

Time Commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished - 8.20 pm

**AREA PANEL 4
(LITTLEOVER, MICKLEOVER & BLAGREAVES WARDS)
3 DECEMBER 2003**

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

Derby City Council Officers and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers

Gemma Barlow	-	Members Services Officer
Tony Gascoigne	-	Development and Cultural Services
Patricia Hatton	-	Derby Homes
Jody Kirkpatrick	-	Members Services Assistant
Inspector Gary Parkin	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Ken Richardson	-	Parks Manager
David Romaine	-	Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer
Richard Smail	-	Area Panel Manager

32 Members of the public were in attendance

28/03 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor L Allen.

29/03 Late Item Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

30/03 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hird declared a personal prejudicial interest in minute number 35/03 as she was the chair of the St John's Playgroup Committee.

31/03 Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of Area Panel 4 held on 1 October be confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Minute number 21/03 – amend paragraph two to read ‘...in the Local Plan, adopted in 1998.’

32/03 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.

Air Traffic Noise

It was reported that the Director of Corporate Services would write to the East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative Forum – EMAICF in January 2004 to ask for a seat for Derby City Council as from March 2004.

Councillor Care reported that the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Development and Cultural Services were looking into public and legal rights that Derby City Council have, not only to ask for a seat on the Forum, but to insist on one.

To ask the Director of Corporate Services to write to the East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative Forum requesting a seat on the forum in January 2004.

Replacement of Vicarage Road Park pavilion

A member of the public raised concerns that the proposed Vicarage Road Park pavilion would be a duplication of the Mickleover Community Centre and that people would only use one of the facilities. It was noted that the Community Centre has a variety of uses including as tearooms.

It was reported that a revised scheme for £148,000, based on the community building, would be submitted for consideration as part of the Councils budget process for 2004/05.

Land Adjacent to Entrance to Park on Havenbault Lane

It was reported that Officers from Derby Homes, Development and Cultural Services and Estates attended a site visit on 16 October to consider a package of improvements.

A member of the public asked if improvements could be speeded? Patricia Hatton reported that the Village Community Panel had agreed to fund proposals to resurface the access road to the park, to erect a one metre high bow top fence around the edge of both green areas and dig out the grass around the lay bys to extend the footway. Local residents were being consulted about the costs of providing vehicle access to their gardens. However the funding would not be available until the 2004/05 budget year.

Derby Homes to contact the resident concerned about the access to her home

Vicarage Road Family Centre

It was reported that the Vicarage Road Family Centre had not yet closed. The services provided at the Centre would be transferred to a new facility - the Joint Disabled Children's Services on St Mark's Road in Chaddesden. The construction of the building would be completed by the end of 2004. A member of the public asked if the Vicarage Road site could be considered as a potential location for a new library.

Muggings

Inspector Gary Parkin reported that there had been an increase in burglaries in Littleover and Mickleover, and was down to a small number of offenders but a large number of offences. It was noted that an arrest had been made, surveillance was underway and the Police were aware of the main people involved.

A member of the public asked what the main age profile of offenders was? It was noted that a large percentage of the offenders were males, aged 18 to 30 years.

Councillor Winters asked if the offences were drug related? Inspector Gary Parkin reported that there was an obvious link between drug use and crime and approximately 60-70% of offenders would have or had a drug habit.

Recycling site, Littleover

In response to a question Councillor Carr reported that residents from South Avenue, Littleover had complained about the new recycling site in Littleover. However the owner, of the pub next to the site, 7 Valley Inns, had also requested that the site be removed as Derby City Council had no legal right for it to be there.

Councillor Care reported that the twin bin recycling scheme roll out for the remaining part of Littleover, Burton Road and Blagreaves, anticipated for 2005/06, was not a guaranteed date.

Parking and Traffic at Local Schools

A member of the public raised concerns about comments made at a previous Area Panel 4 meeting. It was noted that in the update report it was stated that it was not an offence to park on pavements or to double park, providing that no obstruction was caused. The concerned member of the public then quoted Section 72 on the 1835 Highways Act, which stated that it was illegal to park on pavements and double park.

To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the 1835 Highways Act for the relevance of Section 72 to current Highways legislation.

33/03 Public Question Time

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

Mobile Phone Masts, Mickleover

A member of the public asked why the Council approved the installation of a mobile phone mast in The Hollow, Mickleover but refused an application on Rough Heanor Road, Mickleover.

Housing, Heatherton

A member of the public raised concerns about the impact on the community when people move into the new affordable housing and asked what consultation would be carried out before the development was started.

Councillor Carr explained that mixing different types of housing would help to sustain the development. It was noted that consultation would be carried out but had not yet commenced

Grass Verges

A member of the public asked what protection was afforded to grass verges? Could stones or bollards be positioned to stop or act as a deterrent for parking on grass verges?

Councillor Winter commented that it was not right for people to park on grass verges and as she was a member on the Police Authority Board she would raise the issue at the next meeting of the Board.

It was noted that Derby City Council would object to stones or bollards being sited as they are unsightly and cause a health and safety obstruction.

It was noted that the Borough of Kingston has the authority to impose a £60 penalty to any vehicle parking on footways. Derby City Council were considering the possibility of obtaining these powers.

To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the damage caused to grass verges on Warwick Avenue and Normanton Lane.

Adoption of Roads and Open Space – Heatherton

A member of the public raised concerns about the progress being made adopting roads and open space in Heatherton, and highlighted Hollybrook Way.

Councillor Care reported that Derby City Council was working closely with the developers to complete the adoption of the roads and land. The areas need to meet the required standard, before the Council would adopt the roads. It was noted that it was the developers' responsibility to remove litter, not the Councils' until the road was adopted.

A member of the public asked if any financial penalty could be imposed on the developer for not completing repairs to roads?

It was noted that there is a small bond retained by the Council but no other financial penalty would be imposed on the developers. They would incur the charges to maintain the roads to standard until they were adopted.

To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services and the Director of Commercial Services report back to the next meeting of Area Panel 4 on the progress made to adopt the roads and open space.

Traffic on Old Hall Road, Littleover

A member of the public raised concerns that as planning permission had been approved for new flats, the volume of traffic on Old Hall Road and The Hollow would increase.

Councillor Carr reported that the highways department had been consulted before the approval of the flats and were satisfied that the roads could cope with the impact of the development.

It was noted that the adoption of a School Travel Plan for St Peters School would reduce the impact of traffic.

To inform officers working on the School Travel Plan to consider the additional traffic on Old Hall Road and The Hollow.

Road Repairs, Charnwood Avenue

A member of the public asked if there was an inspector of road repairs in Derby, to assess work completed? It was noted that on Charnwood Road there were 3 repairs that had been started but not completed.

It was reported that Derby City Council had a Streetcare department, part of Development and Cultural Services that was responsible for inspecting and maintaining the highways.

Hornbeam Trees on Brayfield Road

A member of the public asked why the Council had removed the Hornbeam trees and planned to replace them with Gingko trees? Councillor Care explained about the concerns being expressed about the expense and health and safety issues of pruning the trees.

It was reported that the Arboricultural Officer had inspected the trees and branches were falling and roots lifting the pavements causing a health and safety issue. Due to the cost of pruning and maintenance it was suggested to remove the trees instead of pruning and replace with the male Gingko tree.

Repairs on Donington Drive

A member of the public raised concerns about the number of potholes that were reappearing on Donington Drive, after the Council had repaired them.

It was noted that the work in the area would be inspected and repaired again if necessary.

To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the work and report back to a future meeting of the Area Panel.

Bus Shelter – Blagreaves Lane

A member of the public was concerned that the glass in a bus shelter on Blagreaves Lane had been smashed.

To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the problem and report back to a future meeting of the Area Panel.

Pavements – Blagreaves Lane

A member of the public raised concerns about the pavements on Blagreaves Lane particularly around Mulberry Court and between the Royal British Legion and Field Rise. It was considered that the pavements were too narrow and needed to be made straighter.

To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the issues and report back to a future meeting of the Area Panel.

34/03 Petitions

New petitions

- a) Provision of a park – between Burton road, Uttoxeter Road, Manor Road and Chain Lane/Corden Avenue

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from a group of young people requesting the provision of a park around the Chain Lane, Burton Road and Uttoxeter Road area.

It was reported that sites would need to be identified and assessed for suitability and then funding would be considered. It was noted that the Derby City Parks and the Plans and Policies section were working to identify potential sites. It was planned to meet with the petitioners to discuss some of their ideas.

Resolved

To identify and assess options available and report back to a future Area Panel meeting.

b) Footpath No. 6 closure – Willson Road, Littleover

The panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Willson Road, Littleover requesting the closure of footpath No. 6, Willson Road. Members of the public considered that keeping the footpath open was a health and safety risk due to burglaries and drug taking. Other views were given to keep the footpath open. It was noted that when the request had been previously considered a consultation survey was carried out, of 1000 people.

Resolved

To ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate the request and report back to a future Area Panel meeting

Responses to the Petitions Received

c) Derby City General Hospital Modification Order 2003

The panel considered a report of the Assistant Director of Development and Cultural Services which set out procedures that the Council was following for the Modification Order.

It was noted that Derby City Council were acting on behalf of the Secretary of State to make the Modification Order and would probably result in a public enquiry.

Resolved

To note the report

35/03 **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.

36/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/4

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 Derby Congregational Cricket Club to fund three people to undertake the English Cricket Boards Level 1 coaching award. Grant requested - £240.

(Councillor Hird left the meeting during consideration of this item. Councillor Crosby took the Chair for this item).

- To consider whether to support the application received from St John's Playgroup Mickleover to re-establish a playgroup for 3-4 year olds. The funding would be used to sustain the group during the first three months. Grant requested - £1439.

Options considered

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

Decision

To award funding to Derby Congregational Cricket Club. Grant £240.

Reasons

1. The application met the criteria for Area Panel Funding.
2. The project would enable residents to participate in activities within their communities.
3. The project contributes to the delivery of the Council's corporate themes and priorities.
4. This was project was an excellent example of encouraging people to give their free time to supporting and developing younger peoples opportunities.

KEY DECISION

To award funding to St John's Playgroup Mickleover. Grant £1439.

Reasons

1. The application met the criteria for Area Panel Funding.
2. The application provided evidence of need.
3. The application provided a service in response to the needs of local residents as raised at the area panel meeting.
4. The project contributes to the delivery of the Council's corporate themes and priorities.

37/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at Silverhill Primary School, Draycoy Drive, Mickleover on 21 January 2004 at 6.30 pm

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

Minutes End