

Time Started : 7.00pm
Time Finished : 8.55pm

**AREA PANEL 5
(ALLESTREE, DARLEY AND MACKWORTH WARDS)
1 DECEMBER 2004**

Present: Councillor Travis (in the Chair)
Councillors Baxter, Gerrard, Hickson, Higginbottom, Repton,
Richards, Travis, and Webb

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Jane Coates | - Constitutional Services Officer |
| Jody Kirkpatrick | - Constitutional Services Assistant |
| Inspector Graham
McLaughlin | - Derbyshire Constabulary |
| Bill Reed | - Area Panel Manager – Policy Directorate |
| Jason Spencer | - Constitutional and Electoral Services Manager |
| Peter Matthews | - Derby Homes |

55 members of the public were in attendance.

27/04 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Samra

28/04 Late Items

In accordance with Section 100 (B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following as late items:

- Underpass beneath Kings Street leading to Queens Street from St Mary's Church;
- Control over Hazel Homes, Caesar and Drage Street;
- Consultation on the cessation of the number 28 bus route;
- Changes to the distribution of agenda papers.

29/04 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30/04 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 October 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to amendment to minute number 20/04, Garages west of Deanfield, Darley Abbey, to read Garages west of Deans Field and North Parade Darley Abbey – Rat Running, to read North Parade Darley ward.

31/04 Control over Hazel Homes, Caesar and Drage Street

Councillor Repton called on the relevant Officers of Derby City Council to enforce appropriate control on Hazel Homes' activities in Caesar Street and Drage Street, as the company's activities are causing considerable nuisance and inconvenience to local residents, namely excessive noise from 6.45am, blocking the highway and dumping large volumes of earth and other debris onto the roads.

Agreed to refer this issue to Development and Cultural Services Department

32/04 Distribution of Agendas

Councillor Baxter expressed concern that the change to the distribution of agendas occurred without appropriate consultation. A member of the public reinforced this point and pointed out the difficulties of travelling to the Council house to collect agenda papers or downloading and printing papers from the internet. It was suggested that minutes and full agenda papers be distributed to members of the public who regularly attended area panel meetings. It was also considered that the change of policy was an intentional step to stop people attending area panel meetings. Councillor Hickson explained that the decision had been taken to reduce the excessive financial cost of distribution of area panel agendas and the amount of paper used. Blue agenda sheets, to be made available to the public, would have additional update and funding application information included in them. A show of hands was taken and there was unanimous support in favour of full copies of the agenda being made available on request, free of charge to anyone who wants them.

33/04 Update Report

Bill Reed, Area Panel Manager introduced a report, which set out responses to questions raised verbally or in writing at the last meeting.

Air Quality at Five Lamps

There were no supplementary questions, however, a member of the public disputed the data on air pollution.

Parking at Markeaton Primary School

Bill Reed reported that a site meeting, involving Police representation, had taken place on 17 November 2004 to formulate proposals to improve parking problems in this area. Ward Councillors would be contacted regarding the proposals and an update given at the next Area Panel meeting.

Walking Routes into the City Centre

Bill Reed reported that Birchover developers had now signed an agreement to pay for the cost of a surface crossing from the inner ring road to Queens Street and improvements to the subway underneath St Mary's Bridge. It was also reported that the problem of vermin in the underpass was now under control. Concerns were raised over public safety and reference made to a recent newspaper report about attacks on users of the subway. Councillor Repton suggested that the Council Cabinet take all possible steps to achieve the closure of the underpass by St Mary's Bridge and substitute it with a surface crossing at the earliest possible date. Councillor Hickson responded by reporting that the timescale for the improvements required depended on budget constraints but it was hoped that finances would be available in the next financial year.

A member of the public raised concerns about protection of trees in the area. Councillor Hickson responded that public safety was the main priority. Discussion took place about the type of surface crossing, including lighting provision. Inspector McLaughlin was asked if it was possible to police the subway. He said policing was feasible and he would raise the issue with his colleagues.

Agreed to ask Cabinet to address the matter of the surface crossing urgently.

Alcohol Free Zone, West End, Derby

Bill Reed reported that the legislation under which zones are introduced makes no provision for temporary designation and so it was not possible to pursue the suggestion of making the area a temporary alcohol free zone.

Concrete Bollards, Prince Charles Avenue

Bill Reed reported that a letter had been sent to the Co-operative store manager, but as yet no reply had been received.

Speed Limits on Broadway

A member of the Broadway Action Group asked what action the Police

and Derby City Council were taking to solve the problem of illegal parking around St Mary's School off Broadway. Bill Reed reported that action was being taken with representatives of the school to change parking practices. Contact would be made with Derbyshire Constabulary about the illegal parking issue. Update report to the next Area Panel meeting.

Pedestrian Crossing, Blenheim Drive

Bill Reed reported that due to staffing levels, the initial assessment had not yet been carried out. Update report to the next Area Panel meeting.

Darley Park Concert

Residents were concerned about vehicular traffic and parking in the area and the amount of litter left behind by concert attendees. The residents were also worried about the event taking place on a Saturday in 2006 and the possibility of increased drug and alcohol abuse and mugging crimes. It was pointed out that emergency vehicles might have difficulty accessing the site because of badly parked cars. Councillor Baxter requested a greater Police presence after the concert to aid traffic congestion on leaving the site.

Pedestrian Crossing, Mackworth Estate

Bill Reed reported that the assessment for a crossing in this area would take place when staff resources permitted.

Bus Service through Morley Estate

Bill Reed reported that the City Council had no control over the re-routing of bus services run by private bus companies. The re-routing from Morley Estate onto Slack Lane was considered beneficial because the previous route was too narrow, making it difficult for buses to travel the route safely. It was appreciated that the change had caused problems for some residents.

Councillor Higginbottom reported that she did not consider that the Council had carried out sufficient consultation concerning the re-routing. Bill Reed agreed to report back to Councillor Higginbottom.

Written Question – Darley Abbey Bus Service

It was noted that the former Darley bus service had ceased to run for 18 months. Details about transport implications and plans for the World Heritage Site can be found on the website <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/news/2000/aug/ENV1556.pdf>

Developments, Chester Green

It was noted that there was no definition in Town Planning law of the term 'low rise'. However it was generally taken to refer to buildings of no more than two or three storeys high.

Pedestrian Crossing, Chester Green

It was noted that this new facility would continue to be monitored and consideration would be given to the improvement of the advanced signing, if deemed necessary.

Garages, Darley Abbey

It was reported that the garages concerned were located at Deans Field. A verbal update would be given at the next Area Panel meeting.

Rat Running, North Parade

It was reported that overall rat running had reduced in the area and that the Connecting Derby proposals would help to address the problem.

Heritage matters, Darley Abbey

It was reported that there was no plan to develop a surfaced footpath through Darley Abbey.

Improvements to walking routes into the City Centre

It was reported that the footway outside Roman House would be reconstructed as part of the Connecting Derby project.

Petition Pedestrian Crossing, Brackensdale Avenue

Funding for a new pedestrian crossing will not be available until the 2005/06 financial year

34/04 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

Closure of Darley Abbey Post Office

A member of the public expressed concern over the closure of Darley Abbey Post Office. It was reported that it was unlikely that the pillar box would be relocated. Bill Reed had had a response from the Royal Mail about the future proposals for pillar boxes and the provision of services, for example mobile Post Offices.

Agreed to report back to next Area Panel meeting.

Rat Running – Church Lane

A member of the public expressed concern about rat running, particularly along Church Lane. Councillor Travis reported that she had correspondence from the Traffic Management section of the City Council, which stated that rat running, had significantly reduced in the area. Suggestions were made to help alleviate the problem, including separation of traffic and introduction of a toll road. Bill Reed agreed to investigate further and report back to a future meeting.

Dog Litter bins in Mackworth

A member of the public requested additional dog litter bins in the Mackworth area.

Lighting at Park Farm Shopping Centre

A request was made for improved lighting at the Park Farm Shopping Centre and for removal of bushes to improve the effectiveness of CCTV cameras.

Public Footpaths and Litter

A member of the public complained that hedge trimming was not being carried out on a regular enough basis, which made routes, particularly for older residents, dangerous. The question of who was responsible for emptying the two litter bins located closest to St Benedict's School was raised. Bill Reed to investigate and report back to the future Area Panel meeting.

Fly Posting

A member of the public raised concern that a protestor against the proposals for the five lamps conservation area under the Connect Derby Scheme had been taken to Court by Derby City Council. The prosecution came about because of unauthorised fly posting. Councillor Hickson responded that the City Council was within its rights to take the offender to court, as an offence had been committed. The difficulty of gathering evidence to bring about a prosecution for illegal fly posting was discussed. Councillor Hickson suggested that new legislation was required.

Members of the public identified a number of other locations where similar action was needed.

Strutts' Park

Concern was raised over the poor condition of balustrades in Strutts Park. Bill Reed reported that the Council were seeking funds for repair work and that temporary barriers are currently in place. The £833

budget provision set aside for a feasibility study was not spent. Suggestions were made about the best use for this money.

Agreed to spend £833 on the provision of new trees in Darley Park.

35/04 Petitions

Petitions received since the last meeting

a) Double Parking – Oakover Drive, Allestree

The Panel noted a petition received on behalf of the Oakover Drive Resident's Action Group about the inconvenience to residents caused by double parking on Oakover Drive.

It was advised that a response to this petition would be provided as soon as possible.

Agreed to note the petition.

b) Parking on Penny Long Lane

The Panel noted a petition that had been received about parking problems on Penny Long Lane

Agreed to give a full response to this petition at the next Area Panel meeting.

36/04 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2004/05

A report of the Director of Policy was considered, which updated the Panel on the current position of Area Panel 5's budget allocation and details of an application received. It was reported that the carry forward amounts had been amended to reflect that the carry forward was allocated by wards. A Copy of the application was attached to the report.

The Panel considered the application.

Allestree

151st Derby Allestree St Nicholas Scout Group

An application was received from the 151st Derby Allestree St Nicholas Scout Group for £2000 assistance to fund the cost of tarmacing the drive and pathway from the church car park to the Scout headquarters.

Options considered

1. The Panel considered the application in line with the guidelines set out within the report. In deciding on the application, the Panel assessed funding against its priorities and also noted the recommendation of the Area Panel Grant Appraisal Panel.

Key Decision

1. To defer award of the grant to the 151st Derby Allestree St Nicholas Scout Group.

Reasons

Deferral of the grant subject to a site visit by Council Members to assess the need for tarmacing both the footpath and the driveway.

37/04 Arrangements for the next meeting

Agreed to note that the next meeting would be chaired by Councillor Webb on Wednesday 2 February 2005 at 7.00pm at Lawn Primary School, Norbury Close, Allestree.

MINUTES END