

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 8.00 pm

**AREA PANEL 2 (ALVASTON, BOULTON, CHELLASTON AND SINFIN
WARDS)
5 MAY 2004**

Present: Councillor Graves (Chair)
Councillors Bayliss, Blanksby, Chera, H S Dhamrait,
J Hickson, Jackson, Liversedge, Turner, Willitts and
Wynn

In attendance: Councillor P Hickson

Derby City Council, Derbyshire Constabulary and Primary Care Trust Officers:

Faye Brown	-	Derby Homes
Mike Goodwin	-	Director Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trust
John Hansed	-	Head of Street Care and Waste Management
Jody Kirkpatrick	-	Members Services Assistant
Peter Price	-	Transport Policy Manager
Bill Reed	-	Area Panel Manger
Inspector Thandi	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Sarah Turner	-	Members Services Officer

55 members of the public were in attendance.

65/03 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

66/03 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Chera, Willitts and Wynn declared personal and prejudicial interests in Minute Number 58/03, Update Report – Petition, Chellaston West Affordable Accommodation as they were Members of the Planning Control Committee and left the room during discussion of this issue.

67/03 Late Items Introduced By The Chair

The Chair introduced the following late item due to the availability of the representative from the PCT – Minute Number 57/03 refers:

Primary Care Trusts (PCT's)

To introduce the role of PCT's and the role of non-executive directors of the PCT's.

68/03 Minutes

Agreed that the Minutes of the Area Panel 2 meeting held on 10 March 2004, be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

That Councillor Bayliss' attendance at the meeting was noted.

69/03 Primary Care Trusts (PCT's)

Mike Goodwin, Director of the Primary Care Trust -PCT, attended the meeting and explained his role on the PCT board. Mike explained that a representative from the PCT would attend future meetings of the Area Panel. Concerns raised at Area Panels would be fed back to the Health Authority.

70/03 Update Report

The panel considered an update report on the progress of community issues raised at the last meeting. The report included details on the issues raised, the proposed actions, progress to date and the City Council Officer responsible.

Litter - Noel Baker School

Councillor Jackson advised that steps had been taken to alleviate the litter problems near Noel Baker School and things had improved. She thanked the School for their cooperation.

Right of Way near Noel Baker School

Councillor Blanksby advised that negotiations had taken place between Council staff and Severn Trent. Severn Trent had accepted responsibility and would repair the footway.

Request for Pedestrian Crossing or Central Refuge, Boulton Lane

A member of the public advised that this issue needed to be a priority as many vehicles were speeding down Boulton Lane and there was not a safe place for people to cross the road. Speeding traffic needed to be stopped in a way that would not deter cars from using Boulton Lane.

Councillor Blanksby advised that he would find out how many occasional speed cameras had been sited on Boulton Lane and how often this had happened. He would also get a response to residents request for speed cameras on Boulton Lane.

Petition – High Volume of Traffic Using A514

A member of the public advised that since the Alvaston bypass had been opened he had not seen any difference in the volume of traffic, particularly HGV's, using the A514. He asked that a weight restriction be introduced on the A514 to stop HGV's using it unnecessarily. If the traffic were reduced by half it would be a significant improvement.

Councillor J Hickson advised that she had received a response from Council officers on this matter. Since October 2003 the number of vehicles had reduced by 160, but it was still too early to say if it was working or not.

Councillor Wynn stated that he supported the public view. The bypass was not solving the issue. The T12 link road was needed desperately and he would push for this through the highways agency.

Councillor Wynn asked the Traffic department to confirm what could be achieved through Section 106 money that was available. A response to this would be given at the next meeting.

Councillors Chera, Willits and Wynn left the room during discussion of the following item.

Petition – Chellaston West Affordable Accommodation

The Panel were advised that this issue was dealt with at the Planning Control meeting on 22 April when the application was refused. A member of the public asked when they would hear anything from the planning department about any appeal that had been submitted.

Bill Reed advised that applicants had six months from the date of their application being refused to submit their appeal. The government department dealing with the appeal would contact all of the objectors on file for their views to be submitted to the appeal.

Petition – Need for a Drivers Mirror to be placed at the Intersection of Green Avenue and High Street, Chellaston

Members of the public expressed their dissatisfaction in the response to this issue commenting that there used to be a mirror at this point and if the plan for a nursery at St Peters Church Hall were successful this would cause many more problems.

Peter Price, Transport Policy Manager, advised that the Department for Transport no longer authorised the use of mirrors on the highway. The Council could not contravene laws set down by Whitehall.

Councillor Liversedge stated that he would get in touch with the lead petitioner to discuss that issue further.

Petition – Newbridge Crescent, condition of the pavements

A member of the public asked who checked repairs once they had been done. The temporary repairs that had been carried out in Newbridge Crescent were not satisfactory as tarmac was loose in parts.

John Hansed, Head of Street Care and Waste Management, advised that only a percentage of repairs were inspected. He would ensure that Newbridge Crescent would be looked at again.

Petition – Newly Created West Chellaston Children’s Play Area

Councillor J Hickson advised that she would be in touch with the local residents to discuss the relocation of the playground.

Tree Pruning – Whitehouse Close

Councillor Phillip Hickson advised the Panel that the Council’s Tree Management Policy was currently under review. A draft was expected to be ready in the next couple of weeks. It would then be discussed by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Commission before being considered by Council Cabinet. It was hoped that the revised policy would be in place by early summer.

The Area Panel would be advised of the outcome of the Tree Management Policy.

Future use of Merrill Upper School Site

A member of the public advised that the head teacher was having a meeting to discuss the situation with the Merrill Upper School site. The main concern of local residents was that the school opening times would not be the same as other schools in the area as the traffic was already really bad.

71/03 Public Question Time

The public raised the following issues during public question time.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Vandalism – Haywood Close, Alvaston

A member of the public asked that the Boulton Ward Councillors and the police investigate the antisocial behaviour and vandalism being experienced by residents of Haywood Close, Alvaston, by youths using the footpath as a short cut to Noel Baker School. There is constant damage to property, windows being broken, stones thrown at residents and their properties, litter, verbal abuse and gardens were being used as playgrounds.

Inspector Thandi advised that the police would address any calls received and take positive action. He would bring details of calls received about this issue to the next meeting of the Panel.

Councillor Jackson advised that as a Governor of Noel Baker School she would discuss this issue with the head and other governors.

Green Land on Yeovil Close

A member of the public commented that they had been advised by the Council that an area of green land in front of properties on Yeovil Close was not owned by the Council so would not be maintained by the Council.

Councillor Bayliss stated that this issue had been raised with him some time ago and he had investigated and found out that the Council did in fact own the land. He advised that he would look into this issue again and report back to the next meeting.

Public Priority Allocation

A member of the public stated that they had noticed that the public priority funding had been reduced. How were the Council intending to fund pavements that need replacing and tree pruning following the revision of the Tree Management Policy?

Bill Reed responded that the Priority Fund was not as low as had been suggested. The fund had been increased to approximately £600,000. The Area and Neighbourhood Newsletters that had been distributed round the meeting detailed the places where the allocation was going to be spent.

Footpath next to Green Lane next to Footbridge Over Alvaston Bypass

A member of the public advised that the footpath leading up to the footbridge over the Alvaston Bypass next to Green Lane was impassable to wheelchair users and other disabled people as the footpath was uneven and potholed. The path was also frequently covered in dog mess. There is no street lighting leading up to the bridge, which has contributed to break-ins at St John Fisher School. She believed that prior to the adoption of the road a gully should have been put in, in front of 1 Lilian Prime Close which had not been done. The drop curb that had been put in was not at the correct height and needed replacing. Street lighting was also needed on Lilian Prime Close.

Bill Reed responded that he would contact whoever was responsible for the construction of the bridge regarding the state of the pavement at the foot of the bridge. He would look into the lighting issue and respond at the next meeting.

Councillor Wynn commented that this area attracted lots of dog walkers and the mess was appalling. A dog mess bin was desperately needed in this area, but was not on the current schedule of allocation of dog mess bins.

Motor Bike Scrambling at Fulhams Lock

A member of the public advised the panel that youths were using Fulhams Lock for motorbike scrambling between Chellaston and Shelton Lock. They and other residents had been ringing the police for the last 6 months. This was a noise and a health and safety issue that needed to be addressed.

Another member of the public advised that youths were also riding motorbikes along the canal path, which was a hazard to anyone walking on the path.

Inspector Thandi responded that this was not an easy issue to solve, the police have a duty of care to the users of parks and footpaths but also to the youths riding the bikes. Intelligence work was being carried out and the Police were also in touch with licensed bike riders to try and prevent bikes being stolen. The Police have used the Police helicopter to assist in the capture of offenders.

Councillor Willits asked if there was anything residents could do to help.

Inspector Thandi advised that the public must ring and lodge their complaint. This will then at the very least be recorded and the Police would be able to identify areas where youths were riding the bikes.

A member of the public suggested creating an area away from houses where youths could ride their bikes without being a nuisance.

72/03 Petitions

New Petitions

- a) Petition requesting the installation of bus shelters on Wragley Way and Deepdale Lane, Sinfin

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Sinfin requesting bus shelters on Wragley Way and Deepdale Lane, Sinfin. A member of the public suggested the Council relocated bus shelters that were not used, one outside Sinfin Community School and one at the back of the DRI, the only cost would be the relocation.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to report back to the next meeting.

- b) Petition regarding the proposed before, after and holiday school club at St Peter's Church Hall, Chellaston – Increased Volume of Traffic

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Chellaston about the proposed before, after and holiday school club at St Peter's Church Hall, Chellaston and the increased volume of traffic this would create. The lead petitioner stated that the roads in the area already had increased traffic and an extra 70 cars before and after school times would not be acceptable.

Councillor Liversedge commented that he had been in discussions with residents and representatives of the church hall. It was decided that there would be on going communication and monitoring of the situation. There was not a lot the Council could do but the local Councillors would continue to support the local residents.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to report back to the next meeting.

Responses to Petitions Received

- c) Petition regarding the decision not to replace the climbing frame on Boulton Lane Park

Bill Reed advised the Panel that the Council hoped that they would be able to fund this during this financial year.

Councillor Jackson stated that she had had an undertaking from Council Cabinet members that this would take place.

d) Speed and Volume of Traffic – Jubilee Road

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Director, Highways, Transportation and Waste Management advising that there would be investigations into the options for introducing measures to reduce the volume of through traffic and vehicle speeds during the current financial year.

Resolved to note the report.

e) Closure of Passage Way to the rear of properties on Waldorf Close and Baker Street

A member of the public stated that local residents were tired of the vandalism being experienced particularly to properties on Waldorf Close where nearly every house had been broken into at some time or other.

Bill Reed stated that the closure of a footpath of this nature was very complicated. It was a legal matter to close a footpath and was a long procedure. This request was currently in the hands of legal processes. If objections to the closure were received there would have to be a hearing.

A member of the public asked if this investigation was going to take a long time, was there anything that could be done as a short-term measure, such as street lighting.

Inspector Thandi stated that the reality was that not just criminals used this footpath. The police needed to work with local residents to come up with a satisfactory result.

Councillor Wynn stated that the Alvaston Councillors supported the petition and he would prepare a bid for street lighting on behalf of the residents before the next Area Panel meeting.

A member of the public advised that the footpath also needed cleaning.

Councillor Graves said that he would ensure this was looked in to.

73/03 Street Lighting Provision 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 line, but 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.

John Hansed advised that they expected that the chosen would start work in spring 2006.

74/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/04

The Panel agreed to distribute the funding for 2004/05 based on the quality of bids throughout the Area Panel 2 Area.

Bill Reed advised that there was a carry forward of £6,441 from the 2003/04 budget that was originally allocated to install dog mess bins which the Council are unable to maintain as the proposed sites were not in the locations agreed by Council Cabinet.

Councillor Wynn commented that it was frustrating that some areas had been overlooked, particularly Green Lane in Alvaston where installation of a dog mess bin should have been a priority.

A report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy was considered which set out details of six applications for funding which had been received. These were:

1. To consider whether to support the application received from St Peter's Church Hall Committee, Chellaston for funding to resurface the car park. Grant requested - £7,000.

2. To consider whether to support the application received from Sinfin Community Council/Sinfin Carnival requesting funding for the Sinfin Carnival. Grant requested – £1,000.
3. To consider whether to support the application received from Wye Street Neighbourhood Watch, Alvaston requesting funding for start up costs. Grant requested – £200.
4. To consider whether to support the application received from 172 Derby Cub Scouts, Alvaston requesting funding for camping equipment. Grant requested - £1,288.
5. To consider whether to support the application received from Merrill Way Allotment Association, Chellaston Ward requesting funding for a secure storage building. Grant requested - £2,000.
6. To consider whether to support the application received from Sankukai Karate, Boulton Ward requesting funding for training mats. Grant requested - £640.

Options Considered

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

Decision

To award funding to the following applications:

- Wye Street Neighbourhood Watch – Granted £200.
- Sankukai Karate – Granted £640.

To defer decision on the following application:

- St Peter's Church Hall Committee, Chellaston.
 - The applicant had requested that their application be deferred to allow the Church Hall Committee to address the comments made by the Panel at the last meeting.

KEY DECISIONS

To award funding to the following applications:

- Sinfin Community Council/Sinfin Carnival - Granted £1,000.
- 172 Derby Cub Scouts, Alvaston – Granted £1,288.
- Merrill Way Allotment Association, Chellaston Ward – Granted £2,000.

Reasons

1. The applications meet the criteria for Area Panel funding.
2. The applications provide evidence of need.
3. The proposals will enable residents to participate in activities within their community.

The applications provide evidence that the proposals are sustainable.

75/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel would be held in the Boulton Ward on Wednesday 7 July 2004 at St Martin's Methodist Church, Flint Street, Allenton, Derby.

Agreed that Councillor Jackson be appointed Chair for the next meeting.

Chair of the next ensuing meeting of this Panel
At which these minutes were signed