

Time Commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished - 9.25 pm

**AREA PANEL 4
(LITTLEOVER, MICKLEOVER & BLAGREAVES WARDS)
1 OCTOBER 2003**

Present: Councillor Skelton (Chair)
Councillors L Allen, Care, Crosby, Hird, Jones and Winter

Derby City Council Officers and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers

Paul Clarke	Development and Cultural Services
Sergeant Nick Daines	Derbyshire Constabulary
Sarah Edwards	Policy Directorate
Julie Eyre	Derby Homes
Ken Richardson	Commercial Services
Richard Smail	Policy Directorate
Karen Squires	Corporate Services
Gemma Walker	Corporate Services
Graeme Walton	Derby Homes
Andy Waterhouse	Development and Cultural Services

42 Members of the public were in attendance

14/03 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carr and Troup.

15/03 Late Item Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

16/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

17/03 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2003 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair

18/03 Update on Progress Regarding Community Issues Raised at the Last Area Panel Meeting

The Panel considered an update report on progress of community issues raised

at the last meeting. The report included details of the issues raised, the proposed actions, progress to date and the officer responsible.

Bendall Green Park

It was reported that Bendall Green Park Action Group (BGAG) had been working to make improvements for the park. It was noted that the BGAG had raised over £1,200 from fundraising activities and had secured nearly £22,000 from partner agencies, Derby Homes and Single Regeneration Budget 3. They would also try to obtain an additional £38,000 from section 106 funding from the Swarkestone Drive development. The next meeting of BGAG is on 8 October.

Air Traffic Noise

It was reported that the Area Panel Manager had received the minutes of the East Midlands Strategic Development Forum; they would be available to anyone who wished to see them. However the Terms of Reference for the East Midlands Airport Consultative Forum had not been received. An officer from Development and Cultural Services had attended the last meeting of the East Midlands Strategic Development Forum. This group considered issues around the development of the airport. Derby City Council had asked for a representative on the East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative Forum, which was a forum for dispute resolution, but had been informed that it was not appropriate.

To ask the Director of Corporate Services to write to the East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative Forum requesting a seat on the forum.

University of Derby Mickleover Campus

A member of the public raised concerns about the removal of football pitches at the Mickleover Campus of Derby University. A member of the public also quoted from a newspaper from 1990, which stated that 10 new pitches would be created off Station Road.

It was reported that the land was owned by the University but the football pitches would be compensated for by replacement provision. There would be public benefit by land to the north of the brook being dedicated to the Council as public open space, including playing pitches.

Replacement of Vicarage Road Park Hut

It was reported that the bid for Football Foundation Funding had been unsuccessful. This was the second application for the proposed scheme that had been unsuccessful. The failure of the applications meant that the budget available would not provide for sport changing facilities and youth and community facilities. Therefore a revised scheme would be submitted, based on a community building, for consideration as part of the Council budget process for 2004/05. The total cost was estimated at £148,000. The bid would be a joint application between Parks and the Education Service.

A member of the public asked about the amount of consultation with young people that had been carried out. It was reported that Youth Services have consulted widely and that the Mickleover Action Group was involved.

Petition – Proposed Heatherton Community Centre

It was reported that, following the petition, from the Asian over 60's group, the Heatherton Community Association steering group now agreed to include representatives of the Asian Over 60's group on the steering group.

Speeding, Station Road Mickleover

A member of the public asked if anything else was being planned to reduce the speed of traffic on the road and the volume of traffic?

Sergeant Daines reported that Station Road Mickleover had been included in the mobile safety camera route since May 2003 and the Safety Camera Project was targeting the area. Excess speeds had been identified and fines issued.

19/03 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by the public during public question time: -

Cycle Route

A member of the public asked if access could be made from Ladybank Road in Mickleover to the Railway Track, instead of Station Road. It was reported that when the access was first created a local consultation exercise was completed, and the access route was based on the outcome of this consultation.

Vicarage Road Family Centre

A member of the public raised concerns about what would happen to the Vicarage Road Family Centre now that it was closing. It was reported that the centres facilities had moved to Chaddesden.

Agreed to ask the Director of Social Services to provide an update at the next meeting

Muggings

A member of public asked what was being done about the increased number of daylight muggings and attacks?

Sergeant Daines reported that the police were aware of the muggings that had occurred locally. An investigation into the incidents had resulted in an arrest and no incidents had been reported since the arrest.

Bendall Green – Dog Waste Bins

A member of the public reported that dog waste was being put into litterbins,

then taken out and thrown about by children, causing a health and safety problem. They had been informed that there was no funding available to provide dog waste bins but as it is a health and safety issue it was felt that it needs to be funded.

Another member of the public felt that the Council should fine people and publicise any convictions made.

It was reported that dog waste is now classed as clinical waste and this increases the disposal costs. Council Cabinet is aware of the issue and will be considering the issue of disposal costs. It was noted that, although a health problem, the biggest issue with dog bins was the cost of having them emptied, not installing the actual bin.

Agreed to ask the Director of Commercial Services to provide an update report to the next meeting.

Schools Admissions

A member of the public asked what were the policies of school admissions. It was noted that some schools in the area were over subscribed and the government set a limit on the number of pupils allowed.

It was reported that if the schools were full, they did not have to receive additional children.

It was the Local Education Authority (LEA) that had a responsibility to place children at other schools in the City if the local school was full.

Recycling in Site in Littleover

A member of the public asked about the progress made in finding a new site in Littleover village.

It was reported that attempts were ongoing to locate a site but no suitable site had been found. It was noted that locations on private land involve a lot more negotiation. The proposals to extend the twin bins initiative in the city are to be considered later this year.

Facilities on Sunnydale Park – Blagreaves

A member of the public expressed concerns about the condition of the facilities on Sunnydale park. Issues raised included:

- Litter problems
- Abusive behaviour from youths
- Mismanaged pond
- Lack of rangers to 'police' the park

Agreed to ask the Director of Commercial Services to investigate the problems and report to the next meeting.

Parking and Traffic at Local schools

A member of the public raised concerns about cars parking on the pavements especially outside the local primary schools at Ridgeway, Gayton and St. Georges.

There had been a recent survey about traffic but no feedback had yet been received. It was noted that the survey was part of the School Travel Plans initiative.

Sergeant Daines reported that it was not an offence to park on pavements or to double park, providing that no obstruction is caused.

Agreed to request the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the progress of the local travel plans.

20/03 Petitions

A group of young people requested the provision of a park, between the Chain Lane, Burton Road and Uttoxeter Road area.

Agreed to ask the Director of Commercial Services to investigate the petition and report to the next meeting.

21/03 Planning Applications and Their Impact on the Environment and Infrastructure

The Area Panel received a presentation from Paul Clarke and Andy Waterhouse on the planning application process and how it impacted on the environment.

It was reported that planning decisions were based on national planning policy and that the Derby City Council also had their own set of policies, in the Local Plan, adopted in 1988. The Government issued policy guidance and the Local Policies must be translated down and be in accordance with National Policy.

It was reported that the Government set targets for the number of houses that need to be provided between 1991 – 2011. Derby's target was 15,500.

Processes involved in producing the Local Plan included:

- Draft consultation
- Proposals and exhibitions around city for public to make comments
- Council consider comments and objections received
- Changes made to proposals
- Any objections still ongoing put to Independent Inspector – a Local Plan Inquiry was scheduled to take place between October 2003 and February 2004.

After the Public Inquiry the Independent Inspector publishes a report with recommendations for proposed sites. The Council does not have to accept all recommendations but if they refuse, good reasons have to be provided and can be appealed.

When a planning application is received, they are publicised in the Trader and can be viewed at Roman House. The application may then go to the Planning Control Committee. Any decision taken has to be made on proper planning grounds; if the application is refused the application can go to appeal. The Planning Inspector would consider the appeal and make a decision.

Resolved to note the presentation.

22/03 Alterations to the Footway on Station Road

A report of the Assistant Director – Highways, Transport and Waste Management Development and Cultural Services was considered which set out details of alterations to the footway on Station Road.

It was reported that in January 2003, a petition was received from users of Station Road and Warner Street regarding parking on the footway on Station Road, there was particular concern that parking was obstructing the view of drivers.

The report set out options to improve visibility at the Warner Street/ Station Road junction, by preventing parking, including:

- increasing the size of the kerb heights to prevent vehicles encroaching on to the footway and installing bollards and cycle stands. Estimated cost £2,500.
- re-defining the existing lay by and improve the surrounding footways. Installation of bollards and cycle stands. Replacement of the cracked tactile paving, to improve crossing facilities for visually impaired pedestrians. Estimated cost £6,000.

The report proposed that Area Panel funding was used to fund the work required as no provision had been made within the highways financial budget for 2003/04.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report**
- 2. To recommend that funding should be included within 2004/05 highways programme rather than Area Panel funding.**

23/03 Review of School Crossing Patrol Service

A joint report of the Directors of Development and Cultural and Commercial Services was considered, which stated that Council Cabinet at its meeting on 5 August 2003 had approved a report on the Review of School Crossing Patrol Service. It was recommended that the report be submitted to Area Panels for information.

It was anticipated that all the improvements suggested in the review would ensure a better service to meet the needs of parents, pupils and schools.

Resolved to note the report.

24/03 Planning and Environment Commission – Review of Grass Cutting in Derby

A report of the Chair of the Planning and Environment Commission was considered which advised that the Commission would be conducting a review of grass cutting in Derby on road verges, roundabouts, parks, open spaces and areas adjacent to housing. The main objectives of the review were to seek information from the public about the locations in Derby where they had complaints about the standard of grass cutting or where it appeared that grass cutting was not being carried out at all and to develop recommendations aimed at making sure that all grass cutting was carried out to an acceptable standard throughout the city, addressing any justified complaints by the public, and improving the grass cutting services if it was shown to be necessary by the review.

Agreed that members of the public informed David Romaine, the Commission's Co-ordination Officer of any locations in Derby where they thought that grass was not being cut or where it seemed that grass cutting standards required improvements.

25/03 Outturn report: Area Panel 4 Budget 2002/3

A report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy was considered, which set out the way the budget for the Area Panel was spent in 2002/03 and detailed progress on the individual projects.

Agreed to note the report.

26/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/4

A report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy was considered which updated the Panel on the amount of funds available within the budget and set out details of two applications for funding which had been received, one of which was a key decision, as follows:

- The first application had been received from Mickleover Community Centre to contribute to the costs of external redecoration of the building. The redecoration would include exterior woodwork, metal fittings, windows and the fascia around the roof.
- The second application had been received from Littleover Royal British Legion to contribute to costs of restoring the War Memorial. The restoration would include cleaning and coating with 'preservation' to maintain its condition.

Options considered

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

Decision -Littleover Royal British Legion

To award a grant of £764 to Littleover Royal British Legion for the restoration of the War Memorial

Reasons

1. The application met the criteria for Area Panel Funding.
2. The project contributes to improvements, which would provide a benefit to all residents.
3. The project contributes to the delivery of the Council's corporate themes and priorities.
4. The application provides an evidence of need.

Key Decision - Mickleover Community Centre

To award a grant of £4,000 to Mickleover Community Centre for the external redecoration of the building.

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.
4. The project contributes to improvements, which would provide a benefit to all residents.

27/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at Littleover Methodist Church, Burton Road, Littleover on 3 December 2003 at 6.30 pm

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

Minutes End