



**West/Central Area Committee
(City Councillors representing Castle, Market
and Newnham Wards)
25 October 2007 7:30pm –10.40pm
Minutes & Actions**

Present: Councillors: Simon Kightley (Chair), Marie-Louise Holland and Tania Zmura (Castle Ward), Colin Rosenstiel and Joye Rosenstiel (Market Ward), Rod Cantrill and Julie Smith (Newnham Ward)
County Councillor: Gaynor Griffiths (Market Ward), David White (Castle Ward)

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07/38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from City Councillors Mike Dixon (Market Ward) and Sian Reid (Newnham Ward) and County Councillor Alex Reid (Newnham Ward)

07/39 Before the start of the meeting, representatives from Groups who had received community development or leisure grants came for light refreshments and to meet councillors.

A brief presentation was then given by representatives of two of the organisations.

Sue Lawley from Newnham Youth Club explained that the Club

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had been started by a group of mums. Before they began, they consulted young people and other youth groups. The grant was helpful in enabling the Club to publicise its activities and as a result 20-25 young people were coming each week compared to around 15 before the publicity campaign. The Club has 4 volunteers and some paid workers and most of the costs are for salaries. There is a close link with the City Council's Youth Work Team. Sue Lawley said that there were pockets of deprivation even in Newnham and the Club had been able to include young people from more disadvantaged backgrounds and one with special needs. A First Aid course and a trip to Mepal Outdoor Centre had been arranged.

Peter Wetherall from Directions Plus described the organisation as one providing advice and an information service to enable individuals who use the service to reach their own decisions. As well as the staff providing information, there are two caseworkers and the grant of £1500 had enabled Directions Plus to provide additional casework for up to 30 people in the financial year. Twenty had been helped up to now. No one is turned away. He also said it would probably surprise the meeting to know that there were pockets of poverty even in Newnham. They did a lot of work with people living in sheltered schemes. Many of the elderly worry about the means test element in any assessment for benefits and helping them over this can mean that someone's income per week can double as a result of receiving the benefits to which they are entitled. For example, one woman was on £80 per week less than she was entitled to because no one told the Department of Work and Pensions that she had been discharged from a stay in hospital and such a scenario was not uncommon.

07/40 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 August 2007 were corrected so that the relevant interests were in the section Declarations of Interest:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Code of Conduct personal interests were declared as follows:

Councillor	Item	Nature of interest
Dixon	Review of	As Chair of the Council's
Smith	Review of	As a member of the Licensing

Code of Conduct personal interests in planning applications were declared as follows:

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Reid	07/0548/FUL	the applicant Friend of the Fitzwilliam Museum
White	07/0548/FUL	Member of the Cambridge Museums Advisory Partnership and of Archives County Advisory Group; Chairman of the Trustees of the Fitzwilliam Museum; Resident member of the University of Cambridge.
Griffiths	07/0548/FUL	Friend of the Fitzwilliam Museum; daughter acts as consultant to the museum.

The Minutes to be signed by the Chair when amended.

07/41 MATTERS ARISING

These were to be taken up under the Environmental Improvement item later in the agenda.

07/42 OPEN FORUM

Resident 1: Asked about the enforcement against those who park on double yellow lines especially at night.

Resident 2 said that Peterborough had parking attendants at work until midnight.

Cllr C Rosenstiel said that working hours were determined by need. Peterborough was a larger city with more streets and more traffic and that might be why their attendants worked late.

Resident 1 said that a relative of his had received a parking ticket for parking in a parking bay. In contrast he had noticed in King Street on his way to the meeting that many cars were parked on double yellow lines and had no tickets.

Councillor C Rosenstiel agreed that this area was problematic and advised members of the public to phone the LAPE team about any areas where they saw regular infringements.

Resident 1 asked what was being done to ensure that new students were aware of the rules about cycling in the city.

The City Ranger, Richard Allen, said that they worked with the colleges and had held the first 20-minute session that week for freshers to talk to them about general matters to do with safety, consideration for other road users etc.

Cllr Cantrill said that there was a forum with the unions of both universities and that there was a drive to ensure that literature

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about safe cycling was also distributed to new students. He also said that better signposting about where one could cycle especially in the city centre would be helpful.

Cllr C Rosenstiel agreed and said the County Council whose responsibility it was were slow to act on this.

Sergeant Hawkins from Cambridgeshire Police said that the police sent packages about cycling to all the colleges for distribution and that a police colleague went to all the colleges to talk to the students.

Resident 1 asked if those cycling without lights could be tackled. Resident 2 noted that offenders were not only students.

Sergeant Hawkins said that when the clocks changed at the weekend this issue would be tackled.

07/43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Code of Conduct personal interests were declared as follows:

Councillor	Item	Nature of interest
C Rosenstiel	Environmental Improvements	As a Life Member of the Cambridge Union

Code of Conduct personal interests in planning applications were declared as follows:

Councillor	Item	Nature of interest
J Smith	07/0973/FUL	She knows one of the objectors.

07/44 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS – HALF YEARLY UPDATE

The Landscape Architect introduced the report including 2 appendices which had been circulated to members before the meeting. The first part of the report dealt with pinch points which had been considered at the August meeting of the committee. There had been a late representation from the Friends of Midsummer Common who were not happy about the proposal for a tarmac path from pinch point 8c in the report on to the common.

Councillors J Rosenstiel and Griffiths expressed their concerns that the Friends had not been consulted.

The Chair and the Principal Landscape Architect apologised for the omission.

The Friends of Midsummer Common and any other relevant groups will be consulted about pinch points 7-13 and these will be reconsidered at the meeting on 13 December.

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Note: After the meeting, as a result of talking to a local resident, officers decided to recommend that the pinch point at Christchurch Street (number 6) not be removed and councillors were emailed for their views. The road in front of this pinch point, directly behind the Grafton Centre, is well used by lorries unloading and by cyclists. It would therefore be extremely dangerous to take it out. There is also an alternative route to the side of it which gives access behind the Grafton centre. Public consultation on the Christchurch Street pinch point (6) will be carried out at the same time as the consultation for pinch points 7-13.

After some discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to the officer recommendations in relation to pinch points 1-5 as follows:

1. Orchard Street: Remove left and right side bollards. Leave centre bollard and remove pram arms. Monitor for problems
2. Christ's Pieces/Short Street: Straighten the first post on the left hand side and remove the third post from the left hand side as it sits directly in front of tactile block paving.
3. Pike's Walk/King Street: Retain as existing and monitor for problems.
4. Milton's Walk: Retain as existing and monitor for problems.
5. Belmont Place: Remove bollard on the pavement. Site all three equidistant in the road, two on the opposing double yellow lines and one in the middle.

The Committee were then asked to consider the order of priority for new schemes. Members considered each in turn and asked questions of clarification. There was a division of opinion about earmarking a £50,000 contribution to the S106 funding for Fitzroy/Burleigh Street.

At the end of the discussion, Councillor Smith proposed that £50,000 be earmarked. This proposal was agreed by 6 votes to 0.

A resident raised serious safety concerns about the rat run in Canterbury Street. She said that 34 households would support measures such as a 20mph speed limit, signs about children crossing, speed humps. The safety concerns are acute in the 6-8am period and in the evening rush hour.

The Committee agreed the following with regard to each new scheme

Resolved

1. To be progressed in the current financial year:
 - Cycle Racks at Malcolm Place/Manor Street/King Street at a cost of £1500
 - Wall/recycling bin behind Student Union, Park Street – clarify land ownership and verify location of the bins on the public highway
 - Seating in the City Centre – refer to City Centre Management.
 - Histon Recreation Ground Seating – consult Active

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Communities and then local residents about having one seat beside the balancing logs at a cost of £750.

2. To be reviewed in April 2008:

- Fitzroy Street/Burleigh Street – commitment of £50,000.
- Canterbury Street traffic calming – address a number of issues to the County Council such as changing the parking arrangements, the need for traffic counts, safety issues. Then work up some specific proposals in collaboration with the County Council on which the residents are then consulted.

Councillor Holland then asked the following questions about the Lighting in Kings Parade:

1. Who would be involved in the consultation? (officers said John Preston would be organising)
2. So the Conservation & Design Panel would be involved?
3. What is the time frame?
4. If the consultation is positive, how soon would works be implemented?
5. What is the likely cost?
6. Is funding available?
7. A request that the County Council representatives on the area committee guarantee to pursue all this with the County Council.

Councillor C Rosenstiel also emphasised the length of time this matter had been on-going and the fact that the County Council was making no progress on replacing Richardson's candles with similar or identical models of the lighting column in relation to the replacements being in keeping with the character of the conservation area.

The Chair proposed that officers prepare a written response and send it to all members of the area committee.

Public Art Scheme

Members raised concerns about the appropriateness of using the funds at their disposal for this memorial which was to be for all citizens of Cambridge.

After discussion, the committee agreed to a proposal from Cllr Griffiths that each area committee be asked to contribute £500 towards the feasibility study. If other area committees were agreeable, West/Central was willing to contribute £500 from its budget for Environmental Improvements.

07/45 WEST/CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

John Fuller, Community Engagement Manager, Cambridgeshire Police introduced this item. He explained that this was the response that Cambridgeshire Police (in partnership with the City Council) were making to this government initiative. The initiative required the public to have access to the police to be able to influence their priorities, to see interventions and actions taken and

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answers provided to crime and anti social behaviour issues. The police had never involved the public by allowing them to influence priorities and this is now being done through the four City Council area committees. The scheme had begun at North Area Committee and had now been to the other two and finally was being introduced at West Central.

Inspector Jon Hutchinson then introduced the report. He highlighted some of the statistics which showed that cycle theft at 19% was the most frequent crime in the area and accounted for hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of loss in any year. Violence against the person especially on the green and open spaces of the area was also high at 16%. Most incidents were against young men in the 16-20 year age group. Theft in shops and theft of metal were also high, the latter due to the rise in the price for scrap metal.

Market Ward has the highest crime levels of the 3 wards. Newnham is the hot spot for thefts from vehicles and the focus there needs to be on educating the public, there is also a problem in Newnham in the summer with large groups of youth congregating on Lammas Land and Grantchester Meadows which other members of the public experience as intimidating. Castle is the hotspot for dwelling burglaries and for aggressive begging especially on Market Hill and Magdalene Street. Market Ward contains 176 licensed premises. Market Square is a hot spot for crime and cycle theft is highest in Trinity street/Kings parade. In general ASB has risen in the last year partly because people now report it more because they think action can be taken.

He then asked for comments on the recommendations for priority action in the coming 8 weeks.

Residents made the following comments/recommendations:

- Happy to see all the recommendations tackled.
- Could speed of cars driving and driver behaviour be added especially in Grange Road.

A: People can't really drive very fast on most of the small streets in the city. It is more a matter of perception that the speed is excessive.

Members commented as follows to which Inspector Hutchinson responded (A):

- The behaviour of people in cars parked in the Market Square late at night eg loud engine revving which felt threatening should be tackled.

A: That is an example of ASB and as such the police are empowered to take cars that are involved in ASB.

- Do the police meet with representatives of the licensed premises and clubs to ensure they are following the licensing objectives and should the City Council be making representations to the Home Office about the level of fees charged for a licence?

A: Yes the police work closely with the licensees and Pub Watch

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has been set up so that the licensees inform each other if one of them has excluded a member of the public from their premises so that they are banned from all. The police have also requested that the City Council include a cumulative impact policy for the City Centre in their statement of licensing policy. If this were adopted then the burden of proof would be on any new applicant for a licence to show that they would not be adding to the problems in the city centre.

- Please include speeding cars in Maid's Causeway to the list.
- General noise from cars eg loud music from open windows to be addressed.
- How do the police advise premises with lead flashing on roofs to deal with possible thefts?

A: As well as putting resources into catching these gangs of thieves and prosecuting them successfully, the use of CCTV and of appropriate fencing can act as deterrents.

- Would more lighting on open spaces like Lammas Land help with the problems of large groups of youth congregating?

A: The most vulnerable groups are young foreign students who tend to associate well-lit spaces with safety which is not the case in Cambridge. There is also a concern that more lighting could attract large groups and create more ASB.

- Speeding motorists is more than a perception and needs to be taken seriously.
- Could the following concerns be added to the list - aggressive punt touts, litter and prostitution on Histon Road

Alastair Roberts the City Council's Safer Communities Manager, said that the Council was working closely with the police with regard to the punt touts and recommendations and proposals would be put to members in January about how to reduce the incidents of aggressive touting which he was confident could be achieved.

In response to a question about the proper procedure for reporting crimes such as cycle theft, Inspector Hutchinson said that phoning in was the way rather than calling in person at Parkside Police station because the way data gets on to the database is via phone calls which also save on costs. He also acknowledged that dealing with the incident of an aggressive dog in Histon Road Recreation Ground had not been handled as well as it could have been and that the police were working more closely with the Council's Dog Warden.

Residents and members raised concerns about the amount of crime, including possession of cannabis and other drugs and the cost of policing of Strawberry Fair.

Inspector Hutchinson acknowledged these points and that they would seem to indicate that the nature of the Fair needed to change but that was an issue that all involved with the event needed to address.

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Finally the Committee agreed that the following should be the areas of priority for the coming 8 weeks:

1. Anti-social behaviour and violent crime connected with the night time economy
2. Anti-social social use of vehicles and cycles

07/46 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & LEISURE GRANTS 2007-08

Resolved to make the following grants:

- Newnham Youth Club – £2738 to contribute to the costs of a Youth Worker and for outgoings and activities
- Cambridge Lawn Tennis Club – £1350 to fund mini tennis courses for children in the area.

07/47 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Full details of the decisions, conditions of permissions and reasons for refusal may be inspected in the Environment and Planning Department, including those which the committee delegated to the Head of Development Control to draw up.

These minutes should be read in conjunction with the reports on applications to the committee, where the conditions to the approved applications or reasons for refusal are set out in full and with the Amendment Sheet issued at the meeting. Any amendments to the recommendations are shown in the minutes.

- 1 APPLICATION NO:** 07/0841/FUL
SITE: 22 Burleigh Street (Market)
PROPOSAL: Change of use of ground floor from Launderette (sui generis) to A1 and A2 (in the alternative)
RECOMMENDATION: Approve
APPLICANT: Chalfont Juniper Ltd (as agent)
PUBLIC SPEAKERS: Altine Topping (objector); Justin Bainton (agent for the applicant)
DECISION: **APPROVED** (by 5 votes to 2) with the addition of the following informative:
INFORMATIVE: This application grants planning permission for use in the alternative between Use Class A1: Shops, and Use Class A2: Financial & Professional Services, as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). This means that for a period of ten years following the date of approval, the premises may be used for either of these two uses. However, at the end of the ten-year period, whichever of the two alternative uses is then the use to which the premises is put, becomes the established use of the premises and no further change to the other use may take place without the need for planning permission.
- 2 APPLICATION NO:** 07/0973/FUL
SITE: 69 Grange Road (Newnham)
PROPOSAL: Additional use for the provision of education (within Use Class D1)

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RECOMMENDATION: Approve subject to conditions

APPLICANT: St John's College School (c/o Agents)

PUBLIC SPEAKERS: Jackie Meeks (objector); Peter Symonds (agent for the applicant)

DECISION: APPROVED (by 7 votes to 0) with the addition of the conditions and informative set out below:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. No part of the gardens or external amenity area of 69 Grange Road shall be used for children's play unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To protect the reasonable residential amenity of nearby occupiers. (Cambridge Local Plan 2006 policy 4/13)

INFORMATIVE: This application grants planning permission for use in the alternative between Use Class D1: Non-Residential Institution, as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) and the sui generis use as a residential hostel for students. This means that for a period of five years following the date of approval, the premises may be used for either of these two uses. However, at the end of the five-year period, whichever of the two alternative uses is then the use to which the premises is put, becomes the established use of the premises and no further change to the other use may take place without the need for planning permission.

Reasons for Approval

1. This development has been approved, conditionally, because subject to those requirements it is considered to generally conform to the Development Plan, particularly the following policies:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003: Policy P1/3.

Cambridge Local Plan (2006): Policies 3/1, 3/4, 3/7, 3/11, 4/11, 4/13, 5/4, 5/11, 5/12, 8/2, 8/4, 8/6 and 8/10.

2. The decision has been made having had regard to all other material planning considerations, none of which was considered to have been of such significance as to justify doing other than grant planning permission.

These reasons for approval can be a summary of the reasons for grant of planning permission only. For further detail on the decision please see the officer report by visiting the Council

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Planning Department.

The meeting ended at 10.40pm.

Chair