

Public Questions – West Central Area Committee, 15 June, 6:30pm

Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods

Q1: Recently, a neighbour experienced someone attempting to break into her home late on a Saturday night. She was alone with two young children. Despite being on the phone with the police while the person was attempting to get into her front door and being around the corner from the Parkside station, there was no attempt made by the police to attend to her house while it was happening, despite it going on for some time. Luckily the attempt was unsuccessful, and the person left without coming inside. The police visited the next day.

When she told her neighbours the next day what had happened, we had one collective question - if a 'live' home invasion is not an immediate priority for the Cambridge police for a call out, what is happening in Cambridge that is more pressing?

Q2: NB: This is not referring to the motorised mopeds being discussed elsewhere.

Cycling through the centre of Cambridge since the end of Lockdown is now essentially anarchic. There is no more any concept of one way streets and there is widespread cycling on pavements. Although I cycle through it several times a day, I have never seen any police or community patrol engaging in it

Although I'm sure some cyclists are doing it deliberately to save time, I think many simply do not understand which streets are one way.

Could the Council please consider some action towards improving this - for example, a day or two where those entering one way systems the wrong way are actively and publicly stopped; improved signage, etc? (Regarding improved signage, can it please be remembered that not all cyclists, particularly those not from the UK, have taken a UK driving test and may not understand the meaning of UK road signs.)

At a bare minimum, could the painted signs on the ground that show that there are separate 'lanes' for pedestrians and cyclists on the path leading to Garret Hostel Bridge from the Backs be repainted? They are barely visible, and there is a general air of confusion as to where one is supposed to be. This will only get worse as the tourists return in greater numbers.

Open Forum

Q1: About 100 Newnham residents met on 6 June to discuss our increasing alarm about the GCP's plans for the Barton Greenway as they affect our area. We believe that the current re-modelling of the junction of Barton Rd and Newnham Rd fails to correct prior deficiencies of amenity and safety and introduces new ones. The plans for upgrading the path across Lammas Land (which we understand have not been notified to the City Parks Department) may damage its environment. The proposed upgrade of the cycle path and installation of a new pedestrian path along the length of Barton Road later in 2023 will lead to the total destruction of all the mature hedges, trees and planting in the verges along the northern property boundaries, devastating the attractiveness and the biodiversity of the entire street. All the changes give the lowest priority to pedestrians, who will be put at increased risk of injury.

Consultation with Newnham residents about the Greenway in late 2022 was minimal, in contrast to the effort put in to informing those living in Barton, Haslingfield and Grantchester. Responses from Newnham Residents Associations and CamCycle were submitted but have been ignored at the Newnham Rd junction, and we fear will also be for the rest of the project.

In view of the extreme desirability of preserving green spaces and biodiversity in the City, please will the City Council support our efforts to get the GCP to:

- pause future works at Grantchester *Road* junction due in August and along the whole of the northern side of Barton Road in November
- undertake proper consultation with local people
- make changes to their scheme to protect Newnham's environment?

Q2: Is there any indication when area committees might begin to meet in person again?

Q3: 78 Castle Street (which used to be part of Interlfora aeons ago) got boarded up a while ago. Does anyone have any insight into when it might come back into use? [It'll clearly need *alot* of work given how much pigeon guano must be in there.]

Q4: “Buses from south Cambridge are regularly blocked at The Hyde Park Corner junction by OLEM/Parker’s Piece. Many years ago there was a yellow box junction prohibiting cars from blocking that junction, with penalties for those caught doing so. It was then removed for reasons I know not.

Please could the Committee ask Cambridgeshire County Council to reinstate that yellow box junction if only to improve the flow of traffic and this increase reliability if bus services otherwise delayed at the traffic lights, esp during rush hours/peak periods?

This page is intentionally left blank