



# West/Central Area Committee

## (City Councillors for Castle, Market and Newnham Wards)



### 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008 7.30pm – 10.50pm

### Minutes & Actions

**Present:** Councillors: Rod Cantrill (Chair), Julie Smith (Newnham Ward)  
John Hipkin, Tania Zmura (Castle Ward),  
Colin Rosenstiel, Tim Bick (Market Ward)

County Councillors: Reid (Newnham Ward),  
White (Castle Ward)

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#### 08/34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

#### ACTION

Apologies were received from City Councillors Dixon, Kightley and Reid and County Councillor Griffiths

#### 08/34 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

#### 08/35 MATTERS ARISING

None

## 08/36 OPEN FORUM

Due to the number of written question relating to Jesus Green and Midsummer Common it was agreed that agenda items 6 and 7 would be taken during an extended Open Forum session

### Jesus Green Improvement Scheme

The Green Space Manager and Green Space Officer gave an update on the progress of the scheme

A grant of £40,000 had been received from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) at the end of 2007 in order to support the consultation, initial Masterplan, Audience Development Plan and the Training Plan

The following documents were now available:

- Audience Development Plan
- Volunteering Programme and Training Plan
- Draft Management Plan

The scheme had received 6400 hits and 150 consultation responses from the website. As a result of the public consultation days 300 site visits had also taken place

A full consultation report would be produced and presented to the Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation. The HLF would confirm their continued support by March 2009, there would then be 12 months to work on the project and work on site should start by September 2010

**Q1) Whilst I welcome the proposals the reinstatement of the path is not a good idea. The largest open space on the Green would be effectively cut in half and discourage people from playing ball games**

The Green Space Manager confirmed that the path had been incorporated into the design to enable more tree planting. However out of the 55 consultation responses regarding this, 40 had been negative – therefore the path would probably be removed

**Q2) I would welcome the planting of pollen trees near Victoria Avenue and recommend that senile trees across the whole of Cambridge be removed and replaced to ensure continued tree cover**

The Green Space Manager stated that condition assessments were undertaken on all trees in the City and where necessary trees removed and replaced

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation agreed that future long term planning for tree planting on Jesus Green was needed

**Q3) If the bridge at Jesus Lock continues to form part of the proposal it needs to be segregated for pedestrians and cyclist. Also as Chesterton Road is an accident hotspot more consultation would be needed before this went ahead**

It was confirmed that the cycle crossing would be taken out of the bid as more detailed discussion with other agencies such as the County Council and Cam Conservators was needed

**Q4) Would it not be better to have one good kiosk on the Green that stays open all year round instead of 2 smaller ones that struggle to compete during winter months?**

It was agreed that the Green Space Manager would look into this suggestion

**Q5) There seems to have been a lot of stakeholder involvement but the wider public also have views that must be taken into account**

The Green Space Officer confirmed that three public consultation days had been organised and the majority on on-line responses had been from members of the public (not stakeholders)

The Green Space Officer confirmed that the public could still respond to the consultation until the end of next week ([sarah.tovell@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.tovell@cambridge.gov.uk))

**Q6) After a discussion with Councillor Hipkin it seems that the involvement of Ward Councillors has also been very limited. This proposal will use tax payers money and Councillors should be representing their constituents**

Councillor Hipkin assured members of the public that there had been Councillor input and the scheme had been through the full democratic process. Any final plans would be fully scrutinised and he would be personally keeping a close eye on the scheme

Councillor Rosenstiel echoed this point and insisted that Ward Councillors had been heavily involved. It was stated that the path proposal did not seem well supported and that drainage may need to be improved

The Green Space Manager confirmed that drainage did form a large part of the HLF bid (£160,000)

The Green Space Officer confirmed that the full plans had been on display in the Members Room at Guildhall and all Councillors had been invited to workshop events in August. The plans were also taken to the full Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation confirmed that all relevant Ward Councillors had been involved from an early stage and that members of the North Area Committee, and their associated Resident Associations, had been invited to this meeting

**Q7) It is disappointing that the full report or the proper bid document has not been available prior to this meeting**

The Green Space Manager confirmed that the bid document was live and available to the public and the Consultation Report would be finalised by next week

**Q8) Whilst decisions are pending on the proposal it is imperative that proper maintenance of Jesus Green continues**

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation fully agreed with this point and agreed to forward the views to the Director of City Services for action and monitoring

**Ex Cllr  
for A&R**

It was agreed that the issues would be updated at a future meeting of this Area Committee

Members of the Committee and the public were informed that as the Community Services Scrutiny Committee did not meet until November an 'out of cycle' decision would need to be taken by the Executive Councillor. This would be in full consultation with the Labour Spokesperson and the Chair of West/Central and North Area Committees

The impact of major events on Midsummer Common on the local community

The Chairman of the Friends of Midsummer Common (FoMC) was invited to the table to introduce his paper:

FoMC worked towards two main objectives:

- maintenance of the common
- encouraging its use for events

These objectives did however have to take into account local neighbours, and as a result of this year's Strawberry Fair the following issues were raised:

- increase in litter
- excessive drinking
- inadequate toilet facilities
- drug taking and dealing
- parking

The suggested options open to the Council were:

- stop the Fair
- impose a gap year
- move the Fair elsewhere
- enforce preventative measures

The Chairman of Strawberry Fair addressed the Committee and highlighted that 90% of the issues raised from last year's event had been successfully tackled through their 'Fair Play' initiative

He confirmed that:

- toilet provision met with all relevant guidelines
- licensing issues would be looked at by the Council
- 34% of litter from the Fair had been recycled and the level of litter was less than previous years
- work was ongoing with the Police and other relevant stakeholders to tackle the issue of drugs and progress was being made

Photos comparing litter on Midsummer Common with Glastonbury were distributed to Members

Councillor Bick agreed with the points raised by FoMC and questioned the viability of the site for this event

In response to concerns regarding the policing of the event the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector confirmed that de-briefing sessions had taken place after this year's event and a Community Impact Team had been on site to deal with people urinating around the Brunswick area

In total 300 officers had been on duty including Transport Police to deal with people coming into the City on trains. 400 people were prosecuted with 66% of those being from outside the Cambridge area

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation stated that whilst there had been fewer complaints than last year there were still a number of issues to be resolved

The City Council did have to take some responsibility for the lack of toilets as Street Scene had not delivered the 'pee-pods' or assisted with litter collection as agreed

It was also highlighted that in a recent survey Strawberry Fair was the most popular event hosted in Cambridge

A formal decision on the future of the event would be taken by the Executive Councillor at the Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2.30pm

Other issues raised:

**Q9) In a recent survey 95% of residents requested traffic calming measures and a speed limit of 20mph in Oxford Road**

**We have spoken to the County Council and there is no money available – what can we do?**

It was confirmed that national guidance stated that in order to impose a 20mph limit the average speed of vehicles needed to be 24mph. The County Councils policy however states an average of 20mph

The Chair agreed to raise the issue with the County Council and feedback at a future meeting

**Cllr  
Cantrill**

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation supported the questioner and suggested that this item be discussed under Environmental Improvements (08/42)

Members agreed with this suggestion

## **08/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Smith	Declared a personal interest in relation to Planning Application 08/0916/FUL (Land adjacent 14 Bulstrode Gardens) as an acquaintance of the applicant
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Councillor Rosenstiel Declared a personal interest in relation to Planning Application 08/0916/FUL (Land adjacent 14 Bulstrode Gardens) as a member of Trinity College

Councillor Hipkin Declared a personal interest in relation to any ongoing discussion on Environmental Improvement Programmes as a resident of Oxford Road

**08/38 JESUS GREEN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

See above

**08/39 THE IMPACT OF MAJOR EVENTS ON MIDSUMMER COMMON ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

See above

**08/40 CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES:  
ORAL REPORT**

The Safer Communities Section Manager informed Members that from April 2008 the Community Safety Plan, previously known as the Community Safety Strategy would not be a fixed 3 year document but would be refreshed on an annual basis

The 5 priorities in the current plan are:

- Alcohol Related Violent Crime
- Anti-social behaviour focussing on alcohol related ASB and vehicle and pedal cycle related ASB
- Burglary of homes
- Domestic violence
- Reducing re-offending

The 3 cross-cutting themes within each of the above are:

- Children and Young People
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Community engagement



An online consultation had been set up to review the priorities and had received 1600 responses across the County with around 435 being received from the City alone. The consultation closed on 12<sup>th</sup> September. The main priorities were unlikely to change significantly but the targets may be adjusted

The Cambridge City Community Safety Partnership is recognised as high performing and over achieved on the target for crime reduction set by the Home Office between 2005 and 2008. An Annual Review document was now available containing details of this as well as the current priorities and copies were made available to the meeting. Copies could also be obtained by contacting the Community Safety Team on 01223 457045 who will also be pleased to answer further questions or accept comments.

#### **08/41 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS**

The Neighbourhood Policing Inspector introduced the report and gave an update on the priorities set at the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008:

##### Violent crime and anti-social behaviour in the City Centre associated with night-time economy

- extra officers on duty Friday and Saturday nights
- information sharing through Pubwatch and Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) continues
- CCTV in City Centre contributing to arrests
- portable metal detector in pubs and clubs resulted in no identification of knives or weapons
- Police input into Freshers Week activities

##### Anti-social behaviour and environmental issues on Jesus Green, Christs Piece, Mill Pond and Parker's Piece

- educational patrols by Enforcement Officers
- new 24 hour per week Enforcement Officer post created to tackle littering and punt touts
- PCSO's with language skills to advise students

- Extra resources pooled to tackle emerging trend of groups of youths, with names based on postcodes, confrontation others
- Community Alcohol Partnership launched in Mill Road
- Increase in robberies (muggings), specifically around Parker's Piece with three key suspects arrested

#### Tackling problems of anti-social cycling and driving in the City Centre, and improving roads signs in the City Centre

- project group formed involving Police, Council, Fire and County Council Cycling and Road Safety Team
- dates and locations of four campaigns targeting anti-social driving and cycling agreed
- week of action ref: cycle safety confirmed for October
- project linked to 'Be Safe, Be Seen' programme
- road sign issue is ongoing

The emerging issues and neighbourhood trends were then covered:

#### Castle Ward

- slight increase in overall crime
- increase in cycle theft
- increase in anti-social behaviour
- increase in dwelling burglary
- 6 reports of fly-tipping

#### Newnham

- reduction in overall crime
- vehicle crime down by 50%
- violent crime increased over this period
- CCTV installed at Lammas Land toilets
- 23 reports of fly-tipping

#### Market

- reduction in overall crime
- slight increase in violent crime
- increase in cycle theft
- 600 abandoned cycles removed
- 1040 reports of illegal cycling
- 194 needles removed
- 170 reports of fly-tipping

The Neighbourhood Policing Inspector recommended the following priorities for this period:

- *violent crime associated with the night-time economy*
- *robberies (muggings) across the neighbourhood*
- *cycle crime across the neighbourhood*
- *issues surrounding anti-social use of vehicles and cycling – promoting responsible use*

The following questions were raised:

**Q) Is there any update on car crime at Riverside?**

The Inspector confirmed that over 30 cars had been broken into at Riverside and West Chesterton but a suspect had been identified and there could be an arrest within the next 24 hours

**Q) The theft of bike saddles seems on the increase**

The Inspector confirmed that the theft of cycle 'parts' was on the increase as they were easy to sell on. The Police regularly monitored auction sites such as Ebay but it was felt that there was still an under-reporting of cycle crime

The Chair highlighted and recommended the excellent new cycle parking facilities at the Grand Arcade

**Q) What level of resource is allocated to these priorities?**

The Inspector stated that much of the work was done through multi-agency and partnership working. In order to make an impact there should only be a maximum of 4 priorities

**Q) As cycle crime goes down in winter why select this as a priority for this period?**

The Inspector stated that as the key time for cycle crime was up until November, there was still 2 months to successfully target the issue

After discussion the Committee agreed the priorities

The Safer Communities Section Manager said that as Elected Members and members of the public could see the police and City Council worked very closely together and these reports had been submitted to this committee for the past year. He then asked members of the Committee and the public to complete a questionnaire on the value placed on the Safer Neighbourhoods initiative. Copies of the questionnaire were handed out for completion.

**08/42 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME  
2008/09**

The Principal Landscape Architect gave Members a progress report on the schemes and asked for approval of the following:

Lammas Land pavilion

Recommendation: Committee to authorise commissioning architects to draw up and estimate sketch designs for a new pavilion at Lammas Land (fees estimated between £1000-£2000)

**DECISION: APPROVED** (unanimously)

Auckland Road /Parsonage Street

Recommendation: Committee to authorise public consultation and a scheme budget estimate of £22,000

**DECISION: APPROVED** (by 5 votes to 0)

Environmental Improvement Projects Priority Works  
Programme

Recommendation: Committee to accept the EI programme of implementation (as shown in Appendix 2) until December 2008

Recommendation: Committee to review their list of approved schemes and prioritise and allocate a Lead Councillor to each

**DECISION: Chair agreed to consult all Members outside of the meeting and liaise with the Officer**

**Cllr  
Cantrill**

Oxford Road Traffic Calming

After discussion the Committee agreed that the £100,000 provisionally allocated for traffic calming measures in Canterbury Street could jointly fund work in Oxford Road

The Principal Landscape Architect was authorised to allocate £10,000 for exploratory work in Oxford Road and asked to bring back the remaining £90,000 for final approval at a future meeting

**DFN**

The Committee were also asked for a decision on the following potential new scheme:

Tree Planting on Parker's Piece and Queen's Green

Recommendation: Committee to authorise a scheme budget estimate of £11,500

**DECISION: APPROVED** (by 5 votes to 1)

**08/32 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

- 1 APPLICATION NO:** 08/0799/FUL  
**SITE:** 2 Stratfield Close, Cambridge  
**PROPOSAL:** Single storey front extension  
**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:** Refuse  
**APPLICANT:** Dr & Mrs Thorpe, 2 Stratfield Close  
**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:** Christopher Thorpe (for Applicant)  
**REASONS FOR DECISION RAISED IN DEBATE:** The proposed extension responds to the context and character of the area, enhances the appearance of the property and conforms to Policy 3/14 (Extending Buildings) of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006

**DECISION: APPROVED** (by 5 votes to 1) against Officer Recommendation - conditions and informatives to be agreed by the Chair

- 2**     **APPLICATION NO:** 08/0324/FUL  
**SITE:** 47 Eachard Road  
**PROPOSAL:** Erection of 1No. detached chalet style dwelling with an attached single garage  
**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:** Approve  
**APPLICANT:** Mr N & Mrs G Wylie, 47 Eachard Road  
**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:** Dr Stephen Fennell (Objector)  
Mrs Wylie (Applicant)

**DECISION: APPROVED** (by 4 votes to 0) as agenda

Councillor Rosenstiel left the meeting prior to  
Planning Item 3

- 3**     **APPLICATION NO:** 08/0916/FUL  
**SITE:** Land adjacent 14 Bulstrode Gardens  
**PROPOSAL:** Erection of 4 bed dwelling with integral garage  
**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:** Approve  
**APPLICANT:** Mr David Donnelly, The Lodge, Warren Mill, Budle Bay Northumberland  
**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:** Reginald Prescott (Objector)

**DECISION: APPROVED** (unanimously) as agenda

**08/15 DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2008-09**

The dates for Meetings in 2008-09 were confirmed as:

2008 – 30 October

2009 – 8 January, 5 March, 30 April

The meeting ended at 10.50pm

Chair

Draft until 8 January 2009