

Time commenced – 6.30pm
Time finished – 8.35pm

**AREA PANEL 1
(CHADDESSEN, DERWENT, OAKWOOD AND SPONDON WARDS)
5 NOVEMBER 2003**

Present: Councillors Ahern, E Berry, Bolton, Gupta, Latham,
MacDonald, Redfern, Roberts, Smalley and West.

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Gemma Barlow – Corporate Services
John Edgar – Development and Cultural Services
David Finn – Education Service
John Insley – Derby Homes
Stuart Leslie – Corporate Services
Peter Matthews – Derby Homes
Steve Medlock – Commercial Services
Andrew Morgan – Commercial Services
David Romaine – Corporate Services
Richard Smail – Policy Directorate
Inspector Stokes – Derbyshire Constabulary

28 members of the public were in attendance.

33/03 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Berry and Brown

34/03 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

35/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

36/03 Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of Area Panel 1 meeting held on 3 September 2003 be confirmed as correct records.

37/03 Update on Progress Regarding Community Issues Raised at Area Panel Meeting

The Panel considered an update report on the progress of Community Issues raised at the last meeting. The report included details of the issues raised, various actions, progress to date and detailed which Council Officer was responsible for the issue.

Agreed to note the report.

Specific Issues

Parking Issues – Newstead Avenue/Oakleigh Avenue, Chaddesden

A member of the public reported that residents were still having problems with people parking on the pavements and blocking their driveways. He suggested having single white lines across driveways, to restrict parking near the school. He understood they would cost £60. Councillor Bolton suggested that the Area Panel Budget should be used to fund the double yellow lines. It was reported that, at a previous meeting, Councillor Brown had asked for a meeting with Stan Werbinski, to discuss the issues, but the meeting had not yet taken place. It was suggested that Stan Werbinski was present at the next meeting to answer any queries.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to arrange a presentation about school travel plans at the next area panel meeting.

Inspector Stokes reported that there are 10 Traffic Wardens in Derby and although the Police can enforce parking penalties, it was not possible to dedicate officers to the task.

Proposed Skateboard Park – Spondon

Councillor E Berry reported that funding had been secured for the skateboard park facility and there would be full public consultation in the near future. It was noted that the Council were continuing to search for suitable premises for a youth facility.

Albert Road Bus Service – Chaddesden

It was reported that there were still issues that needed to be addressed, and would be on the Cross Party Bus Working Group agenda for the meeting on Monday 17 November 2003.

Petition – Pelican Crossing on Hampshire Road, Derwent

Members considered that the subway near to Beaufort School did not offer a safe way to cross the road and that it should not be considered as an alternative to a pedestrian crossing. It was requested that the provision of a crossing should be reconsidered and a further report brought to the next meeting.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate further into the possibility of having a crossing.

Petition – Request for Pedestrian Crossing, Dale Road, Spondon

It was reported that investigations had indicated that, based on pedestrian and vehicle surveys and observations, the minimum threshold for the installation of a crossing at the site had not been met.

It was felt that since the surveys had been carried out traffic volume had increased. It was noted that work had commenced on the installation of 3 safety cameras on Dale Road and these would help reduce the speed of cameras.

Motorcycle Problems – Oakwood

Councillors Latham was concerned she had not received the quotes of the design and layout of two paths in the area at Cardinal Close and Porters Lane to Milbury Close. Councillor West was concerned he had not been notified of the date of the proposed site visit to Danebridge Crescent.

There would be no plans to light the footpath from Lime Lane to Morley Road as it was part stone track, part un-surfaced footway and is rural in nature. It was not Council policy to light rough stone tracks, and there was no funding to do so.

King's Corner / Lime Lane Crossroad – Oakwood

At the last meeting Councillor West had requested an updated map on accident statistics at this junction, however no statistics had been received. It was noted that the statistics would normally take 4-6 weeks.

Following the previous meeting a draft scheme had been sent to the County Council, to consider possibilities for improved lighting and illuminated road signs and a response had been received. It was noted that they were not prepared to contribute to the scheme, as there was no funding available.

Proposals for New Bus Lane on Nottingham Road – Chaddesden / Derwent

It was reported that work was ongoing and views received at the exhibition had been considered. Members expressed concerns about the delay in receiving information on progress made by Officers and requested an update at the next meeting. It was noted that there were no plans to start work in December/January, as originally suggested.

To request that the Council Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Environment attend the next Area Panel 1 meeting.

Tree Pruning in Sussex Circus area, Derwent

It was reported that tree pruning throughout the city was carried out in accordance with the Council's Tree Management Policy.

A Member of the public asked if it would be beneficial to remove the overhanging trees as they were obscuring street lighting making it unsafe.

It was reported that the Council Arboricultural Officer had visited Sussex Circus and had identified 3 dead trees and a further three that would benefit from pruning, work would be carried out by December 2003. However, it was noted that living trees would not be removed unless they were causing health and safety problems.

Missing road signs in Spondon village and Oakwood

It was reported that the Council had identified an alternative to aluminium for street nameplates and would be using polycarbonate plates mounted on a recycled plastic frame.

Concerns were raised that emergency vehicles may not know where they were going without road signs being in place, however it was noted that some of the missing signs had been replaced.

A member of the public reported that officers had told them that signs would be replaced but not when. It was noted that it would take 8-10 weeks to receive a supply of new signs.

38/03 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

Temporary Traffic lights – Chaddesden Lane

A member of the public asked when the temporary traffic lights on Chaddesden Lane would be removed? It was reported that work being completed by the contractor, Murphy's, was behind schedule, as a special piece of equipment was required for continuation. However the company would be working over the weekend in order to finish the work in the next 2 weeks.

Street Lights on Wood Road, Spondon

A member of the public asked when streetlights on Wood Road would be erected? It was reported that more consultation had been carried out about the positioning of the lighting as complaints had been received.

Traffic Issues on Vancouver Avenue and Drury Avenue, Spondon

A member of the public raised concerns about the access road at Drury Avenue. The road was meant to be a 'No access' road from Willowcroft Road, but the restrictions were not working as drivers were using it as a 'rat run' between roads. It was asked if the road could be narrowed to a single road?

Councillor Berry said that she would ask about the possible implications of changing the road into a single carriageway.

Youth activities, Oakwood

A member of the public asked about the possibility of having provision for a youth facility in Oakwood.

It was reported that Officers were looking into the possibility of having a Youth Centre in Oakwood, however there were no guarantees that the centre would actually be used and resolve all the issues. The use of Springwood Leisure Centre was also being investigated. David Finn reported that links had been made with the Youth Offending Service and the Police to try to establish a pattern of problems occurring in the area. It was noted that many of the problems occurring in the area

were not caused by children from Oakwood, but from young people from the surrounding areas.

Improving Public Transport along Derby Road, Spondon

A member of the public asked if improvements could be made to public transport along Derby Road?

Councillor Roberts reported that the Arriva bus company initiative to offer free bus travel for a day was a good way to promote public transport. He explained that the Council would have to subsidise the new bus services that were not economical.

Tree Planting on Nottingham Road, Spondon

A member of the public asked where the trees were on Nottingham Road that the Area Panel had funded. Councillor Berry reported that they were near to the roundabout at the bottom of Lodge Lane.

Adoption of roads, Oakwood

It was reported that 21 roads in Oakwood had not yet been adopted, 15 of which were on Persimmon sites. The highways works had been accepted but checks on the lighting and with Severn Trent Water were still outstanding. A member of the public noted that the adoptions were making slow progress, especially the Persimmon sites. It was noted that the Director of Persimmon was to have a meeting with Councillors in the near future.

Community Watch Patrol

A member of the public asked what a Community Watch Patrol was, and what they did? It was reported that there are two Community Watch Patrols, CWP who work for Derby Homes. They are teams of two officers who patrol in vans and on foot. They were first introduced in 1996 to visit empty council owned houses and hotspots where there are known problems of antisocial behaviour. They work closely with the police and with local communities where they offer advice and support to reduce the fear of crime. There are also Neighbourhood Wardens, who have a similar role, working in the New Deal for Communities area of Derwent.

Funding Opportunities, Spondon

A member of the public asked if there would be any funding available for Spondon to improve the Village Hall, or provide use of community or school facilities? He asked if the lottery funding that Derby had recently received could be used. Councillor E Berry explained that the lottery funding was allocated to projects elsewhere in the city.

It was noted that schools do allow use of their facilities but they are not always a suitable venue.

New Houses in Sitwell Street, Spondon

A member of the public raised concerns about the safety of the junction on Sitwell Street now that there were new houses being built. A question was asked about plans to provide new signs.

39/03 Petitions

New petitions received by the Panel.

a) The Panel noted that a petition had been received requesting that Councillors for Spondon Ward propose Vancouver Avenue and Drury Avenue footways for reconstruction in the 2004/05 footway reconstruction programme.

It was reported that every year Highways Maintenance staff consult with Members concerning the following year's footway reconstruction programme. Members are then requested to propose sites within their Ward for consideration. Vancouver and Drury Avenue are on the list of sites to be considered for next year.

The suggested sites are considered and prioritised by grading 1 to 5 – 5 being those in greatest need – on a citywide basis. It was noted that about 50% of those already inspected in Derby were level 5, and it was felt that other roads in the Spondon area were in a worse condition.

To note receipt of the petition

b) The Area Panel noted that a petition had recently been received regarding traffic on Max Road.

It was reported that David Gartside had not had the opportunity to provide a report in response to the petition. However, it was noted that speed checks were being carried out in parts of Derwent and Chaddesden and a traffic survey would be carried out, in part, in January.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to provide a report to a future area panel meeting

40/03 Designation of Alcohol Free Zones

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services that provided an update on proposals for Alcohol Free Zones – AFZ's. The proposals from Area Panel 1 for designation of AFZ's were fed back to Council Cabinet on 18 February 2003 along with suggestions from other Area Panels. Five areas were identified as warranting designation:

- North Parade and the surrounding area
- Alvaston shopping centre
- Oakwood shopping precinct
- Chaddesden Park and the surrounding area
- Parts of Normanton

To note the proposal to designate Oakwood shopping precinct in April 2004 and the Chaddesden area in summer 2004 dependent on staff resources.

41/03 Culture and Prosperity Commission Review of Culture in Derby

The panel considered a report of the Chair of the Culture and Prosperity Commission advising of the Commission's intention to conduct a review of culture in Derby. The principal objective of the review was to try and improve the match between the cultural services that the Council provided and those that the public wanted. As part of its review the Commission had taken evidence from a wide range of cultural service users and providers. This evidence would be used in preparing the Commission's recommendations to Council Cabinet.

The area panel was advised that members of the public would express their views of the cultural services that the Council provides by:

- contacting David Romaine, the Commission's Co-ordination Officer on Derby 255598 or write to him at c/o room 137 at the Council House
- filling out the tick sheet attached to the report and hand in when leaving the meeting or posting to David Romaine
- attending an informal meeting with the Commission in the Brunswick public house on Station Approach on 7 January 2004 starting at 7pm.

42/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/4

A report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy was considered which updated the Area Panel on the amount of funds available within the budget and set out details of two applications for funding which had been received:

- The first application had been received from Chesapeake Playgroup to contribute to the provision of play resources and equipment. The funding would be used to:
 - provide toys and equipment
 - help cover administration costs
 - buy stationery
 - promote the play group
- The second application had been received from Oakwood Councillors requesting funding for lighting on Oakwood Park, that would aim to encourage more people to walk to the community centre by providing a safer route for all residents who want to use the route across the park after dark.

It would also aim to improve lighting at the rear of the Oakwood Community Centre to eliminate the dark area not lit by existing lights.

Options considered

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

Decision – Chesapeake Playgroup

To award a grant of £820 to Chesapeake Playgroup for the provision of play resources and equipment

Reasons

1. The application met the criteria for Area Panel Funding.
2. The project contributes to the delivery of the Council's corporate themes and priorities.
3. The application provides an evidence of need.

Decision – Lighting on Oakwood Park

To award a grant of £7,250 to Oakwood Councillors to provide lighting from Oakwood Community Centre to the top of Gatcombe Close and to improve lighting at the rear of the Oakwood Community Centre between the centre and the park.

Reasons

- 1 The application met the criteria for Area Panel Funding.
- 2 The application provides an evidence of need.
- 3 The project contributes to the delivery of the Council's corporate themes and priorities.

43/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel was to be held on Wednesday 14 January 2004 at Oakwood Community Centre on Springwood Drive, Oakwood and not at Breadsall Hilltop Youth and Community Centre, St Andrew's View.

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

Chair the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed