

Time commenced : 6.00 pm  
Time finished : 8.40 pm

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

**10 SEPTEMBER 2003**

Present: Councillor Graves (Chair)  
Councillors Chera, HS Dhamrait, J Hickson, Jackson,  
Liversage, Turner and Willits

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers:

Paul Bate	-	Transportation Engineer, Development and Cultural Services
John Booth	-	Arboricultural Officer - Commercial Services
Alf Bousie	-	Commercial Services
Karen Crawley	-	Derby Homes
Pat Ethelstone	-	Assistant Director Highways, Transportation and Waste Management
Inspector Thandi	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Sarah Turner	-	Members Services Officer
Teresa Flower	-	Consultant for Primary Care Trust

48 members of the public were in attendance.

### 16/03 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bayliss, Blanksby, Wynn and R Allen.

### 17/03 Declarations of Interest

The following personal interests were declared:

Councillor Jackson	Governor Noel Baker School	Minute Number 20/03 Update Report -Petition Litter Problems Holbrook Road Alvaston
Councillors Chera, Jackson and	Governors of Sinfin Community School	Minute Number 20/03 Update Report - Perimeter Fence

Dhamrait

Around Sinfin Community School

Councillor Graves Applicant

Minute Number 28/03  
Area Panel Budget Applications -  
Eden Street Fencing and Action  
on Trees at Wilmorton

## 18/03 Late Items Introduced By The Chair

There were no late items. However, Councillor Graves asked for the Panel's agreement to him chairing the meeting whilst circulating amongst the public.

**The Panel agreed to this form of chairing the meeting**

## 19/03 Minutes

**Agreed that the Minutes of the Area Panel 2 meeting held on 4 June 2003, be confirmed as a correct record.**

## 20/03 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**

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

Alf Bousie was asked to clarify whether the works were due to go ahead or were they on hold until CCTV equipment was installed.

#### **Footpaths on Newbridge Crescent, Shelton Lock**

Pat Ethelston re-iterated that this work was not a priority, although the pavements were not in a condition that the Council would like them to be, they did not meet the criteria. Newbridge Crescent would continue to be assessed along with other footpaths throughout the city.

A member of the public stated that the residents of Newbridge Crescent found this an unacceptable response, as work needed to be done as the pavements were a safety hazard and surely the area was worthy of something.

Councillor Jackson commented that last year a budget was set aside of £1.2M for road and pavement improvements. She stated that she would try to ensure that some of this money was spent on these issues. Councillor Hickson advised that many pavements in the Chellaston and Shelton Lock area were earmarked for improvement, such as the High Street, Oulton Close, Gladstone Close along with a few others. The money could only stretch so far but would look into this issue further.

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

Councillor Jackson informed the panel that she would continue to press the issue of littering with Noel Baker School.

#### **Footpath on Pitclose Recreation Ground**

The Panel were advised that the boundary issue was still ongoing and Councillor Willitts commented that the area was still being vandalised. Alf Bousie responded that this issue would be looked into.

#### **Perimeter Fence around Sinfin Community School**

Bill Reed advised that the Council had been unable to find out who was responsible for the fence and maintenance of the footway. Councillor Graves stated that this should be treated as a matter of urgency.

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

A member of the public was concerned that issues regarding the condition of roads and pavements seemed to appear over and over again. It was suggested that Area Panels should be provided with a list of all works proposed within the normal budget and a list of all proposed works using the additional £1.2M.

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

The Panel were advised that Diary Sheets were sent to complainants in June asking for complaints to be logged. None had been received back. The Community Watch Patrol had been asked to be extra vigilant in the area and to date, no problems had been reported. Councillor Graves stated that details needed to be received of incidents before action could be taken. A member of the public commented that people did not realise how bad this situation was getting and what was needed was a regular police presence in the area. On a regular basis burnt out vehicles and grassland fires and other acts of vandalism occurred. Inspector Thandi advised that every incident needed reporting to the Police so that it could go on record and the appropriate action could be taken. In the last few months, police presence had doubled in the area.

#### **Anti Social Behaviour and Mismanagement – Harrington Street/Poole Street**

A member of the public repeated the fact that this issue was still a major problem and had been since it was first reported at the Area Panel last year. This area was a haven for drugs taking/dealing, crime and vandalism and nothing had been done so far.

He suggested that lighting could be improved as an initial step to improve the area. Children playing truant from school congregated in the area causing a nuisance. This area was down-trodden and in a poor condition. Faye Brown, Local Housing Office Manager advised that the car park did belong to housing and she would look into the issue of improving the lighting. She was not aware of who owned the jitty. Councillor Graves suggested that Faye Brown take the lead on this issue and try and come up with a suitable answer to the problem.

### **Canal Path, Wilmorton**

Bill Reed advised the panel that the Canal Trust would be attending the next meeting.

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

Pat Ethelston advised that discussions were on going with the Highways Agency and Police, however once the road was de-trunked following completion of the Alvaston By-pass, all responsibility would be transferred to Derby City Council. Councillor Turner commented that surely before the road was de-trunked residents and Councillors should be consulted on whether the road was in a suitable condition before the handover. Pat Ethelston advised that as the principle of de-trunking was agreed many years ago, the Council could only ask that they take over the road in a reasonable condition. Pat Ethelston advised that he would monitor this situation and report back to the Area Panel.

## **21/03 Public Question Time**

The following issues were raised by the public during public question time.

### **Pavements Repaired by Utilities Providers**

A member of the public advised the panel that Transco had replaced gasworks in the Sinfin Avenue area of Shelton Lock but had not repaired the pavements to a satisfactory condition. Could the Council ask Transco to repair these pavements.

**Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to investigate this matter.**

### **Condition of Pavement – Woodthorne Avenue**

A member of the public advised the panel that he had spoken to the Council approximately 18 months ago advising that the pavement in Woodthorne Avenue was in a state of disrepair. He chased after eight weeks and was told that it did not meet the criteria. How did the Council decide who met the criteria? Pat Ethelston advised that the Council had a pot of money that was used to maintain and replace roads and pavements. If there was a defect which could likely to cause a trip this would be fixed. In some cases it was better to leave until the road or pavements needed full repair.

### **Poplar Tree – Watermeadow Road, Alvaston**

A member of the public advised the panel that a poplar tree had been removed from Watermeadow Road, the roots were trapped round main water works and Severn Trent had to repair these. Although the tree itself had been removed, many suckers, some five feet high and spreading rapidly, still needed to be removed. This issue needed looking into.

John Booth Arboricultural Officer advised that he was aware of this problem and it was an ongoing issue. He advised the resident that work would be carried out imminently.

### **Allocation of Allotment sites in Derby**

A member of the public asked that since the Local Plan carried out in 1998, had the Council investigated whether there was sufficient allocation of allotment sites in the City.

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

### **Maidstone Drive**

A member of the public advised the panel that following works carried out to pavements in Maidstone Drive enormous dips had been left in the pavement, the slurry sealing had made footpaths useless when it rained as water pooled in the dips.

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

### **Car Parking Charges – Allenton Shopping Centre**

A member of the public re-iterated concern over the proposed car parking charges for Allenton Shopping Centre. Councillor Graves advised that Labour were also against this charging. Councillor Liversedge advised that he was also against the proposed car parking charges. The member of the public advised the panel that recently in the local press it stated that hard standings would also be charged for. Could the Council confirm this and give an explanation.

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

### **Newbridge Crescent/Hubert Shaw Close – Derelict Flats.**

A member of the public raised concerns mirrored by residents in Newbridge Crescent regarding Anti-Social behaviour around the derelict flats. They asked what the Council's intention for these flats was. Faye Brown advised that the flats were to be converted to disability dwellings. The area would be monitored for incidences of anti-social behaviour.

### **Rat Run**

A member of the public reported that St Peter's Road in Chellaston was being used as a rat run and asked that the Council do something about this.

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

### **Car Park, Allenton**

A member of the public advised the panel that the entrance to the car park in Allenton Shopping Centre, next to the Natwest Bank was very narrow. The privet hedges had become very overgrown and needed to be cut down to enable cars to drive in and out safely. He asked the Council to advise who was responsible for pruning these hedges.

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

### **Traffic Lights – Boulton Lane/Merrill Way.**

A member of the public was concerned that when turning right into Boulton Lane, a driver could not tell when in the middle of the road, if they had the right of way, as there was no filter light on the signals on the other side of the road.

Pat Ethelson advised that he would ensure the signals were looked at and the findings be reported at the next meeting.

### **Booth Street Green**

A member of the public asked why the Booth Street Green Project had been stopped and how was funding of £100,000 obtained without planning permission. Would the council still be carrying out this work.

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

### **Trees Newbridge Crescent**

A member of the public whose house backs onto the canal in Newbridge Crescent asked if trees at the bottom of their garden could be topped.

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

### **Pedestrian Crossings – Harvey Road**

A member of the public advised the panel that the pedestrian crossings on Harvey Road/Matthew Street and Harvey Road/Wyndham Street were not working properly due to children putting superglue around the button.

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

### **Rolls Royce – Nightingale Road**

A member of the public asked for information on any proposals for the Rolls Royce site on Nightingale Road.

**Agreed to ask the Director of Development and Cultural Services to respond to the next meeting.**

## **22/03 Petitions**

### **New Petitions**

#### **a Condition of pavements – Oulton Close, Shelton Lock**

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Oulton Close requesting the repair and resurfacing of pavements in their road. The lead petitioner addressed the panel advising that the road was used as a through route to Shelton Lock Junior School. The residents believed that the pavements were hazardous and unsafe for pedestrians, especially children and disabled people. The petitioner was advised that the appropriate officer would report back to the next meeting and they would be contacted directly with the outcome of the investigation.

#### **b Condition of trees, Whitehouse Close, Chellaston**

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents in Whitehouse Close requesting that the trees on land at the side of Whitehouse Close be pruned as their current condition was undermining the quality of lives by severely reducing the light flow in the living rooms of the residents. The lead petitioner addressed the panel and presented photographic evidence of Whitehouse Close prior to the trees being planted and up-to-date photos of how it looked now. He stated that there had been no management of this woodland and no one seemed to know

who planted it. He advised that they were looking for a sensible interpretation of the Council's tree management policy and they were not talking about removing any trees. Councillor Liversedge commented that he did visit the trees and rang the Telegraph in support of residents. He had difficulty in understanding the decision of the Council and that something should be done about these trees.

**Agreed to defer consideration of this petition to allow Councillor Liversedge to investigate the matter further.**

**c Condition of pavements – Hoveton Close, Shelton Lock**

The Panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Hoveton Close requesting the repair and resurfacing of pavements in their road. The lead petitioner addressed the panel advising that concern had been raised due to the state of the pavements which were totally unsuitable.

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

**d Request for closure of jitty between Chellaston Road and Woodthorne Avenue – Shelton Lock**

The panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Woodthorne Avenue requesting that the jitty between Chellaston Road and Woodthorne Avenue be closed due to recent crime and vandalism. The lead petitioner addressed the panel advising that burglaries and vandalism had increased and the jitty provided hiding holes and poor lighting enabling criminals to escape. The lead petitioner handed in further letters from residents requesting the closure of the jitty. A member of the public addressed the panel in objection to this request who saw that closing the jitty would have no effect on the crime rate and this jitty was a much established right of way. The jitty provided access for local residents to the shops and had been aligned with the crossing over Jubilee Road. Councillor Graves commented that the legality of closing the jitty was very complex. Councillor Hickson advised that officers would try and come up with a suitable solution for all concerned.

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

**e A514 – Shelton Lock**

The panel noted that a petition had been received from residents of Shelton Lock requesting that Derby City Council discourage motorists from driving at speeds in excess of the legal limit along the section of the A514 between the Welcome Service station and the Merrill Way traffic lights. The lead petitioner addressed the committee asking that an



additional speed camera be inserted on this stretch of road to ensure that cars did not exceed the speed limit.

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

### **Response to the petitions received**

**f Removal of Grass Verge fronting a house on Caroline Close, Alvaston**

The panel considered a report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services which advised that no action would be taken on the removal of grass verges. Environmental Health Officers were going to ensure that Dog Wardens monitor the area and that the tree outside number four would be removed and replaced by a new tree. Bill Reed advised the panel that highway officers had investigated this matter and regrettably considered it not to be viable. The lead petitioner was concerned that the removal of the tree outside number four and the suggestion of moving it outside number two was a problem. Councillor Graves advised that Officers should ensure that the lead petitioner was made aware of the proposed siting of the tree and asked that Officers consider the possibility of planting the tree in the same place as the old one.

**Agreed to note the report.**

**g Condition of Footways – Gladstone Close, Chellaston**

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services advising that highway maintenance officers had carried out an inspection of the footways. Some potholes in the carriageway were identified which had already been filled on a temporary basis and permanent repairs would be carried out within the next few weeks. The footways would have a surface treatment applied later in the year.

**Agreed to note the report.**

**h Petition – Erection of Gate in Boundary Fence, Wilmington Avenue, Alvaston**

Karen Crawley, Derby Homes, advised the panel that the resident had been informed to remove the gate and replace with fencing and they were consulting with all residents for suggestions of what to do with the car park. The resident who had inserted the gate addressed the panel and advised that the only reason he did this was due to the amount of rubbish in the car park that he had requested the Council to clear on numerous occasions. He created the gate, hired two skips and cleared the rubbish himself. Councillor Graves suggested that the residents take this issue to

the Allenton and Boulton Customer Panel where they may get backing from other residents.

### **23/03 Local Improvements Finance Trust Plan – LIFT – Improvements to Health Facilities in the Alvaston, Boulton and Chellaston Areas.**

Teresa Flower, consultant for the Primary Care Trust addressed the panel informing them of a new health centre to benefit residents in the Alvaston, Boulton and Chellaston wards which would be built on Harvey Road next to the petrol station. Teresa advised that she had been asked to talk with the Community visiting various groups to ask for their opinions on what they would like to see in this new health centre. This centre would be in support of residents' own GP practices, surgeries would not be closing, except the Boulton clinic surgery on Wyndham street which would be relocating all its services within the new health centre.

Teresa asked for any suggestions of services and facilities that residents would like to see in this new health centre. Examples given were ultrasound, x-rays, minor surgery and outpatient clinics. She also asked that the community advise if they thought this was a good idea or not.

A member of the public asked if there was any financial limit to this project. Teresa advised that there would be a budget but did not know what this was and would ensure that this was reported to the panel at the next meeting. Councillor Hickson commented that she had concerns that the chosen site was not central to residents in the Shelton Lock and Chellaston areas. Teresa advised that this site was chosen for many reasons but would ask the PCT to write directly to Councillor Hickson advising of these. The panel were advised that meetings would be taking place in the community, that everyone was invited to attend to receive information and discuss ideas for inclusion in this health centre. Councillor Graves thanked Teresa for her informative presentation.

### **24/03 Alvaston Environmental and Transport Improvements**

The panel considered a report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services asking that the panel support the extensive consultation and public participation for proposed Environmental and Transport improvements in the Alvaston area, due to commence in September 2003.

Paul Bate, Transportation Engineer advised the panel that during December 2003, the A6 Alvaston By-pass would open, and at the same time the responsibility for maintaining Shardlow Road and the A5111 ring road would transfer to the City Council from the Highways Agency.

He advised that there were short and long term environmental and transport issues which required addressing following these changes described above. In the long term proposals were being investigated for an Alvaston By-Pass extension. Some options had been developed for the route of this proposal, some of which were different from the route currently protected in the Local Plan. Paul advised that during the consultation period, the Council would be inviting views from the public, stakeholders and other interested groups on the options for the proposed by-pass extension.

Paul advised that the first phase of the consultation exercise would take place on 2,3 and 4 October 2003 in the Alvaston District centre, where residents would be asked to contribute suggestions for things that could be done to improve the roads in the Alvaston area. Also 10,000 leaflets would be delivered in the Alvaston area asking residents for their comments. In addition to this 600 letters would be sent to people who could be more affected by the bypass proposals. Paul asked that anyone interested in taking part in the consultation or wanted specific groups to be approached should contact him directly.

**Agreed that the Director of Development and Cultural Services would write to all members of the public in attendance at the meeting who lived in the Alvaston Ward, advising of the dates for the consultation.**

## 25/03 Review of the School Crossing Patrol Service

The panel considered a report of the Directors of Development and Cultural and Commercial Services advising of changes to the operation of the School Crossing Patrol Service. Pat Ethelston advised the panel that the main outcome of the review was that where there was now a fixed crossing, there would no longer be a school crossing patrol. Also, where sites previously approved for school crossing patrol no longer needed one, the service had been withdrawn. All parents in these areas would be advised through their local school. Any issues that were raised as a result of this review would be looked at on an individual basis.

**Agreed to note the report.**

## 26/03 Planning and Environment Commission – Review of Grass Cutting in Derby

The Panel considered a report of the Chair of the Planning and Environment Commission advising that they 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.

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.**

## 27/03 Area Panel Budget 2002/03 – Outturn

The panel considered a report of the Assistant Director of Community Policy 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.**

## 28/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/04

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

- To consider whether to support the application received from Derby Trailblazers Basketball Club to fund 5 free subscriptions to enable players from lower income families to participate in local league basketball competitions. The children who would benefit from this exemption would be chosen by the club based upon the enthusiasm shown by the applicants. Grant requested - £430.00.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Alvaston Street Neighbourhood Watch to fund the provision of 5 bins for dog litter. These bins would be located in Elvaston playing field, Green Land and the field behind St Michael's and All Angels Church. Grant requested – £1,035.00.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Derby City Council Parks Service, for improvements to Chellaston Recreation Ground. The proposal would fund the closure of an unofficial entrance in the hedge of the recreation ground and to create an appropriate entrance adjoining the pedestrian crossing. Grant requested - £1,675.00.

- To consider whether to support the application from Gad Khalsa Football Club. The proposal would be to fund equipment and fees for the football club, which runs 4 teams in leagues around Derby, specialising in youth teams. It had been made clear to the Club that they should expect only a small award, even if that Panel felt minded to agree the application. Grant requested - £4,486.00.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Osmaston Community Panel to fund a video newsletter. The Community Panel funded by Derby Homes, who had recently provided them with a lap-top computer and screen monitor, on which they intend to make prominent displays in the housing office and elsewhere. This equipment would complement the video camera. It was stated that if agreed the video camera would be held in the Local Housing Office enabling wider community groups to take advantage of the equipment. Grant requested - £1,180.00.

(Councillor Jackson took the chair during consideration of the following two applications).

- To consider whether to support the application received from Councillor Alan Graves to fund the closure of a gap in a fence on Eden Street. Grant requested - £165.00.
- To consider whether to support the application received from Councillor Alan Graves to enable pruning of several trees in Wilmorton, together with the complete removal of two trees and planting a replacement tree. Grant requested - £1,300.00.

### **Options Considered**

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

### **Decisions**

1. To award funding to the following applications:

- Derby Trailblazers Basketball Club, 5 free subscriptions. Grant £430.00.
- Alvaston Street Area Neighbourhood Watch, dog bins. Grant £1035.00 - dependent upon the decision to be made by Council Cabinet regarding the resources for the provision of dog bins.
- Derby City Parks - improvements to Chellaston Recreation Ground. Grant £1,675.00.
- Councillor Alan Graves, Eden Street fencing. Grant £165.00.

2. Not to award funding to the following application:

- Councillor Graves – Action on trees at Wilmorton

3. To defer decision on the following application:

- Gad Khalsa Football Club
  - The Panel requested that further information was presented at the next meeting:
    - a) To investigate the possibility of the football club getting funding from Sport and Community Grants
    - b) To look into the reasons why the football club were playing home games at Kilburn and not utilising a pitch in Derby City.

### **KEY DECISION**

- Osmaston Community Panel – video newsletter. Grant £1,180.

### **Reasons**

1. The application meets the criteria for Area Panel funding.
2. The proposal will enable residents to participate in activities within their community.
3. The application contributes to improvements, which will provide a benefit to all residents.

## **29/03 Arrangements for the next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the panel would be held in the Boulton Ward on Wednesday 12 November 2003 at Moorhead Primary School, Allenton, Derby.

**Agreed that Councillor Blanksby be appointed Chair for the next meeting.**

MINUTES END

