



# West/Central Area Committee

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



### 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008 7.30pm – 9.55pm

### Minutes & Actions

**Present:** Councillors: Simon Kightley (Chair), John Hipkin, Tania Zmura (Castle Ward), Tim Bick, Mike Dixon (Market Ward)

County Councillors: White (Castle Ward)

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Members of the City Council have individual email addresses which are listed on the City Council website: [www.cambridge.gov.uk/councillors/members.htm](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/councillors/members.htm)  
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#### 08/45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

#### ACTION

Apologies were received from City Councillors Cantrill, Reid, Rosenstiel and Smith, and County Councillor Reid

#### 08/46 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair

#### 08/47 MATTERS ARISING

None

**08/48 OPEN FORUM**

**Q1) I wrote to Councillor Officers on 29<sup>th</sup> September regarding the Canterbury Street traffic calming project and have not heard anything back. After the recent workshops a full consultation was promised – can we have assurances that this will happen**

The Principal Landscape Architect was under the impression that the letter had been responded to and apologised for this not happening. She agreed to follow this up as soon as possible

**DFN**

**Q2) The proposed expenditure of £22,000 to upgrade the path between Auckland Road and Parsonage Street seems a large sum. Last year the Council could not afford to replace trees on Midsummer Common so residents had to fund raise the £1,400 themselves – but they are willing to spend £22,000 on a path to benefit 6 cottages**

**Also the consultation only had 11 responses – with 55% in favour of the proposal. This does not seem like a true representation of feelings on the project**

**The Wildlife Trust Management Plan states that all paths on commons should be asphalt and sympathetic to the surroundings – but this is not what is suggested in the report**

The Principal Landscape Architect confirmed that the £22,000 did also include the renewal of the footpath lighting. The Conservation Management Plan, which the Council works to, recommends that a resin bound surface is suitable and in keeping with the surroundings

**Q3) New guidance states that sustainable urban drainage must be a consideration – is this being taken into account?**

The Principal Landscape Architect confirmed that, because of the need to cater for cycle usage on the path, a number of solutions would be looked at carefully

**Q4) What would the saving be for using a tarmac surface instead of that proposed in the report?**

The Principal Landscape Architect estimated that the saving could be around £5,000

**08/48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Declared a personal interest in relation to the Community Development and Leisure Grants Item as a user and worshipper of St Augustine's Church

**08/49 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE GRANTS**

The Grants Officer introduced the item and highlighted an error on page 1 of the report. The sum available for Community Development should have read £6,836 (not £7,955) leaving a balance remaining of £2,871 (not £3,990)

It was also confirmed that any allocation of the remaining budget would be done in consultation with just the Chair (not the Chair *and* Spokesperson as stated in the report)

The Chair guided members through the individual grant applications and discussed the projects

**Decision: Approved** (unanimously) to approve the Community Development and Leisure grants as highlighted in the report

**Decision: Approved** (unanimously) to allocate the budget remaining in consultation with the Chair on receipt of applications

**08/50 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME  
2008/09**

The Principal Landscape Architect introduced the report and informed members that the balance of the 08/09 budget as at 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 was £137,526

The Parker's Piece and Queen's Green tree planting scheme, as approved by the Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> September, had encountered some unforeseen costs and members were asked to approve an additional £2,500 as quoted by the contractor for stump grinding

Comments had been received via email from Councillor Rosenstiel expressing his concern and reinforcing the view that the limes on Parker's Piece should be retained

The Principal Landscape Architect informed the Committee that, through this scheme, the Arboricultural Team hoped to maintain consistency and future proof the tree cover around both spaces and felling and replacement was seen as the best option.

In response to a question from Councillor Dixon regarding the appropriate budget for stump grinding, the Principal Landscape Architect confirmed that replacement *and* stump work is part of the same package for Parker's Piece and Queen's Green tree planting EIP project and should be allocated from the EIP budget and not Arboricultural Section budget.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Bick regarding equity in the way Area Committees are asked to fund tree planting, the Principal Landscape Architect confirmed that lack of funds in any Arboricultural budget had led to the Committee being asked to consider this scheme

**Decision: Approved** (by 4 votes to 0) to allocate an addition £2,500 for the Parker's Piece and Queens Green tree planting scheme

Auckland Road/Parsonage Street footpath resurfacing and lighting renewal Scheme

In light of the issues raised during the Open Forum and as a result of further discussion regarding the proposed resurfacing method the Committee agreed to defer the matter for further investigation by the Officer

**DFN**

**Decision: Deferred** for further investigation and to be brought back to a future meeting

Environmental Improvement Projects – priority and Lead Councillor allocations

The Principal Landscape Architect gave a brief update on the approved schemes as highlighted in the report and asked members to prioritise and allocate a Lead Councillor for each project

In response to a question from Councillor Hipkin regarding the role of a 'Lead Councillor' the Principal Landscape Architect stated that they would act as a single point of contact for Officers and the public, help progress of schemes and deal with any minor queries.

Due to Newnham Ward Councillors not being present at the meeting it was agreed that the Chair would consult them on schemes 1, 3 and 4 and inform the Principal Landscape Architect as soon as possible

**CHAIR**

As investigations were still ongoing and at an early stage regarding the Canterbury Street traffic calming scheme it was agreed that a Lead Councillor would be allocated at a later date

The Committee agreed the following order of prioritisation and Lead Councillors for approved Environmental Improvement Projects:

- 1) Lammas Land cycle parking – TBC through Chair
- 2) Path between Auckland Road and Parsonage Street – Cllr Bick
- 3) Marlow Road/Eltisley Avenue – TBC through Chair
- 4) Lammas Land Pavilion – TBC through Chair
- 5) Canterbury Street traffic calming – TBC at a later date
- 6) Cycle racks at Manor Street / King Street – Cllr Bick
- 7) Bins behind Student Union, Round Church Street – Cllr Rosenstiel
- 8) Histon Road Recreation Ground planting – Cllr Zmura and Cllr Hipkin were both nominated with Cllr Zmura being appointed **(by 3 votes to 0)**
- 9) Mud Lane Lighting – Cllr Rosenstiel
- 10) Round Church grounds – Cllr Rosenstiel
- 11) Histon Road Recreation Ground – Cllr Zmura.

New mobility crossing in Mount Pleasant Area

The Principal Landscape Architect informed the Committee that two pairs and a single mobility crossing had been requested by disabled users who need to cross the entrance to Mount Pleasant House and two other crossings in the area to access the bus route on Castle Hill. The estimated cost of the crossing would be £5,000

**Decision: Approved** (unanimously) the construction of two pairs and one single mobility crossing in the Mount Pleasant area

It was agreed that Cllr Kightley would act as the Lead Councillor on this project

**08/51 UPDATED OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION S106 PROGRAMME**

The Recreation Officer introduced the item and highlighted an error on page 2 of the report. As proposed Project TWO11/E/C (updating of play equipment at Petersfield Mansions) was in the East Area of the City it would be have to be determined by their Area Committee

The Recreation and Facilities Manager confirmed that by approving the recommended new projects members were simply giving their approval for further investigate to take place. Full consultation would be held with residents and users prior to any projects being implemented

In response to a question from Councillor Bick regarding Jesus Green the Recreation and Facilities Manager confirmed that these projects would work alongside the bigger Heritage Lottery Fund scheme

Members raised concern regarding the proposed BBQ facilities in parks and the Recreation and Facilities Manager confirmed that similar schemes were in place at Cherry Hinton Hall and bins would be included to combat the problem of increased litter

In response to concerns from members more information was also given on the proposed new signage and the format of the open space 'Exercise Stations'

The Recreation and Facilities Manager informed members that recommended projects would be taken to Scrutiny Committee in January and the Planning Obligation Strategy prior to going out to further consultation with residents, users and Ward Councillors

A number of Members expressed disquiet about the implication that some of the proposed projects would introduce unwanted clutter onto the open spaces and requested that this be reported to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee

**Decision: APPROVED** (unanimously) to approve further investigation of the recommendations for the new West/Central and Citywide projects as stated in the report

The Committee took a 10-minute break at 8.50pm

## **08/52 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

- 1 APPLICATION NO:** 08/1090/FUL  
**SITE:** Land at corner of Westfield Lane and Benson Place  
**PROPOSAL:** Proposed erection of student accommodation block for Evangelical Lutheran Church of England Trust Ltd on land currently used as car parking in connection with Westfield House Theological College  
**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE subject to the satisfactory completion of the s106 agreement by 30 November 2008 and subject to conditions  
**APPLICANT:** Rev. Reg Quirk, 28 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB3 0HH

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:** Rev. Reg Quirk (Applicant)

**DECISION: APPROVED** (unanimously) as agenda, subject to completion of s106 Agreement by 30 November 2008 and an amendment to condition 9: to remove '*and who are subject to proctorial control*' and replace with '*and who are subject to a system of parking control*'



**2**      **APPLICATION NO:** 08/1149/FUL  
**SITE:** 36 Huntingdon Road  
**PROPOSAL:** Erection of 2 one bedroom maisonettes for fellows of Murrery Edwards College with bin and bicycle storage  
**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE subject to the satisfactory completion of the s106 agreement by 30 November 2008 and subject to conditions  
**APPLICANT:** Mr Nicholas Wright, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DF

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:** Gerry Cavender (Objector)  
Anne Cooper (for Applicant)

**DECISION: APPROVED** (unanimously) as agenda, subject to completion of s106 Agreement by 30 November 2008

**3**      **APPLICATION NO:** 08/0508/FUL  
**SITE:** Waterstones, 20 – 22 Sidney Street  
**PROPOSAL:** Change of use of 3 floors from ancillary A1 retail use to C2 student accommodation and the creation of an additional 40m<sup>2</sup> of student accommodation  
**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE subject to conditions  
**APPLICANT:** Sidney Sussex College, C/O Bidwells

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:** None

**DECISION: APPROVED** (by 4 votes to 1) as agenda

**4**      **APPLICATION NO:** 08/1296/FUL  
**SITE:** 31 Gough Way, Cambridge  
**PROPOSAL:** Single storey and two storey extensions  
**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE subject to conditions  
**APPLICANT:** Mr & Mrs Roger Harding, 31 Gough Way, Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB3 9LN

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:** Denis Eastham (Objector)  
Mr Open (Applicants Agent)

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

**08/53 DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2008-09**

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

2009 – 8 January, 5 March, 30 April

The meeting ended at 9.55pm

Chair