



**West/Central Area Committee
(City Councillors representing Castle,
Market and Newnham Wards)
13 December 2007 7.30pm – 10.40pm
Minutes & Actions**

Present: Councillors: Simon Kightley (Chair), Marie-Louise Holland, (Castle Ward), Colin Rosenstiel, Joye Rosenstiel, Mike Dixon (Market Ward), Julie Smith, Sian Reid (Newnham Ward)

County Councillor: Gaynor Griffiths (Market Ward),
David White (Castle Ward)

Additional information for public: City Council officers can also be emailed firstname.lastname@cambridge.gov.uk
The Committee Manager for West/Central Area Committee is liz.whitcher@cambridge.gov.uk

Members of the City Council have individual email addresses which are listed on the City Council website: www.cambridge.gov.uk/councillors/members.htm
Members of the County Council can be emailed: Firstname.lastname@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

07/48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from City Councillors Rod Cantrill (Newnham Ward) and Tania Zmura (Castle Ward) and County Councillor Alex Reid (Newnham Ward)

07/49 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October were corrected so that the Code of Conduct personal interests in planning applications were declared as follows (*corrections underlined*):

| Councillor | Item | Nature of interest |
|-------------------|-------------|---|
| White | 07/0548/FUL | Member of the Cambridge Museums Advisory Partnership and of Archives County Advisory Group; Chairman of the Trustees of the <u>Cambridgeshire and County Folk Museum</u> ; Resident member of the University of Cambridge |
| Griffiths | 07/0548/FUL | Friend of the Fitzwilliam Museum; <u>Sister</u> acts as Consultant to the museum |

Councillor Smith commented that she thought funds *had* been earmarked for the traffic calming measures in Canterbury Street.

The Minutes will be signed by the Chair when the amendments have been made.

07/50 MATTERS ARISING

07/44 Environmental Improvement Grants
Councillor C Rosenstiel commented that no problems have ever been experienced by delivery lorries using the road directly behind the Grafton Centre. Therefore recommendation for the pinch point should be referred to the Environmental Improvement Team.

The Chair informed the meeting that alternative funding had been found for the start up of the Snowy Farr Project so the £500 Area Committee contribution was no longer needed.

07/51 Open Forum

The Chair introduced Richard Preston (Head of Network Management South and City) and Graham Lowe (Area Traffic Manager City and South) who would be answering questions on Transport:

1) In Storey's Way, every weekday afternoon, a long queue of vehicles builds up near to the Cambridge Lodge Hotel, waiting to get into the Huntingdon Road. Eventually they will join the cars coming from the top of Castle Hill, but first, they must weave in and out, around the cars left parked all day on that side of Storey's Way. Bicyclists, in frustration, take to the pavement. One has already collided, at speed, with a car emerging cautiously from its lair. Significant damage was done to the car. The bicyclist was lucky – but there could so easily have been a broken neck, or a fatality. It's an entirely separate issue but, when building work begins on the hotel site, parking constraints in that area will become critical. I wonder whether anyone has already begun thinking about that problem.

A note was circulated to everyone in the road, seeking comments on an initial proposal for yellow lines. It stirred up so much opposition that the plan is now obsolete – so I won't discuss that first idea any further. One resident (*who can't be here tonight*) very strongly objected to any change which might improve traffic flow. (I'll say that again - he opposes any change which might improve traffic flow.) He, and I and, I think, many others, would welcome a total block in the road with cul- de-sacs back to back – but I fear that you, the authorities, would probably condemn that idea out of hand.

The objector has written: “ *We strongly disapprove of any proposal to introduce restrictions [on parking] unless they are coupled with aggressive traffic calming measures or a restriction on through traffic. We are concerned that any reduction of parking would give Storey’s Way the appearance of being a through road, which would cause increases in both the volume of traffic and its speed.*” - That was the objector’s view.

My compromise proposal will certainly not satisfy the objector because, against his wishes, it would improve the traffic flow. My proposal is: for double yellow lines on the north-west side of the road, to allow traffic to form an orderly queue towards the Huntingdon Road, each afternoon. There are, however, several houses in the road which have no space available for the daytime parking of a visitor’s car, so I suggest that some provision be made on the south-east side of the road for Residents’ Parking. This should satisfy those whose space for visitors’ cars is limited. Thank you for listening.

GL: Unfortunately we would have trouble creating more usable road space as it is already used as a ‘rat-run’ and additional road space would likely encourage an increase in this. The Minor Traffic Budget was suspended in April 2007 and there is no indication if there will be a budget for next year. Because of the 6.6 width restriction and no turning space at the ends, a cul de sac would also not be viable.

Castle Ward Councillors noted these comments. Councillor Reid also commented that as the budget cuts had caused a lot of frustration they needed to be addressed.

2) 3 comments from a Windsor Road resident regarding the traffic calming measures that they believe have had no affect on the speeding motorists.

- **During the consultation a 3 part traffic calming scheme was proposed but only one part of this has been implemented**

- **Because of the very heavy traffic, cyclists are using the footpaths which is proving dangerous**
- **Public at the lower end of Histon Road are very badly served by the C7 Bus – which is regularly full by the time it reaches them.**

GL: It is difficult to comment on the traffic calming scheme as it was planned, funded, consulted on and implemented by Cambridge City Council.

Chair: From my own experience the calming measures have been successful and resulted in an improvement.

Councillor Holland commented that 80% of those responding to the consultation supported the scheme but the full 3-stage implementation could not be made due to budget constraints. From cycling everyday in this area Councillor Holland had the opposite view – cars actually give way to cycles.

RP: Bus surveys do not fall within my remit but I will pass on the comments raised. We have had a recent increase in bus services and patronage but unfortunately customer satisfaction is decreasing. C7 is one of the longest routes and traffic delays can be a problem. Regular meetings are held with Stagecoach to try and resolve this

Councillor C Rosenstiel also highlighted C7 as a problem service and suggested users keep a diary of their issues and forward to the Traffic Commissioner.

Councillor Reid encouraged members of the public to feed back their views to the County Councils ongoing transport consultations and also reminded them that this topic would be covered at the February Area Committee.

3) Cycling on paths is a big issue but with the number of dual use paths in operation, confusion is inevitable. In Adams Road this was never an issue until around 2 years ago but parked cars and lorries have forced cyclists onto the paths.

The timings on traffic signals is also a big issue for cyclists – it seems that they are having to wait too long and priority is always given to cars.

RP: In the past we did make many paths dual use to encourage cyclists - however with hindsight many of these decisions were ill advised as they were not all suitable. With regard to traffic signals – there are no set standards for how long cyclists or other road users have to wait at crossings.

Councillor C Rosenstiel highlighted this as an issue - if the public are unaware of how the signals *should* be working they cannot tell if they are working *properly*

4) There are signs in Windsor Road highlighting no verge parking but these are not enforced – why?

Councillor C Rosenstiel: The new Local Government and Public Involvement Act will give improved powers to issue tickets for verge parking – however the Governments timetable is not expected until April 2008.

5) Magdalene Street – cycles have the right of way at the bottleneck but are constantly forced out of the way by impatient motorists. The apparent 20mph speed limit is also a joke and is proving extremely dangerous for all users. This issue has been raised with Andy Campbell but nothing changes. Could this not be made one way or be closed off to traffic altogether?

RP: According to Injury statistics this area is now much safer with fewer incidents involving cyclists. Having a one way system or closing off would not be ideal as it is a key route for public transport and would just shift any issues to another area.

Councillor Griffiths commented that when work was being undertaken on the road it was a much more pleasant environment due to less traffic. The reason for fewer accidents was that cycles now did not use the road but anything to slow down the cars would be an improvement.

6) Concern raised over Strawberry Fair for the following reasons:

- **Policing: 250 officers involved, 633 crimes, (50% more than following weekend), 70 arrested at Rail Station for drugs and/or offensive weapons**
- **Traffic: 119 tickets issued in the surrounding streets (up from 31 in 2005 and 67 in 2006)**
- **After-Hours: A rave was set up under Elizabeth Way Bridge that went on until 06.30am**
- **Camping: Barbequing and camping took place on Midsummer Common and the issued Council notices did not come into effect for 24hrs**
- **Public Reaction: Numerous complaints received concerning fouling the streets, drunken behaviour and disregard for the law**
- **The Chair of 'The Friends of Midsummer' (FOMC) had requested a meeting with the Council but had had no response**

Councillor Smith: Noted the request for a meeting with FOMC but had no record of receiving this. After the last event a full debriefing was held and Ward Councillors met to discuss any concerns. Subsequent meetings were then held with the Strawberry Fair Committee and Council Officers and approval was given to the 2008 event if certain conditions were met. A change of programming has been suggested making it a more interactive event with street theatre and art therefore changing the nature of the event. It has been noted that if this new approach did not work the future of the event would have to be reconsidered.

7) Have been attending the event for the last 10 years but have recently noticed a more hostile atmosphere due to the binge drinking. We need to stop alcohol being sold on site. Concern also raised about the litter produced by numerous take away food stalls and the cars parking on Jesus Green.

Martin Twist (Strawberry Fair Committee): We have a long history of listening and working well with the local residents. We have specified that all packaging is recyclable and biodegradable and we are happy to listen to further views.

Councillor Smith: More signage, litter pickers and bins have been suggested for 2008 and Ward Councillors are welcome to attend further meetings looking specifically at Strawberry Fair issues

07/52 Declaration of Interest

Code of Conduct prejudicial interests in planning applications were declared as follows. Cllr J Rosenstiel did not speak or vote on the item and withdrew from the Meeting during discussion

| Councillor | Item | Nature of interest |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| J Rosenstiel | Mayfield Primary School | Through employment had personal dealings with a number of objectors. |

Code of Conduct personal interests were declared as follows:

| Councillor | Item | Nature of interest |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Reid | Updated Open Space and Recreation S106 Programme | Daughter is Member of the Canoe Club |

07/53 West/Central Area Neighbourhood Policing

Inspector Jon Hutchinson introduced this item. He explained that the aim of this update was to identify ongoing and emerging crime and disorder issues in the neighbourhood in order to facilitate effective policing and partnership working.

He highlighted that crime had remained stable in Newnham and Market Wards. There had been a slight increase in Castle Ward due to cycle theft from colleges and a spate of vandalism in Richmond Road. Incidents of anti social behaviour (ASB) had also decreased in Newnham and Castle.

A full update was given to members about each Ward

The following were highlighted previously as areas of concern. An update is included below:

ASB and violence associated with night time economy:

A new Cambridge Business's Against Crime Scheme 'Operation Sodium' had been launched which works with pubs and clubs. It ensured a 'pub watch' system where banned members of the public are banned from *all* other licensed premises. Extra police patrols had been put in place and CCTV improved to ensure early intervention during times of incidence.

A Triage Tent manned by the St Johns Ambulance had been set up to treat minor injuries and ease the pressure on Addenbrooke's Hospital's A+E Department and issues around muggings at the new Ice Rink were being investigated and addressed through possible CCTV.

Anti social use of vehicles in Market Square:

Daily patrols had been increased and the Police were liaising with local businesses – however, this behaviour was not actually illegal.

Cyclists without lights:

A media campaign (Look East and CEN) had been well received and was proving successful. 200 tickets had been issued for no lights and 25 for cycling on the footpath – and many more could have been issued. The Police were also visiting schools and colleges to highlight these issues.

07/54 Community Safety Strategy 2008/11

During this presentation, the Director of Community Services highlighted the following items as suggested priorities under the strategy.

Members were asked for further comments and additions:

- Crime and ASB related to Market Ward 'night time economy'
- Policing of Parkers Piece and Ice Rink

- Street robbery in Market and Newnham
- Shed burglary in Castle Ward
- Installation of CCTV at Lammas Land

Members commented as follows to which the Director responded (A):

- Aggressive punt touts mentioned at last meeting
A: This is being covered by the Council Strategy Committee and information fed back to Castle Ward Councillors.

- Anti social cycling down one way streets
A: This is an issue which needs some more joined up working – but the signage is very poor which causes some confusion.

- Cycles jumping red lights at Silver Street junction is an issue
A: There have been 3 fatal accidents involving cyclists and we do need to increase enforcement. We will address this.

- Supply of alcohol to underage people
A: Work is being undertaken with licensed premises such as supermarkets to limit the supply to people that are underage.

A voluntary code has been introduced whereby staff request ID from anyone that looks to be under 25 and also test purchasers are being used locally.

A Trading Standards scheme in St Neots will also be rolled out across Cambridgeshire in the New Year.

In response to a question regarding the obstruction caused by cars parking on the paths, the Director commented that the enforcement of double yellow lines is done by *'Legion Parking'* but the police could also ticket for obstruction. The use of mobile speed guns was also questioned and it was commented that these were still in operation and if the public highlighted an area of concern the police would assess and try to help.

Regarding the issues at the Ice Rink, a member of the public suggested that the Hobbs Pavilion building could be used for the CCTV equipment. Alastair Roberts commented that this has been suggested and was being addressed.

In response to a question regarding drug dealing on Midsummer Common, Jon Hutchinson commented that substance misuse was a constant priority for the police – both use and supply. A lot of work was being targeted at crime as a result of addiction – it was felt that if the Police could stop the supply, crime would decrease.

The Director of Community Services informed the meeting that all Area Committees are being presented to and the views of members and the public would be incorporated into the list of priorities.

07/55 Updated Open Space and Recreation S106 Programme

Ian Ross, Recreation Services Manager introduced this item. As part of the Active Communities approach to managing growth, the 'Improve your Neighbourhood' scheme had been set up to process ideas made by members of the public for new S106 growth projects throughout the city.

Submitted ideas are subjected to an approved scoring process by the following sections:

- Green Spaces
- Recreation Services
- Sports Development Services
- Landscape Architects
- Children and Young People Participation Service
- Technical Team

Recommendations for inclusion on the S106 project list are then made for those ideas exceeding the threshold limit of 30% (of all criteria)

The following were recommended for adoption:

- WC021/B – Community Sports Provision
Cambridge University
- RC007 – Extension of the Canoe Club @
Sheep's Green
- RC009 – Provide Wave Facility at Sluice Mill for
Kayak Training

It was recommended that the following not be adopted:

- BD001 – Tree Planting 'Planting of trees Citywide'

Members commented as follows to which Ian Ross responded (A):

- CW002/A – would these proposed synthetic pitches suit hockey? Are these unlikely to happen because they do not meet the criteria?

A: The pitches would suit hockey but unfortunately the proposals had been removed

- Would proposals from the heritage Lottery Fund go through the scheme if relevant?

A: Yes, Jesus Green was an example of this

- Could we have an update on the proposed skate park on Jesus Green?

A: We are currently seeking guidance from our Planning colleagues

- It was disappointing about the Tree Planting – was there funding anywhere else for this type of scheme?

A: There is currently a replacement tree programme in operation and we could look at rolling this out in the future

- A number of trees and shrubs had been removed from Histon Road – were there plans to replace these?

A: Unfortunately there were no plans in the next year

- The replacement trees planted on Jesus Green are now part of the felling programme as they have died – more mature trees are needed

A: The Arboricultural Strategy will be implemented at Jesus Green

RESOLVED (unanimously) on recommendations for inclusion on the S106 project list

- RC009 – Provide Wave Facility at Sluice Mill for Kayak Training
- RC007 – Extension of Canoe Club @ Sheep's Green
- WC021/B – Community Sports Provision
Cambridge University

07/56 Community Sport Update

The Sports Development Manager presented this item and informed Members that a new Community Sport Network had been established consisting of 4 new sports associations in the city. A consultation was conducted in summer 2007 on widening access and delivering of activities to increase participation.

The consultation findings included:

- Clubs at capacity within the city
- Coaches at capacity
- Shortage of volunteers
- Limited official school links
- Lack of community sports clubs
- Limited opportunities for age groups

“Skills 4 Sport” has been developed consisting of 4 multi sports clubs (Manor, Netherhall, St Beades and Leys) with the aim of increasing opportunities to participate, volunteer and coach for all age ranges. This is a 40-week programme with 8 sports – cricket, tennis, hockey, badminton, rugby, volleyball, football and basketball. A volunteer development programme with links to CRC, Long Road, Hills Road, Cambridge University, ARU, Netherhall Sports College and SSP is also in place.

07/57 Applications for Planning permission

- 1 APPLICATION NO:** 07/1219/FUL
SITE: Mayfield Primary School, Warwick Road (Castle)
PROPOSAL: Erection of two classrooms for pre-school education

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION: Approve subject to conditions

APPLICANT: Under Fives Roundabout, C/o David Hargreaves, 54 Halifax Road, Cambridge CB4 3PX

PUBLIC SPEAKERS: David Lawrence (resident/objector), David Hargreaves (for applicant)

DECISION: Approved (by 5 votes to 1) as agenda and subject to the following additional conditions:

Condition 18

No work shall start on the application site (including soil stripping, pre-construction delivery of equipment or materials, the creation of site accesses, positioning of site huts) until:

a) A Tree Protection Plan, as defined in BS 5837:2005 "Trees in Relation to Construction – Recommendations", containing the following Arboricultural Method Statements/specifications has first been submitted and agreed to, in writing, by the Council's Principal Arboricultural Officer:

- Arboricultural method statements for the precise location and erection of tree protection barriers and ground protection for all trees retained on, and adjacent to, the site, in order to establish Root Protection Areas and construction exclusion zones;
- Arboricultural method statements for any special engineering operations within Root Protection Areas;
- Arboricultural method statements for root pruning.
- Arboricultural method statements for the amelioration of the rhizosphere within the Root Protection Areas comprising of de-compaction (Terravention) and soil inoculation with spore derived mycorrhizae and bio-activators; soil tilthing utilising air-spade technology; irrigation; and mulching where appropriate;
- Arboricultural method statement for any development facilitation pruning.

and,

b) that there has been:

- A pre-construction site meeting between the site agent, the developers chosen arboriculturalist, and the Council's delegated Arboricultural Officer.
- All development facilitation pruning, where required, has been completed in accordance with BS 3998:1989.
- All tree protection barriers and ground protection measures have been installed to the satisfaction of the Council's delegated Arboricultural Officer.

All Arboricultural works shall be carried out by a competent tree contractor, proficient in both root-zone and aerial arboricultural work and shall follow strictly the agreed method statements and specifications.

All tree protection barriers and ground protection must be in accord with BS 5837:2005 clause 9 - "The construction exclusion zone: barriers and ground protection".

The developer shall appoint a competent arboriculturalist to oversee the project. The arboriculturalist shall monitor, record and confirm the implementation and maintenance of tree protection measures as set out in the conditions of the planning permission.

Reason - To safeguard and ensure the protection of those existing trees which are to be retained on or adjacent to the site. (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 policy P1/3 and Cambridge Local Plan 2006 policies 3/4, 3/12 and 4/4)

Condition 19

Notwithstanding the details shown on the approved plans, planning permission is not granted for the proposed visitors entrance and ramped footpath serving the rear door.

Draft until 7 February 2008

Reason - To safeguard and ensure the protection of those existing trees which are to be retained on or adjacent to the site. (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 policy P1/3 and Cambridge Local Plan 2006 policies 3/4, 3/12 and 4/4)

The meeting ended at 10.03pm.

Chair