaviour on the Austin Estate

A member of the public who was a resident of the Austin Estate opposite the Sinfin bridge commented that Anti-Social behaviour was particularly prevalent during the summer months. He commented that he considered the police to be best to deal with these matters but was aware of a neighbour who had been attacked in his own home opposite the bridge and has subsequently installed his own CCTV. The member of the public asked whether it would be possible to install CCTV cameras on the Austin estate.

To request the Director of Development and Cultural Services to ask the Anti-Social Behaviour team to respond appropriately.

Park Gates at the end of Chatsworth Street

A resident of Chatsworth Street wished to thank the panel for the work which had been done in re-erecting the park gates at the end of Chatsworth Street.

Petition – Installation of a rate restriction on Portland Street

Sarah Edwards responded that a scheme was planned to positively sign the weight restriction on Portland Street.

18/04 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

School Parking on Belvoir Street

Mr Crofts of Belvoir Street commented that the street was often blocked in the day with cars parked, which were those of the teachers working at the school on the street.

Trespass in the School Grounds at Weekends

Mr Crofts stated that football matches were taking place on Saturdays and Sundays since the sports centre had been built at the school but that it was unsupervised and he considered it to be trespass.

Inspector Gary Parkin responded that trespassing on education premises was an offence.

Dirty Streets in the Normanton Area

Mr Crofts commented that dustbins and rubbish in bin bags was often left on the street in the Normanton area which animals would get into creating further mess.

School Pond

Miss Crofts commented that the nature pond at the school was not maintained and therefore was no longer a pleasant natural environment.

The Chair requested that Mr Croft be contacted when these issues had been investigated and that the relevant ward councillors also be kept up to date on progress. Councillor Dhindsa encouraged Mr Croft to contact the police as appropriate when people were trespassing on the school premises.

Inspector Gary Parkin committed to deal with the trespass issue by contacting his lead officers and that he would also contact Dave Lakin who worked on the mobile CCTV team and let him know that support was needed on Saturday and Sunday in the school area.

Graffiti on Crompton Street

Chris Woodward of Crompton Street reported that he had reported a number of graffiti incidents on Crompton Street to the Council but understood that it was not possible for the Council to tackle graffiti on private property.

Resolved to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the specific incidents and report back to a future meeting of the area panel.

Cathedral Green

Louise During of North Parade stated that Cathedral Green, which was part of the Arboretum Ward, was a great mess and asked whether bins could be placed there as a lot of rubbish was dropped on the ground. She stated that she had contacted Councillors Rehman and Hussain about this issue previously. Councillor Hussain responded that he recalled speak to Mrs During and that he had contacted the appropriate Council department to ensure that the litter was picked up and he checked himself that this had been done the next day. He also commented that he understood that litter picking was carried out everyday.

Wall and Railings on Warwick Avenue

A member of the public asked whether it would be possible to have safety checks carried out on the wall and railings on Warwick Avenue.

Graffiti on Public Property

Mrs Underhill of Mount Street requested to receive additional help or advice on dealing with graffiti on public property.

Inspector Gary Parkin stated that he and his officers were aware of a regular offender but that quite often detection of offenders is difficult.

Councillor Dhindsa requested that Mrs Underhill be responded to directly and the Arboretum Ward Councillors also informed of the outcome of the investigation.

Community Safety Survey – August and September 2004

Mrs Underhill of Mount Street brought a copy of a survey being carried out by the Derby Community Safety partnership of the community safety survey to the attention of the Area Panel. She was concerned that canvassers had been asking for specific types of people to respond on the survey, which she did not consider to be appropriate nor representative approach to carrying out research.

The members of the panel were concerned about this approach.

The Area Panel Manager committed to looking into the issue and respond to Mrs Underhill.

Survey Points

A resident of Chatsworth Street asked what the metal rivets with the yellow circle round them meant in a number of pavements as they were considered to be unsightly.

David Gartside responded that these were survey points and use for reference markers when making a plan and carrying out measurements. He responded that the paint used was biodegradable after several weeks.

Pavement Improvements on Buller Street

Mr Greg Jackson of Buller Street commented that he objected to the pavement improvements carried out on Buller Street as it made the street too narrow. He stated that he was a wheelchair user and that the kerb could only be dropped outside his property but there was no guarantee that he would be able to use the space outside his property if somebody else parks in it he could not access the pavement.

Fran Fuller also of Buller Street supported Greg's concerns and stated that she had written to Councillor Williamson about the possibility of white markings delineating the parking spaces on the street.

Public Telephone Boxes

A member of the public requested that a representative of BT be invited to a future meeting of the Area Panel to respond on the apparent reduction of telephone boxes within the city centre.

Councillor Williamson responded that he attended a number of meetings where residents have campaigned to have them removed due to the anti-social behaviour that they can attract. He stated that he would continue to support the majority of the community if they wanted them to be removed and considered that British Telecom would make their representation on commercial grounds.

Extension of the Eagle Centre

A member of the public asked for a report on the public enquiry findings.

Councillor Burgess responded that some of the questions being asked at the Area Panel would be more appropriately directed to a full Council meeting where it can be publicised and the information given. Therefore he proposed that the member of the public ask her question at a full Council meeting.

Drug Dealing on French Street

Mr Frank Drake of French Street stated that he had not received any police feedback regarding a drug-dealing incident which was reported on French Street and an incident number had been obtained.

The Chair invited Mr Drake to liaise directly with Inspector Gary Parkin over this matter.

Councillor Rehman left the meeting.

19/04 Petitions

The following petitions were presented to the Area Panel:

Traffic issues on St James Road and Dover Street

The lead petitioner Mr Mykytivk attended the meeting to present a petition from residents of St James Road and Dover Street, requesting a traffic survey with a view to improving safety and parking needs, possibly by introducing a residents only parking.

Almond Street – Parking Problems at Night

Mr Steele presented a petition from residents of Almond Street regarding the lack of car parking on Almond Street, which they considered was due to a lack of car park facilities provided by local businesses for their own customers who used Almond Street to park when visiting these retailers.

Activ8, Campbell Street

A number of residents from various streets surrounding the Activ8 venue stated that an number of anti-social behaviour incidents have been carried out by tenants and their associates and requested the Council to investigate the following issues:

1. To review the arrangements made by Stoneham Housing Association for the young people there.
2. To negotiate and agree an appropriate arrangement to manage the conduct of it's tenants.
3. To monitor the effectiveness and periodically review this.

The lead petitioner, Mr Christie, gave the panel an outline of the work of Activ8. Activ8 supports a project aimed at disadvantaged young people to provide support, housing and training. During normal business hours, staff were on duty at the premises but often the young people are unsupervised at other times and at weekends. There are 12 young individuals housed there and local residents

often have to look after the situation to maintain control at weekends and outside office hours.

20/04 Petition requesting the Installation of Yellow Flashing Lights on Portland Street

David Gartside presented a report of the Assistant Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management responding to a petition requesting the installation of yellow flashing lights on Portland Street to alert motorists of the school crossing patrol. The panel received a report which proposed to reject the request to install the yellow flashing lights on Portland Street but to continue to monitor the school crossing patrol site through the established risk assessment process for all school crossing patrol sites.

The report stated that there had been no reported injury accidents at this location at school crossing patrol operating times during the last three years. Highways regulations state that flashing yellow warning lights should only be used where there are high speeds or on an exceptionally busy road.

It was reported that speed readings were taken on 24 April 2004 and showed the average speed to be well below the 30 mph speed limit. Although the road was regularly trafficked, there were sufficient gaps in the traffic to allow the school crossing patrol to cross pedestrians. Therefore the location did not meet the criteria of flashing yellow warning lights.

21/04 Petition to consider the investigations that have taken place in response to a request from residents of St Alban's Road regarding the Speed and Volume of Traffic which uses St Alban's Road/Manor Road Junction

David Gartside presented a report of the Assistant Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management which outlined the Council's response to the suggested action in the petition, which referred to the speed, and volume of traffic which uses St Alban's Road and two proposals were suggested to reduce both the vehicle speed and volume. The two proposals were to prevent vehicles turning right out of St Alban's road onto Manor Road and to make St Alban's road one way from Louvain Road to Manor Road which vehicles only allowed to exit onto Manor Road.

The surveys which were carried out to assess the volume and speed of vehicles using St Alban's road and Louvain Road revealed that the traffic volume was not considered to be high and did not present

strong enough evidence that Louvain Road and St Alban's Road were being used by significant amounts of through traffic between Manor Road and Burton Road. There was no real evidence that a one way system was necessary from Louvain Road to Manor Road as the survey results showed that traffic use the street in a safe and appropriate manner.

The report stated that the Highways team would monitor the situation in the area but would not take any action on the proposals suggested in the petition at that time.

The lead petitioner John Riley presented the panel with photographs of an accident, which took place on 23 July 2004 on St Alban's Road and stated that in addition he had seen lorries doing 'U' turns at the end of St Alban's Road.

22/04 Planning and Environment Commission Work Plan Topic Reviews 2004/05

The panel received a report from the Chair of the Planning and Environment Commission, which set out the proposed work plan topic review subjects for 2004/05. The Commission proposed to investigate the enforcement of the dog fouling legislation and the Council's tree policy.

It was planned that the review of the Council's tree policy would commence in September 2004 with the intention of completing the report by December 2004. The dog fouling review would take place during the first part of 2005.

The Commission wished to hear from members of the public about any particular problems they have experience with dog fouling or with trees and the Chair invited members of the public to contact either Councillors John Ahern or Peter Berry, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning and Environment Commission respectively or alternatively David Romaine the Planning and Environment Commission Co-ordination Officer. Their contact details were available within the report.

Agreed to note the report.

23/04 Derby Grouped Schools Private Finance Initiative - PFI – Construction Works at Hardwick Primary School

The Panel received a report from the Director of Corporate Services on behalf of the Derby Grouped Schools PFI project board.

The report noted the progress of the construction of Hardwick Primary School and stated that updates would be given as and when necessary. Attached to the report was a letter from Norwest Holst the developer, which was a notice to residents, and local businesses surrounding Hardwick School informing them of what would be taking place over the following weeks and months. Such information would be sent to residents and local businesses on a regular basis.

Information on the proposed design of the school was made available at the meeting for members of the public to consider.

Councillor Dhindsa commented that the impact on traffic issues around the school would need to be considered during and subsequently to the development.

A member of the public asked to know the cost of the school to this point in time and what the least of that cost would be. Mike Melliush PFI Programme Manager responded that the Capital cost was £2m but committed to provide the detailed breakdown of the lease of that costs to Ms Skyrtec.

Agreed to

- 1. note the report**
- 2. to ask Mike Melliush to contact the member of the public with the information requested directly.**

24/04 New Criteria and Application Procedure for Area Panel Funding

Sarah Edwards, Area Panel Manager presented a report from the Director of Policy, which informed Councillors and residents about the new criteria and procedures for making an application for Area Panel funding as agreed by the Council on 21 April 2004. It also provided information about the introduction of Area Panel grant appraisal panels that would appraise all future applications for area panel funding.

A copy of the new criteria and one stage application form was attached at appendix one of the report.

The main changes in the funding criteria would result in priority being given to the following:

- applications from voluntary and community groups
- projects that provided a service in response to the needs of the local residents raised at a community meeting such as an Area Panel, community panel, police liaison or community group

- meeting
- projects that showed evidence of match funding or self help, directly benefit people in the geographical area covered by the Area Panel and contributed to the delivery of one or more of the objectives or priorities set out in the Council's corporate plan; and
- the maximum amount of funding awarded to each project would, in most, cases, be between £50 and £2000.

The report set out the schedule of meetings for the Area Panel Grants Appraisal Panels and gave the deadlines for applications for the following financial year.

To note the report.

Councillor Williamson left the meeting at this point.

23/04 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2004/05

Applications for Area Panel Funding

A report of the Director Policy was considered which set out details of five applications for funding, which were all key decisions, as follows:

- To consider whether to support the application received from The Amnesty Congo Support Group to purchase traditional African instruments and sound system in order to promote their cultural music with the local community – Amount requested £3,770.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Derbyshire Housing Aid to install CCTV to act as a deterrent and ensure that the night shelter would not cause a problem for local people. Amount requested £3,000.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Normanton Allotments Society Limited for repairs to the access steps to the allotments. Amount requested £1,318.

Options considered

The Panel assessed the applications for funding against the agreed criteria and assessed the applications for funding against priorities.

Key Decisions

- 1 To defer a decision on the application from Amnesty Congo Support Group until the next meeting of the Panel.

Reason

- Written quotations for the supply of the items set out in the application had not been received.
- 2 To defer a decision on the application from Derbyshire Housing Aid until the next meeting of the Panel.

Reason

- The panel wished to defer its decision until the outcome of the group's application for funding from the Small Change Fund was known.
- 3 To defer a decision on the application from Normanton Allotments Society Limited until the next meeting of the Panel.

Reason

- The panel considered that the repairs to the allotment steps was a matter for the attention of Derby City Parks in the first instance.

24/04 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

To note that

1. **the next meeting of the Area Panel would be held on Wednesday 11 November, 6pm at Bramblebrook Community Centre, Stockbrook Street.**
2. **Councillor Burgess would be the Chair**

MINUTES END