



meeting notes

Title: Ilkeston and North Community Forum

Date: 16 January 2014

Venue: Gladstone Lodge, Market Street, Ilkeston

Apologies: Gill Riley; Cllr Michelle Booth; Cllr Val Custance; Cllr Frank Phillips; Inspector Nick Daines; Paul Jameson (Derbyshire County Council).

No.	Subject	Action / Lead Officer
1	<p>Welcome from the Chair (Patrick Pritchett) Patrick Pritchett (PP) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Matters arising from the previous meeting</p>	
2.1	<p>Update regarding the 'Living Wage' (item 2.2). There is no further progress to report regarding the 'living wage' being applied at Erewash Borough Council.</p>	
2.2	<p>Derbyshire County Council budget cut (item 3.2)</p> <p><i>Response received from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 13/01/14:</i> The council will always seek to protect the most vulnerable groups as part of the requirement to reduce its budget over the coming years. As part of this approach it is constantly looking for ways to achieve reductions that do not affect the frontline by reducing overheads, streamlining property use, gaining better value from suppliers and other similar efficiencies.</p> <p>The council is also looking at how best to prioritise services and has undertaken a large public consultation over the Summer / Autumn of 2013. At the same time the council continues to press Government to provide additional resources to local government. Inevitably, however, with funding reductions of the scale that are proposed there will be changes to services that many residents value.</p>	
2.3	<p>Parking at Shipley Country Park (item 3.7)</p> <p>Councillor Frudd noted that the issue with the parking machines had been resolved. It was noted that, unfortunately, since Councillors Frudd and Birkin's efforts in addressing the vandalism issue, the machines had been vandalised again.</p>	

3	The Victoria Park Heritage Lottery Bid	
3.1	PP introduced Dave Bramwell (DB), Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council.	
3.2	DB started his presentation by explaining the scope of work covered by Erewash Borough Council's Green Space and Street Scene team; a small team managing over 1,000 pieces of Erewash Borough Council owned land and amenity maintenance for Derbyshire County Council. This includes 101 parks and open spaces. The two main parks are West Park (127 acres) and Victoria Park (8 acres).	
3.3	There has been three years of development of Victoria Park. Green Flag Status was achieved in 2011 and has now been achieved for three years running. Anti-social behaviour on the park has significantly reduced over this time period.	
3.4	Support has been received from the Duke of Rutland to re-instate, renovate and preserve the heritage features of the park. Originally a bid was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for renovation work on the bandstand only. The HLF considered this too small a project in terms of its scope and turned it down. It was then decided to go for a larger bid looking at other aspects of the park too. In August 2012 an application was submitted to the HLF for this purpose.	
3.5	In December 2012 Erewash Borough Council were awarded a first stage grant of £60k to produce a detailed Development Plan. Erewash Borough Council has been working with a company called URS on the bid. The plan is to be submitted to the HLF in February 2014. Success at this stage will result in a second stage grant of £682k to implement the plan. The Erewash Borough Council contribution will be £44k.	
3.6	The stage two bid is split into three main sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Management Plan; • Management and Maintenance Plan; • Activity Plan – the HLF want to know how the park will be used. 	
3.7	Community involvement and consultation will be the key to success. For example, Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy has adopted the park. DB explained that he would like the meeting attendees to share their thoughts on the proposals via a feedback form. The form was distributed for attendees to complete at the conclusion of the presentation.	
3.8	The bandstand was opened in 1923 at a cost of £463. In the resident consultation that was completed in the summer of 2013 96% of respondents supported the bandstand being renovated. Over the years the roof has been changed and the structure now	

	looks worse for wear. DB showed an architect's image of what the refurbished bandstand would look like. The bandstand would be taken away from the park for the renovation work and reinstated to how it was, e.g. roofing, cast iron gutters.	
3.9	<p>The bowls pavilion was opened in 1923. It has been subjected to vandalism over the years. The proposals would make changes to the interior of the building. One driving factor for this is the lack of toilet facilities on the park. Consultation with residents illustrated that families prefer toilet facilities and a refreshment kiosk within the park. The bowls pavilion proposal therefore includes toilet facilities, with an accessible toilet and baby changing facilities.</p> <p>There are just 18 members of Ilkeston Victoria Park Bowls Club now. Bowls is a declining sport but, hopefully, the proposed work would encourage people to take up the sport. The bowls club are in favour of the proposed changes.</p>	
3.10	The pergola. The current pergola was installed in the 1980s and is not very structurally sound. The new design of the pergola will try and reflect the original as much as possible. It will be made of European oak, a sustainable timber. It will have different trailing plants over it. The new design will also take into account accessibility for older generations and residents with mobility issues.	
3.11	The entrance gates. All we have currently are two bollards to prevent cars from entering the park. We'd like to recreate the original design. The proposed installation would be made of steel and be vandal resistant. The gates would provide a nice entrance to the park. We looked at putting railings all around the park but the resident consultation stated that people preferred the current open access arrangements, as this is what they've had since the 1940s.	
3.12	We are looking to increase the range of play facilities, including the use of temporary installations such as a climbing wall.	
3.13	We will also look to include art installations. For example, installations designed by young people of Ilkeston to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and making reference to the industrial heritage of the area (e.g. reflecting the mining history of the northern part of the borough).	
3.14	Interpretation panels will be restored / re-instated. These are particularly useful for visitors to the park who are not from the local area.	
3.15	There will be an exhibition of the park's history.	
3.16	An Education Pack will be produced for use in local schools. We will look to develop this in partnership with Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy.	
3.17	All this activity is with a view to increasing the usage of the park	

	in numbers, types of visitors and range of activities.	
3.18	We are looking to recruit a dedicated Park Ranger, to be based at Victoria Park. The role would work with the Friends of Victoria Park volunteers' group and the local schools to develop activities for the park. We want to encourage more groups to use the park.	
3.19	We will also look to recruit two apprentices to assist with the restoration work on a three year apprenticeship scheme. It would be fantastic if the two apprentices were from Ilkeston. We would then look at the possibly of employing them on a permanent basis as part of Erewash Borough Council's Green Space and Street Scene team.	
3.20	<p><i>Councillor John Frudd:</i> Are the proposed park gates vandal resistant? Would they possibly be a target for scrap collectors?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space & Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> The proposed gates would have special fixings in the ground. They would have a middle tube section and an outer layer. If someone were to attack the gates with an angle grinder the middle tube would spin, therefore not allowing them to create any purchase when trying to cut through the metal.</p>	
3.21	<p><i>Councillor Glennice Birkin:</i> A Bristol Road resident has previously mentioned to me the tendency for youths to visit the park in the early part of summer evenings with alcohol. How will the proposed Park Ranger deal with such an issue at these times?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space & Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> The Park Ranger will work the most appropriate hours. As the park receives the majority of its visitors at a weekend it will be appropriate for the Park Ranger to focus their working hours on the weekend.</p>	
3.22	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> Is lighting proposed for the park?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space & Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Just on the bandstand. It would cost £70k to light the whole park because the power supply would need upgrading. There's the on-cost to think of too. In West Park it can cost up to £10k every year to keep all the lighting working along the National Cycle Route that runs through the park. This is typically because of vandalism to lighting columns.</p>	
3.23	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> Is CCTV proposed for the park?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space & Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i></p>	

	<p>No. We receive very few reports of vandalism on the park.</p> <p><i>Resident #2:</i> There are certainly a lot fewer reports of vandalism compared to when I moved in near the park seven years ago.</p>	
3.24	<p><i>Councillor Ernest Bevan:</i> I think it's a brilliant scheme. Has the Duke of Rutland made a financial contribution to the scheme?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space & Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> He's been very supportive of the project. He has written a letter of support to the HLF stating that Erewash Borough Council needs their financial support to complete the proposed work.</p>	
3.25	<p><i>Councillor Carol Hart:</i> The original proposal was for work on the bandstand only. £30k was set aside for this purpose. Is the £30k included in Erewash Borough Council's proposed £44k contribution to the project?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space & Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> We have had £30k allocated for a number of years with a view to using it to develop the project. The £30k was carried forward in our budgets so we have had to find just another £14k for our February 2014 project bid to the HLF. Following our submission to the HLF in February one of their representatives will be tasked with condensing our submitted information to 2,500 words. This person will then have just four minutes to present the case on our behalf to those at the HLF who will decide if we can have the grant money requested. We should find out their decision in September 2014. If successful we would then look to start work on site in January 2015. The weather at this time of year will not be an issue as a lot of the work can take place off-site (e.g. the temporary removal of the bandstand) or inside (e.g. the refitting of the inside of the bowls pavilion). The original opening date for the park was 1 August 1923, and we have a photograph of the local dignitaries of the time posing for the camera at this ceremony. I think it would be rather fitting if we could recreate a similar photograph at an opening ceremony on 1 August 2015.</p>	
3.26	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> How much of the renovation / restoration work will be awarded to local manufacturers?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space & Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> It depends on how competitive they are. They will have to meet our criteria and bid for the contracts that are available.</p>	
3.27	<p>DB concluded the presentation by asking attendees to look at the architects' maps provided and complete their feedback forms to comment on the proposals. This activity took place during a five minute comfort break. PP thanked DB for his presentation.</p>	

4	Questions for officers	
4.1	<p><i>Question received in advance from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Little Hallam Hill, Ilkeston</u></p> <p>A resident reported an incident on Little Hallam Hill in Ilkeston, on the sharp bend just above the Bulls Head public house. The resident was walking in the direction of the Bulls Head when a large lorry came around the corner mounting the pavement. Luckily, she was next to some steps into someone's garden and could 'escape' on to them. Had she been a few feet further on she would have been trapped and most probably seriously injured as the lorry came within approximately nine inches of the wall.</p> <p>The resident spoke to another resident who explained that they have campaigned for a crossing between Bulls Head and this corner because of this very problem but with no success.</p> <p>What can be done about this issue?</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council issued a response (prior to the meeting) on 16/01/14:</i></p> <p>Although the resident has my sympathies, it is unlikely that the situation described would have been prevented by the provision of a crossing. There is enough carriageway width for HGV's to get round here without mounting the kerb, given the appropriate level of care negotiating the bend. I would suspect that the driver's behaviour could be determined as driving without due care and attention and therefore would have advised the resident to report the matter to the police. There is little that could be done from an engineering perspective. As I say, there is sufficient carriageway width for HGV's to negotiate the bend and widening of the carriageway would seem pointless (I suspect we would have to remove the footway to do so).</p> <p>In regard to a pedestrian crossing; we carried out a survey a couple of years ago which showed high numbers of pedestrians crossing further down the road. Unfortunately, this would not be a suitable position for a controlled crossing as large vehicles would be rounding the bend, coming downhill and may then be confronted with a red light and be unable to stop. In addition, there are numerous private accesses here which would make it difficult to site such a crossing. Consideration was given to signalling the small roundabout at the Bulls Head and incorporating a pedestrian phase. This, however, would be very expensive and may have a knock-on effect on congestion.</p> <p><i>Resident:</i></p> <p>There are lots of accidents in this area. One possibility could be to change the white lines on Little Hallam Lane by a metre or so to give the lorries more room when negotiating the corner. This would surely be relatively inexpensive.</p>	

	<p><i>Response received from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 24/01/14:</i> Dropping the junction markings further back would severely restrict visibility for vehicles exiting Little Hallam Lane. Indeed, there would be very little view, if any, of vehicles travelling downhill on Lower Stanton Road. As such, this would lead to a situation where vehicles are potentially exiting Little Hallam Lane 'blind', greatly jeopardising road safety here. On this basis, the proposal to reposition the junction markings cannot be supported.</p> <p>As stated in the response to the original query; there is sufficient width within the existing carriageway for HGV's to negotiate the bend, given the appropriate amount of care and attention.</p> <p>A check of the personal injury history here reveals one collision in 2011 – involving a driver under the influence of alcohol. There have been no injury collisions at this location since.</p> <p><i>Councillor John Frudd:</i> It is a very tight corner. A vehicle knocked down a wall at this location relatively recently. I don't think the road is of adequate size to accommodate large vehicles. A pedestrian crossing is certainly not a possibility for the reasons stated.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> We need a sign that directs pedestrians towards the public footpath that runs near to the Bulls Head. The path is away from the road. I live on Catherine Avenue and I advise my children to use this path to protect them from the traffic on this busy route. The path does need better lighting, however. It's also a bit overgrown with vegetation from neighbouring properties and a little neglected.</p> <p><i>Councillor John Frudd:</i> It's a question to put to Councillor Michelle Booth as this is part of her county council area.</p> <p><i>Councillor Carol Hart:</i> It's worth checking to see if there is a fund available, linked to community safety, for installing lighting along this pathway.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> I will write an e-mail to Councillor Michelle Booth to see what options are available.</p>	<p>Chair to write to Councillor Michelle Booth</p>
4.2	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Phone mast in White Lion Square, Ilkeston</u> Was consideration given to the restriction of view to traffic when travelling from the direction of Stanton Road towards the roundabout?</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I would advise that we ask the question of Laurence Rayner,</p>	<p>Ian Marsden to</p>

	<p>Lead Planning Enforcement Officer for Erewash Borough Council.</p> <p><i>Councillor John Frudd:</i> I think it is the case that a phone mast up to 15 metres in height does not require planning consent.</p> <p><i>Response from Laurence Rayner, Lead Planning Enforcement Officer, Erewash Borough Council on 17/01/14:</i> Generally speaking the installation, alteration or replacement of telecoms equipment is permitted development (i.e. it does not require express planning permission), subject to certain conditions and limitations and also subject to the code system operator prior notifying the council in writing of their intention to carry out the work. In these circumstances the only matters that can be taken into account by the council are the siting and the design of the proposed telecoms equipment. Highway matters cannot be taken into account.</p> <p>With regards to the 15m monopole and associated cabinet located in the pedestrian refuge in White Lion Square, the council did give prior approval for the equipment in April 2013. It appears, however, that the monopole was subsequently sited in a different location to that shown on the opposite side of the refuge (i.e. a few metres to the east). On this basis, a retrospective planning application, ERE/0114/0008, has been submitted that seeks consent to retain the monopole in its current location. As part of this application the comments of the Highways Authority have been sought.</p>	<p>contact Laurence Rayner.</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Free car parking</u> Is the free car parking rule still in force in our local car parks (8:00am to 10:00am)? If so, where are the notices explaining this?</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Yes, free parking does still cover these times and people are advised of this on the white notice boards situated behind car parking ticket machines.</p>	
<p>4.4</p>	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Fire service</u> With the fire service having to cut back to one fire engine for Ilkeston could the proportions of Council Tax be looked at so they get a better share in line with the police?</p> <p><i>This question is to be forwarded to Councillor Roland Hosker in his role as Chair of the Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority.</i></p> <p><i>Ian Marsden forwarded the question to Councillor Roland Hosker via e-mail on 17/01/14.</i></p>	

	<p><i>Response from Councillor Roland Hosker received on 17/01/14:</i> The Fire Authority (which I chair) will be looking at the Council Tax issue.</p>	
4.5	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Dog fouling</u> Regarding dog mess, is there a pit pony loose on South Street, Bath Street and Market Street?! Do you consider dog licensing?</p> <p><i>Councillor Glennice Birkin:</i> The problem is the few irresponsible dog owners.</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> There is no dog licence. Councillor Birkin makes a good point that it is the irresponsible dog owners who cause the issue. The difficulty is that we have to be there as the act is committed to take any action against the dog owner; we have to witness it. We are trialling different methods for getting the message out about the expectations of being a dog owner, e.g. stencil markings reminding dog owners to clear up after their dogs. There has been a mixed reaction to these efforts.</p> <p>Please supply me and my team with any information you have regarding dog fouling. I am happy to arrange for the team to complete covert patrols to spot dog owners not clearing up after their dogs. We have a text message line (07792 701583) for residents to report any incidents of dog fouling. As the lighter nights come we will start more campaigns to tackle the issue.</p> <p><i>Resident #2:</i> Is there any way of checking that the dog owners are carrying dog poo bags when they are out with their pet?</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> There isn't because they could say they have just used the dog poo bags and disposed of them.</p> <p><i>Councillor Carol Hart:</i> Am I correct in thinking that there is going to be some consultation on this topic in the near future?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Yes, that's correct. In March this year we intend to ask residents about their awareness of all the different aspects of our Neighbourhood Dog Warden Service. We suspect that there are certain parts of the service, such as our Dog Registration Scheme or our dog micro chipping service that a number of dog owners are just not aware of. Where residents are aware of the service we will be asking them to tell us how satisfied they currently are with it.</p> <p><i>Councillor Glennice Birkin:</i> Has dog fouling become worse since the free dog poo bags are</p>	

	<p>no longer available to collect from Erewash Borough Council?</p> <p><i>Scott Cartledge, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> No, I don't think so. One of the issues of supplying the free dog poo bags was that people from neighbouring authorities would come into Erewash to collect our bags.</p>	
4.6	<p><i>Councillor Ernest Bevan:</i></p> <p><u>Wind turbine near Bennerley Viaduct</u> Broxtowe Borough Council approved the application for the turbine. I thought the meeting might be interested to hear the response from Erewash Borough Council.</p> <p><i>The Chair was passed a printed e-mail containing a response from Richard Snow, Development Control Manager, Erewash Borough Council that was originally issued to Broxtowe Borough Council as part of the planning application process. The response stated that Erewash Borough Council "support the principles behind the application regarding the increased supply of renewable energy but have concerns regarding the height of the proposed turbine in a green belt area. In addition there is concern over the impact on the setting of Bennerley Viaduct, a Grade II listed structure, together with the view from north Ilkeston and Cotmanhay as it is seen that the structure would dominate the landscape".</i></p> <p><i>Resident:</i> What is going to happen regarding the wind turbine? I live on Church Street and it looks awful.</p> <p><i>Councillor Carol Hart:</i> Each application for a wind turbine has to be judged on planning grounds and not on whether people think they are an effective way of providing power. Judging such an application on planning grounds means considering the visual impact and the possible upset that would be caused to people living near to the proposed site. Erewash Borough Council has three such applications to consider at the moment. Our Planning Committee has turned them down in the past. If such a planning application was rejected on non-planning grounds then, if the applicant submitted an appeal, they would probably win.</p>	
4.7	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Shipley Country Park car park ticket machines</u> Regarding the continuing vandalism of the car park ticket machines at Shipley Country Park, have the police had any feedback on this issue? To repair the machines seems futile.</p> <p><i>Sergeant John Troup, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> The issue has not been reported to the Ilkeston section as it would be covered by 'C' division. I can go back and ask what is being actioned and update next time. I will contact Amber Valley's Safer Neighbourhood Team's Sergeant.</p>	Sergeant Troup to update at the next meeting.

	<p><i>Resident #2:</i> How much does it cost to repair these car park ticket machines and how does that cost compare to the income generated from the machines?</p> <p><i>Resident #3:</i> Could an alarm be fitted to the machines?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I will contact Paul Jameson at Derbyshire County Council to seek a response to the questions raised.</p> <p><i>Councillor James Dawson:</i> John Holmes is the ranger at Shipley Country Park. He may be able to answer some of the issues raised.</p> <p><i>Response received from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 24/01/14:</i> The cost to replace the machines at the Coppiceside car park at Shipley worked out at approximately £1,743 each – at a total spend of £5,229 for that car park.</p> <p>At the Mapperley car park we replaced the old machine with a newer machine with a view to taking card payments. This cost £2,700.</p> <p>Despite the costs incurred from vandalism and theft, we have so far taken in the region of £50,000 from the car park this financial year (figure provided 22/01/14).</p> <p>We have proposed to install a 24hr-monitored CCTV camera over the machines later this spring (this is subject to Cabinet Member approval).</p> <p><i>Further response received from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 28/02/14:</i> The machines are now linked to the security company who monitor the building alarms and they should respond if the machines are tampered with out of hours.</p>	<p>Ian Marsden to contact Paul Jameson.</p>
<p>4.8</p>	<p><i>Councillor Jane Wilson:</i></p> <p><u>Road repairs in Cotmanhay</u> Derbyshire County Council has previously allocated money for road repairs in Cotmanhay, about £48k. When will this work start and when will it be completed?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I will contact Paul Jameson at Derbyshire County Council to seek a response.</p> <p><i>Response received from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 24/01/14:</i> Carriageway patching is programmed to be undertaken on Cotmanhay Road and is due to start in February 2014.</p>	<p>Ian Marsden to contact Paul Jameson.</p>

4.9	<p><i>Councillor Jane Wilson:</i></p> <p>On Skeavington's Lane, near to Cotmanhay Junior School, there is a speed hump. It is being used as a crossing point by parents and children. There is a chance that an accident could occur here as a result. What are the chances of installing a pedestrian crossing at this location?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I will contact Paul Jameson at Derbyshire County Council to seek a response.</p> <p><i>Response received from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 24/01/14:</i> A pedestrian count was undertaken in March / April 2013 following a request to convert the existing plateau to a zebra crossing.</p> <p>The results concluded that a formalised crossing could not be justified here. Although there were a reasonable number of pedestrians identified during the morning and afternoon peak periods, the number of vehicles was extremely low, giving pedestrians ample opportunity to cross without the need of a formal crossing.</p> <p>A check of the personal injury history in recent years reveals that a collision took place in 2011; this was not pedestrian-related.</p>	Ian Marsden to contact Paul Jameson.
4.10	The Chair closed the meeting at 8:25pm.	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting Tuesday 8 July 2014, 7:00pm. Venue to be confirmed.</p>	