

Time commenced : 6.05am  
Time finished : 8.10pm

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

**4 JUNE 2003**

Present: Councillor Willitts (in the Chair)  
Councillors R Allen, Bayliss, Blanksby, Chera,  
HS Dhamrait, J Hickson, Graves, Jackson, Liversedge,  
Turner and Wynn

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Alf Bousie	-	Commercial Services
Susan Featherstone	-	Derby Homes
Michael Foote	-	Director of Corporate Services
David Gartside	-	Head of Traffic, Development and Cultural Services
Neil Haslam	-	Waste Management Officer, Development and Cultural Services
Gary Moore	-	Members Services Assistant
Richard Murrell	-	Home Energy Advice Manager
Bill Reed	-	Area Panel Manager
Inspector Thandi	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Sarah Turner	-	Members Services Officer
Alan Whileman	-	Development and Cultural Services

**01/03 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

**02/03 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**03/03 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

**04/03 Minutes**

**Agreed that the minutes of Area Panel 2 held on 5 March 2003  
be confirmed as a correct record.**

## 05/03 Update Report

The Panel considered an update report on the 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 City Council Officer responsible.

### **Specific Issues**

#### **Bus Gate, Redwood Road, Sinfin**

A member of the public advised that the no entry instruction was still being violated. David Gartside responded that there was a proposal to convert the bus gate into a barrier which would be designed in an environmentally sympathetic style.

#### **Play Area, Sinfin**

Alf Bousie, Commercial Services, advised the Panel that the Council had planning permission and were waiting for funds from the National Lottery. The Play area should be installed by the autumn.

#### **Traffic Calming on Grampian Way, Sinfin**

Members of the public commented that the removal of the humps on Grampian Way had made a tremendous difference to traffic on Stenson Road and Grampian Way.

Members of the public also expressed relief that the humps had been removed from Boulton Lane, although one set of humps would remain. David Gartside advised that work was carrying on along Boulton Lane and the removal of these humps should be completed by 8 June 2003. David thanked the public who completed the questionnaires and helped with the consultation exercise.

#### **Litter Problems, Holbrook Road, Alvaston**

Councillor Jackson advised the Panel that litter was being collected more frequently and there had been fewer complaints from local residents. Members of the public agreed that the situation had improved, also the grass was being cut more often. A member of the public stated that Brackens Lane was still no better. Councillor Jackson advised that this would be discussed at the next Governors meeting at Noel Baker School.

#### **Wragley Way, Resurfacing and Pot Holes**

Councillor Dhamrait advised that the temporary repairs had been inspected by officers and was not satisfactory. Alan Whileman responded that resurfacing would take place during the summer.

## 06/03 Public Question Time

The following issues were raised by the public during the Public Question Time:

### **Osmaston Park**

A member of the public raised concerns over the recent tragic event at Osmaston Park and asked what was doing to stop this happening again.

Alf Bousie, Commercial Services, advised that since the accident teams were visiting all parks in Derby, inspecting railings and removing any that could be a danger.

### **Roads and Pavements in Shelton Lock**

A member of the public reported that certain roads and pavements in Shelton Lock were in a state of disrepair and asked if the Council was going to be repairing them. Councillor Wynn, Ward Member for Alvaston, stated that the Council had funding in its budget for such issues and that this needed to be addressed.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour Morningside Close**

A member of the public raised concerns about anti-social behaviour in the area of Morningside Close and Sinfin Avenue, Allenton. Young people were playing football in road, running over gardens, climbing fences and gates, intimidating residents and generally being a nuisance. The teenagers needed somewhere to hang out, there was a piece of grass at the end of Morningside Close, could this be fenced off to stop dogs using it, to give the young people in the area somewhere to go. Could the Council look into siting a youth shelter here. Councillor Bayliss, Ward Member for Alvaston, stated that the first step would be to inform the police of this problem. If local people were interested in providing an area for the teenagers to play they could apply for Area Panel funding. Councillor Bayliss also suggested contacting the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour team.

### **Harrington Street / Poole Street**

A member of the public expressed concern about anti-social behaviour and mismanagement of an area of land at Harrington Street and Poole Street. The site used to be a car park and was now covered in broken glass and was used for drug abuse and dealing. Residents could not sit in their gardens, which backed up to this area of land, because of these anti-social activities.

Councillor Blanksby advised that this issue had been included in a topic review for Overview and Scrutiny. The final report would be presented to Council Cabinet in due course. Something would be done about this issue.

### **Canal Path**

A member of the public asked if people could be kept informed of plans for the canal route at Wilmorton. Councillor Wynn asked that a member of the Canal Trust be invited to the next meeting of the Panel.

### **Osmaston Road – Traffic Incidents**

A member of the public raised concerns about a number of traffic incidents on Osmaston Road. He asked whether it would be possible to install another speed camera for traffic approaching the Moor Lane junction, to try and reduce these serious accidents. Concern was also raised over the traffic signals on the Spider Island, causing queuing at peak times. This has increased CO2 levels in the questioner's home to above the safe level.

David Gartside, Development and Cultural Services, responded that Osmaston Road and the traffic signals were the responsibility of the Highways Agency, he would discuss this issue with the police and Highways Agency and ask them to investigate.

## **07/03 Petitions**

### **New Petitions**

#### **a) Removal of grass verge fronting a house in Caroline Close, Alvaston**

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Caroline Close, requesting the removal of a grass verge, fronting a house on Caroline Close. The lead petitioner addressed the Panel, advising that the verge was used by dogs and was churned up by lorries parking on the grass. Councillor Graves expressed his support of this petition. Bill Reed advised the lead petitioner that the appropriate officer would report back to the next meeting and contact the petitioner directly with the outcome of the investigation.

#### **b) Closure of Crewton Post Office**

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Alvaston, opposing the closure of Crewton Post Office on Brighton Road. Councillor Graves advised that he supported this petition, although things had progressed and the Post Office was due to close on 5 June. Members of the public were concerned that the nearest Post Office was now Harvey Road. Councillor Graves advised that he had written to the Post Office and they had declined the offer to attend the Area Panel meeting but stated that they were closing the Post Office and nothing more could be done.

**c) Trees – Osmaston Road**

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Osmaston Road requesting that the trees along Osmaston Road were pruned. Alf Bousie advised the Panel that an order had been placed to prune the trees, within the next 2-3 weeks, in line with the Council's Tree Management Policy.

**d) Erection of gate in boundary fence – Wilmington Avenue, Alvaston**

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Penzance Road opposing the erection of a gate in the boundary fence of a property on Wilmington Avenue. The lead petitioner stated that heavy vehicles use the car park area, which was supposed to be for residents of Penzance Road, to access the rear of the property on Wilmington Avenue. There is general disturbance and the residents of Penzance Road wanted the Council to investigate this matter. Councillor Blanksby advised that consultation had taken place with residents in the area, asking for suggestions as to what the car park, which is not utilised, could be used for. The report detailed the suggestions, which would be investigated by the Council.

**Agreed to recommend that Derby Homes investigate the suggestions for the use of the car park land and that various departments liaise as to the feasibility of each option, taking into consideration environmental issues and legal and financial implications. The Panel requested feedback at a future meeting.**

**e) Street Tarmacing in Chellaston**

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Gladstone Close, requesting that the pavements and road in their street were tarmaced.

Alan Whileman advised that a detailed investigation would take place and a full report would be brought to the next meeting.

## 08/03 Area Panel Budget Update

### **Area Panel Budget Applications**

A report of the Director of Policy was considered which updated the Panel on how the Area Panel had spent its budget during 2002/03. The Area Panels budget allocation for 2003/04 was £29,000.

**Agreed:**

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To ask the Area Panel Manager to report to the next meeting on how the Area Panel funding 2002/03 had been spent**
- 3 To allocate the budget for 2003/04 on a project by project basis, based on the quality of individual projects.**

**09/03 Area Panel Budget Applications**

A report of the Director of Policy was considered, which set out details of three applications for funding which had been received. Further information was required on all three funding applications.

**Agreed to defer the three budget applications to the next meeting to enable further information to be submitted to the Panel.**

**10/03 Derby's Affordable Warmth Strategy**

The Panel received a presentation from Richard Murrell in which he set out the key objectives of the Affordable Warmth Strategy. The strategy was officially launched on 24 September 2002. The key objectives of the strategy were to make sure that no one in Derby suffers from fuel poverty, that excess winter deaths were significantly reduced and that all residents could afford to heat their homes adequately.

He stated that the main way to achieve the objectives of strategy would be by encouraging householders to make energy improvements to their homes. He reported that the Council, through the Derby Home Energy Advice Service, offers advice on the most cost effective measures available, as well as directing residents to discounts on loft and cavity wall installation and high efficiency condensing boilers and heating controls.

Councillor Blanksby asked that the Panel recognise the work the Affordable Warmth team were doing in the city and the relief to many people who could not afford to warm their homes in winter.

It was raised that during modernisation of Council houses, Derby Homes were not taking out storage heating which was 30% more expensive. Councillor Liversedge agreed to look into his situation and report back to the next meeting.

**Agreed:**

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To invite the Council Cabinet member responsible for Housing issues to attend the next meeting to respond to the issues raised.**

**11/03 Recommendations Arising from the Planning and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Commissions – Review of Bus Services in Derby**

A report of the Planning and 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.**

**12/03 Progress Report on the Rethink Rubbish Recycling Scheme in Chellaston and Shelton Lock**

A report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services was considered which set out the success of the Rethink Rubbish recycling scheme in Chellaston and Shelton Lock.

Neil Haslam, Waste Management Officer, advised the Panel that the scheme had been running for five weeks and the actual tonnage of waste recycled was over double the forecasted tonnage. He explained that there had been a few teething problems which were being resolved. Neil congratulated the residents taking part in the scheme for their significant efforts to recycle almost half of their waste during the first month of the scheme.

**Agreed to note the report.**

**13/03 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 were 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 reassessed against the new criteria.

A member of the public asked if the crossing on Boulton Lane / Merrill Way could have an audible signal. David Gartside advised that he would look into this issue.

**Agreed to note the report.**

## 14/03 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 or staff of the 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.

Councillor Bayliss stated that the pathway between Beech Avenue and Raynesway in the Alvaston Ward should be looked at. If members of the public had concerns about a particular area, they should contact the police in the first instance to get an incident number.

Councillor Jackson said that she welcomed the legislation but it could cause problems if footways are closed and people have to take the long way round to where they want to go.

**Agreed to note the report.**

## 15/03 Arrangements for next meeting

Agreed to nominate Councillor Graves as Chair for the next meeting of the Panel which will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 10 September 2003 at First Steps (SureStart) Cockayne Street North, Allenton, Derby.

MINUTES END