

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 8.15 pm

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

12 NOVEMBER 2003

Present: Councillor Blanksby (Chair)
Councillors Bayliss, Chera, Graves, J Hickson, Jackson,
Liversedge, Turner, Willits and Wynn

In attendance: Councillor P Hickson

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| John Booth | - | Arboricultural Officer |
| Alf Bousie | - | Principal Landscape Assistant |
| Faye Brown | - | Local Manager, Derby Homes |
| David Gartside | - | Head of Traffic, Highways, Transportation and Waste Management |
| Bill Reed | - | Area Panel Manger |
| David Romaine | - | Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer |
| Sarah Turner | - | Members Services Officer |
| Sergeant Wallace | - | Derbyshire Constabulary |
| Alan Jeffreys | - | Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust |

70 members of the public were in attendance.

30/03 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Allen and H S Dhamrait.

31/03 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Chera and Jackson declared personal non-prejudicial interests in minute number 39/03 - Area Panel Budget Proposals, as they were both Governors of Sinfin Community School.

32/03 Late Items Introduced By The Chair

The Chair advised that a further three petitions had been received.

33/03 Minutes

Agreed that the Minutes of the Area Panel 2 meeting held on 10 September 2003, be confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Update report – Minute number 20/03

Amend sub heading to read '**Perimeter Fence and Footpath Around Sinfin Community School**'

Amend sub heading to read '**Canal Path Throughout Area Panel 2**'

Public Question Time - Minute Number 21/03

Allocation of Allotment Sites in Derby

Amend to read '...had the Council investigated whether there was sufficient demand for plots in the Crewton area'.

Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/04 – Minute number 28/03

Amend bullet point one to include 'This grant would be split between Boulton and Chellaston Wards'.

To amend the decision on the application for Gad Khalsa Football Club as follows:

KEY DECISION

3. To refuse funding to the following application:

- Gad Khalsa Football Club

Reasons

As the football team played their home games in Kilburn, outside the city boundary the application would not meet the following requirements:

- To enable residents to participate in activities within their community
- To contribute to improvements which would provide a benefit to all residents.

34/03 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.

Specific Issues

Proposed Youth Shelter in Sinfín

Bill Reed advised that this issue was still under consideration and that young people in the area were concerned about the length of time this was taking.

Petition, Litter Problems, Holbrook Road, Alvaston

Councillor Jackson advised the panel that several bins had been installed.

Osmaston Park

A member of the public asked if there was a possibility of renovating the railings as they were made by a company called Aitons and contributed to the heritage of Derby. Alf Bousie advised that he would look into this issue and report back to the next meeting. Councillor Turner commented that residents in the area had requested the removal of the railings and that they be replaced with something safer.

Roads and Pavements in Shelton Lock

A member of the public commented that residents were deeply concerned with the condition of pavements in the area and further petitions would be submitted, but he was pleased to see the Council prioritising the spend for improvements to roads and pavements in Derby.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Morningside Close

A member of the public advised that a 'no ball games sign' had been erected and the local children were taking notice, this was a very positive sign.

Car Park Charges, Allenton Shopping Centre

A member of the public commented that they thought the redevelopment was supposed to start in October but so far no work had commenced. David Gartside responded that works were due to start at the end of January and local people should start seeing improvements soon after. The car parking charge was part of suggested proposals for the area but had not been agreed.

Derelict Flats, Newbridge Crescent/Hubertshaw Close

A member of the public commented that as the flats were being converted into disability dwellings, were the pavements in the area going to be improved as currently there was no access for disabled people. Faye Brown advised that this issue would be investigated further.

Rat Run, St Peter's Road, Chellaston

It was stated that a traffic count would be completed before the end of November.

Car Park, Allenton

A member of the public advised that although the hedge had been trimmed, it had not been taken far enough back. Bill Reed stated that an officer had recently been to examine the hedge. The officer had determined that the hedge was now acceptable and did not cause problems for people entering or leaving the car park.

Rolls Royce, Nightingale Road

It was advised that no planning applications had been submitted to date.

Petition – Condition of Trees, Whitehouse Close, Chellaston

This issue was discussed during minute number 36/03.

35/03 Public Question Time

The public raised the following issues during public question time.

School Access to Merrill College from Holtlands Drive

A member of the public raised concern over the proposed opening of a walkway at the end of Holtlands Drive to gain access to the proposed new school on the Merrill College site. This had potential to cause increased traffic flow and congestion at drop off and pick up times. It would also make it difficult for emergency vehicles to gain access and would change the character of what was at present a nice quiet area. This development could also lead to the devaluation of properties in the area.

The main access to the school would be on Brackens Lane next to Moorhead Primary School with three further pedestrian access points on the canal path, Boulton Lane, and Holtlands Drive.

A petition was also presented which had already been submitted to the Director of Development and Cultural Services to be considered as part of the representations to the planning application for the proposed new school.

Boulton Lane Community Centre

A member of the public raised concern over youths congregating around the park outside the community centre during school time. They were Banging on doors and windows, distressing children in the pre-school and people from other groups using the community centre. The issues raised were:

- how were these children able to leave school part way through the day
- when children were excluded from school for a day, they congregate at the park, surely this was not achieving anything.
- what actions could the council take to protect the pre-school children attending Boulton Lane Community centre.

Councillor Blanksby advised that these issues would be investigated as a matter of urgency.

Agreed to ask the Director of Commercial Services to investigate this matter and report back to the next meeting.

Allen Park School

A member of the public asked if future plans for the Allen Park School site had been considered. Councillor Jackson advised that there would be a consultation exercise conducted by the education department.

Green Area – Holloway Road

A member of the public advised that the maintenance company maintaining the green area at Holloway Road were not working to a satisfactory standard. Rubbish and leaves were being left in the road, piles of leaves were being left on the green, and work that was undertaken took far too long. They did not want to see Council money being wasted in this manner. Councillor Jackson advised that this issue would be looked into and reported back to the next meeting.

Agreed to ask the Director of Commercial Services to investigate this matter and report back to the next meeting.

Cycle Route – Raynesway

Due to the works on the new road at Raynesway, the cycle route from Alvaston to Asda was affected and the route onto the cycle path down Wye Street was in a poor condition due to fly tipping and the debris left by the contractors. Councillor Wynn advised that he was aware of the fly tipping problem in this area and this was being investigated. He advised that the Council would contact the contractors over the concern of how they had been leaving the area.

Another member of the public expressed concern over the cycle path which goes under the bridge and through Alvaston Park. Youths congregated on the path under the bridge and through the park intimidating cyclists and on some occasions mugging people as they went past. Another incident was advised where youths were throwing paving slabs at passing cyclists. Councillor Bayliss advised that he would look into this issue and would be walking this route with the police to find places where poor lighting could be an issue. He advised that any incidences of harassment should be reported to the police.

Environmental Issues – Raynesway

A member of the public asked why grass verges had been removed from the side of the road on Raynesway. These grass verges used to offer protection to cyclists and pedestrians using the route.

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

Speed Bumps, Crayford Road

A member of the public asked when the remaining speed bumps on Crayford Road would be removed. David Gartside advised that all remaining humps would be removed within the next couple of weeks. This should be completed by early December 2003.

Litter – Noel Baker School

A member of the public advised that they had not seen any improvement in the litter problems around Noel Baker School. An extra bin had been installed outside the entrance to the school but this was used for leaning on and sitting on during school hours. Children had continued to leave a paper trail on all the routes to and from school. It was suggested that the school appoint the pupils as monitors and as litter squads to clean up for themselves. Councillor Jackson advised that she would write with a response to the questioner and that as governor of Noel Baker School was making progress with the litter problem in the area.

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

Wheelchair Access – Jubilee Road

A member of the public advised that there was no wheelchair access along Jubilee Road.

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

Litterbins, Chellaston Road/Weston Park Avenue

A member of the public advised that a litterbin on the corner of Chellaston Road and Weston Park Avenue, leading to Weston Park Gardens was being vandalised. Dog walkers using the park nearby used the litterbin to dispose of their dog waste. Vandals were then removing bags of waste from the litterbin and throwing it at the windows of surrounding houses. It was asked if a secure and proper dog litterbin could be installed in this area to stop these acts of vandalism. Councillor Wynn advised that capital was needed to put dog waste bins in and then revenue was needed to empty them. The Council Cabinet would be looking at the revenue side of the dog litter bins issue in their budget consultation in the new year.

Denarth Avenue

A member of the public advised of a problem he had with trees some 30ft to 35ft high around the perimeter of the mobile homes car park.

Agreed to ask that the Director of Commercial Services investigate this matter and report back to the next meeting.

36/03 Petitions

New petitions

- a) Public Right of Way on Canal Path – Boulton Lane

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Alvaston requesting that the public right of way from the canal path, off Boulton Lane, through to Chellaston that connected Chestnut Avenue, South Avenue and Woodminton Avenue be re-instated as currently the surface was not suitable for disabled people. The petitioner was advised that the appropriate officer would report back to the next meeting and they would be contacted directly with outcome of the investigation.

- b) Need for Dog Waste Bins – Morningside Close, Shelton Lock

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents in Morningside close requesting that dog waste bins were provided within the general area of the close but more particularly in the area of the close adjacent to the community green field.

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

- c) Petition regarding Trees, Football playing on Square and need for additional lighting on Spencer Avenue, Darwin Avenue and Morningside Close, Shelton Lock

The panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Spencer Avenue, Darwin Avenue and Morningside Close, regarding the concern over the lack of a playing area for children on Morningside Close and the lack of lighting along the surrounding footpaths. The trees in the area were a feature but needed maintaining.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate this matter and report back to the next meeting

- d) Petition Regarding the High Volumes of Traffic Along St Peters' Road, Chellaston

The panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of St Peter's Road, Chellaston regarding the high volumes of traffic using St Peter's Road as a rat run, particularly during the rush hours to and from work. Since the introduction of traffic lights at the junction of High Street and Swarkestone Road St Peter's Road was being used as a short cut. As this was relatively straight

road, traffic was exceeding the speed limit causing concern particularly for children and older people. The petitioner stated that he looked forward to seeing the results of the traffic count referred to in the update report.

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

e) Condition of the Pavements in Chellaston Road

The panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Chellaston Road, Shelton Lock regarding the potholed condition of the pavements in the road. The petitioner advised that the pavements were in an appalling state and they had only been repaired on an ad hoc basis since 1962. The pavements now needed totally reinstating. The trees on the grass verges were over 30ft high and the root systems were damaging the pavements and boundary walls to properties. In the past 40 years, utility companies had also contributed to the poor condition of the pavements. Following heavy rain, some areas of the pavements were under two inches of water.

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

f) Potholed Condition of the Pavements in Wimbourne Close

The panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Wimbourne Close, Chellaston regarding the potholed condition of the pavements. The petitioner advised that residents had been complaining about the poor condition of the concrete flag footpath in Wimbourne Close that now needed reconstruction preferably in tarmac. Areas of the pavements had been patched with tarmac or the occasional single slab. Two residents in the street had special needs and found it difficult using the pavement.

Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate this matter and report back to the next meeting

g) High Volumes in Traffic – Intersection of High Street and Derby Road/Swarkestone Road

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Chellaston, regarding the high volumes of severely congested traffic caused by the traffic lights at the intersection of High Street and Derby Road/Swarkestone Road. The lead petitioner advised that businesses in the vicinity were suffering financially due to the constantly congested A514. He suggested that a mini roundabout be considered as a replacement for the traffic lights. The road proposal between the Bonnie Prince and Wilmore Road would alleviate all of these congestion problems on the A514.

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

Responses to the Petitions Received

h) Condition of Pavements – Oulton Close, Shelton Lock

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Director – Highways, Transportation and waste management which advised that Oulton Close had been placed upon the list of schemes to be considered for the next financial years footway reconstruction/resurfacing programmes.

Agreed to note the report.

i) Trees to the rear of properties on Whitehouse Close, Shelton Lock

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Commercial Services that noted the concerns of the petitioners and the policy background on this issue and advised that in consideration of all of the issues, it was not appropriate to carry out tree works at this moment in time.

A member of the public stated that it was a shame and disgraceful that the Council would not do anything about the trees on Whitehouse Close. Councillor Liversedge advised that he would actively pursue this issue for the residents of Whitehouse Close. Councillor P Hickson stated that he was concerned about the tree policy and concerned about the menace of trees in the city and that he would be taking the tree management policy to Council Cabinet asking them to undertake a review of the tree management policy. He stated that he agreed that trees had to be protected but also the enjoyment and quality of life of people in the Community needed to be taken into account.

If a new tree management policy emerged, this issue would be looked at again.

j) Condition of Pavements – Hoveton Close, Shelton Lock

The panel considered a report of the Assistant Director – Highways, Transportation and Waste Management regarding a petition received requesting the repair and resurfacing of footways of Hoveton Close, Shelton Lock. It was noted that Hoveton Close had been placed upon the list of schemes to be considered for the next financial years footway reconstruction/resurfacing programme.

Resolved to note the report.

- k) Request for closure of jitty between Chellaston Road and Woodthorne Avenue – Shelton Lock

The panel considered a report of the Assistant Director of Development and Cultural Services regarding a petition received requesting the closure of public footpath number 17 Alvaston between Chellaston Road and Woodthorne Avenue. Following receipt of the petition at the last meeting, the Council received over a dozen letters from residents in Woodthorne Avenue and Jubilee Road expressing their concerns about the petition requesting the footpath's closure as well as outlining their regular use of the way. The Council also received letters from local residents who would have been happy to see the footpath closed.

Street Care had erected a new street lighting column and the Council had received at least one letter stating that this had improved the lighting situation along the paths. The issue would also be discussed with the Crime and Disorder Partnership, Street Care and the police as well as local residents to make sure that the footpath remained as easy to use and that any nuisance problems are kept to a minimum. David Gartside advised that it had been demonstrated that people wanted the footpath to remain. The Council would work in partnership with the Police to address anti social behaviour issues in a different manner.

Resolved to note the report.

- l) Speeding Traffic on the A514, Shelton Lock

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Director – Highways, Transportation and Waste Management regarding a petition received requesting the installation of additional safety cameras on the A514 between Shelton Drive and Merrill Way. The A514 currently had four fixed safety cameras and also received mobile camera enforcement. With current casualty reductions, the route in question would not meet criteria for further fixed housings.

A member of the public advised that a large amount of juggernauts used this stretch of road daily to access Merrill way and this was not acceptable. It was suggested that a weight restriction was imposed at the Shelton Lock bridge area as the bridge was suffering from the weight of vehicles using it.

David Gartside advised that the existing speed cameras had had an impact in the main and it would not be possible to introduce any more fixed cameras along this route. Supplementary enforcement could be carried out and this issue would be discussed with the Safety Camera Partnership.

Resolved to note the report.

37/03 Canal Path at Wilmorton

The panel received a presentation from Alan Jeffreys, project manager for the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust on the restoration project for the Derby Canal, which runs throughout the wards in Area Panel Two. There would be 58 projects completed over a 10-year period. The first scheme being the restoration of the canal at Swarkestone. Councillor Turner asked how the project would impact on the economic prosperity in Derby. Alan Jeffreys advised that the project would create 300 permanent jobs in leisure and 2,100 permanent canal side jobs.

There were some major obstacles obstructing the completion of the project. One of these being the crossing of Harvey Road. Atkins, the engineering firm employed by the Canal trust was of the opinion that if Harvey Road could be lifted by two thirds of a metre then the canal could be put back in at its original level.

The next major project in the Area Panel two area would be the re-build of the canal from Shelton Lock to Pride Park.

The Chair thanked Mr Jeffreys for his time and contribution to the meeting.

38/03 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 panel were advised that members of the public could 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 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.

A member of the public expressed concern that the Battle of Britain stain glass window in the Rolls Royce building on Nightingale Road would be lost if the site was developed. Councillor Turner advised that he fully supported the restoration and retention of the window. Councillor Jackson advised that she would speak with Helen Bishop, Community Relations, at Rolls Royce regarding this issue.

Resolved to note the report.

39/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/04

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

- To consider whether to support the application received from Sinfin Community School to fund the removal of rubbish and cleaning of tributary drain. Grant requested - £1000.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Councillor Jackson requesting improvements to Harrington Street Car Park. Grant requested – £2700.

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 both applications as follows:

- Sinfin Community School - Grant £1000
- Councillor Jackson - Grant £2700

40/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel would be held in the Sinfin Ward on Wednesday 14 January 2003 at the Community Enterprise Centre, Sheridan Street, Sinfin, Derby.

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

MINUTES END