

ITEM 4

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 9.00 pm

AREA PANEL 4 (BLAGREAVES, LITTLEOVER AND MICKLEOVER WARDS) 30 NOVEMBER 2005

Present: Councillor Troup (Chair)
Councillors Care, Carr, Marshall, Skelton and Winter

Derby City Council, Derbyshire Constabulary and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue
Service Officers:

Ellen Bird	-	Constitutional Services Officer
Vickie Butler	-	Area Panel Support Officer
Richard Smail	-	Area Panel Manager
Paula Solowij	-	Derby Homes
Sergeant Bria	-	Derbyshire Constabulary
Ray Dring	-	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

60 members of the public were in attendance.

26/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hird, Jones and Allen

27/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

28/05 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Marshall, Skelton and Troup declared a Personal interest in minute number 35/05

29/05 Minutes

**Agreed that the Minutes of the Area Panel 4 meeting held on 28
September 2005 be confirmed as a correct record**

30/05 Petitions

To Receive new Petitions

There were none.

To Consider Petitions Received Since the Last Meeting

There were none.

Responses to Petitions Received

There were none.

31/05 Public Question Time

Councillors Care and Carr left the room during the discussion of any issues relating to planning matters as they sat on the Planning Control Committee and did not want to be drawn into any discussion which may prejudice their right to vote at a future Planning Control meeting

Flats on Station Road

A Mickleover resident asked the panel whether Mickleover Ward Councillors would commit themselves to attending a residents meeting to discuss objections to planning proposals to build flats on Station Road.

Councillor Winter reported that she had attended a site visit and that she was hoping to attend the Planning Control Meeting on the 8 December. She suggested that she would discuss this issue further with residents after the meeting.

Residents raised concerns that they had not been given the proper consultation period in order to submit their objections. Councillor Winter declared that she was aware of this issue and had raised her concerns with the Planning section.

A local resident highlighted that 14 trees which were covered by Tree Protection orders would, in his opinion be affected by this application.

Another resident queried what the Council was doing to protect the character and amenity of Station Road. Councillor Winter responded that she was very concerned about this area and the implications for the cumulative affect of traffic in the area if large scale or densely populated developments were permitted.

The panel discussed the limitations of the Planning Control Committee in making their decisions within Planning Guidelines which were set by the Government.

Resolved to invite Planning Officers to a future meeting to explain planning procedures and policies issues in greater depth to the panel.

Stenson Road

A resident from Charnwood Avenue explained to the panel he had nearly been involved in an accident on a crossing on Stenson Road and was concerned about the safety of this busy road.

He asked what could be done to ensure that if further high density developments were developed, Section 106 agreements would be attached to the development to ensure that more crossings and traffic calming measures could be paid for.

The panel agreed that section 106 agreements should be arranged for large scale developments wherever possible.

Safer Routes to School

A resident asked the panel why the money spent on St George's Travel Plan had not produced any noticeable improvements. She cited areas where she had seen parents parking unsafely and not wearing their seat belts.

Councillor Troup responded that best practice guidelines had been followed and the travel schemes had been developed through close working with local schools. Sergeant Bria reported that they tried to positively police traffic during the hours of 8am to 9am to reduce the impact of the school run.

Councillor Troup reported that the scheme would continue to be monitored by the Council.

King George V Playing Fields

A local resident informed the panel that the signs in King George V playing fields implied that the paths were cycle routes and that this was causing problems for pedestrians.

The panel noted the concerns.

Flower beds

A local resident asked why flower beds were being grassed over near the bowling green and said that he did not feel Mickleover, Blagreaves and Littleover were receiving their fair share of funds for flower displays.

Councillor Care reported that lottery bids for large projects had to demonstrate that funding for maintenance and upkeep was available, this meant that certain areas had priority funding for upkeep and maintenance. She reported that welfare issues rather than quality of life issues were also given priority funding and therefore sometimes some flower beds were turfed to save funds.

Distribution of Area Panel Papers

The Panel was asked whether they would confirm their support for the wider distribution of full agenda papers by post.

A resident said that they felt it was a waste of paper and that they were happy with the old system whereby the front agenda papers were distributed without the background papers.

Councillor Care informed the public that the decision had been taken by full Council to revert to sending out the full pack of papers. She had voted against the change as there was an additional cost of £20,000 to the Council.

Richard Smail reminded all those present that the papers were available on line and they could request the papers be sent to them directly by completing the attendance sheet when they signed in at the start of the Area Panel Meeting.

32/05 Neighbourhood Policing

Sergeant Bria informed the Panel that all police forces were currently being asked by the Government to respond to consultation about proposals to merge local police forces into larger and potentially more streamlined forces. He informed the panel that he would bring further details of the proposals and the outcomes of the consultation to a future meeting.

Sergeant Bria went on to inform the Panel about the changes to Neighbourhood Policing. He said that the Peartree section would be broken up into 5 areas. The Panel noted that from the 1 December policing boundaries would change to reflect the new areas. Beat Managers will be supported by Police and Community Support Officers and additionally Special Officers will be given specific areas of responsibility.

A member of the public queried how they would be informed of their local beat officer's details. Sergeant Bria informed the Panel that the beat officer would spend approximately 95% of their time on their patch and that they would have a dedicated mobile phone number. He said that pamphlets were being left in local shops with the details of their local beat officer.

It was noted that the beat officer would strengthen communication with Council colleagues to help tackle anti-social behaviour and issues like graffiti. It was reported that a beat officer would work shifts and that there would be continued efforts to recruit more neighbourhood watch coordinators.

Resolved to note the presentation.

33/05 Proposed Operation of Trial for Cosmetic Work to Trees

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Commercial Services regarding the proposed operation of a trial for cosmetic work to trees. The report informed the Panel that £1,000 would be available for each area panel to spend on cosmetic tree work within the tree management policy. The panel noted that the proposed budget for cosmetic work to trees was for this financial year.

Resolved to note the report.

34/05 Health Briefing from Primary Care Trusts

A briefing from the Primary Care Trusts was considered.

Resolved to note the Health Briefing from the Primary Care Trust

35/05 Area Panel Budget Proposals

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

1. The Panel considered whether to support the application received from Gayton Community Centre to fund an extension for Disabled People's toilets. The funding request was for £1000.

The Panel noted that the applicant was making a significant contribution to the cost of the new facilities themselves.

Resolved to approve the application for £1000 subject to planning approval.

2. The Panel considered whether to support an application from Newmount Brass to fund equipment for the band. The funding request was for £2000.

The Panel noted that the Band was as self-supporting as possible but that they had a large number of professional engagements next year and required a more professional image.

Resolved to approve the application for £2000

3. The Panel considered whether to support an application from the Royal British Legion (Mickleover) Club Ltd to fund a feasibility study. The application was for £1950.

The Panel noted that the application was to fund a professional feasibility study to review and specify the most appropriate renewable energy plan for the club house development.

Resolved to refuse the application.

4. The Panel considered an application from Littleover Lane Allotments Association to fund a site office conversion. The original application was for £3450. The applicant amended their application to £2670.

The Panel noted that several local schools used the Allotment Site including some schools in Area Panel 3's area. The Panel noted that Planning approval had not yet been granted for the site office conversion.

Resolved to approve £2000 towards the bid, subject to planning approval, and to ask Richard Smail to assist the applicant to make a further application to Area Panel 3.

36/05 Update Report

The Panel considered an update report on the progress of community issues raised at previous meetings. The report included details of the issues raised, the proposed actions and the progress to date. The following issues in the report were discussed in detail:

Stenson Road Roadworks, Blagreaves

A resident asked whether Stenson Road would be resurfaced again following all the works by Utility Companies.

Millennium Wood

A resident raised concerns that the Wood was a potential target area for muggers as there was only one entrance to the site. The Panel noted that Councillor Dhindsa had informed the resident that he saw this area as a priority. Councillor Care felt that the best way to progress issues was by establishing a Friends of Millennium Wood Group. A local resident informed the Panel that Derby CVS had been extremely helpful in helping to set up another 'Friends of...' Group.

Bendall Green Path

A resident thanked the Panel for the installation of the signs, however, he was concerned that the inspection of the path had not identified a dangerous hole in the pavement. He offered to send a photograph to officers for them to see the problem. The Panel asked that details of the exact location of the problem be sent to officers.

Improvements to non-traditional Housing, Bendall Green

A resident commented that progress had been made but that there was still some work to be done.

Parking Problems Devonshire Drive and East Avenue

A resident reported that there were still problems in this area with people driving dangerously. He asked that officers visit the area and enforce the parking restrictions urgently to prevent a serious accident.

Councillor Winter agreed to inform the local Police officers and ask them to visit again.

Request for Pedestrian Crossing, Station Road

A resident referred to the recent fatality on Station Road and asked if this tragic event would encourage the Council to install a Crossing. He explained that his son struggled to cross the road each day to get to school. He asked if pedestrian crossings were linked to the Safer Routes to School plans and if so, could anything more be done to encourage schools to develop plans.

Councillor Winter said the Panel would work hard to progress this issue but stated that unless the location in question achieves the criteria set out for pedestrian crossings, it was unlikely that, a crossing would be installed. It was confirmed that survey work had resumed on the road to establish its eligibility for a crossing.

Planning Application for East Midlands Airport

Councillor Care reported that the Airport was producing a 'Masterplan' which would be used for consultation in April/May 2006.

The Panel agreed to invite the Airport to a future meeting to discuss their proposals.

Recycling, Blagreaves Lane

A resident highlighted the continued problems with Fly Tipping at a recycling site on Blagreaves Lane. He said that this was regularly cleared away when it was reported but asked whether the site could now be closed permanently now that roadside collections were regularly taking place.

The Panel agreed to investigate this problem.

37/05 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

The Panel noted that the next meeting would be held at Littleover Methodist Church in Littleover Ward on the 18 January 2005 at 6.30pm.

Minutes End