

Time Commenced – 6.00pm
Time Finished – 8.45pm

**AREA PANEL 3
(ABBEY, ARBORETUM AND NORMANTON)
11 JUNE 2003**

Present: Councillor F Hussain (Chair)
Councillors Burgess, A Hussain, Jackman, Kalia, Lowe, Nath,
Rehman and Williamson

Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary Officers

Julian de Mowbray	-	Group Leader, Environmental Health and Trading Standards
Sarah Edwards	-	Area Panel Manager
David Gartside	-	Head of Traffic
Sue Glithero	-	Director of Policy
Andy Luscombe	-	Principal Policy Officer, Community Safety Partnership
Paula Solowij	-	Local Manager, Stockbrook Street
Ian Wheatley	-	Ground Maintenance Manager
Inspector Atwal	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Inspector Parkin	-	Derbyshire Constabulary

Councillor Ahern and 32 members of the public were in attendance.

01/03 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from David Romaine, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

02/03 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/03 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2003 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to a number of typographical corrections.

05/03 Update

Sarah Edwards, Area Panel Manager, introduced a report, which set out responses to questions raised verbally or in writing at the last meeting.

Petition – Crompton Street Parking

David Gartside, Head of Traffic, explained that he had discussed the issue with Councillors Williamson and Bolton. Councillor Bolton had agreed that, on balance, it was not appropriate to issue parking permits for visitors. Given the change in administration, David Gartside undertook to brief the new Council Cabinet Member on the concerns of residents and report back to a future meeting of the Panel.

Councillor Burgess sympathised with members of the public who wanted the issue to be resolved. He suggested that he, Councillor Care, and David Gartside should meet soon to discuss the concerns.

It was noted that the Chair had received some correspondence on this matter, to which he would ask officers to respond.

Carlton Road

The meeting was advised that an exhibition on this issue had been set up in the Church foyer. It was noted that the matter would be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

Crossing at Sainsbury's Island, Kingsway

A member of the public asked whether it had been resolved who owned the land. He was advised that the slip road, off the ring road, was a private road. Officers had written to the owners to find out what they were able to do to improve pedestrian facilities. A reply was still outstanding.

Councillor Lowe added that he had been advised that were plans for a pedestrian crossing at Kingsway.

Petition – Home Zone in Chatham Street, Normanton

Councillor Kalia explained that in March, all residents of Chatham Street were asked if they would like a Home Zone or not. Most of the respondents indicated that they didn't want to be part of the Home Zone, as a result, Chatham Street would not be considered for inclusion in the Normanton Home Zone.

A member of the public pointed out that local residents hadn't been informed of this decision. Councillor F Hussain asked officers to write to everyone who had objected to Chatham Street being included in the Normanton Home Zone to let them know that it wouldn't be included.

Discarded Rubbish, Malandra Court

Officers reported that the rubbish had now been cleared and that a full-time caretaker would start work at Malandra Court on 16 June.

Junction of St Chad's Road, Overdale Road and Whittaker Road

A member of the public reported that the road layout was still causing problems. Cars were still speeding and there had been a number of accidents. He asked officers to do something to improve the situation.

Benefits Office, London Road

Councillor F Hussain advised the meeting that while benefit forms were now processed in Chesterfield, there was still a DfSS Counter Service in Beckett Street.

Response to a Petition – 'Rat Running' Traffic, Carlton Road, Derby

David Gartside, Head of Traffic, introduced a report which set out what officers had done to address concerns about 'rat running' along Carlton Road and the speed and volume of traffic on Whitaker Road. He drew members' attention to a display in the Church foyer, which included the results of the traffic monitoring that had taken place on different days and at different times. Also included were accident statistics for recorded injury accidents.

The meeting learnt that both the Council and the police were committed to improving road safety, however, because resources were limited it was necessary to prioritise where their efforts were concentrated. While there were problems in Carlton Road and Whittaker Road, there were other locations across the city that had more acute problems. Officers would continue to monitor the area and the police confirmed that they would carry out speed enforcement as their other duties allowed.

A resident of Carlton Road stressed how dangerous she considered the road to be. Within three years of moving in she had had two cats killed, her car written off, and seen seven collisions. She said that young people played in the street and feared that someone might get hurt. Often she had seen cars drive on the pavements. She was very determined to get the matter resolved, even if it meant sending daily letters to the police, Council and Derby Evening Telegraph. She pointed out that £200,000 was available in the area under SRB funding and that this money could be used for road improvements.

Another member of the public concurred with the view being expressed. He intended to let the police know whenever he saw vehicles speeding.

Inspector Atwall explained that the police could only carry out speed checks when their other duties allowed. Beat officers would continue to monitor the situation. He warned that specialist equipment was needed to monitor speeds to make sure that the data was reliable.

Resolved to note the report.

06/03 Public Question Time

Councillor F Hussain reminded the meeting that, if there wasn't time for everyone to ask their questions, then they should write them down on one of the questions forms so that officers could respond directly or through the next update report.

Littleover Brook, St Albans Road

A member of the public explained that, where he lived in St Albans Road, he had a legal obligation to keep the part of Littleover Brook that flowed through his back garden clear. He and his neighbours had become increasingly concerned by intruders on the other side of the Brook, who threw litter and other obstructions into the water. It was making it increasingly difficult for them to meet responsibilities to keep the Brook clear. Obstructions to the water flow had led to flooded properties in the past. The problem was expected to become more acute over the school holidays.

Councillor Burgess explained that he had, very recently, been alerted to the problem and that he had tried to find out what officers could do.

Paula Solowij, Local Manager, Stockbrook Street, explained that officers were prepared to remove rubbish from Portway, provided that the local residents had first removed it from the Brook. A local resident complained that it was unrealistic of the Council to expect them to remove concrete posts from the Brook.

It was agreed that officers would look into this matter further and provided a detailed update to the next meeting.

Sudbury Street

Sarah Edwards, Area Panel Manager, undertook to contact a member of the public to explain why Sudbury Street was an access only road.

A member of the public complained that the work that was being conducted at Mount Carmel Street by Jarvis, was taking a long time to complete. There were never more than 3 workers on site and they were progressing very slowly. Workers had now pulled off site and there was no clear information to say when they would be back to finish the work. It was agreed that officers would look into the matter and report back to the next meeting.

Connecting Derby

A member of the public asked when the Connecting Derby scheme would be reviewed. Councillor Burgess explained that a number of things had led to some elements of the scheme being postponed, this had given an opportunity for the new Council Cabinet member to look in detail at the proposals. If any changes were considered to be necessary, these would be publicised.

Resolved to note the report.

07/03 To Receive New Petitions

Dumping and Bonfires in Hartington Street

The Panel received a petition from residents of Hartington and Melbourne Streets about their concerns about the dumping / bonfires in the alleyway and front of Hartington Street. Residents were angry that, despite bringing this to the attention of officers, they considered that nothing had been done.

Councillor Kalia explained that when the matter was drawn to officers' attention last year, there had been a blitz on rubbish in the area and all debris had been removed. The numbers to call, if rubbish was spotted, had been widely advertised, so there was no reason why the problem should persist. He added that, while the Council could clear council-owned land of any rubbish, it could not tidy up privately-owned land.

It was agreed that officers would look into the matter and report back to the next meeting.

Sikh Temple, St James Road – Noise and Parking Issues

The lead petitioner addressed the meeting and explained that this was an ongoing problem and that the noise issue had been investigated by officers a number of years ago. At that time, local residents had been advised that the Temple couldn't afford the necessary soundproofing and the matter had remained unresolved. Parking also continued to be a problem.

A local resident was keen to stress that nobody wanted to stop the temple functioning, but they had asked the Council to mediate so that parking and noise issues could be resolved.

The meeting was advised that at times there was very little noise from the temple but at others it was audible in people's homes and so loud in gardens that they couldn't be used.

Julian de Mowbray, Group Leader, Environmental Health and Trading Standards, explained that officers had investigated the situation. He said that there were a substantial number of aggrieved residents in the area who could hear noise from the Temple in their houses. A detailed inspection of the Temple had shown that sky lights in the main hall needed to be sound proofed. It was hoped that this would be cheap and easy to remedy. Officers had spoken to leaders at the Temple and asked them to seek professional advice on how the soundproofing might be done.

Inspector Atwal said that there were very few painted lines on the road in the area. He would ask the local police officers the work with the leaders of the Temple and local residents to try to resolve the problem.

A member of the public asked the police to also look into the problems that arise in the local roads when the Temple had special events. These events caused particular problems to the local school. Inspector Atwal agreed to look into this matter.

Councillor F Hussain asked the representations of the Temple at the meeting to take on board the comments made and ask their worshipers to park their cars with care and investigate suitable soundproofing.

In response to a question from a member of the public, Julian de Mowbray explained that it wasn't illegal to amplify noise, but it did need to be kept to a level that wasn't a nuisance.

It was agreed that officers would continue to work with the Temple and local residents to try to resolve the problems and report back to the next meeting.

Drewry Lane - Residents Parking Tax

The Panel was advised that a petition had been received from residents of Drewry Lane opposed to a parking tax.

A resident of Drewry Lane addressed the meeting and explained that residents had been consulted about the parking permits. She supported the introduction of the permits.

Councillor Burgess said that he was aware of the concerns raised by the petition but, unfortunately, local residents were divided with many opposing and many supporting the permits. He was keen to see the scheme introduced, and was confident that once it had been introduced, residents would find it beneficial. It was necessary to charge £25 a year for the permits to make sure that the permit scheme was enforced.

The Panel agreed that the scheme should proceed as proposed. Once the scheme was up and running, if residents remained concerned then the Council could re-examine the issue at a later date.

Resolved to note the report.

08/03 Petitions on Discarded Needles- Response

Andy Luscombe, Principal Policy Officer, Community Safety Partnership, introduced a report, which set out how officers had begun to address the issues raised by the two petitions to the Panel on discarded needles. He explained that, currently, discarded needles were the responsibility of a number of organisations and different departments /services of the Council, which made resolving any issues very complex.

Officers did recognise the problems with discarded needles. Work was progressing towards producing advice leaflets and trying to get individual services to be more flexible. Meetings had been set up with headteachers to discuss discarded needles and suggest new ways of dealing with the problem. The value of all council-run premises having their own sharps boxes was being explored. It was hoped that, in the future, it would be possible to have a dedicated team with a vehicle to deal safely with discarded needles. However, this would have significant financial implications and a budget had not yet been identified.

A representative from St. Joseph's Church explained that the Church had recently had to pay £4,000 to clean up needles in its grounds. The Church had struggled to pay this bill.

One member of the public suggested that the Council try to encourage more pharmacies to have needle exchanges. Andy Luscombe explained that he had already spoken to the Needle Exchange Manager.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the range of options being considered by the Council and its partners and some of the early proposals being developed.**
- 2. To request that a further report be submitted to the Panel later in the year when more detailed arrangements have been finalised.**

09/03 Recommendations Arising from Commission's Review of Business Services in Derby

Councillor Ahern, who had been Chair of the Planning and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Commission, introduced a report which set out the recommendations arising from the Commission's review of bus services in Derby. He thanked the Panel and representatives from the bus companies for their contributions to the Review. He had copies of the full report available at the meeting if anyone wanted one.

Councillor Burgess thanked Councillor Ahern for the report. He considered that this was a good example of how valuable Area Panels and Overview and Scrutiny were to the new style of government.

Resolved to note the report.

10/03 The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings

David Gartside, Head of Traffic, introduced a report which set out the changes to the way in which pedestrian crossings would be assessed.

Councillor F Hussain welcomed the changes which would give more flexibility in determining whether or not a pedestrian crossing was required.

In response to a member of the public, Councillor Kalia confirmed that it was illegal to ride a bicycle on footpaths.

Resolved to note and support the changes to the way in which pedestrian crossings are assessed.

11/03 Crime Prevention on Public Rights of Way

David Gartside, Head of Traffic, presented a report to the Panel that provided information on the progress in dealing with new legislation for crime prevention on public rights of way.

The Panel noted that the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 added sections 118B and 119B to the Highways Act 1980 which give 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 a school from violence or other threats to their health and safety.

Officers had contacted the Police to find out where they considered this new power could be exercised. David Gartside explained that it was the intention to use this legislation sparingly.

Resolved to note the report.

12/03 Area Panel Budget Update

Sarah Edwards, Area Panel Manager, gave the Panel an update on the Area Panel Budget. It was noted that the full budget allocation from last year had been spent and that £22,059 was available for 2003/04.

The Panel agreed that the 2003/04 budget should be shared equally among the three wards.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the report**

2. **That the 2003/04 budget be allocated equally among the three wards.**

13/03 Area Panel Budget Proposals 2003/04

Sarah Edwards, Area Panel Manager, introduced a report which set out four new applications for area panel funding

1. **Derby City Council**

Derby City Council had applied for £2,412 for enhancements to Peartree Library.

Councillors Kalia, Nath, Burgess and F. Hussain all expressed their concerns about funding the Council to deliver core services. The application was refused because it was considered that the Area Panel Budget should be used for community projects, particularly as the budget was so limited.

2. **Derby Minority Senior Citizens Society**

Derby Minority Senior Citizens Society applied for £1,600 for two culturally sensitive summer outings for senior citizens. A representative from the Society addressed the meeting and explained that many of the members had worked hard all their lives and had rarely, if ever, had chance to enjoy outings. Now that they were retired, they were keen to explore new places.

Councillor F Hussain supported the application adding that the Society had provided a good service to Derby's minority senior citizens for 15 years.

As the Society had members from all three wards, it was agreed that the grant should be split between them, £600 each from the Normanton and Arboretum ward budgets and £400 from Abbey ward budget.

3. **Stockbrook Crime Prevention Group**

Stockbrook Crime Prevention Group had applied for £1,000 to contribute to a Community Day in Stockbrook on Sunday 6 July 2003. A representative from the Group addressed the meeting and explained what was planned for the Community Day.

Councillors Burgess and Kalia supported this application.

4. **St Peter's Church**

St Peter's Church had applied for £3,595 for the electrification of the tower clock. A representative from the church addressed the meeting and explained that the clock was currently wound by hand, however, it was becoming increasingly difficult to find

anyone to undertake this task. The Church was already having to raise significant funds for the roof and other improvements and it wouldn't be able to afford the electrification.

The Panel was sympathetic to the request but raised a number of concerns about the application. It was suggested that the Church might be eligible for funding from another organisation, perhaps relating to its location in the city centre or a heritage grant. The Panel noted that it had allocated £4,000 last year to the church and it was mindful that there were a number of other initiatives that might seek funding during this year. There were also concerns that the application didn't meet any of the corporate themes or priorities.

Options considered

The Panel considered the applications in line with the guidelines set out within the report. In deciding on the applications, the Panel assessed funding against its priorities.

Decisions

- 1 Not to award £2,412 to Derby City Council for enhancements to Peartree Library.

Key Decisions

- 2 To award £1,600 to Derby Minority Senior Citizens Society for two culturally sensitive summer outings for senior citizens. It was agreed that £600 should be funded from the Arboretum ward budget, £600 from the Normanton ward budget and £400 from the Abbey ward budget.
- 3 To award £1,000 to Stockbrook Crime Prevention Group for a Community Day in Stockbrook on Sunday 6 July 2003. It was agreed that this would be funded by the Abbey ward budget.
4. Not to award £3,595 to St Peter's Church to electrify the tower clock.

Reasons

1. **Derby City Council**
 - the Panel is keen to fund initiatives from the local community that benefit the local community
 - the Panel is reluctant to fund applications from Derby City Council for the provision of core services given that the Panel has such a limited budget.
2. **Derby Minority Senior Citizens Society**

- meets the Area Panel criteria for funding
- provides evidence of need
- the proposal will enable residents to participate in activities within their communities
- provides a service in response to the needs of local residents as raised at the area panel meeting
- contributes to improvements which will provide a benefit to all residents
- it is capable of rapid implementation, and can have a significant impact in a short time
- contributes to the delivery of the Council's corporate themes and priorities

3. Stockbrook Crime Prevention Group

- meets the Area Panel criteria for funding
- provides evidence of need
- the proposal will enable residents to participate in activities within their communities
- provides a service in response to the needs of local residents as raised at the area panel meeting
- contributes to improvements which will provide a benefit to all residents
- it is capable of rapid implementation, and can have a significant impact in a short time
- contributes to the delivery of the Council's corporate themes and priorities

4 St Peter's Church

- the project will benefit the whole of the city centre and isn't specifically related to the Arboretum ward
- the Panel consider that more suitable funding should be available from other organisations
- it doesn't contribute to the delivery of the Council's corporate themes and priorities

14/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

Resolved that Councillor Kalia Chair the next meeting of Area Panel 3, at 6pm on Wednesday 17 September 2003 at the Indian Community Centre, Rawden Street, Normanton.

MINUTES END