

**AREA PANEL 1 COMMUNITY ISSUES – UPDATE REPORT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
8 MARCH 2006**

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1. Ref: 106001 – Pedestrian crossing request by Toys R Us, Chaddesden – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715019

Issue:

The main pedestrian crossing point from the Meadow Lane footbridge is over the slip road off the A52 beside Toys R Us. Crossing this road is both time consuming and very dangerous with the volume of traffic throughout the day. It increases the difficulty for pedestrians and cyclists. The Panel were asked if a crossing point could be built near to the Fireplace Centre Shop.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item.

Response on 11 January 2006:

Councillor Roberts confirmed that he uses this footbridge and was aware of where people cross the slip road. He asked that officers investigate and report back their findings.

Actions agreed:

Investigate and report back.

Update:

We have put forward a safety scheme at The Wyvern for the 2006/7 Local Transport Plan programme. As part of the overall proposals we are looking into a crossing between the footbridge and the Wyvern. As yet we have not finalised any design but subject to Cabinet approval and funding it is hoped that improvements can take place next financial year.

2. Ref: 106006 – Paths in Chaddesden Park, Chaddesden – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

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

Issue:

A resident asked when the paths in Chaddesden Park will be renewed?

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

Councillor Bolton reported that she would liaise with Derby Parks to see if any improvements can be made.

Actions agreed:

Investigate and report back

Update:

There is no planned programme for footpath resurfacing for parks and open spaces. Any defects or surfaces that pose a hazard are repaired as part of the annual repairs and maintenance work carried out. Defects and repairs needed are reported either by Rangers during their patrols, other park staff during site visits or members of the public identifying problems.

In addition the City Council does seek external funding, as and when the opportunity arises, to carry out more comprehensive improvement schemes to parks. These will usually include footpath resurfacing and the creation of new paths when needed.

Parks staff will be inspecting the paths within Chaddesden Park during February and March to identify what repairs are necessary to maintain them in a safe condition and then arranging for the priority work to be carried out, within the constraints imposed by a limited budget.

3. Ref: 106009 – Bus Stop markings on Maine Drive, Chaddesden – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Peter Price, Transport Policy Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715034

Issue:

Residents have requested that the yellow bus stop markings that go across the vehicle entrance to Chaddesden Park on Maine Drive are moved or that the bus stop is moved. It was confirmed that the Council has informed the Friends of Chaddesden Park that no action is needed.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

Councillor Bolton confirmed that it would be investigated and reported back on.

Actions agreed:

Investigate and report back

Update:

A site meeting was arranged by the Police in 2005 who invited Councillor Sara Bolton and David Gartside Head of Traffic at the Council. It was agreed by the Police and the Officer at the site meeting that there didn't appear to be a problem. It was felt the stop, whilst little used, ought to stay because of its proximity to the elderly people's bungalows. Moving it away from the park entrance isn't practical because of the location of adjacent stops. The size of the marking is deceptive but this is provided to ensure that buses can swing into and align with the stop. It was agreed that an occasional obstruction is, in reality, not a problem, because the road is quiet. Propose to close.

4. Ref: 104022 – Pedestrian Crossing on Mansfield Road, Derwent – received 28.04.04

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715019

Issue:

A resident from Mansfield Road first raised this issue on 28 April 2004 concerned about how difficult it is to cross Mansfield Road at its junction with Stratford Road. It was also requested that a pedestrian crossing is installed because this is an extremely busy road and very dangerous for young people and the elderly.

Previous key points / action taken:

A 12 hour traffic survey was completed in November 2004. As a result the site now meets the Council's criteria for a pedestrian crossing facility and will be put forward into the preparation pool of schemes for 2005/6. We are planning to install the crossing to the south of Stratford Road.

Response on 11 January 2006:

None.

Actions agreed:

Update on progress to install the crossing

Update:

The crossing works have been programmed to start in March 2006 and be complete within four weeks.

5. Ref: 106004 – Graffiti and vandalism in Perth Street area, Derwent – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Richard Winter, Assistant Waste Management Officer, Regeneration and Community, telephone 716352

Issue:

A resident asked what is being done to tackle the increase in vandalism and graffiti around the Perth Street area. She handed a series of photos to the panel as evidence.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

Inspector McLaughlin explained that a lot of successful work is currently taking place prosecuting people committing acts of graffiti. He agreed to investigate and work with the Council to clear the current graffiti in the area.

Councillor Rawson encouraged people to always report graffiti because residents play an important role reporting incidents to Streetcare on telephone 715000.

Actions agreed:

Investigate and report back.

Update:

We are aware of graffiti in the Perth Street area and have been cleaning this off on a regular basis. We have removed as much as possible from the footpath but there is some graffiti that is not removable. This is because any chemicals or powerwashing would destroy the footpath itself. We will attempt to mask this out. Graffiti on flagstones is easier to remove but the flagstones are still damaged but not as much as tarmac footpaths.

Some graffiti on the bus shelters has damaged the shelters to such an extent that we are unable to resolve it.

Derby Homes, Derbyshire Constabulary, Crimestoppers, StreetCare and Waste management are working to identify culprits. The Crimestoppers number is 0800 555 111 should any resident have any information they would like to report to help prosecute those responsible.

6. Ref: 106007 – Croft Wood Railway Line Improvements, Derwent – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

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

Issue:

A resident reported that the Croft Wood area still suffers from use by off road motorbikes even after the efforts put in by the Police and other partners over the past 15 months. While enforcement measures still need to be planned, he suggested that a longer term solution could rest with reclaiming the area as an amenity for local residents and walkers. He asked if members of the area panel would work with local residents to achieve this.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

Councillor Rawson approved the suggestion and agreed that all three Derwent Councillors would support residents to take the idea forward. He felt more local residents needed to be involved and he would take advice from officers.

Actions agreed:

Investigate what action could be taken to provide a long term solution.

Update:

David Slinger, Team Leader - Natural Environment in Regeneration and Community has contacted John Holmes, of the Southern Derbyshire Countryside Service at the County Council based at Shipley Country Park to inform him of the interest local people have in resolving the issues in Croft Wood.

John Holmes confirmed that the County Council has been trying for some years to create a surfaced path along this stretch of the old railway, eventually linking to Ilkeston.

The stumbling block on the first section has been the ownership of a short section of the track, just north of Croft Wood by Leigh Environmental, now Onyx. John Holmes indicated that the County Council are trying to acquire this section of track bed which would allow them, hopefully next financial year, to start discussing a scheme to improve the path along the first section from the Paddock Pub to Breadsall.

It is not clear how the scheme would be financed but there is a possibility some of it could be funded through Local Transport Plan monies.

The Council own the first section of the track and as one way to overcome the issue of off road riding it has been suggested that as part of any scheme one solution may be to use selective felling as part of woodland management. This could involve placing selected hurdles down before putting a path in. To be effective it needs to be done in consultation with Erewash Borough Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as Croft Wood is an important designated wildlife site.

David Slinger informed John Holmes of the considerable interest in local joint action to enhance the area and the need for plenty of consultation and forming of local partnerships before any plans are taken too far. John Holmes confirmed the issue and the interest of local residents would be discussed at the next County Council meeting. Updates on progress will be provided to the area panel.

The two 'No Motorcycle' signs have now been installed, one at the entrance adjacent to the Paddock Pub and one opposite Stratford Road. Parks will continue to work with the Police on enforcing no motorcycles. However, total control of access into Croft Wood is difficult as the adjacent land is in private ownership.

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While there is potential for local resident involvement in improving this area Parks staff resources are fully committed to other projects across the City at this stage. Once the County Council has secured a continuous route north of the city then Parks would work with local residents, other City Council Departments and the County Council to move the project forward, subject to staff resources and work priorities at the time.

7. Ref: 106005 – Broken Lighting on Zebra Crossing Sussex Circus, Derwent. – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715067

Issue:

The crossing at Sussex Circus has had one of its lights missing for about 6 months. A resident was concerned that it had not been repaired yet.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

None.

Actions agreed:

Investigate and report back

Update:

A 24 hour repair was issued to Commercial Services the day we were informed about this issue. When Commercial Services attended the site both belisha globes were in place and flashing, however this particular installation has poles that have illuminated stems, the lighting in one of the stems is not working. Commercial Services have to order replacement parts from the manufacturer before they can complete the repair. However the company that provides the parts has been taken over, making sourcing spares more difficult. Commercial Services will have these working as soon as possible.

8. Ref: 105029 – Porters Lane footpath, Oakwood – received 07.09.05

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715067

Issue:

A resident asked who is responsible for maintaining the footpath that leads onto the top of Porters Lane. She explained that it is overgrown and that the lights are not working.

Previous key points / action taken:

November 2005

Lighting column DY295 at the rear of 3/5 Lynford Close has been reported as not being lit. A night patrol to inspect the lighting was carried out on 27 September and we observed that the light was still out. The repair has been completed. We have been to assess the bushes reported by the resident. We will be placing an order to have the bushes and tree cut back when the cost of the work has been confirmed. It was reported that the work to maintain the footpath had not taken place, as there were tree preservation orders on the trees along the footpath. Investigations into this needed to be completed before the work could be done.

January 2005

An order has been raised for this work, and it is expected to be completed by the end of March 2006. The works are not classed as urgent as the footpath is passable.

Response on 11 January 2006:

Noted

Actions agreed:

Update on progress to cut back vegetation.

Update:

The tree maintenance work is expected to be completed by the end of March 2006.

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

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Councillor Smalley, Oakwood, telephone 833250

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

Issue:

A member of the public raised concern about a proposed Vodaphone 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 registered his objections to this mast erection to both the operator and the Council's planning department.

Response on 11 January 2006:

None.

Actions agreed:

None.

Update:

Residents and councillors attended the meeting in November 2005 about the proposed phone mast. The possible streetworks installation of a Vodaphone 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.

10. Ref: 105027 – Spondon Cemetery, Spondon – received 07.09.05

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

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

Issue:

A resident was concerned about the gravestones that have been lain down by the Council over the past few days. He considered that the workmen who tested the gravestones had shaken them too hard and that it was unnecessary to lay down gravestones that are less than 3 feet tall. He was unhappy that there had been no notification about the work and thought vandals had damaged the gravestones until he saw a small note left by the workmen.

Previous key points / action taken:

A resident reported that it will cost £80 to have a stonemason fix the necessary supporting rod and this was too much to pay. Councillor Bolton explained that councillors were aware this is a sensitive issue but there is a requirement to conduct a risk assessment on health and safety grounds.

Testing the memorials had been suspended until we have the equipment to stabilise the memorials in their existing position, where possible. We will spend the subsequent few weeks stabilising memorials previously laid flat using a metal stabiliser bar banded to the memorial to hold it in place. Each memorial temporarily secured in this way will have a warning notice fixed to the banding advising visitors not to remove the securing bands. If we find the bands have been removed we will re-fix once more and place a further notice advising that should the securing bands be removed again we will lay the memorial flat until it has been re-fixed by a memorial mason to NAMM standards, as it is unsafe to leave it upright without the supporting bands/stabilising bar.

Response on 11 January 2006:

None.

Actions agreed:

Update on progress including the alternative fixing method.

Update:

Health and Safety assessments on the new equipment were completed at the end of January 2006, and work has commenced stabilising/temporarily re-fixing memorials previously laid flat in Nottingham Road Cemetery. When that has been completed we will move on to Spondon Cemetery. We cannot do Spondon or other remote sites at present as the operators are awaiting training to allow them to obtain a license to tow the compressor. We expect this to be in mid April.

11. Ref: 105032 – Welcome to Spondon signs, Spondon – received 02.11.05

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Neil Palfreyman, Traffic Management Engineer Regeneration and Community, telephone 716090

Issue:

A member of the public asked what had happened to the Welcome to Spondon road signs, which had been replaced with signs saying 'City of Derby Twinned with Osnabruck'. He would like to see the Welcome to Spondon signs reinstated, with 'Winners of Britain in Bloom' included if possible.

Previous key points / action taken:

The new city boundary sign on Locko Road is a one of a number that have recently been installed to replace old, missing or vandalised signs. Investigations are continuing into how additional words could be included with the existing city boundary signs.

Response on 11 January 2006:

Councillor E. Berry reported that some costings had been requested and that if the costs are within budget a request for funding will be made to the Area Panel

Actions agreed:

Update on costings for new signs and submit a funding application to Area Panel 1 by 3 February

Update:

An application for funding has been submitted by the Spondon Councillors for three signs costing £1,500

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

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Chris Edwards, Assistant Director - Property Services, Chief Executive's, 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:

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.

Response on 11 January 2006:

A resident asked if an indication of when the actions will be completed by can be provided in the update.

Actions agreed:

Update on progress including an indication of timescale.

Update:

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 with them over any split of the cost of the works. The structural engineers recommendations have been received and we are obtaining a tender price for the 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

Appointment of party wall surveyor and serving of Party Structure notices. 14 days notice to reply - considerable delays if any disputes arise.

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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

13. Ref: 106002 – Damage to Lights on Lodge Lane North Footpath, Spondon – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

John Edgar, Maintenance Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715067

Issue:

People are climbing on the noise barrier fence along the side of the footpath, by the A 52 footpath that travels towards Lodge Lane North, and are damaging the streetlights. Could the barrier be lowered to prevent people from reaching the lights and damaging them?

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

Councillor P. Berry confirmed that he knew the location being referred to and that some of the barriers belong to the Highways agency. He agreed to investigate and report back.

Actions agreed:

Investigate and report back

Update:

These lights are not the responsibility of Derby City Council. The responsibility for maintaining the A52 and its infrastructure beyond the ASDA island lies with the Highways Agency. We have passed this report onto A M Scott who are the contractors responsible for their maintenance on behalf of the Highways Agency.

14. Ref: 106008 – Litter on Roads in Spondon, Spondon – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Paul Smith Senior Inspector, Waste Management, Regeneration and Community, telephone 716353

Issue:

A resident commented on the amount of litter and dog mess on and beside roads in Spondon. He reported that dog mess is regularly found along Borrowfield Road and previous requests to the Council to clean jitties and roads have resulted in no action. He asked for more and larger no dog fouling signs and for litter to be cleared from under hedge rows along roads.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

Councillor P. Berry reported that he has previously asked for more road cleaning services in Spondon but has been informed that Spondon already receives its fair share.

Actions agreed:

Investigate need for more no dog fouling signs on Borrowfield Road
Investigate standard of cleaning to roads and hedgerows currently carried out to the Borrowfield Road area.

Update:

There are two litter picking frequencies in Spondon:

- north of the A52 is monthly and
- south of the A52, including Borrowfield Road, is every two weeks.

The contractor should remove litter from all highway areas, including any litter under shrubs on highway land. Dog fouling is treated as litter and should also be removed. We do not clear private land or public open space, which is the responsibility of Grounds Maintenance.

I have asked an Inspector to check the area during the coming weeks to ensure our contractor is meeting the required standard. I have also informed Environmental Health and they are asking their Dog Wardens to visit the area.

The Borrowfield Road area was litter picked on 21 February, and having carried out a check on 22 February, it was found it to be in a good condition, meeting the requirements of the contract and the Code of Practice, issued under section 89 of the Environmental Protection. The contractor has been asked to return to one area but this is for a fairly minor problem and does not detract from the overall assessment.

15. Ref: 106010 – Anti Social behaviour on South Avenue, Spondon – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Inspector Graham McLaughlin, Police Divisional Headquarters, telephone 613131
Norman Smith, Acting Head of Youth Services, Youth Service, telephone 711207

Issue:

A resident commented on anti social behaviour in the South Avenue area of Spondon. She asked if there were plans for any Community Wardens in the area? What can local residents do to help? Are there any plans to introduce a dispersal order?

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

Councillor P. Berry confirmed that the process to introduce a section 30 dispersal order in Spondon was already underway. He reported that a lot of work is taking place with the Police and Anti Social Behaviour Team. He confirmed that residents need to report all incidents to the Police, while an immediate response may not be provided, the incident is recorded and provides evidence for future action including the possibility of more Police resources for Spondon.

Inspector McLaughlin confirmed the positive impact dispersal orders have had elsewhere in the city. However, section 30 orders should be seen more as a last resort after other techniques have been used. He explained that for a long term benefit, an exit strategy must be in place for when the order is lifted.

Ruth Hardy from the Youth Service reported that she had been in contact with the resident and would continue to work with her.

Actions agreed:

Update on any actions to introduce a dispersal order.

Update:

Inspector McLaughlin has had a lengthy discussion with Andy Thomas, the head of the anti social behaviour team at the Community Safety Partnership concerning a dispersal order. They agree that presently an order is not a tactical option. Further resources have been agreed to concentrate on this area in the short term with active intervention from the Youth service. A S30 dispersal order is only used when other traditional methods have failed and important consideration needs to be given to an exit strategy. The order can run for a maximum of six months.

16. Ref: 106011 – Petition about R U Recycling Plans on Nottingham Road, Spondon, – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

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

Issue:

A petition was handed to the panel from Vancouver Avenue Neighbourhood Watch objecting to planning application proposals for a recycling plant on the grounds of noise, pollution and congestion.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

The panel agreed to pass the petition to the planning officers responsible for the application. The petition will be placed before the Planning Control Committee when the application is considered.

Actions agreed:

To forward the petition to be considered by Planning Control Committee.

Update:

The planning application was due to be considered by Planning Control Committee on 23 February and this petition would have been placed in the members' rooms prior to the meeting. However, R U Recycling have now withdrawn their application for planning permission at this site. Propose to close.

17. Ref: 106003 – Withdrawal of 101/102 Bus Service, Derwent, Chaddesden and Spondon – received 11.01.06

Responsible officer(s) for more information:

Peter Price, Transport Policy Manager, Regeneration and Community, telephone 715034

Issue:

A resident commented that the 101/102 service is being withdrawn from 29 January and he wanted to know what will replace the service.

Previous key points / action taken:

New item

Response on 11 January 2006:

Councillor Roberts confirmed that the service was funded by Urban Bus Challenge and is being withdrawn because the subsidy was too great. While the subsidy used to be about £30 for each passenger journey and it is now about £3 for each passenger journey this is because local schoolchildren were using the service to get to school rather than people using the service to access ASDA and the surrounding area. He explained that he regretted the loss of the service.

Actions agreed:

None.

Update:

As explained by Councillor Roberts at the last meeting the 101/102 service has been withdrawn as the Urban Bus Challenge funding which has been used to pay for it has now run out. The high cost of the service coupled with the limited number of people actually using it meant that it was not viable to continue to support it from other council funds. The existing 22 and 24 service operated by Arriva already cover some of the old 101/102 route and from the 29 January the route is being altered so that it also covers part of old route along Mansfield Road.

Propose to close.