

Time Commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished - 8.50 pm

**AREA PANEL 4
(LITTLEOVER, MICKLEOVER & BLAGREAVES WARDS)
25 JUNE 2003**

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

Derby City Council Officers and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers

Sarah Edwards	Area Panel Manager
Richard Smail	Area Panel Manager
Tony Gascoigne	Development and Cultural Services
David Romaine	Overview and Scrutiny Co-Ordinator
Ken Richardson	Derby City Parks
Lesley Walker	Area Neighbourhood Manager
Ray Cowlshaw	Chief Executive
Sgt Daines	Derbyshire Constabulary

39 Members of the public were in attendance

1/03 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2/03 Late Item Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

3/03 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jones declared a personal prejudicial interest in minute no 6/03 relating to the development on the Crest hotel site. Councillor Allen declared a personal prejudicial interest in minute no 12/03 as he is a member of the Rosehill Methodist Sports Club. Councillors Care and Crosby declared a personal interest in minute no 6/03 as they are members of the Planning Control Committee.

4/03 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 March 2003 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair

5/03 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.

Notice Boards

It was reported that the signs suggested by Members of the Panel reported at the last meeting were to be inspected along with an additional site at Austin Avenue shops.

Air Traffic Noise

It was reported that the Area Panel Manager had received the minutes of the East Midlands Strategic Development Forum, which would be available to anyone who wished to see them, but had not received the Terms of Reference for the group.

Replacement of Vicarage Road Park Hut

It was reported that the bid for submission for the Community Lottery Fund had been unsuccessful. Parks were still waiting to hear if the City had been successful in obtaining Football Foundation Funding, as well as looking at opportunities to access other sources of funding. It was reported that there was an attempt to get a comprehensive funding package together to give the best possible solution to the situation. If the funding applications was unsuccessful, this would be reported to the Area Panel to enable them to consider what other funding could be available. A member of the public asked what had happened to the insurance money for the original hut which had burnt down. It was reported that this had been ring fenced towards the cost of the new hut. The insurance amounted to £65,000, but a replacement facility would cost in the region of £200,000 to £300,000. Funding was being sought to bridge this gap.

Land Adjacent to Entrance to Park on Havenbault Lane

A site meeting had been arranged with Derby Homes, Parks and Estates to look at this particular problem. It was reported that the Council were working with residents to find a solution.

Mickleover Community Association

Mr Bellamy from the Mickleover Community Association requested an update on this particular item.

Petition Re Proposed Mobile Phone Mast Blagreaves Lane

Mr Ainsley reported that he was disappointed with progress relating to preferred locations for mobile masts. It was reported that discussions were taking place with Development Control Staff and that progress on this would be reported to the next meeting.

Traffic on Burton Road/Chain Lane and Rykneld Road

It was reported that local developers were asked to fund a Transport Review. Transport Surveys were often done during August, when schools were on holiday. A member of the public requested that a guarantee be given that the surveys be done in prime/peak times, as the traffic corridor was already very congested. It was reported that it was in the interest of the developers to do the study at peak times, which was typically 7am to 7 pm. Another member of the public was concerned about the Rykneld Road/Pastures Hill gridlock and asked what the Council Cabinet were going to do about this particular problem. It was reported that there was a need to carry out the study before any decisions were made. Once the study was completed a range of possible solutions could be considered. A member of the public was concerned that applications for development were ongoing at all times and that a base data line needed to be decided. It was reported that the Local Plan was due to be reviewed in October. There were currently two live applications, one at the hotel site and one on Chain Lane.

Agreed that this particular issue be a separate Agenda item for the next meeting.

6/03 Public Question Time

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

Station Road

A member of the public asked what was happening about speeding on Station Road. Inspector Daines reported that resources were being directed accordingly. It was not normal practice to have repeater signs for 30 mile per hour limits, as lamp posts and built up areas, indicated that the speed limit was 30 mph. A member of the public reported that cars were parking on the double yellow lines to go into the Chemist shop on Station Road and that patrol cars were driving passed these, but doing nothing about it. Inspector Daines agreed to raise this with the local Traffic Warden.

Planning Applications

A member of the public asked if Planning Applications were dealt with individually rather than jointly, particularly when they had major impact. It was reported that there was a set procedure and timescale to determine Planning Applications.

Agreed to look at traffic issues and Planning Applications at the next meeting.

(At this point Councillor Jones left the meeting)

(Councillor Skelton took the Chair.)

Chain Lane

A member of the public asked how long asked how long the Application would be delayed. It was reported that the Application on Chain Lane was to be discussed imminently, but the hotel site would need to be reconsidered and resubmitted. A question was raised on the current policy on green field sites and whether this was likely to change. It was reported that it was unlikely to change in the next 12 months, but that the Council were currently moving from the current Local Plan to a revised Local Plan. The proposals for the Local Plan were available on the Council's website. A member of the public asked if quality of life issues were being taken into consideration when developments were proposed. The Planning System was a national system.

Agreed that this issue would be considered along with the other planning and transport issues at the next meeting.

(At this point Councillor Jones re-took the Chair.)

Rapour

A representative from Rapour reported that there was a poor response from the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and the Police, particularly in the Littleover and Mickleover areas. It was reported that Trading Standards could take up the issue of alcohol sales to minors, but evidence was required for prosecution.

Effects of Development on Local Facilities

A member of the public expressed concern about, for example flooding in the Heatherton area. It was reported that a link was required with agencies on infrastructural issues. A question was raised as to whether the Authority could require Severn Trent Water to fulfil their responsibilities. There was a problem with the silting up of Hell Brook, the Council were trying to persuade the Environment Agency to de-silt it and keep doing so on a regular basis.

Sports Facilities

A member of the public asked about the sports facilities strategy for children and the need to respond to the needs of the local population. He reported that football teams had to play outside of the City, as there were no Council owned sports facilities in the Mickleover area. It was reported that Sports Co-ordinators were being provided in every School. Sports and Leisure Section had the responsibility for most of the Sports facilities with the Parks Section only having a small involvement. It was reported that the Council could not control facilities provided on private land. Schools charged a lot of money to use their pitches, this was cost prohibitive to a lot of local teams.

7/03 Petitions

New petitions received by the Panel.

A petition was received relating to the small green area on Bowland Close Mickleover.

Agreed to note the receipt of the petition and to ask that an update be presented to the Panel at the next meeting.

8/03 Recommendations Arising from the Planning and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Commissions Review of the Services in Derby

A report by the Chair of the Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Commission was considered, which set out the recommendations arising from the review of bus services in Derby.

Agreed to note the report.

9/03 The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings

A report of the Assistant Director – Highways, Transport and Waste Management Development and Cultural Services was considered which stated that the Council was seeking more flexibility to improve pedestrian facilities where people had difficulty in crossing roads. Details of the existing criteria and proposed changes were set out in the report. It was felt that old requests which did not meet the criteria previously be re-assessed against the new criteria. Concern was raised about safety for cyclists as in many areas footpaths were shared with cycle ways.

Agreed to note changes in the way in which pedestrian crossings were assessed.

10/03 Crime Prevention on Public Rights of Way

A report of the Assistant Director of Development and Cultural Services was considered, which stated that the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, had added sections 118B and 119B to the Highways Act 1980. This gave Local Highway Authorities new powers to close or divert public footpaths if it was necessary to prevent crime or to protect pupils and staff of a school from violence, or other threats to their health and safety. It was reported that the Legislation related to through routes where the public had a right of way. It was noted that closing paths was a last resort and that real evidence was required to support any applications to close footpaths. Consultation had taken place with the Police to identify particular problem areas, rather than individual paths.

Agreed to note the Report.

11/03 Area Panel Budget Update

A report of the Director of Policy was considered, which updated the Panel on how the Area Panel had spent its budget during 2002/3. The Area Panel's budget allocation for 2003/4 was £22,000, but the Area Panel had a commitment dating back to 2001/2 for £5,000 to improve footpaths in the Blagreaves and Littleover Wards. The Area Panel Budget allocation for 2003/4 had therefore been adjusted to £17,000.

Agreed to note the Report.

12/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/4

A report of the Director of Policy was considered which set out details of three applications for funding which had been received.

It was reported that the first application was from St. Johns Friendship Group - for the over 60's - Mickleover. They requested a grant of £1,200 towards the cost of rent for the premises, four outings by coach, to enable them to provide a greater variety of activities such as, dominoes, whist, bingo and pay guest speakers as required.

The second application had been submitted by Rosehill Methodist Sports Club. They were seeking a grant of £500 to contribute to roof repairs to the tea room and toilet block.

The third application had been submitted by Derby City Parks. They were seeking a grant of £1500 towards the cost of safety matting for swings at Bramblebrook Park.

Options considered

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

Decision (St. John's Friendship Group)

To award a grant of £1,200 to St. Johns Friendship Group to support the cost of running the friendship group for the over 60's.

Reasons

1. The application meets the criteria for Area Panel Funding
2. The application provided evidence of needs, both in terms of enabling residents to participate in activities within their community and providing a service in response to the needs of local residents and which would provide a benefit to all residents.

Decision (Rosehill Methodist Sports Club)

To award a grant of £500 to the Rosehill Methodist Sports Club to contribute to roof repairs to tea room and toilet block.

Reasons

1. The application reached the criteria for Area Panel Funding
2. The application provided evidence of needs, both in terms of enabling residents to participate in activities within their community and providing a service in response to the needs of local residents and which would provide a benefit to all residents.

(Councillor Allen having declared an interest in the above item left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon)

Decision (Derby City Parks)

To award a grant of £1,500 to Derby City parks for safety matting for swings at Bramblebrook Park.

Reasons

1. The application reached the criteria for Area Panel Funding
2. The application provided evidence of needs, both in terms of enabling residents to participate in activities within their community and providing a service in response to local residents and which would be of benefit to all residents.

13/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at Newmount Methodist Church Hall Blagreaves Lane, Littleover on 1 October 2003 at 6.30 pm

Agreed that Councillor Skelton Chair the meeting.

Minutes End