

West/Central Area Committee

MINUTES

Date:	Thursday 10 December 2009
Time:	7:30pm – 10.10pm
Place:	Castle End Mission, St Peters Street

Committee Manager: Glenn Burgess **Telephone:** 01223 457169
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Room 11, The Guildhall,
Cambridge CB2 3QJ

Council Members Present

City Councillors for:

Castle (John Hipkin, Simon Kightley and Tania Zmura)

Market (Colin Rosenstiel)

Newnham (Rod Cantrill, Sian Reid and Julie Smith)

Co-opted non-voting members:

County Councillors: Brooks-Gordon (Castle), Nethsingha (Newnham) and Whitebread (Market)

09/59 **APOLOGIES for ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the following:

City Councillors: Tim Bick and Mike Dixon

09/60 **MINUTES**

It was noted that the Ward areas for County Councillors were incorrect listed.

09/54 Open Forum: Removal of pram arms

A rewording was suggested to clearly indicate that the removal of the pram arms could allow cyclists to emerge at speed from the passageway and therefore causing a danger to pedestrians.

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October would be amended and signed by the Chair outside of the meeting.

09/61 MATTERS and ACTIONS ARISING from MINUTES

09/54 Open Forum: Wilberforce Road cycle path

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation stated that as S106 money had yet to be confirmed, it could not be used to address these issues.

The consultation on proposals for new paths would be undertaken in January 2010, with the results being fed back to a future meeting.

09/56 S106 projects

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation confirmed that discussions had been held with Active Communities officers and schemes could be added to the current S106 list if there were particular restrictions on time.

Councillor Reid confirmed that, as their Horizons money had been lost, she had suggested S106 funding for the nature reserve.

09/54 Open Forum: Removal of pram arms

Councillor Kightley confirmed that he had been in touch with the EIP Team and a site visit was being planned to look at the issues.

09/54 Open Forum: Salmon Lane tress

Councillor Rosenstiel confirmed that it may be difficult to replace the trees but other landscaping alternatives were being looked into.

09/62 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST

Councillor	Agenda item	Interest
Reid	09/66	Family members are members of the Tennis Club and step daughter lives near the application site.
Smith	09/66	As Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation.
Rosenstiel	09/65	As life member of the Cambridge Union Society.

Q) Over a year has elapsed since the main buildings on the Bradwells Court redevelopment site have been completed and occupied. However, the open space at the north end of the site adjacent to the Bus Station remains as a fenced eyesore. Why has this area not been landscaped and opened up? When will it be done?

A) The Head of Network Management confirmed that the developer had put a new application forward and legal discussions were ongoing. This legal agreement should be signed by the end of the year.

It was stated that if the issue was not resolved in a timely fashion, the developer could be asked to open the site up with a temporary surface.

Q) This site is untidy and unsafe for residents – it needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

A) Wards Councillors agreed to follow this up.

Ward Cllrs

Q) When is the playground on Jesus Green due to be refurbished? I believe that at a meeting with the Friends of Jesus Green, it was suggested that temporary play equipment could be installed.

A) The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation confirmed that a series of meetings had taken place with local stakeholders. It was hoped that the work could be completed by summer 2010, but because of the procurement process and consultation requirements this now looked unlikely. A report would be coming to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 14 January.

Q) At what stage is the consultation?

A) The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation stated that the consultation had to take place in different stages and on different issues. The Children and Young People Services had been working with young people and their parents regarding the possibility of moving the play area.

There had been strong support for the play area not to be moved and further consultation would now look at what should be included in the area – with suggestions for a disabled play area.

Q) The Round Church: green space in Cambridge is very important and should be preserved. Churchyards provide an important part of this ‘green tapestry’ and railings around the Round Church would create a barrier to this. The anti-social behaviour (ASB) is a problem but only involves a small number of people.

Q) The Round Church: This church is of international significance with over 70,000 visitors each year. It is important that visitors and residents can enjoy the grounds and we are grateful to the City Council for the work they have done to enhance the site. There has been a lot of vandalism on site and staff have been abused, with drinking and ASB being a major problem. Reinstating the railings would make the site more secure and safe for people to enjoy.

A) It was agreed that these issues would be discussed in detail during the relevant agenda item.

Q) The cobbles on the north side of Senate House Passage had been taken up for electric cabling work and appeared to be being removed from site. I noticed that York-stone riven paving was being removed from Senate Hill and also being carted away. I phoned the conservation Section at the Guildhall who seemed unaware of the situation. Highways at the County Council would only take a message. Members should be aware that the paving in Senate House Passage is in a Conservation Area and that the riven York stone paving in St John's Street, Trinity Street, Senate House Hill, Kings Parade and Trumpington Street are all also specifically preserved. Its preservation being built into City Council doctrine for decades. As a matter of extreme urgency can we establish what is happening here, why, for who's benefit and under what authority? Might it have something to do with disability issues. I sit on the Council's Disability Consultative Panel and the matter has never been put to it.

A) The Head of Network Management confirmed that the County Council was monitoring the street works and that the slabs would be replaced when the work was complete. Legislation states that utility companies can lay temporary surfaces to allow for settlement, but they are then required to replace the original surface.

It was also confirmed that the County Council was using sawn York stone paving as it was better for mobility issues. However this would depend on budget restraints.

Councillor Cantrill raised concern that the City Council had not been informed about the work at the front of The Guildhall, and that the new surfaces were not historically appropriate.

Councillor Brooks-Gordon confirmed that she had raised this issue with the Cabinet Member for Highways and his full response would be forwarded to the member of the public in due course.

Q) I am concerned that Council policy states that riven York stone should be used. If this is not the case the decision needs to go through the appropriate channels. This is an important part of the heritage of Cambridge and should be maintained.

A) Councillor Reid raised concern that the County Council had still not replaced the lights on Kings Parade to their original standard. It was sad that the County Council did not seem to respect the historic core of Cambridge.

Councillor Nethsingha agreed that County Councillors would follow this up.

The Committee agreed that the Chair would formally request an update from the County Council and feedback at a future meeting.

**County
Cllrs**

Chair

09/64 POLICING AND SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD REPORT

The Community Safety Strategy Officer introduced the item.

The Police Inspector and Police Sergeant presented a report on crime and policing for the three wards and made a recommendation of targeting the following for prioritisation in the forthcoming period:

- 'Streetlife' related anti-social behaviour – Market ward
- Vehicle and cycle related ASB in the City Centre

Q) Emmanuel Road Speeding: The Residents Association has been highlighting this as an issue and we are pleased that this is now being looked at. What are the Council and the Police going to do about the taxis and buses as these seem to be the biggest problem?

A) This issue would be looked at across the City and be tackled through a co-ordinated response. When the evidence had been collated a meeting would be held, with the outcomes fed back to a future Area Committee meeting.

There was further debate on the enforceability of the 20mph zone in Emmanuel Road and the ability to prosecute drivers exceeding this.

It was felt that the police should be doing more and the County Council should be actively enforcing their policy of taking transponders away from any taxi driver caught speeding.

It was agreed that the City Council, County Council and the Police needed to look into this issue in detail and feedback at a future meeting.

Q) Councillor Hipkin commented that he had called the police regarding unlawful parking on Halifax Road and within an hour 6 tickets had been issued. The problem now seems to have decreased dramatically, which highlights the need for more routine patrols in speeding hotspots. Word would spread amongst drivers and the incidents of speeding would also decrease. Litter in the City Centre is also an issue as people do not perceive this to be a crime – more routine attention on these smaller issues would be beneficial.

A) Noted.

Q) Councillor Kightley suggested that a post-Christmas cycling campaign could be beneficial as cycling ASB was still an issue in the City.

A) Noted.

Q) Adams Road: children are being encouraged to cycle on the paths as the roads are too dangerous. The cycle paths are in a bad state and this needs to be addressed. I have been informed of a pilot scheme for residents to be issued with speed guns – I would like to volunteer for this.

A) The police agreed to discuss this with the member of the public outside of the meeting.

Q) Are there any plans for a Dispersal Zone for Jesus Green?

A) The Section 30 Dispersal Order would be reviewed in January 2010 and the Leader of the Council would then make the decision.

Q) Prostitution is still an issue on Histon Road.

A) The issue was being looked at and the police were working with other agencies to try and get sex workers off the street.

Q) Alcohol related ASB issues in the Market Square and Regent Street are mostly as a result of licensed premises, and not street drinkers.

A) A key priority of the Community Safety Partnership was the night time economy and a lot of work was being done in this area.

Q) Could you feedback on your work with students at a future meeting?

A) Agreed.

Q) Cycle theft is a concern and the police do not seem to be taking this seriously, which could result in people being less likely to report it.

A) This concern was noted but it was not felt that the police were reducing their service in this area.

After further discussions, members approved the following as priorities for the next reporting period:

- 'Streetlife' and alcohol related anti-social behaviour – Market ward
- Vehicle related ASB in the City Centre
- Cycle related ASB in the City Centre

09/65 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME 2009/10

The Environmental Projects Manager gave an update on the following approved schemes as highlighted in the report:

- Oxford Road and Windsor Road traffic calming
- Canterbury Street traffic calming
- Manor Street/King Street cycle parking
- Lammas Land pavilion
- Mount Pleasant Mobility crossing
- Round Church grounds
- Gough Way to Cranmer Road fence
- Tree planting on Midsummer Common, Jesus Green and New Square
- Fitzroy/Burleigh Street refurbishment

The Environmental Projects Manager introduced the following approved schemes requiring decision as highlighted in the report:.

Grantchester Road Traffic Calming

The Engineering Client Officer distributed feedback on the consultation responses and updated members.

Decision: AGREED (unanimously) to implement the traffic calming measures at a cost of £15,000 following supportive public consultation.

Riverside Cycle Conflict Reduction and Environmental Improvement Scheme

Decision: APPROVED (unanimously) Option 1 (delivery of the scheme in accordance with the current design and construction costs of **£637,748**, as detailed in Table 1 – see below) at a further cost of £21,000

Item	Estimated Cost £
Atkins initial design costs	60,000
Atkins completion of design	12,500
County Highways Costs (2.5% of Construction Costs)	12,263
Atkins Fees Contingency [5%]	3,625
Construction Cost	490,500
Construction Contingency [12%]	58,860
TOTAL	637,748

Table.1. Estimated Project Costs through to Completion.

Mud Lane Lighting

Councillor Rosenstiel stated that he was very disappointed that a solution had not been found. This was an important cycle route near to a school and it was dangerous not to have lighting. Councillor Reid found it hard to understand why, if the City Council were willing to pay for the capital costs, the County Council would not cover the electricity costs.

Decision: REFUSED (unanimously) to omit the project from the Environmental Improvement project list.

Round Church Grounds

Decision: REFUSED (by 6 votes to 1) to adopt and, in principle, part fund a proposal to reinstate railings around the grounds of the Round Church.

It was suggested that resources to tackle the ASB issues could be provided by the Safer City Fund. Officers agreed to investigate this.

09/66 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

These minutes and the appendix 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.

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

Site Address: Cambridge Tennis Club, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge
Application Number: 09/0648/FUL
Proposal: Erection of floodlights to courts, 3, 4 and 5.
Applicant: Stacey Lane, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge CB3 0EQ
Officer Recommendation: APPROVE subject to conditions
Public Speakers: Hamish Watson (Objector) Jackie Meeks (Objector - North Newnham Residents Association) Timothy Arthur (Chairman of Cambridge Tennis Club)
Reason for refusal raised in debate: Members who spoke against the Officer recommendation said the proposal would affect the amenities of nearby residents and therefore be contrary to policy 4/13 of the Cambridge Local Plan

DECISION: REFUSED against officer recommendation by 4 votes to 3

The following reason for refusal agreed by the Chair:

The proposed floodlights, by virtue of their height, design and hours of use, together with the potential for light spillage to the surrounding area, would be likely to have an adverse impact on the residential amenities currently enjoyed by the occupiers of adjacent dwellings. In so doing the proposals also fail to take account of the site context and the character of the surrounding area. The development is therefore contrary to policies 3/4, 4/13 and 4/15 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006.

09/67 Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting was confirmed for 4 February 2010

Meeting finished at 10.10pm

Chair

Additional information for public:

City Council officers can also be emailed firstname.lastname@cambridge.gov.uk

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<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/about-the-council/councillors/>

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